

AUSTRALIA

FACT SHEET 2009 UPDATED ECONOMIC AND FISCAL OUTLOOK

THE ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES PROGRAM

The Government's new investments in energy efficiency will modernise Australia's existing housing stock.

Combined with existing regulations ensuring all new homes must have insulation, the initiative could result in almost all Australian homes operating at a minimum two-star energy rating by the end of 2011.

This time-limited program of initiatives will have three key components:

- First, eligible Australian owner-occupiers will be able to access free installation and supply of ceiling insulation (up to \$1,600) through this program, saving a possible \$200 per year on their energy bills.
- Second, there will be support for tenants in rental accommodation, with landlords able to access an increased rebate of up to \$1,000 to install insulation in their rental properties.
- Third, the Australian Government will also help Australian households install climate friendly hot water technologies. Increased non means-tested rebates of \$1,600 will be available to all Australian households (that have not already claimed the insulation assistance) to install solar and heat pump hot water systems to replace electric storage hot water systems.

Who Will Be Assisted and How Much is the Support Worth?

Insulating Australian households (\$2.7 billion)

- All Australian owner-occupiers who do not currently have ceiling insulation will be eligible for the free installation and supply of ceiling insulation (up to \$1,600 value) from 1 July 2009 until 31 December 2011 — accessible to owner-occupiers simply by making a phone call.
- As an interim arrangement, owner-occupiers who do not currently have ceiling insulation and who self-organise its

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installation between the date of this program's announcement and 30 June 2009 will be able to seek reimbursement of their costs (up to the \$1,600 cap) upon commencement of the centralised insulation program — i.e. from 1 July 2009.

Low Emissions Plan for Renters (\$612.5 million additional funding)

- The Low Emissions Plan for Renters rebate will be doubled to up to \$1,000 for landlords with tenants to install insulation in their rental property — and will be available from the date of this program's announcement until 30 June 2011. The existing cap on the number of rebates will also be removed.

Solar Hot Water Rebate (\$507 million additional funding)

- The Solar Hot Water Rebate will be increased to \$1,600 and the existing means test will be scrapped so that it is available to all households with an existing electric hot water system that do not access the insulation components of the program and that install an eligible solar hot water or heat pump system — and will be available from the date of this program's announcement until 30 June 2012. Once installed, households could save \$300 to \$700 on their energy bills each year.
- Homeowners will be able to access either the insulation program or the Solar Hot Water Rebate.

Why is the Government focusing on insulation?

- Insulation for uninsulated households is typically the most cost-effective residential energy efficiency improvement. The benefits of insulation include additional comfort, up to 40 per cent reductions in heating and cooling bills, and reduced condensation on walls and ceilings leading to improved health outcomes, including a reduction in respiratory illnesses.
- Owner-occupiers and tenants of landlords who are able to access subsidised ceiling insulation through these programs could save around \$200 per year on their energy bills.

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How will this boost Australian jobs?

- The Energy Efficient Homes program will create new jobs in insulation manufacturing and installation. The Government will work with the industry to ensure job benefits are maximised.
- The enhanced Solar Hot Water Rebate will also create new manufacturing and installation jobs.

What are the environmental benefits of this program?

- If taken up by eligible households, the insulation components of the program could result in almost all Australian homes operating at a minimum of two-star energy rating by 2012.
- Overall, it is estimated that these new measures could result in the abatement of 4.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂-e) per year from the end of the program, and total abatement of 49.4 Mt CO₂-e by 2020.

This will contribute to meeting Australia's 2020 target for emissions reductions under the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.

AUSTRALIAN ENERGY ENGAGEMENT WITH CHINA

SUMMARY AND AUSTRALIAN POSITION

Australia and China maintain a number of bilateral dialogues to advance cooperation while managing the two countries' differences. Our dialogues cover trade and economic cooperation, resources, aid, defence, regional security and disarmament, human rights, climate change and consular matters.

BILATERAL ACTIVITIES

Australia-China Joint Coordination Group on Clean Coal Technology

The Australia-China Joint Coordination Group (JCG) on Clean Coal Technology supports practical cooperation between Australia and China on the development, transfer and deployment of clean coal technologies. Prime Minister Rudd reaffirmed Australia's commitment to the JCG during his visit to China in April 2008.

