



Senator the Hon Penny Wong  
Minister for Climate Change and  
Water

The Hon Tony Burke MP  
Minister for Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Consultation begins with agriculture sector on emissions trading

Peak agriculture groups met today with Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong and Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Tony Burke to discuss the implications for farmers of a new emissions trading scheme.

“At the heart of the Rudd Government’s plan to tackle climate change is a greenhouse emissions trading scheme, to be implemented in 2010,” Senator Wong said.

“The Rudd Government is committed to working with the agricultural sector on a range of issues relating to the way the new scheme will affect farmers.

“This work will play an important role in the Government’s Green Paper on emissions trading, to be released in July.”

Mr Burke said he would continue to ensure agriculture had a place at the table for the emissions trading scheme discussions.

“Our farmers are among the most efficient producers in the world,” Mr Burke said.

“Today’s meeting is the next step in an ongoing dialogue and Senator Wong and I will ask our departments to work with industry representatives on key issues arising from the discussions.”

Organisations represented at today’s meeting included the National Farmers’ Federation, NSW Farmers’ Association, Queensland Farmers’ Federation, South Australian Farmers’ Federation, Victorian Farmers Federation, AgForce Queensland, WA Farmers Federation, the Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association, Grains Council, Australian Dairy Farmers, Australian Cane Growers Council, Cattle Council of Australia, Meat & Livestock Australia and the Australian Farm Institute.

“Taking action to address climate change is about securing a better future for everyone, and we will plan our way forward in cooperation with the community and industry – including agriculture,” Mr Burke said.

Today’s discussions focused on key features of the scheme announced by the Government to date, the future timetable, and further consultation processes.

For more information on climate change and the emissions trading scheme:  
[www.climatechange.gov.au](http://www.climatechange.gov.au)