

# ACF report presents Greenhouse solutions

A research report on policies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from Australia has been prepared by Bill Hare and Sian Prior for the ACF. The paper was originally prepared for a submission for the Senate Industry, Science and Technology Committee Inquiry into the Greenhouse Effect in Australia. The research report covers a whole range of policy developments that are necessary if Australia is to achieve major reductions in Greenhouse gas emissions.

The policy areas covered by the submission include economic planning and management, energy efficiency, renewable energy systems, least-cost energy planning, research and development programmes, transport policy, urban development, land use and agriculture as well as foreign aid programmes and international measures. Emphasis is placed on energy efficiency and least-cost energy planning, as major programmes in each of these areas would have early impacts on greenhouse gas emissions.

Electricity is the largest single source of CO<sub>2</sub> followed by petroleum products, and natural gas. In terms of end-use, industry is by far the largest emitter of CO<sub>2</sub>, particularly in the mineral processing sector. Road transport contributes over one fifth of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions – a figure which is rapidly accelerating because of the escalation in road-freight instead of rail or water transport systems. Private car use is also increasing and the rate of improvement in vehicle efficiency has diminished owing to a lack of regulation and direction.

Homes produce nearly as much CO<sub>2</sub> as road transport. This reflects the highly carbon-intensive and often inefficient and inappropriate use of electricity for many domestic purposes, such as water heating. Many cost effective and energy efficient technologies exist which can significantly reduce the energy required

*Graphic by Ian McLachlan, courtesy The Age*

to do common tasks. However, there are many barriers to the widespread introduction of the latest and most efficient technologies which go beyond the question of price, affordability and economic efficiency. The research report canvasses a number of these issues and proposes policy solutions. A major programme of minimum national energy efficiency standards for all consumer goods, motor vehicles, industrial processes and building is advocated. A major reform of the electricity commission is also considered necessary before Australia can see the widespread introduction of the most efficient energy practices.

Australia has the dubious distinction of being one of the most intensive emitters of greenhouse gases per head of population, producing nearly 1.6 per cent of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Strong economic advantages exist for Australia in moving towards an energy efficient economy and in developing technological know-how.

The seventy-six page research report can be obtained from the ACF for \$9.95 plus \$1.50 postage. Your comments are invited on the policy ideas proposed in this report.

*by Bill Hare  
ACF Research & Policy Analyst*



## PM invites US energy expert back to Australia

Australia could save approximately 75 percent of its present electricity consumption by using electricity more efficiently according to the US energy expert, Amory Lovins. Dr Lovins visited Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra in late November 1989 with the assistance of the ACF, Friends of the Earth and Movement Against Uranium Mining.

With a suitcase full of electrical gadgets he was able to demonstrate how new energy-efficiency technologies could reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, at a profit, if they were retrofitted throughout the domestic, commercial

and industrial sectors.

At large public meetings in Sydney and Melbourne, Dr Lovins explained how complete use of the best retrofit lighting technologies in the USA could provide the same amount of useful light as is currently needed, using only 8 per cent as much lighting electricity.

In Canberra, he met with senior Federal Ministers who were so impressed with his information, that he has been invited by the Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, to return to Australia this year to discuss global warming abatement strategies with environment and energy ministers around Australia.

Since his visit the Victorian Department for Industry, Technology and Resources, State Electricity Commission have announced a \$55 million commitment to electricity demand management, to encourage energy conservation and reduce capital expenditure on additional power generating capacity.

Dr Lovins' information will be vital to the ACF's global change campaign. Members are asked to assist in this campaign by writing to their State and Federal Environment and Energy Ministers, urging them to implement energy efficiency programmes, as the most cost-effective means of significantly reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions.

*by Sian Prior  
Resources, Industries &  
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