

Hot Topic

Updates from the Global Climate Change Negotiations

HOT Topic is a collaboration between Fitzpatrick Woods Consulting (FWC) and IndustryEdge. The updates are provided by FWC Principal, Tim Woods, based in Poland for the two weeks of the United Nations' climate change negotiations.



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Why the Global Climate Negotiations Matter to Australia

The global climate negotiations – and a new agreement on addressing climate change at the end of next year – matter to Australia, to Australian businesses, workers and consumers.

If the world decides to act and we are not part of a new agreement – we will be affected. That is why – for example – the final details of Australia's emissions trading scheme will not be announced until after the Poland negotiations. We cannot afford to be out of step with those with whom we trade and compete.

The isolationist luxury of the last decade had to end. There was an industrial train smash headed our way. Getting on the right train means going much the same journey as the rest of the world.

As it is said, 'You have to be in it, to win it.'

Australian Leadership on Climate Change

Ignore the nonsense about "mid-term emissions reduction targets". It was always brave of the Government to suggest it would go to Poznan with a firm position to announce. We all know what happens to brave Ministers.

Poznan is not about targets! That issue has to be resolved by the end of 2009 - not now.

Yes, the green groups want it to be about targets. But the ACF proposal for a one third cut by 2020 means closing industries, switching off heaters and coolers and not using many vehicles.

Clearer thinking, more information – and the economic crisis – have prevailed.

Australia will announce its mid-term targets with the final details on the emissions trading scheme soon after the negotiations. One decision without the other would have been absurd. This timing avoids Australian targets being too much of an issue, allowing discussion on really key issues for Australia.

**To see the full series of Hot Topics and watch video reports from Tim Woods at the UN negotiations in Poland, go to:
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Hot Button Topics

Developed country emissions targets

Expect no action from Australia or other developed countries as Government has pledged to provide the medium term targets in the White Paper to be released 15th December 2008. Poland is the 'mid-point' negotiation with the real action on targets only due at the end of 2009.

The role of forestry in any post 2012 scheme

A huge issue with global significance. We shall follow this issue closely and report in detail.

Sustainable forest management as a key component for reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation - and the accounting for harvested wood products - are both big topics for Australia and globally.

CCS – Carbon Capture and Storage

One of the great hopes for technology driven emissions mitigation. Australia is leading cooperative action in this area. With coal based electricity, CCS is vital to the maintenance of Australia's standard of living.

Renewable energy

Any new global agreement has to include proper treatment of forest wood waste as a renewable energy source, with appropriate crediting.

Finance

Who pays and how they pay for developing country action on climate change could affect global financial flows permanently.

For direct contact about your hot button issues and fast answers to detailed questions, contact Tim Woods in Poland on:
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