

# CPRS WHITE PAPER: WHAT IS Ai GROUP DOING?

December 2008

With climate change policy very much at the forefront of public debate, Ai Group is closely engaged in the development of Government policy responses at the Federal, State and Territory level.

Ai Group is providing members with practical advice and assistance to help meet the challenge of lowering greenhouse gas emissions while still remaining competitive both at home and overseas.

Ai Group is actively engaged with the policy debate surrounding climate change and the imminent Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS). Ai Group is ensuring the interests of Industry are voiced to the Government to ensure the best outcome possible through several avenues:

## Representations to Government

Ai Group has played a leading role in representing the views of industry to governments and in the public debate over the course of the past year.

Ai Group made an influential submission to the Australian Government's Green Paper and was in close consultations with the Government as it prepared the White Paper released on 15 December.

Ai Group continues to work in the interests of members and the broader business community as the Government prepares its legislation and will take an active role as the legislation is brought before the Parliament.

Ai Group is also:

- Working very actively to convince governments to work more closely together to develop a more coordinated and coherent approach to climate change policy.
- Committed to ensuring the risk of regulatory overkill resulting from ineffective communication between all levels of government is minimised.

Also, Ai Group is actively talking with government in a number of ways:

- As a member of the QLD Government's Stakeholder Reference Group for the Review of ClimateSmart 2050;
- Ai Group's Victorian Branch attended the State Government's roundtable with the Victorian Premier along with a number of large emitters to discuss the issues to be raised with the Federal Government;
- The Victorian Branch also conducted, with members, meetings with the State Treasurer; and
- Ai Group is also represented on the Ministerial Reference for Climate Change Adaptation, responsible for forming the Victorian response to the Green Paper.

## Consultations with Members

Ai Group has formed a Leaders Group of key members to guide development of policy on climate change. In consultation with members, we have developed a set of principles that were discussed and refined at meetings of the Ai Group National Executive and Branch Councils during 2007.

These principles continue to guide our involvement in this area of policy and have formed the basis of our formal submissions and our informal representations.

Ai Group also consults with members through the following:

- Free briefings will be conducted in February 2009 in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, to update members on the potential impact on businesses of the introduction of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme and receive feedback on key concerns. For information go to [http://pdf.aigroup.asn.au/events/2009/7276\\_carbon\\_reduction.pdf](http://pdf.aigroup.asn.au/events/2009/7276_carbon_reduction.pdf). These briefings follow the Climate Change Forums held throughout 2007 and 2008 on how the introduction of emissions trading will impact on businesses and develop strategic responses;
- Environment working groups that provide an opportunity for members broadly to be kept up to date on latest developments and provide direct input into Ai Group's representations to government;
- The Environment and Water Users Group meeting each quarter in Queensland. Members are able to openly discuss environment and water issues affecting business and industry; and
- Climate Change Policy continues to be a regular inclusion in Ai Group's BIZassistBriefings.

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## Can Ai Group Help Your Business?

### Ai Group Services

Ai Group and Sustainability Victoria's 2007 report *Environmental Sustainability and Industry, Road to a Sustainable Future* (available at [www.aigroup.com.au](http://www.aigroup.com.au)) found that while 78% of businesses said they should reduce their carbon emissions, only 1 in 10 respondents knew how.

Ai Group offers members various services to help them work towards achieving a more sustainable future.

### Carbon Assist

Tailored assistance is available to members at discounted rates under Ai Group's Carbon Assist program. This service helps members to identify options to save energy, reduce emissions and minimise exposure to continuing increases in energy prices.

Services available include: energy audits (levels 1, 2 and 3); greenhouse gas emissions inventories; energy management training and assistance in complying with state and federal government reporting requirements. We also provide members with advice on how to receive assistance from Government programs designed to help business adjust to climate change policy.

More information on Carbon Assist can be found on the Ai Group website at [www.aigroup.com.au](http://www.aigroup.com.au).

### Energy and Sustainable Business Help Desk

Ai Group members can access a range of free and discounted advice on energy and environmental management via our Energy and Sustainable Business Help Desk.

The Help Desk can provide you with further information and practical tips on proven energy saving techniques for air conditioners, PCs, compressed air, electric motors, variable speed drives and steam that can often be implemented for little incremental cost.

To find out more, visit Ai Group's website at [www.aigroup.com.au](http://www.aigroup.com.au) or contact the Energy and Sustainable Business Help Desk on 1300 733 752 or at [sustainablebusiness@aigroup.asn.au](mailto:sustainablebusiness@aigroup.asn.au).

### Events and Publications

#### Briefings for Business

Introduction of an emissions trading scheme will have a major impact on how you do business. Ai Group will be holding briefings for members to assist you to: understand the implications for your business; and identify the steps you need to take to minimise your exposure to rising energy costs.

Details of forthcoming events will be publicised in our events calendar at [www.aigroup.com.au](http://www.aigroup.com.au).

#### Sustainable Business Network

Addressing environment-related risks presents both challenges and enormous opportunities for businesses. Ai Group's national Sustainable Business Network enables industry to access information and advice on implementation of sustainable business practices, to stay competitive in a global supply market and to network with businesses seeking innovative solutions to their environmental challenges. More information can be found at [www.aigroup.com.au](http://www.aigroup.com.au).

#### Environmental Solutions Forum

Ai Group's Environmental Solutions Forum (Ai Group's latest innovation initiative) brings members facing environmental challenges together with those providing environmental solutions. The forums also provide excellent networking opportunities with key industry contacts as well as adding to your own business opportunities. Details of forthcoming events will be publicised in our events calendar at [www.aigroup.com.au](http://www.aigroup.com.au).

#### Environmental Management Handbook

Ai Group's *Environmental Management Handbook 2008*, features practical case studies of how companies have identified opportunities arising from climate change including introducing low carbon products, developing new technologies and implementing energy efficiencies. Order on line at [www.aigroup.com.au](http://www.aigroup.com.au) or phone 1300 733 752. Past copies of the handbook can be downloaded from the Ai Group website at [www.aigroup.com.au](http://www.aigroup.com.au).

### Other Resources

#### Accessing State and Commonwealth Government Programs

Funding and assistance is available to businesses to respond to climate change under Federal and State Government Programs.

For further information contact [sustainablebusiness@aigroup.com.au](mailto:sustainablebusiness@aigroup.com.au)

### Member Feedback

Ai Group values your views and feedback on climate change policy issues. We are particularly keen to hear about how you may be affected by the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme and your thoughts on the best way to go forward on climate change.

For more information, or to have your say, email Peter Burn at [peter.burn@aigroup.asn.au](mailto:peter.burn@aigroup.asn.au) or call 9466 5566.