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Media release

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Former British Airways head backs aviation wake up call

The Australia Institute welcomes comments by former British Airways head, Sir Rod Eddington, warning that the aviation industry will become an international pariah if it does not accept its inclusion in an emissions trading scheme.

His comments strongly support the conclusions of a recent report by the Institute, *A Flight Risk? Aviation and climate change in Australia,* which recommends aviation carbon dioxide emissions be included in a national emissions trading scheme.

The report found that, unchecked, the projected growth in aviation emissions to 2050 would derail Australia's attempts to meet future emission reduction targets.

Sir Rod Eddington's observations stand in stark contrast to the dismissive comments by the Deputy Prime Minister, Mark Vaile, who attacked the report as 'whacky', saying an increase in the cost of air travel would 'wreck the economy'.

They also highlight the head-in-the-sand mentality of Virgin Blue, whose Chief Executive attempted to ridicule the report saying "I just don't fathom what they are on about."

The Executive Director of the Australia Institute, Dr Clive Hamilton said: "For all the outrage from the Federal Government and segments of the aviation industry, the analysis and recommendations of The Australia Institute's report will be an unremarkable part of the climate change debate in Australia within two years.

"It doesn't take much foresight to see that the role of aviation is going to have to change markedly in the next few years."

The recommendations of The Australia Institute and Sir Rod Eddington to include aviation emissions in an emissions trading scheme have been backed by the new British Government Energy White Paper, which states: "The Government believes that the best way for aviation to contribute to the goal of emissions reduction is through a well-designed emissions trading scheme."

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