

“Australia needs a Moratorium on Emissions Trading”

A statement by Viv Forbes, Chairman of the Carbon Sense Coalition.

29 November 2008

For Immediate Release.

Viv Forbes from the Carbon Sense Coalition today called on the Australian Government to announce an immediate moratorium on plans to introduce an Emissions Trading Scheme.

“In the midst of global financial turmoil and plummeting profits for Australia’s backbone industries, it is irresponsible to maintain uncertainty on who will be affected by these taxes, when and by how much.

“Australia is more reliant on mining, transport, electricity, cement, smelting, refining, farming, tourism and trade than any other country in the world. Taxes on emissions of carbon dioxide will reduce growth and jobs in all of these industries. The longer this uncertainty remains, the more jobs will be lost or go overseas.

“Cap and tax schemes will soon be quite unnecessary for most countries because the recession is already cutting emissions as mines and factories close, transport and travel contract, and the production of steel, cement and electricity falls.

“This will be a good taste of the effect on Cap and Tax rules on the economy. People everywhere will suddenly realise that life was far better with a job, and no one except green plants will be able to notice there is a growing shortage of harmless, invisible carbon dioxide plant food in the air.

“Slowly the world is coming to their senses on this Global Warming hysteria. Just this week China and India rejected the suggestion that they curb their emissions of CO₂, and Italy and Poland said they would veto EU plans unless changes were made. The US congress is also focussed on jobs, not global warming myths. Even the New Zealand government is having a re-think.

“The Australian government says they will do anything to promote jobs and growth. An important and urgent first step for any jobs preservation policy is to announce that this Emissions Trading sword dangling over the head of every Australian business has been removed, for a guaranteed 5 years at least.”