STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE - WHY AUSTRALIA MUST ACT NOW ON CLIMATE CHANGE

• Gerry Hueston – President BP Australasia
• Michael Hawker – CEO Insurance Group Australia
• Grant King – Managing Director Origin Energy
• Keith Scott – Head of Australia and New Zealand Swiss Re
• Harry Debney – CEO Visy Industries
• Dr David Morgan, Chief Executive Officer Westpac
• Don Henry – Executive Director Australian Conservation Foundation

BP AUSTRALIA

“With size and influence comes responsibility. A business of our size has a responsibility to show leadership on issues that could materially impact not only our operations, but the countries in which we operate and the customers we serve. One such issue is Climate Change.”

Gerry Hueston, President
BP Australasia

INSURANCE AUSTRALIA GROUP

“At Insurance Australia Group we are working to reduce risk in the community. One of the largest single sources of risk for the community arises from natural catastrophes and the frequency and ferocity of these natural catastrophes is growing due to climate change. Hence, IAG has a keen interest in working with other businesses, our customers, the government and the community to reduce the impacts of climate change.”

Michael Hawker, Chief Executive Officer
Insurance Group Australia

ORIGIN ENERGY

“As one of Australia’s largest energy companies, we believe that as demand for energy grows, significant new investment in gas production and power generation will be critical. The absence of a clearly defined long-term framework for applying a carbon cost is a major impediment to investment decisions, particularly in power generation. It is therefore timely for the Australian Government to signal the introduction of a market based mechanism to value carbon in order to reduce policy uncertainty and thereby encourage investment in a manner which is more likely to produce better economic and environmental outcomes.”

Grant King, Managing Director
Origin Energy

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SWISS RE

“As a global company, with diverse expertise in the area of risk management, Swiss Re has had a strong commitment to finding solutions to the global issue of climate change for many years. We are firm advocates of the push to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, not only in Australia, but around the globe. In fact, Swiss Re has a commitment to become fully greenhouse neutral by the year 2013.

The research conducted by the Roundtable highlights the significant impact climate change will have not only on Australian business, but on our nation as a whole. Immediate action on climate change is no longer an option, but a necessity. As a member of the Roundtable we have an opportunity to join forces with some of Australia’s leading corporate, science and conservation leaders to stimulate debate with government, business and the community and provide credible leadership and influence on this critical issue.”

Keith Scott, Head of Australia and New Zealand
Swiss Re

VISY INDUSTRIES

“Being a sustainable company is simply good business. Fundamental to securing a sustainable future business is understanding and addressing climate change. Visy is taking action now by reducing energy and water use, by producing recyclable and environmentally sound packaging, by recycling and by producing alternative energy. We also seek to address climate change by working with others and contributing our expertise and experience to developing appropriate solutions that will secure a better environment and better economy for Australia.”

Harry Debney, Chief Executive Officer
Visy Industries

WESTPAC

"Unless we establish a strong policy framework for managing national greenhouse gas emissions, Australian business will be hesitant to invest in cleaner technologies or to tap emerging market opportunities, while continuing to face all the financial risks which climate change represents. The phased introduction of a market-based carbon pricing mechanism would provide an important impetus for investment and support for greenhouse gas emission reductions at lowest practical cost, while not compromising competitive growth”.

Dr David Morgan, Chief Executive Officer
Westpac

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

“At first glance collaboration between environmentalists and business looks an unlikely alliance. But when it comes to one of the greatest challenges facing our economy and our ecology – climate change – we have a common purpose. ACF is pleased to be working together with businesses to find effective ways for Australia to address this great and urgent challenge.”

Don Henry, Executive Director
Australian Conservation Foundation