



AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 23 November 2009

CPRS: PUBLIC VIEWS ECHO BUSINESS CONCERNS

Statement by Mr Peter Anderson, Chief Executive

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), Australia's largest and most representative business organisation, says that consumer concerns about the impact of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) on electricity prices revealed in research commissioned over the weekend, echo concerns held by many small and medium businesses (SMEs).

The Survey, commissioned by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland, released by ACCI and undertaken by Galaxy Research over the weekend, indicates that:

- 71% believe a CPRS will raise electricity prices;
- 49% believe there would be job losses if we move in isolation;
- 82% do not believe enough information has been provided about the CPRS; and
- 54% believe Australia should delay introduction of a CPRS until after Copenhagen.

These results parallel ACCI's Survey of Investor Confidence in October, which found that 47.6% of businesses considered the CPRS would have negative impacts, 23% considered no impact, 18.3% were unsure and 11% reported a positive impact.

"These Surveys suggest that both the public and small business are similarly wary of a CPRS - wanting some action on greenhouse issues but feeling very vulnerable to higher electricity prices."

"SMEs are potentially even more exposed if they do not receive compensation for higher energy bills that low-income households are promised."

"The latest Galaxy Research Survey should lead our federal parliamentarians to not rush ahead unilaterally with a CPRS this week, and instead move globally in concert with other nations."

Both the ACCI Business Survey and the Galaxy research also express confusion and lack of information about the CPRS.

ACCI's General Council last Thursday supported measures to equip industry to transition to lower carbon emissions, but not at the expense of national economic competitiveness.

Council, comprising the leading 35 Chambers and national industry associations from around the country, opposed the unilateral application of the CPRS by Australia but supported moves to conclude an economically responsible global agreement.

A copy of the Galaxy Research, and the earlier ACCI Business Survey, is available on the ACCI website at www.acci.asn.au

For further information:

Peter Anderson	Chief Executive	02 6273 2311 / 0417 264 862
Greg Evans	Director, Industry Policy & Economics	02 6273 2311 / 0407 204 559
Brett Hogan	Director of Communications	03 9668 9950 / 0407 273 884

ACCI represents over 350,000 businesses in every State and Territory and all industries. Our network employs around 4 million employees, ranging from the top 100 companies to tens of thousands of small and medium businesses.

www.acci.asn.au

MR 156/09

LEADING AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS

Galaxy Research Survey Questions – Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme

1. Thinking about the Federal Government's Emissions Trading Scheme that is designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Do you think that the introduction of an ETS will increase the price of electricity, lead to a decrease in the price of electricity, or not effect the price you pay?

Increase: 71%

Decrease: 4%

Not Effect: 9%

Don't Know: 17%

2. Do you think that the introduction of an ETS will cost Australian jobs if Australia moves in isolation?

Yes: 49%

No: 28%

Don't Know: 22%

3. Do you think that Australia should delay the introduction of an ETS until more global certainty following the Copenhagen summit?

Yes: 54%

No: 34%

Don't Know: 12%

4. Do you feel that the government has provided sufficient information upon which you can make an informed judgment on the suitability of an ETS for Australia, or do you feel that you would need more information to properly weigh up the pros and cons?

Yes, enough information: 13%

No, not enough information: 82%

Don't Know: 4%

Number of Respondents: 1,052
Conducted 20-22 November 2009