



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 2 November 2005

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT'S RENEWABLE ENERGY PROPOSAL

The Premier of Victoria Mr Steve Bracks today announced that the Victorian Government would investigate the feasibility of introducing a state-based scheme to increase the uptake of wind and other renewable energy sources.

Responding to the proposal, the Energy Retailers Association of Australia's Executive Director Patrick Gibbons said "energy retailers welcome the opportunity to discuss this with the Victorian Minister for Energy Industries Theo Theophanous".

"Before any decision is made there needs to be a thorough cost-benefit analysis of any proposal to increase the level of subsidy to the renewable energy sector.

"The costs of such an industry development scheme to Victorian consumers should be considered together with the benefits of developing a Victorian renewable energy sector," Patrick Gibbons said.

Noting that compliance with the three existing greenhouse gas abatement schemes falls on retailers, Patrick Gibbons said "there should be greater harmonisation of existing schemes, and any Victorian scheme should do the same."

"There are significant compliance and regulatory costs associated with the current fragmented arrangements, and any potential Victorian scheme should not add to these."

The ERAA believes that any response to greenhouse gas abatement needs to be done at the national level. Furthermore, it should target all sectors of the economy, including power generation, transport and agriculture; be market based and cognisant of international developments.

"We are currently at an important point-in-time where the international approach to greenhouse is unclear. Any new scheme in Victoria should take into account likely international developments," Patrick Gibbons said.

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