



## **Australian grains industry: agriculture needs to be part of the solution**

Australian grains industry representatives, Grains Council of Australia and Grain Growers Association, recognise the need for agriculture to make a contribution to reducing greenhouse emissions and want to be part of the solution.

Grains Council Chairman Murray Jones said that agriculture will be the most strongly affected sector from the impacts of climate change and therefore has a vested interest in reducing carbon emissions.

"We are calling on federal politicians to look outside the parameters of the CPRS and consider how agriculture can contribute within the 'other complimentary measures' box in a policy framework accounting for both sequestration and emissions," Mr Jones said.

The Australian grains industry is interested in exploring the development of an industry-specific voluntary market-based mechanism for trading carbon equivalents.

Mr Jones said there are precedents around the world such as the Chicago Climate Exchange which Australia could adapt and build on.

"Under the proposed scheme farm costs such as fertilizers, freight and fuel will increase due to exposure to the covered sector without a corresponding ability to participate in credit sales or the provision of offsets.

The Australian grains industry is very concerned that this will cause a reduction in farm viability, and underinvestment in agriculture due to uncertainty in the sector.

"With global food security an increasing threat in the world today there has never been a more critical time to protect investment and production in agriculture.

"We agree with Agriculture Minister Tony Burke who recently stated at a meeting with the International Federation of Agricultural Producers that we have a very real priority around the globe to increase the total food production.

"The introduction of a voluntary scheme for agriculture from 2010 would compliment the CPRS and give agriculture an opportunity to be part of Australia's effort to reduce carbon emissions, while protecting Australia's farming future and food production.

The Australian grains industry agrees with much of the policy framework of National Farmers Federation on the CPRS, particularly the need for increased investment in research and development.

The Australian grains industry says there is a strong opportunity for agriculture to play a leading role as part of the solution to greenhouse gas management.

"Our challenge now is to ensure that the international rules are appropriate to addressing this issue for Australia," Mr Jones said.

The Australian grains industry would like to see the establishment of a 'Cairns' like group - a coalition of countries interested in a viable way for agriculture to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, to provide an influential voice at an international level.

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