



MEDIA RELEASE

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FACT SHEET 5:

AUSTRALIA JOINS INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY COOPERATION

The Minister for Resources and Energy, Martin Ferguson AM MP, has announced that Australia will today become a full member of the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC).

Membership of IPEEC will give Australia a greater role in global efforts to improve energy efficiency as part of the international response to climate change.

The decision on Australia's full membership status will be made by IPEEC when it meets today in Washington DC.

International Energy Agency projections show that energy efficiency is likely to contribute more than 50% of total carbon abatement between now and 2030 if the world moves to keep atmospheric CO2 levels at 450ppm.

By joining IPEEC as a full member, Australia is better placed to engage with developing countries including China and India and to participate in the exchange of information about energy efficiency advances around the world.

Within IPEEC, Australia will take part in the Energy Management Action Network which aims to build capacity among energy managers in industry.

This level of engagement will provide Australians with improved networks and contacts, and promote business opportunities for Australian energy service firms.

This international link will allow us to both build on, and share learnings from, the Australian Government's legislated Energy Efficiency Opportunities framework which requires Australia's biggest energy consumers to identify energy efficiency opportunities.

The 200 businesses included in this program account for nearly one-third of Australia's energy consumption.

The First Opportunities report shows Australia's largest energy users have already committed to energy savings that will reduce Australia's annual CO2 emissions by 0.7% of 2006-07 levels.

This means businesses have committed to implementing energy savings that will save them more than \$500 million every year.

Additional efficiency opportunities still being investigated could see the program reduce Australia's annual greenhouse gas emissions by more than 1%.

The efficiencies already committed to will deliver emissions reductions equivalent to taking more than a million cars off Australian roads.

Energy efficiency measures will be a key component of the Australian Government's expanded \$5.1 billion Clean Energy Initiative to support our national response to climate change.

IPEEC is an initiative of the G8 Energy Ministers' meeting in Italy in May 2009.

Australia will contribute \$150,000 per annum to this forum.

Membership of IPEEC will offer a flexible international forum for Australia to have high level policy discussion, regular strategic co-operation and exchanges focused exclusively on energy efficiency as part of the global response to climate change.

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