

## GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS CONTINUE TO RISE ACROSS THE EAST COAST

- **EAST COAST GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS UP 1.3% IN 2008**
- **LEVELS 19% HIGHER THAN YEAR 2000**

Greenhouse emissions from energy-use in Australia's eastern states rose in 2008, according to a Greenhouse Indicator Report released by The Climate Group today. Across Victoria, NSW and Queensland annual emissions were 3.6 million tonnes higher in 2008 than in 2007. This is a rise of 1.3 per cent for the year.

The increase was not uniform across all states. Emissions in Victoria and Queensland rose in 2008, up 2.2 and 2.0 million tonnes respectively, while in NSW emissions fell by 0.5 million tonnes.

The Climate Group's Greenhouse Indicator tracks the main sources of greenhouse emissions (those produced by coal, natural gas and petroleum) in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland on a weekly basis.

Compared with 2000 levels, emissions from energy-use were significantly higher across all states, collectively up 19 per cent. In 2008 the NSW Indicator was 25 per cent higher than equivalent 2000 emission, the Victorian Indicator was 6 per cent higher and the Queensland Indicator was 34 per cent higher.

The increase above equivalent 1990 levels is even more substantial. In Queensland it has risen 116 per cent, NSW it is up 30 per cent and in Victoria the rise has been 32 per cent.

Rupert Posner, Australia Director of The Climate Group said: "Most of the increase in emissions in 2008 was from coal-fired generators in Queensland and Victoria, which both produced an extra 1.5 million tonnes each. This was 3.6 per cent more emissions from coal than in 2007 in Queensland and a 2.4 per cent increase in Victoria. In NSW, emissions from coal-fired electricity rose by 0.7 per cent or nearly half a million tonnes."

Across the three states the total electricity generated in 2008 was 1.3 per cent higher than 2007. However, the resulting emissions from electricity increased more substantially, (up 2 per cent) as more electricity was produced from coal-fired generators and less from gas and renewable sources than in 2007.

"The Indicator clearly demonstrates that our reliance on coal for electricity is our biggest problem when it comes to cutting our greenhouse gas emissions. We need to change this pretty quickly if we want to cut greenhouse emissions," said Posner.

Fuel prices seem to have had a mixed impact on sales and therefore greenhouse gas emissions in 2008. Across the eastern seaboard emissions from petroleum products actually dropped in 2008, down 0.6 per cent or more than half a million tonnes less than 2007. The lower figure was because of an almost 1 million tonne reduction in emissions from petroleum products in NSW in 2008 despite emissions from petroleum products rising by 1.4 per cent in Victoria and a slight increase of 0.2 per cent in Queensland in 2008.

In 2008 there was a noticeable move towards diesel across all states. Petrol sales decreased by 9 per cent in NSW, 7 per cent in Queensland and 2 per cent in Victoria while sales of diesel for automotive use increased 7 per cent in Victoria, 2 per cent in NSW and 5 per cent in Queensland. This move certainly ensured emissions stayed lower than they would have been otherwise.

Posner said the results should be a call to action for everyone: “The Greenhouse Indicator’s 2008 results clearly show we all need to start taking action now if we want to reduce our greenhouse pollution. The window of opportunity open to us to prevent dangerous climate change is becoming smaller but there are lots of things that people can do immediately to start making a difference. Those who want to do something can visit Together.com and find out easy ways they can help fight climate change.”

*For more information contact Rupert Posner on 03 9617 4329 or 0438 989 420.*

Note to editors:

## **About the Weekly Greenhouse Indicator**

The Climate Group has tracked greenhouse emissions from energy use in Victoria, NSW and Queensland on a weekly basis for two years through its unique Greenhouse Indicator.

The Greenhouse Indicator provides accurate and real time information on greenhouse gases produced each week from energy use. It includes the major sources of greenhouse emissions that can be tracked accurately each week and is a unique tool designed to bring greater understanding to the issue of climate change and to help track greenhouse gas emissions in selected Australian states. It was developed with advice from some of Australia’s best experts in the field.

All countries, including Australia, provide a detailed annual report of their greenhouse gas emissions. But such reports are normally released long after the emissions have occurred. Thus this information, while comprehensive and critical for policy planning and scientific assessment, arrives too late for us to respond to it in the manner necessary to tackling this growing problem.

The Greenhouse Indicator puts a figure on what is happening now, and enables everyone to follow how much we are collectively emitting in our state each and every week.

For more details and an explanation of the Indicator’s methodology visit [www.theclimategroup.org/indicator](http://www.theclimategroup.org/indicator)

## **About The Climate Group**

The Climate Group ([www.theclimategroup.org](http://www.theclimategroup.org)) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that works internationally with government and business leaders to advance climate change solutions and accelerate a low carbon economy. The Climate Group was founded in 2004 and has offices in the UK, USA, China, India and Australia.

Its coalition of proactive leaders – from government, and business – demonstrates that emissions reductions, essential to slow climate change, can be achieved while boosting profitability and competitiveness. More companies, states, regions and cities around the world are realising there are significant economic as well as environmental advantages of taking decisive action now.

The Climate Group’s corporate membership includes Arup, Austin Energy, Baker & McKenzie, Barclays, Bloomberg, BP, BT, BSKyB, Cadbury Schweppes, Catalyst, CB Richard Ellis, Climate Change Capital, Dell, Deutsche Bank, Dow Chemical, Duke Energy, FPL Group, Google, HDR, HSBC, IBM, Interface, Johnson & Johnson, JP Morgan Chase Co, Lenovo, Man Group, Marks & Spencer, MWH, Munich Re Group, News Corporation, Nike, Pratt Industries, Standard Chartered Group, Starbucks, Swiss Re, Swire, Tesco, Timberland, and Virgin.