

23 May 2007

Media alert

Attention: Radio and TV producers

AIRLINES A MAJOR CLIMATE THREAT

Institute calls for \$30 climate change flight levy

The first comprehensive Australian study on aviation and climate change finds that aviation could account for more than half of Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions by the middle of this century.

The study, *A Flight Risk? Aviation and climate change in Australia*, was released today by the Australia Institute.

It calls for the immediate introduction of a \$30 greenhouse flight charge to curb demand and promote innovation in the aviation industry.

The paper analyses projections of emissions from aviation from 2005 to 2050 and compares them to emission reduction targets of 60 to 80 per cent by 2050. It finds growth in aviation emissions could derail Australia's attempts to meet future emission reduction targets. Key findings include:

- if Australia adopts a 60 per cent reduction target, aviation could account for between 32 and 51 per cent of the total greenhouse gas allowance by 2050;
- if Australia adopts an 80 per cent reduction target, aviation could account for between 69 and 109 per cent of the total greenhouse gas allowance by 2050.

The paper argues that aviation carbon dioxide emissions should be included in a national emissions trading scheme. It concludes that in the absence of a major technological breakthrough the amount of air travel will need to be stabilised and ultimately reduced.

For comment, please contact:

Andrew Macintosh on **02 6162 4146 (bh)** or **0403 804 540**; or

Christian Downie on **02 6162 4140 (bh)** or **0419 014 575**.

A summary of the report can be found on the Institute's website.

www.tai.org.au