

- a joint report by the Ministers for Primary Industries and Energy; Industry, Technology and Commerce; and Transport and Communications by end-1990 on recommended implementation measures identified by the Prime Minister's Working Group, in consultation with other relevant ministries.

It was also agreed that the Industry Commission of Australia should prepare a report concerning the costs and benefits for Australian industry of an international consensus in favour of a 20 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2005, including new opportunities that could arise, and how Australia would best prepare itself to respond to those costs and benefits.

On 23rd October 1990, the Minister for Primary Industries and Energy and the Minister for Resources jointly announced a new package to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These initiatives aim to achieve more than A\$ one billion in annual energy savings by the year 2005 and to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by around 14 million tonnes each year. The package emphasizes using known and available energy efficient technologies and energy management techniques that can be implemented immediately. The main initiatives incorporated in the package include:

- an information kit on energy efficiency to be delivered to every household in Australia;
- a new programme of energy audits of industrial and commercial enterprises, combined with technology demonstrations;
- demonstrations of energy-efficient technologies in commercial buildings, using Government buildings as models;
- development of codes of practice for energy-efficient construction of residential and commercial buildings;
- extending motor-vehicle fuel-efficiency advisory services to the commercial fleet market;
- new initiatives to upgrade energy management in the Government's own operations.

## 2. Factors Influencing Decisions

Australia is the world's leading exporter of coal, a major exporter of uranium and, since 1989, an exporter of natural gas. Indigenous production of oil currently provides the bulk of domestic requirements. Energy accounts for about 20 per cent of Australia's export income. It is an important source of revenue for both the Commonwealth and state and territorial governments and, consequently, is a significant element of national economic policy. Other sectors of the Australian economy and aspects of Australian life are also very sensitive to the climate change issue. For example, Australia is a