

Howard Announces Clean Energy Target

A new national Clean Energy Target will be introduced by the Australian Government. The single, comprehensive renewable and low-emissions energy target will be 30,000 gigawatt hours each year by 2020 and will come into effect no later than 1 January 2010.

“Low emissions sources are those technologies that emit 200 kilograms of greenhouse gases per megawatt hour of electricity generated,” Howard says.

This includes renewable energy, such as solar and wind, as well as fossil fuel fired electricity generation where carbon capture and storage is used.

Howard says the introduction of the CET is intended to replace existing and proposed state and territory schemes with a single national scheme.

Energy Supply Association chief executive Brad Page says the area of renewable energy incentives has been especially problematic for some time.

“esaa has for a long time strongly advocated for a single, national approach to greenhouse gas abatement and earlier this year called for an economy-wide emissions trading regime as the centrepiece of such an approach,” says Page.

Page says the CET is a necessary improvement. “Replacing the variety of State and Federal renewable energy schemes with one national scheme is a step in the right direction provided it protects existing and committed renewable energy projects and dovetails with an emissions trading scheme to deliver greenhouse gas abatement at least cost to the consumer,” he says.

Howard says the CET is intended to replace those schemes.

The Government says the CET will drive additional investment in renewable and other low emissions electricity generation, as the Australian emissions trading scheme is introduced.

The CET will be based on the government’s existing Mandatory Renewable Energy Target scheme, which has stimulated \$3.5 billion of investment in renewable energy technologies since its introduction in 2001, according to government figures.

The Australian Government will consult with state and territory governments and industry in designing and implementing the CET.

Legislation will be introduced in 2008 following the consultation period on the CET’s design and implementation.

[Source essa news]