In the 2008-09 Budget, \$20 million was provided to the JCG under the National Low Emissions Coal Initiative (see separate item for further details) to support this cooperation. In addition many of these projects are supported through the Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APP) and has committed \$12 million to Assessing Post-Combustion Capture Project.

Projects the Department has facilitated under the JCG include the post combustion capture pilot project at the Beijing power station, Chinese involvement in the integrated gasification combined cycle project in Victoria and capacity building on geological storage.

Australia-China Joint Working Group on Energy and Minerals Consultations

The Australia-China Joint Working Group (JWG) on Energy & Minerals Consultations was established in 2000 and provides for a broader dialogue on energy and minerals issues with a greater focus on joint cooperation and commercial activities.

The fourth meeting of the JWG was held in Beijing in February 2008, with discussions including the exchange of information on domestic energy policies, resource supply and demand forecasts, promotion of Australian LNG, iron ore, coal, uranium and minerals supply capabilities and investment opportunities. The next meeting is expected to be held in Australia in 2009 at a time to be agreed.

Australia-China Natural Gas Technology Partnership Fund

The Commonwealth of Australia (RET), the Government of Western Australia, partners in the North West Shelf Venture and China (acting through the National Development and Reform Commission), signed the MOU in 2004.

The main objectives are to: expand knowledge and information about the natural gas industry including production, application and use of natural gas as an energy resource (at policy, legislative, regulatory, commercial and technical levels) and to broaden international engineering and procurement expertise.

Key activities include: Working Group meetings between officials held once or twice a year; training activities at Australian institutions; and training activities at Chinese institutions (several thousand participants have undertaken various training courses).

The 12-year Fund has a budget of \$25m and the Australian Government's total contribution matches the West Australian Government's (\$7.5m each), while the partners in the North West Shelf Venture are contributing \$10m.

Cooperation on Coal Mine Safety

On 3 April 2006, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Coal Mine Safety was signed by the Australian Government and China. The MOU establishes a cooperative mechanism for the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism (RET) and China's State Administration of Work Safety (SAWS) to exchange safety expertise and address issues in coal mine safety of mutual interest (e.g. training, technology and equipment).

The key area of focus is a demonstration project in China to showcase world best practice in terms of technology and emergency response systems. The Xuandong mine in Hebei province has been selected as a suitable site for the demonstration project; with Australia committing \$5 million in APP funds for the period October 2007 to June 2011 to the Coal Mine Safety Demonstration project.

MULTILATERAL ACTIVITIES

Global Carbon Capture & Storage Initiative

The Global Carbon Capture & Storage Initiative will provide a mechanism to coordinate and leverage national and regional CCS initiatives to deliver the goal of launching 20 large-scale CCS demonstration projects globally by 2010.

The proposal includes the establishment of the Global Institute to coordinate the network of the existing national centres around the world. The Global Institute will accelerate the delivery of a diverse portfolio of fully-integrated, commercial-scale CCS projects by 2020.

Australia is taking a leadership role in driving this Initiative and is preparing to fund the Global Institute (up to \$100 million per annum), which will be headquartered in Australia.

Ma Aimen of the National Development and Reform Commission and Zeng Rongshu of the China Academy of Sciences attended the Global CCS Institute Preparatory Meeting in London on 24-25 of November 2008.

The Government of the People's Republic of China has been formally invited to join the Global Institute.

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

APEC was established in 1989 and is the premier forum for facilitating economic growth, cooperation, trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region. APEC operates on the basis of non-binding commitments and open dialogue. Decisions made within APEC are reached by consensus and commitments are undertaken on a voluntary basis.

The APEC Energy Working Group (EWG) is actively working to advance regional energy security. The Asia-Pacific region is characterised by increasing demand for energy, rising incomes and growing levels of urbanisation, which results in a growing demand for energy.

Australia recently sponsored the APEC EWG Energy Trade and Investment Roundtable in Cairns, Australia, in early November. The Roundtable addressed identified barriers to energy trade and investment in the region and developed a draft Plan-of-Action which will be further refined before submission to APEC Energy Ministers for their endorsement when they next meet in Japan in 2010.

