



Australian Government

Australian Greenhouse Office

Australia's Response to Climate Change

Bridget Brill

Australian Greenhouse Office

Australia's interests in climate change

- **Australia takes climate change seriously**
 - Australia has significant vulnerable ecosystems
 - significant economic activity linked to vulnerable ecosystems
- **Australia is committed to effective, practical action on climate change**
- **Australia's circumstance:**
 - Heavy reliance on fossil fuels
 - Production of energy intensive energy and greenhouse intensive exports
 - Significant transport needs
 - Changing landuse patterns
 - Higher projected population growth than other developed countries



Australia's role in the international response

- **Australia has decided to not ratify the Kyoto Protocol at present because we do not believe it provides an effective basis for action.**
- **Australia is committed to meeting its agreed Kyoto target.**
- **Australia will continue to work internationally to build more effective global action on climate change and to assist developing countries in mitigation, adaptation and capacity building.**



Australia's Kyoto Protocol Target and Status

- **Australia is within striking distance of 108% target**
- **Government to continue to develop and fund domestic programs to meet the target**
- **The target must be approached in the context of a longer-term strategy**



Key elements of Australia's forward strategy

- **Australia will strive for an effective global response to climate change**
- **Australia will position itself to maintain a strong and internationally competitive economy with a lower emissions signature**
- **Domestic policy settings will balance flexibility and certainty, and emphasise cost-effectiveness**
- **Australia will anticipate adaptation needs**



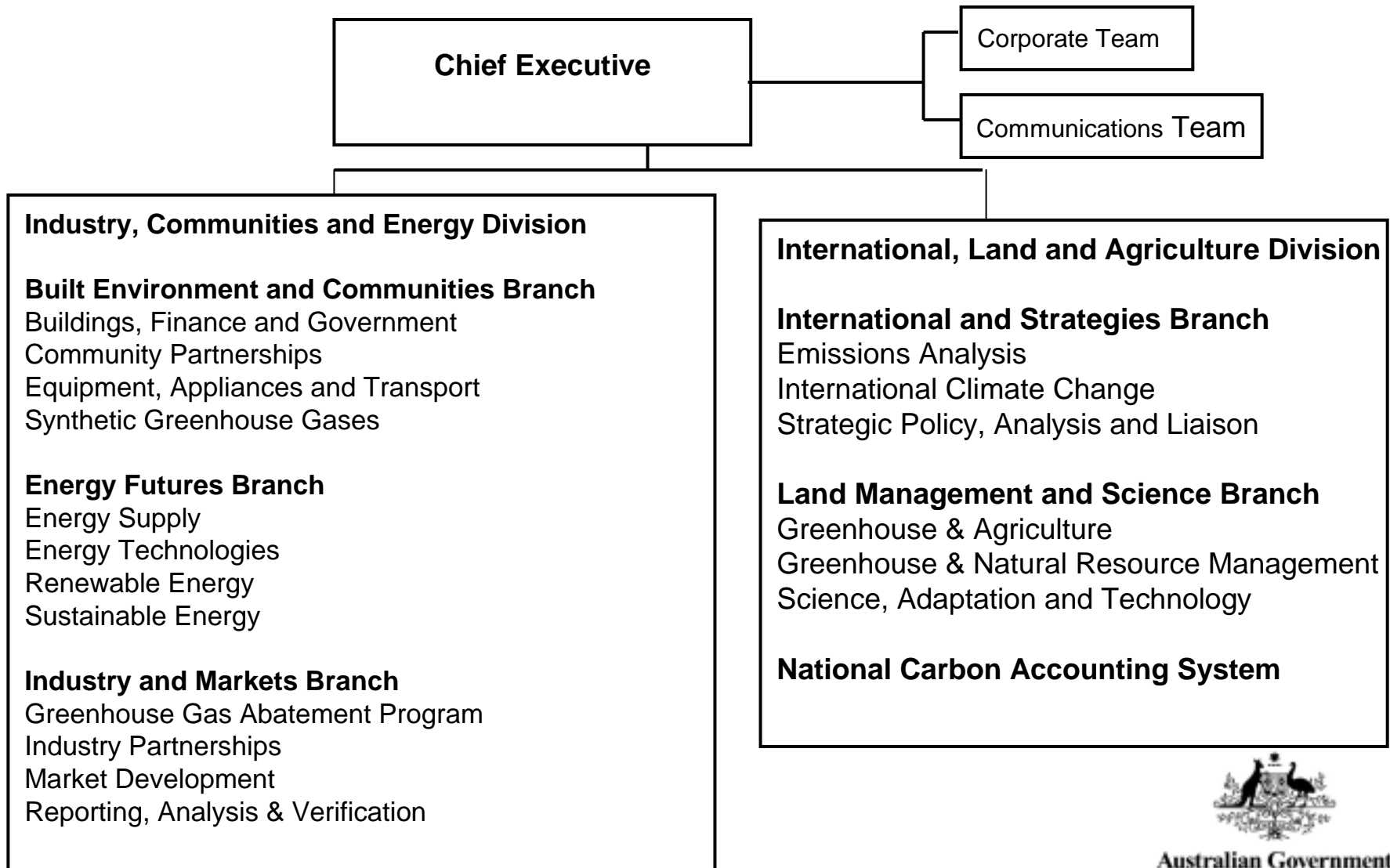
Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO) Responsibilities

The Australian Greenhouse Office

- **Established in 1998 to provide a whole of government approach to greenhouse matters.**
- **Worlds first government agency dedicated climate change.**
- **Coordinates domestic climate change policy**
- **Delivers a range of programs**
- **Provides a central point of contact for stakeholder groups.**
- **Almost \$1 billion in greenhouse programs.**
- **Staff of 174 full time equivalent people.**



ORGANISATIONAL OVERVIEW



Governance Arrangements

The Sustainable Environment Cabinet Sub-Committee

The Committee considers greenhouse policy, the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, land clearing, bio-diversity and oceans policy.

