

DECISION TIME ON CLIMATE CHANGE

MELBOURNE CLIMATE POLICY FORUM

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2009

SIX BRIEFINGS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EFFECTIVE CLIMATE POLICIES

After many years of debate, climate policy has moved squarely into the implementation stage. The next six months will be critical, both in Australia and internationally, in determining what policies will be put in place and how effective they will be in containing global warming.

As a contribution to rational, evidence-based debate the Melbourne Climate Policy Forum (MCPF) is hosting six briefing seminars on the key policy issues facing Australia, set in the context of the global decision-making process.

Each of the briefings will provide an assessment of current knowledge and its implications for the policy issue in question, based in part on the ongoing research activities of the MCPF partners. Following the briefing, two distinguished external discussants will review the briefing provided, comment on the policy issue and introduce general discussion.

BRIEFING (see next page or website for full details)	DATE AND TIME	PRESENTERS
1. Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change: The Dynamics of Global Action	Thursday 29 October, 5-7pm	Professors Roger Jones and Peter Sheehan (CSES)
2. Making Adjustment Payments to Electricity Generators Effective	Thursday 5 November, 5-7pm	Mr Bruce Mountain (CME)
3. Australia's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme: Can Carbon Markets Deliver?	Thursday 12 November, 5-7pm	Professor Peter Sheehan (CSES) and Mr Rob Jolly (CME)
4. Australia's Approach to Renewable Electricity Generation	Thursday 19 November, 5-7pm	Mr Rob Jolly and Mr Bruce Mountain (CME)
5. The Challenge of Adaptation: Victoria as a Case Study	Thursday 26 November, 5-7pm	Professor Roger Jones (CSES)
6. The New Industrial Revolution: Implications for Australia and Victoria	Thursday 3 December, 5-7pm	Professor Peter Sheehan and Dr Kim Sweeny (CSES)

VENUE: Victoria University City Campus - Level 11, Room 1101, 300 Flinders St, Melbourne

TIME: 5.00pm - 7.00pm

RSVP: Attendance is free but please register by sending the number of the briefing you wish to attend, plus your contact details to Nupur Sethia by phone on 03 9919 1340 or by email to nupur.sethia@vu.edu.au

The MCPF is a joint initiative of Victoria University, through the Centre for Strategic Economic Studies (CSES) and Carbon Market Economics Pty Ltd (CME).

Please check the MCPF web page for a listing of discussants closer to event dates.

WWW.VU.EDU.AU/MCPFORUM



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SIX BRIEFINGS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EFFECTIVE CLIMATE POLICIES

1. AVOIDING DANGEROUS CLIMATE CHANGE: THE DYNAMICS OF GLOBAL ACTION

Prior to Copenhagen there remains much uncertainty on what emissions paths need to be achieved to avoid dangerous climate change and whether such paths are indeed achievable. This is especially so after the global financial crisis and in the light of the offer of the G8 countries to reduce emissions by 80% by 2050. This briefing will explore potential emissions paths for various countries consistent with avoiding dangerous climate change.

DATE: Thursday 29 October, 5-7pm

PRESENTED BY: Professors Roger Jones and Peter Sheehan (CSES)

2. MAKING ADJUSTMENT PAYMENTS TO ELECTRICITY GENERATORS EFFECTIVE

The current CPRS legislation before the Australian Parliament provides for assistance of over \$4 billion to companies involved in coal-fired power generation, on the condition that they retain their current production capability. This briefing will examine ways in which these funds could be provided to generating companies in a framework which provides much greater incentives for pro-active structural change and emissions reductions

DATE: Thursday 5 November, 5-7pm

PRESENTED BY: Mr Bruce Mountain (CME)

3. AUSTRALIA'S CARBON POLLUTION REDUCTION SCHEME: CAN CARBON MARKETS DELIVER?

If Australia adopts stringent emissions reduction targets after the Copenhagen conference, could these be achieved by an emissions trading scheme as currently proposed? Do the limitations of emissions trading mean that it will be unable to achieve large scale reductions in emissions? Should the CPRS be supplemented or amended in some way, either now or after Copenhagen?

DATE: Thursday 12 November, 5-7pm

PRESENTED BY: Professor Peter Sheehan (CSES) and Mr Rob Jolly (CME)

4. AUSTRALIA'S APPROACH TO RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY GENERATION

The Australian Government has set a renewable electricity generation target of 20% for 2020. Is this target likely to be achieved? What impact will the expanded renewable energy target (RET) have on renewable electricity generation in the future? How significant are other federal and state government policies on increasing renewable electricity generation? Should the RET Scheme be modified? Should complementary measures be introduced to encourage increased investment in renewable electricity generation?

DATE: Thursday 19 November, 5-7pm

PRESENTED BY: Mr Rob Jolly and Mr Bruce Mountain (CME)

5. THE CHALLENGE OF ADAPTATION: VICTORIA AS A CASE STUDY

There is now clear evidence that the climate of south east Australia shifted sharply in 1996-98, and rainfall, temperature and other related variables are outside worst case projections. These facts, which will be reviewed in this session, raise key questions about the scale and strategy of adaptation activity in Victoria, and how the science on climate change, impacts and adaptation can be integrated to guide an effective strategic response.

DATE: Thursday 26 November, 5-7pm

PRESENTED BY: Professor Roger Jones (CSES)

6. THE NEW INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION: IMPLICATIONS FOR AUSTRALIA AND VICTORIA

If the major developed countries commit to reducing emissions by 80% by 2050, in the context of an appropriate agreement with developing countries, this will signal a fundamental reshaping of economic and technology structures around the world, with quite new patterns of competitiveness and growth. How is this reshaping likely to play out? How well are Australia and Victoria poised to respond, by comparison with countries such as China and the USA?

DATE: Thursday 3 December, 5-7pm

PRESENTED BY: Professor Peter Sheehan and Dr Kim Sweeny (CSES)