The EWG recently established two Task Forces to progress APEC Energy Minister's directives;

- **Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Financing Task Force** to work with the private sector and financial institutions to facilitate greater investments in clean and more efficient energy infrastructure and technologies. On completion of its work program EWG members decided to terminate this Task Force at EWG35
- **Biofuels Task Force** to help APEC Member Economies better understand the potential for biofuels to displace oil in transport.

Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APP)

As part of the APP, Australia cooperates closely with China on collaborative efforts between industry, government and researchers in the development, deployment and transfer of cleaner, more efficient technologies.

The Australian Government has announced \$100 million to support the initiative and has provided in-principle funding for over 60 projects, 33 of which involve China (either bi-laterally or multi-laterally). Total Australian investment involving China equates to over \$70 million.

Whilst the Chinese Government has not made any similar formal funding package announcements on the APP initiative, China provides in-kind support and/or financial contributions on a project by project basis.

The "Assessing Post-Combustion Capture (PCC) for Coal-Fired Power Stations in APP Countries" is a flagship APP project shared by Australia and China that aims to demonstrate PCC technology using purpose built mobile pilot plants at existing coal fired power stations. It aims to enable the economics of PCC technology to be

determined and provide a roadmap for the demonstration and deployment of PCC technology into the future.

This project consists of two components – Australian based trials and Chinese based trials - funded through Australian Government APP funding grants. The Australian component of the project will receive \$8 million of funding and will establish two mobile PCC pilot plants and a research laboratory that will test novel PCC processes and a range of different solvents to capture CO₂. The Chinese component of the project is receiving \$4 million of funding and involves Australian and Chinese technologists working together to deploy a mobile PCC pilot plant in China and carry out further PCC trials and research under different conditions at Chinese power stations.

Clean Energy Export Strategy

The Australian Government has committed to a \$15 million Clean Energy Export Strategy, administered by Austrade, which may offer further potential for renewable energy cooperation with China. Austrade is actively engaged in linking Australian and Chinese businesses.

East Asia Summit (EAS)

The East Asia Summit (EAS) is a regional Leaders' forum for strategic dialogue and action on key challenges facing the East Asian region. Australia participated, as a founding member, in the inaugural EAS held in Kuala Lumpur on 14 December 2005. Membership of the EAS comprises: Australia, China, Japan, India, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea.

The EAS, through its Energy Cooperation Task Force, has progressed activities to promote regional energy market integration to help strengthen energy security. Australia has led on this initiative by leading a study to develop recommendations for promoting regional integration of EAS energy markets. Other areas of interest include energy efficiency and biofuels and the potential contribution they can make to advancing energy security in the region.

The inaugural EAS Energy Ministers Meeting in Singapore in August 2007 endorsed the recommendations of the ECTF in three identified work streams addressing Energy Efficiency and Conservation (led by Japan); Biofuels (led by the Philippines); and Energy Market Integration (co-chaired by Singapore and Australia).

AUSTRALIAN ENERGY ENGAGEMENT WITH INDIA

SUMMARY AND AUSTRALIAN POSITION

Australia is committed to taking its relationship with India to a higher level and engaging with India on a long-term, strategic basis. A central element of India's foreign affairs agenda is 'energy diplomacy', which relates to the need to secure energy supplies to meet rapidly growing industrial and consumer demand.

Australia is well positioned to partner India in this regard, through exports of minerals and fuels, energy investment opportunities in Australia and collaboration on areas of joint interest, such as new mining technologies.

BILATERAL ACTIVITIES

Australia-India Joint Working Group on Energy and Minerals (JWG)

The Australia-India Joint Working Group (JWG) was established in 2000. Its purpose is to address trade and investment issues in the energy and minerals sector, to exchange information on policy developments and to identify possible commercial opportunities.

The 5th round of JWG consultations was held on 2-3 July 2007 in Canberra and discussed areas of mutual interest such as coal and clean coal technology, trade and investment, and sustainable mining and opportunities for projects under the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund. The next meeting is being held 16-17 March 2009, in India.

