



Australian Senate

Christine Milne

Australian Greens Senators for Tasmania

media release

Garnaut and Carr support Greens on energy efficiency retrofits

- **Free allocation of permits rejected**
- **Concerns remain over unlimited banking and starting at the weakest trajectory**

Canberra, Thursday 20 March 2008 Australian Greens climate change spokesperson, Senator Christine Milne, today welcomed Professor Garnaut's discussion paper on emissions trading, agreeing with the majority of its recommendations, particularly on the auctioning of permits and the use of revenue to increase energy efficiency.

Senator Milne said "After Senator Carr agreed with me in Question Time today that retrofitting Australia's housing stock for better energy efficiency would be a sensible use of revenue from emissions trading, I was very pleased to see that Professor Garnaut's latest discussion paper also supports this view.

"The Greens strongly support Professor Garnaut's recommendation that all permits should be auctioned. We share his concerns that the free allocation of permits would lead not only to greater transaction costs but also to potential political interference and heavy lobbying. While the Professor is hedging his bets, this position is most welcome.

"I remain seriously concerned with Professor Garnaut's suggestion of unlimited banking and hoarding of emissions permits. This would only be used by big polluters to borrow from the future even more than they are currently doing, and argue strongly down the track for greater 'flexibility'.

"I also have related concerns with Professor Garnaut's recommendation that we should start on the most lax emissions trajectory and take up to ten years to move to the strongest. Surely the science is urgent enough now that we should have confidence in taking a global lead on moving towards decarbonisation as fast as possible.

"The Government should be taking close notice of Professor Garnaut's increasingly well-informed and considered contributions to the climate policy debate. I certainly hope that Minister Wong will not sweep this paper aside as 'an input' as she did to the last."

Contact: Tim Hollo on 0437 587 562