



MEDIA RELEASE

25 June 2008

ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE TO CREATE THREE MILLION NEW 'GREEN COLLAR' JOBS FOR AUSTRALIANS

Australia can take strong action to tackle climate change *and* create millions of new job opportunities, according to a major report released today.

To achieve this win-win, millions of Australian workers will need to be equipped with new, greener job skills.

The report, *Growing the Green Collar Economy*, identifies the employment impact of action to cut greenhouse gas emissions in Australia and examines the skills, training and workforce implications.

CSIRO analysis is based on the latest economic modelling and is released by the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) and the Dusseldorf Skills Forum (DSF).

Using two different economic models, CSIRO found:

- If Australia takes significant action to cut greenhouse gas emissions national employment will still increase by between 2.6 million and 3.3 million over the next two decades.
- Jobs in sectors that are currently high carbon emitters, like transport, construction, agriculture, manufacturing and mining are forecast to grow strongly in the next decade.
- It will be essential to identify and provide the green skills needed by the 3.25 million workers in industries that currently have 'high environmental impacts'.

Ms Oona Nielszen, Executive Director of DSF, said, "Climate change is both our greatest economic risk and, ironically, a great economic opportunity. But only if the Australian workforce is properly skilled and resourced to underpin truly sustainable industries and workplaces."

"Little attention has been paid so far to this issue – yet it's one of the biggest transformations posed by climate change. Current efforts are clearly insufficient," she said.

The Executive Director of ACF, Mr Don Henry, said, “CSIRO has shown we can simultaneously grow jobs and our economy while reducing our environmental footprint. The challenge is big, but so are the opportunities.”

Demand for new skills will be most pressing in renewable energy and in the design and construction of green buildings and in manufacturing and maintaining cleaner vehicles and transport systems.

“Jobs in sectors that are currently high carbon emitters, like transport, manufacturing and construction are also expected to grow and will need to be turned into ‘green collar’ jobs in a clean economy” said Mr Henry.

Based on CSIRO findings, DSF and ACF are calling for a national effort to identify and stimulate the green skills, knowledge and work needed for a low carbon economy, to be led by the new statutory body, Skills Australia, and funded by a proportion of revenue from Australia’s proposed emissions trading scheme.

“The challenge is as significant as moving from the pre-Industrial to the Industrial age. It’s about re-skilling and re-making the workforce for the age of sustainability,” Ms Nielssen said.

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About Dusseldorp Skills Forum

The Dusseldorp Skills Forum is a non-partisan, independent, not-for-profit body that works with communities, industry, government and non-government organisations. We generate ideas, research, tools and information, and build networks of common interest. We finance our own work. Our vision is for an Australian workforce equipped with the skills and knowledge required to meet the growing environmental sustainability imperatives.

About Australian Conservation Foundation

The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) is Australia’s leading national not-for profit environment organisation, committed to inspiring people to achieve a healthy environment for all Australians. For 40 years we have been a strong voice for the environment, promoting solutions through research, consultation, education and partnerships. We work with the community, business and government to protect, restore and sustain our environment.

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A full copy of the report can be found on the DSF, ACF and CSIRO websites.