



# PRIME MINISTER

18/92

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING, MP

ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORTS ON GREENHOUSE  
AND INTERSECTORAL ISSUES

The Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) reports on Greenhouse and intersectoral Issues were tabled in Parliament and released publicly today. This follows, and complements, the release of the ESD Working Groups' sectoral reports on 2 December 1991.

The Greenhouse Report was commissioned in November 1990 following the Government's decision to adopt an interim planning target to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

At the time, the Government observed the need for additional work to assess the costs and benefits of possible greenhouse response measures, in line with its undertaking not to take actions that would have net adverse impacts on the economy or on Australia's trade competitiveness, in the absence of similar action by major greenhouse gas producing countries.

The ESD Greenhouse Report draws together the work of the nine ESD Working Groups in identifying options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and provides the Chairs' advice on a range of cost effective options which could be implemented by governments in seeking to achieve the interim planning target.

The Intersectoral Issues Report was prepared separately by the ESD Chairs, drawing on the expert input from ESD Working Group and workshop participants, consultants and other interest groups. It highlights the importance of an integrated, system-wide approach to the successful implementation of ESD policies. Many of the issues dealt with are inherently complex but nevertheless fundamental to consideration of ESD policies.

The presentation of these two reports marks a milestone in the ESD process - the completion of the Working Group phase. The challenge now for governments, and the wider community, is to examine and build on these reports in developing new policies and processes which will move us towards ecologically sustainable development.

The Government intends to develop effective mechanisms for ongoing community consultation as a key element of its response to the ESD process. These mechanisms will include further roundtable meetings to discuss implementation of ESD policies.

The Government considers that, as with the ESD Working Group reports, the two reports released today will contribute significantly to the initial national strategies for Ecologically Sustainable Development and Greenhouse response which are in the process of being developed.

I thank the Chairs, Dr Roy Green, Professor Stuart Harris and Professor David Throsby, for their efforts throughout the ESD process and for these reports. I also wish to thank the many individuals and organisations who devoted their time and expertise to the ESD process at every stage.

CANBERRA  
FEBRUARY 25 1992