

Emissions trading bulletin

The Climate Change Leadership Forum

No 4, May 2008

While the Climate Change (Emissions Trading and Renewable Preference) Bill goes through the parliamentary process, discussion and analysis of the major issues surrounding the emissions trading scheme continues through the work of specialist advisory groups.

Key to the discussions is the Climate Change Leadership Forum. It comprises a diverse range of community representatives who hold senior positions within their organisations, typically Chief Executive or Board level, and are able to express the views of the broader community in addition to those of their own organisations. They include private sector participants in the emissions trading scheme from the agriculture, electricity, forestry and industrial sectors.

Membership of the Forum ranges from Bunny McDiarmid of Greenpeace and Charlie Pedersen of Federated Farmers, to scientist David Wratt from NIWA and Mark Solomon representing Ngāi Tahu.

The Forum also includes the Secretary to the Treasury, and the Chief Executives of the Ministries for the Environment, Agriculture and Forestry, Economic Development, and Transport.

The Forum provides a means for exchange of perspectives on design aspects of the emissions trading scheme, sustainability, climate change and opportunities for New Zealand Inc., for business and other sectors to input their perspectives more directly into ministers' decision-making, and for the government to communicate policy decisions directly to a group of senior business leaders.

In turn, Forum members provide perspectives to the government and Ministers of Finance and Climate Change on any policy issue related to climate change and emissions trading.

The Forum reports directly to the Ministers of Finance and Climate Change through approximately monthly face-to-face meetings and written reports.

At February's meeting, Ministers Parker and Cullen

asked for the Forum's further advice and input on the phase-out of freely allocated emission units, the risk of 'leakage' of businesses overseas as a result of emissions trading, business opportunities arising from emissions trading, and Māori and Treaty issues.

The Forum also discussed the impact of the emissions trading scheme on small and medium-sized businesses and Adrian Macey, New Zealand's Climate Change Ambassador, gave a presentation about the United Nations climate change conference in Bali last November. Cluster B, a sub-group of the Forum, reported back on their specialist area of discussion, which includes assistance to business, phase-out of free allocation and economic modelling.

Papers were also presented about mitigation of greenhouse gases and forestry policy. Lastly, several updates were given, including on Australian and European emissions trading policy and the work of the technical advisory groups.

The Climate Change Leadership Forum is expected to continue to meet regularly and advise on emissions trading matters at least until the Bill is enacted.

To find out more about the Forum's work and read their papers, visit www.climatechange.govt.nz.



Forum members Geoff Dangerfield, Gary Taylor, Maarten Weevers, John Scott and Julia Hoare at the April 2008 meeting

Publication number:
INFO 274