Resources Strategy Action Plans

To strengthen the resources relationship and to provide a framework for long-term collaboration with industry, Australia proposed an Australia-India Resources Strategy (under the auspices of the JWG) comprising

- **Coal Action Plan** aims to promote the further development, transfer and deployment of low emissions coal technologies. Identified activities include: information exchange on low emission coal technology issues; participation in international forums on the proposed Global Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Initiative; and collaboration on existing projects under the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APP) Coal Mining Task Force.
- **Power Action Plan** aims to promote the further development, transfer and deployment of clean energy technologies, including CCS in the power sector and participation in international forums on the proposed Global Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Initiative. Identified activities include: continued collaboration on existing projects under the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APP) Power Generation and Transmission Task Force; and exploration of opportunities to promote scientific cooperation, possibly through the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund**, on issues of mutual interest such as geothermal energy production.

- **Mining Action Plan** aims to promote the further development, transfer and deployment of clean technology in the mining and minerals sector. Identified activities include: collaboration on existing projects under the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APP) Aluminium Task Force; and exploration of opportunities to promote scientific cooperation, possibly through the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund**, on issues of mutual interest.
- **Renewable and Clean Energy Action Plan** aims to promote the further development, transfer and deployment of renewable energy technologies in power production and the uptake of clean energy technologies. Identified activities include: promotion of information exchanges on renewable and clean energy issues; identification and pursuit of opportunities to facilitate two-way trade and investment flows in relation to renewable and clean energy technologies and environmental services; continued collaboration on existing projects under the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APP) Renewable Energy and Distributed Generation Task Force; and exploration of opportunities to promote scientific cooperation, possibly through the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund, on issues of mutual interest including solar technology.
- **Petroleum Action Plan** aims to promote the further development, transfer and deployment of clean energy technologies in the petroleum sector. Identified activities include continued collaboration on existing projects under the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APP) Cleaner Fossil Energy Task Force; and exploration of opportunities to promote scientific cooperation, possibly through the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund**, on issues of mutual interest, including carbon capture and storage.

**The Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF) is a component of the previous government's Australian Scholarships package, with funding of \$20 million provided over five years commencing in FY 2006/07. The AISRF aims to facilitate and support Science and Technology research cooperation between Australia and India. The fund assists Australian researchers to increase their participation in leading edge scientific research with Indian scientists, to raise the profile of Australian research, and to support the development of strategic alliances between Australian researchers and Indian researchers. It is administered by the Dept of Innovation, Industry, Science & Research.

MULTILATERAL ACTIVITIES

Global Carbon Capture & Storage Initiative

The Global Carbon Capture & Storage Initiative will provide a mechanism to coordinate and leverage national and regional CCS initiatives to deliver the goal of launching 20 large-scale CCS demonstration projects globally by 2010.

The proposal includes the establishment of the Global Institute to coordinate the network of the existing national centres around the world. The Global Institute will accelerate the delivery of a diverse portfolio of fully-integrated, commercial-scale CCS projects by 2020.

Australia is taking a leadership role in driving this Initiative and is preparing to fund the Global Institute (up to \$100 million per annum), which will be headquartered in Australia.

The Indian Government has been formally invited to join the Global Institute.

Dr Malti Goel attended the Global CCS Institute Preparatory Meeting in London. Dr Goel has worked on CCS as a former advisor and Senior Scientist of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APP)

As part of the APP, Australia cooperates closely with India on collaborative efforts between industry, government and researchers in the development, deployment and transfer of cleaner, more efficient technologies.

The Australian Government has announced \$100 million to support the initiative and has provided in-principle funding for over 60 projects, 27 of which involve India, either bi-laterally or multi-laterally. Total Australian investment involving India equates to over \$43 million.

Whilst the Indian Government has not made any similar formal funding package announcements on the APP initiative, India provides in-kind support and/or financial contributions on a project by project basis, such as access to sites/infrastructure – eg. power plants upon which to test technology and provision of land.

Coal India was a joint host with RET of an Asia Pacific Partnership Workshop on Mine Rehabilitation, Closure and Completion in April 2008 which was held in Kolkata.