Membership includes: Prime Minister (Chairman)
Mr Anderson (Transport) Dr Nelson (Science)
Dr Kemp (Environment) Mr Macfarlane (Industry)
Mr Truss (Agriculture) Senator Macdonald (Forestry)

Ministerial Arrangements

Report to Environment Minister
and Energy/Technology Minister



Greenhouse Gas Abatement Program (GGAP) and its objective

- **Major initiative to assist Australia meet its Kyoto Protocol target by:**
 - supporting large-scale, additional and measurable abatement or sink enhancement
 - encouraging abatement, particularly in the first commitment period, 2008-2012
- **\$400 million allocated to the Program**
- **15 successful projects so far announced**
- **Projects are expected to abate 27.5 million tonnes of CO₂-e during 2008-2012**
- **Government contribution to project costs, through GGAP, ranges from 6 to 66%, typically 21%**



Renewable Energy Measures

Over \$300m of programs in place to support the development of the Renewable Energy industry:

- **Renewable Energy Commercialisation (\$73 million)** (three programs)
- **Renewable Energy Industry Development Program (\$6 million)** develops standards, provides training and accreditation, assists in development of industry direction, provides best practice guidelines and information on conference sponsorships.
- **Renewable Remote Power Generation Program (~ \$200 million)** provides funds through state and Territory Governments to encourage the use of renewable energy in lieu of diesel fuel for electricity generation in remote areas of Australia.
- **Photovoltaic Rebate Program (\$31 million)** provides cash rebates to households and owners of community-use buildings who install grid connected or stand alone photovoltaic systems.



Mandatory Renewable Energy Target

Mandated Renewable Energy Target (MRET) under the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000*

1. MRET requires an additional 9,500 GWh per year of supply by 2010 to be maintained at this level to 2020.
2. Creation and trading of renewable energy certificates (REC).
1 REC equals to 1MWh of renewable electricity generated.
3. 170 renewable energy power stations are accredited in Australia
4. MRET has achieved the interim target and an independent statutory review is underway

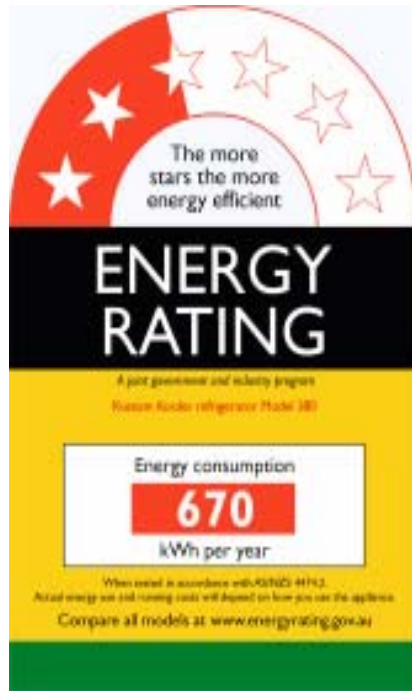


Other Measures

- **Transport measures**
 - Fuel Consumption Labelling scheme
 - Alternative Fuels program
 - Travel Management program
- **Energy Efficiency**
 - Generator Efficiency Standards
 - Minimum Energy Performance Standards
 - Energy Rating labels
- **Greenhouse Challenge**
- **Greenhouse Friendly labelling program**



Energy Rating Labels



- Mandatory on refrigerators, freezers, clothes washers, clothes dryers, dishwashers & air conditioners
- Energy consumption based on per cycle energy use
- Commitment: factor in standby







The Greenhouse Friendly Program

A voluntary marketing initiative incorporating a number of market-based approaches and good design features:

- provides information
 - to firms about emissions
 - to consumers to promote choice
- creates a private market
 - trade in emissions reduction promotes flexibility and efficiency
 - provides incentives to abate
 - encourages competition

Climate Change Projects / Initiatives in the Pacific Region

- **Australia's financial commitment to climate change in the Pacific region is around \$18 million with an expenditure of almost \$5 million in 2002-03.**
- **Australia is one of major funding sources for the World Bank's National Strategy Studies (NSS) Program**
- **Australia supports regional organisations in the Pacific such as, South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) and South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commissions (SOPAC)**



International Climate Change Cooperation

- **Australia works cooperatively with many countries on climate change including Japan, US, the EU and New Zealand**
- **Bilateral partnerships cover a range of areas:**
 - conducting joint research, and developing and deploying technologies
 - advancing climate change science and monitoring
 - sharing information about policies, tools and approaches;
 - improving emissions measurement and accounting
 - sharing Australia's experience and expertise to build technical and institutional capacity in developing countries to assist with the implementation of mitigation and adaptation needs



<http://www.greenhouse.gov.au>

Further details

