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Media release

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State action on climate change good for business

Executive Director of The Australia Institute, Dr Clive Hamilton, today welcomed the scheme announced yesterday by the state governments to cap greenhouse gas emissions and provide a way for companies to buy and sell tradeable certificates.

“This initiative parallels the decision of 12 states in the US to create a state-based emissions trading system. This is the policy instrument of choice all around the world,” said Dr Hamilton

“The state governments are doing Australian business a big favour. The development of an emissions trading system means that Australian businesses are less likely to be left behind in the emerging global market for carbon trading.

“The Federal Government’s recalcitrance will undoubtedly hit Australian business hard in the long run.”

The Australia Institute, along with the Institute for Public Policy Research in the UK and the Center for American Progress in the US, was recently involved in establishing the International Climate Change Taskforce.

The International Climate Change Taskforce is a cross-party, cross-sector collaboration that includes leaders from public service, science, business, and civil society in both developed and developing countries.

The Taskforce’s recommendations set out a pathway to engage all countries in concerted action on climate change. The development of emissions trading regimes along the lines proposed by the state premiers yesterday is central to the recommendations of the Taskforce.

“The development of an emissions trading regime in Australia is an important first step towards tackling the country’s growing greenhouse problem. The earlier Australia addresses this issue, the lower the costs to the national economy will be,” concluded Dr Hamilton.

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