



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

Wednesday, 9 November 2005

## **GREENHOUSE GAS SCHEMES COST ALL ENERGY CONSUMERS**

In a new study released by the Energy Retailers Association of Australia, the three main greenhouse gas abatement schemes are expected to cost consumers almost \$1 billion per year by 2010.

The Federal Government's Mandatory Renewable Energy Target (MRET) scheme is paid for by all Australian electricity consumers. The two other schemes - NSW's Greenhouse Gas Abatement (NGAC) scheme and Queensland's 13% Gas (GEC) scheme - place even more costs on residents and businesses in those two states.

Commenting on the report, the Executive Director of the ERAA Patrick Gibbons said "the fragmented nature of Federal and State-based greenhouse abatement schemes adds to the cost of electricity for all consumers, and these costs will increase over time."

"The study shows that by 2010, Australian consumers could pay almost \$1 billion more for electricity as a direct consequence of these schemes."

For consumers this equates to an additional \$56 per year in NSW, and almost \$40 per year in Queensland, with consumers in Victoria and South Australia paying an additional \$15 per year."

"The clear message from the report is that the existing greenhouse gas abatement schemes are costly to consumers and relatively expensive in terms of cost per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>," Patrick Gibbons said.

"Governments should look to harmonise these schemes as it would improve their operation, not just in terms of reducing costs to consumers, but also environmental performance."

The report can be found at [http://www.eraa.com.au/db\\_uploads/CosttoConsumersReport\(Final\).pdf](http://www.eraa.com.au/db_uploads/CosttoConsumersReport(Final).pdf)

**ENDS**

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