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## Australian Coal Association committed to action on Climate Change

The coal industry wants to see Australia address climate change as part of an international solution, the Executive Director of the Australian Coal Association (ACA), Mr Ralph Hillman said today.

The coal industry is committed to action on climate change and the industry is contributing a billion dollars over the next 10 years developing technology to cut carbon emissions from coal fired power stations by up to 90%.

"The ACA considers that an efficient market based carbon pricing mechanism should form part of Australia's policy approach to address climate change, complemented by measures to stimulate research, development and deployment of low emissions technologies," Mr Hillman said. "Preserving the competitiveness of Australia's industry must be a central aim of this approach along with reducing emissions".

"We are disappointed that the CPRS package, even with the proposed amendments, will undermine the competitiveness of the coal industry and put at risk regional Australian jobs for no environmental benefit. No other country is proposing to include fugitive emissions from coal mining in their emissions trading schemes," Mr Hillman said.

"The best outcome for business certainty is a package that has bipartisan support. To this end the industry will continue to work with the Government and the Opposition on an appropriate transition to a low carbon economy that secures the competitiveness of Australia's biggest export industry and coal mining jobs in regional Australia," Mr Hillman concluded.

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### **Biography: Ralph Hillman Executive Director**

Mr Hillman was Ambassador for the Environment and chief negotiator for Australia on the Kyoto Protocol from 1998 to 2002. He was appointed as Executive Director of the Australian Coal Association in August 2007.

He was Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the OECD from 1995 to 1998. From 1994 to 1995 Mr Hillman was Chief Economist in the Department. He was formerly a senior career officer of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and has extensive experience in multilateral economic policy and diplomacy.

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