

## **Australia Ahead Of US On Emissions Cuts**

United States President George W Bush has urged countries to be innovative in developing new methods to reduce greenhouse gases, but says targets should be voluntary, not mandatory. According to Federal Environment Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Australia has made more progress in cutting greenhouse gas emissions than the United States, but he insists the US has accepted that climate change is a real problem. Turnbull says although binding targets have not been set, there is shared recognition that climate change is a pressing issue needing cooperative action. "It is unlikely... that the major developing countries like China and India would accept binding targets in the sense that we talk about them in Australia," he says. "What is good is that we are seeing recognition around the table from the countries that represent 80 per cent of the global economy, 80 per cent of emissions, and in fact two-thirds of population, that everybody has to be in it," Turnbull adds. "The challenge that these countries face is that they are pulling hundreds of millions of people a year out of poverty and to do that they need rapid growth in energy," Turnbull says. Bush has also come out of the recent climate change summit in Washington calling for a global emissions trading scheme, which will be a different model to Australia's proposed emissions trading scheme. "[Australia's] emissions trading scheme, which will be the most comprehensive in the world and will start in 2011, is really very different from the type of policies the President's considering," adds Turnbull. "You need economic growth and you need energy to lift people out of poverty, and of course if it's clean energy, clean development, then you win on both sides of the ledger," Turnbull concludes.

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