East Asia Summit (EAS)

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Australian policies update for International Energy Agency Standing Group on Long-Term Cooperation (SLT) meeting 9-10 March 2009

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)

Commonwealth and State Governments agreed on 13 April 2007 to establish an industry funded national energy market operator for both electricity and gas to strengthen the national character of Australian energy market governance. AEMO will begin operations on 1 July 2009.

AEMO will undertake a new national transmission planning function to promote efficient investment in electricity infrastructure. It will also operate a gas market bulletin board, a gas short term trading market (from mid-2010), and release a gas statement of opportunities.

National Gas Laws and Rules

On 1 July 2008 the National Gas Law (NGL) and National Gas Rules (NGR) came into effect in all states and territories except Western Australia, which is expected to adopt these later in March 2009. The NGL and NGR will:

- Regulate third party access to gas pipelines
- Bring pipeline regulation under one national regulator, the Australian Energy Regulator (except for Western Australia that will retain its current regulator). Previously, access was regulated by each state and territory separately
- Bring gas and electricity regulation under a consistent national framework
- Provide incentives to promote pipeline investment.

Global Carbon Capture and Storage Initiative (GCCSI)

The GCCSI could receive up to \$100 million to accelerate the development of carbon capture and storage technology.

National Low Emissions Coal Initiative (NLECI)

The NLECI aims to accelerate the use of low emission coal technologies in Australia, cut greenhouse gas emissions and secure the economic future of the Australian coal industry.

The \$500 million National Low Emissions Coal Fund (NLECF) will provide financial support for the NLECI, which includes:

- \$75 million for a National Low Emissions Coal Research Program
- \$50 million for a National Carbon Mapping and Infrastructure Plan (NCMIP)

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- \$50 million for a post-combustion capture demonstration project in New South Wales
- \$50 million for a post-combustion capture demonstration project in Victoria.

Implementation of the NLECI is being guided by the National Low Emissions Coal Council (NLECC) which brings together government, industry, and coal researches. The Carbon Storage Taskforce was also established to develop the NCMIP, which will be delivered to the Minister for Resources and Energy by mid-2009.

Smart Meters

In December 2007 the Ministerial Council on Energy (MCE) committed to a national framework for smart meter roll-outs, including a national minimum functionality.

Further key commitments made by MCE in June 2008 include:

- The industry-led National Stakeholder Steering Committee (NSSC) to develop detailed requirements for technical and operational aspects of the framework
- Support for roll-outs in Victoria and New South Wales, which should result in more than half of all Australian meters being replaced by 2017
- Pilots in some jurisdictions first to test costs and benefits to inform detailed business cases
- MCE to review roll-out timelines by 2012 informed by pilots
- The obligation to conduct an accelerated roll-out should fall on distribution businesses.

Climate Change

The Australian Government's climate change policy is built on three pillars—reducing Australia's carbon pollution emissions, adapting to climate change that we cannot avoid, and helping to shape a global solution.

The Australian Government is committed to a long-term goal of reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions to 60% below 2000 levels by 2050.

In December 2008, the Australian Government announced its interim emissions reduction target range of 5-15% below 2000 levels by 2020. The 5% reduction below 2000 levels by 2020 is Australia's minimum unconditional commitment. If a comprehensive global agreement comes into place (where major economies agree to substantially restrain carbon emissions and advanced economies take on

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reductions comparable to Australia), Australia will reduce its emissions 15% below 2000 levels by 2020.

To meet these targets the Australian Government has put in place a substantial national program of over \$3 billion in mitigation and adaptation initiatives. It will also establish an emissions trading scheme by 2010.

Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS)

The Australian Government released its White Paper on the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) on 15 December 2008. The White Paper outlines the design of Australia's domestic emissions trading scheme which includes transitional measures for industry and households. Industry assistance includes:

- the *Emissions Intensive Trade Exposed* (EITE) assistance program
- the \$3.9 billion *Electricity Sector Adjustment Scheme* (ESAS)
- the \$2.15 billion *Climate Change Action Fund* (CCAF). The CCAF includes support for energy efficiency and a \$750 million coal sector adjustment fund.

