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### **COMMUNICATIONS ALLIANCE MAKES CASE FOR ICT INDUSTRY IN RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE GREEN PAPER**

**Sydney, 14 September 2008** – Communications Alliance has weighed into the climate change debate with a submission highlighting the role the ICT industry can play in helping Australia reduce carbon emissions.

The Communications Alliance submission, in response to the Federal Government's Green Paper on climate change, says the success of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme will partly depend on our ability to exploit the opportunities that developments in ICT offer in the area of carbon abatement.

Importantly, the submission pointed out that there is tremendous potential for the ICT industry to be one of the major facilitators in reducing emissions across the whole economy.

Communications Alliance also raised concerns that targeted concessions and assistance to a relatively small number of emission-intensive trade-exposed businesses and strongly affected industries could pass on substantial costs to other sections of the economy.

Such additional cost burdens on the ICT industry may have the unintended consequence of restricting ICT investments that have real carbon offset benefits across the economy, the submission argues.

The submission was developed by the Communications Alliance Climate Change Working Group with representatives from a cross-section of the ICT industry aided by expert input from climate change researchers and consultants.

Communications Alliance CEO, Anne Hurley, said it was imperative that the ICT industry make its views known on this issue which will have such a profound impact on Australia's future prosperity.

"Not only is our industry ideally placed to help in combating the effects of climate change, but we also need to ensure we have a voice in the debate about the impact of the various carbon abatement strategies on our members," Ms Hurley said.

Key elements of the Communications Alliance submission are:

- The ICT industry will have an important role to play in the success of the Scheme and in the achievement of any greenhouse gas emissions targets set under the Scheme.



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- The ICT industry should be more directly involved in the consultations surrounding the introduction of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme to assist the Government in formulating innovative responses to the climate change challenge.
- The ICT industry is a relatively low carbon emitter and there is significant potential to utilise developments in ICT to reduce energy consumption and emissions across the entire economy.
- The industry has already begun on the journey to a low carbon future with implementation of initiatives to reduce energy reliance and carbon emissions.
- The ICT industry offers technologies that bypass sources of emissions by eliminating energy intensive activities altogether. The Government must work with industry to take advantage of the opportunities and harness the benefits of ICT to reduce emissions.
- The government should provide support to unlock the potential benefits of low-emissions technologies through the ICT industry. This support could include funding of capital investment in new technologies that reduce emissions (including research and development) and tax incentives to encourage innovation.
- To avoid distortions to relative competitiveness within the economy, consideration should be given to transitional measures that broaden the compensation and assistance regime to take into account the potential cost shifting to other sections of the economy that will occur under the current proposal.

To see the submission go to

[http://www.commsalliance.com.au/\\_data/page/21650/Communications Alliance=e - Submission on the Green Paper.pdf](http://www.commsalliance.com.au/_data/page/21650/Communications_Alliance=e-Submission_on_the_Green_Paper.pdf)

### **About Communications Alliance**

Communications Alliance was formed to provide a unified voice for the Australian communications industry and to lead it into the next generation of converging networks, technologies and services.

For further information see [www.commsalliance.com.au](http://www.commsalliance.com.au)

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