



Dear Valued Chamber Member and Friend,

Carbon Pollution Reduction (Emissions Trading) Scheme

This topic will be significant for business.

The three key reports to date (the Northern Territory Governments Discussion Paper on NT Climate Change Issues, June 2008; the Garnaut Climate Change Review Draft Report, June 2008; and the Federal Governments Green Paper on the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, 16 July 2008), combined, total almost 1,200 pages of often complex information.

In association with Greenhouse Challenge Plus, a program of the Federal Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, the Chamber is hosting an information session about this on 6 August 2008 at 9 am at the Holiday Inn Esplanade. This information session is designed to assist you to prepare your business for the new climate change policies and procedures that are being implemented by the Australian Government.

Federally, the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), of which the Chamber is a founding member, is making representations to the Government regarding the impact of an ETS on smaller enterprises, particularly the cost of energy to Small to Medium Enterprises. Many SME's are located in regional and outer suburban areas and they have a limited ability to pass on costs.

Having said this, ACCI supports:

- a workable ETS model which minimises both compliance costs and the wider economic implications.
- proceeds from an ETS being fully allocated towards helping Australia adjust to a low-emissions future.
- an ETS that is efficient, maximizes participation across all industry sectors, and includes major world emitters.

Locally, Alice Springs businesses are being encouraged to become more energy efficient under an Alice Springs Solar City scheme which will subsidise 35 per cent of the cost of implementing energy efficient programs.

Strategic review

On 21 February 2008, General Council met with the focus on strategic planning.

The Directors relied on the results of that during the Board of Directors Strategic Planning meeting on 19 March 2008.

The Directors at our meeting on 16 April 2008 approved the Strategic Plan.

I thank everyone involved, particularly Chris Young, Julie Beaumont and the staff at the Chamber, the Members of General Council, the Directors,

particularly Ben Pace, who ran the workshops and collated the ideas and thinking into a cogent document.

Your directors affirmed the NT Chamber of Commerce is the leading Northern Territory business organisation influencing the economic environment and maximising business opportunities for our members.

Our vision and mission is to be *the* peak organisation representing Northern Territory business and promote the economic environment through establishment and development of trade, commerce and industry in the NT.

Our corporate values are placing members first, quality and excellence in our dealings with all stakeholders, fair and ethical business practices, promoting sustainability and being the employer of choice.

Our corporate slogan remains "*The Voice of Territory Business*".

A number of strategies underpin these goals:

- Ensure that the Chamber of Commerce NT is managed effectively and efficiently.
- Ensure that the Chamber of Commerce NT is able to identify, analyse and lead public discussion and debate on those issues which influence the business environment within the Northern Territory.
- Provide a range of tailored and responsive services to assist members meet their business objectives.
- Ensure that the Chamber of Commerce NT remains credible and relevant within the Northern Territory business community.

Towards implementation, the Chief Executive has now underway a business plan incorporating and addressing the Chambers strategic direction.

Business Agenda NT, Councils and Regions

On 18 June 2008, Chris Young and I represented the Chamber at a meeting of Business Agenda NT convened by Minister Kon Vatskalis. A number of issues were discussed, including, workplace and employment issues; property, land and infrastructure; and crime and anti-social behaviour.

Chris and I met with the Chief Executive and the Lord Mayor of Darwin to explore ways the Chamber and Council can collaborate and work in partnership. In a similar way, we would like to explore partnerships with Katherine Town Council and the Alice Springs Town Council.

On 2 and 26 June 2008, I attended meetings in relation to Creating Darwin's Future. At the meeting, I was provided information in relation to developments in the regions, including the planning forum recently run by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and the Environment in Alice Springs.

In partnership with DIPE, the Chamber aims to organise a Business at Sunset function in Darwin, Alice Springs and Katherine to provide a forum for DIPE to showcase the significant work DIPE is carrying out.

Election 2008

Your Chamber has written to the major political parties for their policies in relation to a number of matters, including the further reduction of payroll tax; maintenance of key public service positions in regional centres; the accelerated release of land for residential and commercial development and the upgrade and maintenance of major road infrastructure across the Territory.

The Chamber and CEO Chris Young will be providing members information as it comes to hand.

Sincerely

George Roussos