The CPRS is the main measure that the Australian Government will use to achieve its national domestic emissions target, a core element of which is a cap-and-trade emissions trading scheme (ETS)

The scheme proposes to have maximum practical coverage of the economy and will cover 75% of Australia's emissions through around 1000 firms

Costs under the scheme will be initially be managed in the first five years through a price cap starting at \$40 per tonne of CO₂ rising at 5% per annum and in the longer term through international linking to Kyoto Protocol units.

The Government will introduce legislation into Parliament in the second half of 2009, for a 1 July 2010 start.

Further details available at www.climatechange.gov.au

Climate Change Action Fund (CCAF)/ Industrial Energy Efficiency

The CCAF was announced in the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) White Paper in December 2008 and aims to assist individuals, businesses and communities in the transformation to a low carbon future.

The CCAF will provide assistance to address both the distributional impacts of the CPRS and persistent market failures that impede the uptake of lower emission technologies and processes.

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Approximately \$2.15 billion will be allocated over five years (commencing 2008-09) – with an additional \$300 million for the period 2013-14 to 2014-15 for coal sector adjustment - to provide:

- Information on the CPRS to business and community organisations about the operation of the scheme and how these entities can manage expected financial impacts (\$130 million over five years from 2008-09)
- Grants and incentives for business and community organisations to invest in energy efficient projects and low emissions technologies, processes and products (\$1.37 billion over five years from 2008-09)
- Structural adjustment assistance for workers and communities significantly affected by the introduction of the CPRS (\$200 million from 2010-11)
- Structural adjustment assistance for coal mines with high fugitive emissions which will be significantly affected by the introduction of the CPRS (\$750 million from 2010-11 to 2014-15).

Renewable Energy Target (RET)

The Renewable Energy Target aims to encourage the development of sustainable renewable energy supply industry by creating a guaranteed market for renewable energy.

The Australian Government is currently working to significantly expand the Renewable Energy Target scheme to ensure that 20% of Australia's electricity supply comes from renewable energy sources by 2020.

Legislation for the expanded target is expected to be put in place by mid-2009, with new annual targets to commence from 2010.

Renewable Energy Fund

On 20 February 2009, the Minister for Resources and Energy opened the \$435 million Renewable Energy Demonstration Program for applications. The Program provides grants for large scale renewable energy demonstration projects and is part of the \$500 million Renewable Energy Fund. Applications close on 15 April 2009.

National Strategy on Energy Efficiency

In October 2008, the Council of Australian Governments (CoAG) agreed to develop a National Strategy on Energy Efficiency.

The Strategy is intended to accelerate energy efficiency efforts across all governments and to help households and businesses prepare for the introduction of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS).

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At present, work is underway between commonwealth, state and territory officials to develop a strategy for CoAG's consideration around mid 2009.

Energy Efficiency Opportunities (EEO) program

The EEO program requires corporations that use more than 0.5 petajoules of energy per year to undertake a rigorous and comprehensive assessment of their energy use and identify cost effective energy efficiency opportunities with up to a four year pay back period.

Some 213 corporations have registered for the program comprising 45% of total Australian end energy use and 60% of business end energy use. Around 93% of those corporations were required to report to Government and the public on their first energy assessments and business response by 31 December 2008.

That data has yet to be verified, and the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism is still working with some companies to submit full reports. However, the initial findings of the 169 public reports which have been published, suggest that corporations have committed to implementing opportunities with the following energy savings based on the energy use which they have assessed so far:

Energy savings from opportunities committed to implementing	% of companies
less than 2%	47%
between 2-5%	22%
between 5-10%	17%
greater than 10%	14%

A more detailed report of assessment results is being prepared for potential release in mid 2009. The report will analyse trends in the identification and implementation of opportunities across industry sectors, by opportunity and energy type, and by contribution to financial and energy savings.

Technology Roadmaps and Industry Development Framework

The Australian Government has released technology roadmaps for hydrogen and fuel cells, geothermal energy and solar thermal energy.

The Australian Government has also developed a Geothermal Industry Development Framework, to accelerate development of geothermal energy in Australia.

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Energy Innovation Fund (EIF)

On 15 January 2009, the Minister for Resources and Energy launched the \$100 million Australian Solar Institute. The Institute is part of the \$150 million Energy Innovation Fund and supports photovoltaics, solar thermal technology and other promising areas of solar energy research.

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