

**Joint media statement**

16 July 2008

**IFSA and ACSI support the Government's Green Paper on an Australian Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme**

The Investment and Financial Services Association (IFSA) and the Australian Council for Super Investors (ACSI) have welcomed today's release of the Government's Green Paper on the establishment of an Australian Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.

"We support early and strong action by the Australian Government in tackling climate change. As institutional investors in listed and unlisted companies in assets across all sectors of the Australian economy, and with a focus on long as well as short-term returns, it is important that the long-term costs to the economy of taking action to tackle climate change are minimised", said ACSI CEO, Ann Byrne.

"We are firmly of the view that the costs of early and strong action will be less than the costs of delayed or insufficient action and recognise that comprehensive coverage of sectors, and of greenhouse gases is desirable in order to maximise abatement opportunities and efficiencies, while also minimising the costs of the scheme', said Ms Byrne.

IFSA CEO, Richard Gilbert said: "We support the Federal Government's introduction of a national carbon pollution reduction scheme. We believe that the design of such a scheme should facilitate certainty, market efficiency and integrity, and minimise the economy wide costs of reducing emissions. Given the central role of emissions data to the scheme, a strong monitoring, reporting and assurance regime will ensure that emissions reported under the scheme are accurate and transparent".

"Significantly, Australia is well regarded in the region for the strength of its regulatory institutions and overall high level of market integrity. This places Australia in an excellent position to develop into a regional hub for carbon trading activities and we welcome the Government's commitment to linking the scheme with international markets and schemes, with a preference for open trade.

"From a regional financial services centre perspective, ensuring that an Australian carbon pollution reduction and emissions trading scheme is able to integrate with existing and developing schemes should be seen as a key policy objective', concluded Mr Gilbert.

The Australian investment community is very much aware of the impact of carbon on investments and the economy and it is the view of both organisations that we must move forward on this issue to ensure that carbon risk is managed effectively.

Both IFSA and ACSI are committed to involvement in public policy climate change discussions with Government as active stakeholders in the development of a carbon pollution reduction scheme, along with the necessary emissions disclosure, reporting framework and positioning of Australia as a regional hub in the Asia Pacific carbon markets.

**Further information:**

Ann Byrne, Chief Executive Officer, ACSI, (03) 8677 3895 or 0418 665 521  
Richard Gilbert, Chief Executive Officer, IFSA, (02) 9299 3022 or 0417 247 998  
Simon Disney, Senior Manager - Media and Communications, IFSA, 0408 161 466