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## Media release

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# Greenhouse Figures No Basis for Boasting

The latest *National Greenhouse Accounts* for 2005 highlight the continuing failure of the Federal Government's greenhouse policies, the Australia Institute said today.

"The figures show Australia's greenhouse emissions declined slightly between 2004 and 2005, but these figures are nothing to boast about," Institute Executive Director Dr Clive Hamilton said.

"Emissions from energy have continued to climb and the only reason for the drop in overall emissions is a decline in emissions from metal production and prescribed burning of savannas and an increase in forest sinks".

Australia's greenhouse gas emissions have increased by 13 per cent since the Howard Government came to office in 1996, rising from 462 million tonnes to 522 million tonnes.

The majority of the Federal Government's greenhouse policies purport to target emissions from the energy sector. However, the *National Greenhouse Accounts* continue to show that energy emissions are on the rise. Between 1996 and 2005, emissions from the energy sector increased by 22 per cent.

"Plantation forests cannot solve Australia's greenhouse problems. The Federal Government needs to address Australia's escalating energy emissions by setting targets and putting in place a carbon trading scheme", Dr Hamilton said.