

Drake-Brockman v Minister of Planning & Anor – NSW Court considers ecological sustainability in project approvals

The NSW Land and Environment Court has again examined the issue of the extent to which climate change impacts should be assessed for major project proposals. *Drake-Brockman v Minister of Planning & Anor* [2007] NSWLEC 490 (13 August 2007) provides guidance on the assessment of greenhouse gas emissions for major development projects in NSW. This was the first case to consider the extent of GHG emissions assessment required for major projects outside the mining sector (after Anvil) – in this case, an urban development project under Part 3A.

This decision clarifies the required scope of ecologically sustainable development assessments under Part 3A of the EPA Act. It was held that a quantitative assessment of GHG emissions will not necessarily be required, although it can be specified by the Director-General as a matter to be addressed in a particular project.

VICTORIA*Elisa de Wit***Targets for efficient Victorian household energy use by 2009**

The Victorian Government recently introduced the *Victorian Energy Efficiency Target Bill 2007* to support its 2007 sustainability policy, which incorporated a target of reducing household greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 10 per cent by 2010. The proposed legislation does this by requiring large energy retailers to acquire energy efficiency certificates that are generated by specified greenhouse gas reduction activities.

The Victorian Energy Efficiency Target (VEET) Scheme, is expected to yield the following benefits over the period 2009-11:

- approximately 1.3 million tonnes of GHG emissions reduction – this is expected to lead to approximately 8.1 million tonnes of GHG emissions reduction over the life of the scheme (2009-29), the equivalent of making 675,000 Victorian households carbon-neutral for one year;
- the provision of up to \$210 million toward energy efficiency activities across Victoria;
- an average decrease in wholesale electricity prices of approximately 2.2 per cent; and
- an average decrease in energy costs of \$45 per household.

Draft Victorian Coastal Strategy (2007) Released for Public Comment

The Victorian Coastal Council (VCC) is committed to a long-term vision for the coast through the Victorian Coastal Strategy (VCS) to ensure these values are not compromised. This is the third draft Strategy in just over 10 years.

The Victorian Coastal Council would like to hear your views on Victoria's key coastal policy, the draft Victorian Coastal Strategy 2007.

Recent market research has shown that the coast is undoubtedly one of Victoria's most valuable and cherished destinations. However, it is our love for the coast that creates ongoing and increasing pressures on the very aesthetic, cultural, and environmental values we love.

ecoMarkets project

For the past ten years Victoria has championed the development of market-based programs like EcoTender, BushBroker and BushTender. ecoMarkets will build on these schemes. ecoMarkets have been developed by the Victorian Government to balance ecosystem health and agricultural productivity. Its purpose is to provide incentives for producing ecosystem outcomes such as clean water and biodiversity. These programs include market-based approaches such as auctions and cap and trade systems. Please visit the DSE website for more information about these programs at: <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/DSE/nrence.nsf/Home+Page/DSE+Conservation~Home+Page?open>