



ON THE ROAD TO **greener motoring**

National Climate Change Summit

Communiqué

Canberra, 3 June 2008

Introduction

1. As Australia's leading motoring advocates, collectively representing 6.5 million members, the Australian Automobile Association (AAA) clubs are acutely aware of the importance of the car to people from all walks of life, from high mileage drivers travelling to work, to those on low incomes or those who are disabled for whom the car is a lifeline to work, the shops and a range of services.
2. One of the key challenges for Australia in the 21st century is to harness the enormous benefits of cars, while at the same time making significant reductions in the negative impacts caused by motoring, such as air pollution, death and injury and greenhouse gas emissions.
3. AAA acknowledges the growing scientific consensus in Australia and internationally that human activity, including the consumption of fossil fuels, is contributing to climate change through the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Without action, there are likely to be increasingly adverse economic, social and environmental consequences.
4. AAA recognises community and political acceptance of the need for governments, business, organisations and individuals to take responsible and appropriate steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
5. AAA considers that a pro-active approach towards climate change is warranted: one that minimises the impact of human-induced global warming through measures that will benefit society, the environment and the economy.
6. Given the diversity of sources of greenhouse gases, it is important that this approach apply across all aspects of government policy, business practice and individuals' daily lives.

Cars as a source of greenhouse gas emissions

7. Australian motoring clubs have for many years played a leading role in promoting cleaner, less carbon intensive, and more fuel efficient motoring through a range of initiatives including consumer testing, driver training and campaigns for legislative action for improved vehicle

emission and fuel quality standards.

8. Better engine technologies and fuels have contributed to significant reductions in emissions of local air pollutants from new vehicles. New petrol vehicles that meet Euro 3 standards (which was mandated in Australia in 2006) emit at least 75% less CO, NO_x and HC than the first unleaded petrol engine cars sold in Australia in 1986. New model petrol vehicles that meet Euro 4 standards (which will be mandated in Australia from 2008) emit around 50% fewer pollutants than the Euro 3 standard cars.
9. Passenger cars generate about eight percent of Australia's greenhouse gas emissions, which is just half of all transport sector emissions and is considerably less than electricity generation (50%) and agriculture (16%).
10. Although greenhouse gas emissions from passenger cars will continue to dominate the sector for some time, emissions from light commercial vehicles have grown and will become a more important part of road transport emissions over time.
11. AAA believes that greenhouse gas abatement measures should come by the most cost efficient means from whatever sector of the economy. Motorists should not be expected to bear more than their fair share of the burden, either financially or in terms of mobility.
12. Measures to curb greenhouse gas emissions in the road use sector must be designed and implemented in ways that are complementary to the minimisation of other negative impacts like smog, traffic congestion and crashes.
13. Noting the direct link between the consumption of fossil automotive fuels, the generation of CO₂ and energy security, AAA believes that economically responsible and technically viable measures to reduce vehicles' fuel consumption can deliver multiple benefits to motorists and the broader community.

Taking action on climate change

14. The AAA clubs have established a number of activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including:
 - setting in place plans to reduce energy use and emissions and offset emissions generated by motoring club business operations;
 - investigating options to establish a national carbon offset program for motorists. While AAA's emphasis is on helping motorists reduce their emissions, this scheme will enable motorists to offset remaining emissions;
 - provision of advice and information, such as www.greenwheels.com.au, which assists motorists to reduce their emissions by buying greener cars and fuels and driving in a sustainable way (or 'eco-driving'); and
 - reducing and offsetting emissions generated in responding to the more than 5 million calls for emergency roadside assistance each year.
15. As a consequence of the national climate change summit, AAA commits to:

- encourage motorists to take into consideration their impact on the environment when making choices about travel and destination;
- encourage motorists to buy 'best in class' vehicles, which could reduce total car emissions by some 25 per cent;
- promote the need for reform of fuel taxation and road charging arrangements to make them fairer and more equitable, ahead of the introduction of an emissions trading scheme. Such arrangements would better reflect the actual impact of motoring on the environment and tie revenue to investment in reducing congestion;
- encourage Government to supplement an emissions trading scheme with efforts to accelerate market penetration of new environmental technologies by offering fiscal incentives to persuade consumers to buy vehicles, fuels or components that can reduce CO₂ and toxic emissions, and promote fuel economy;
- encourage Governments to show leadership by making use of less polluting vehicles and offsetting carbon emissions from government fleets;
- insist that Governments address congestion in our major cities, to reduce greenhouse emissions and improve productivity, through the provision of an integrated and well managed transport network, including better public transport;
- engage with vehicle manufacturers to fast-track the introduction of more fuel efficient vehicles and power train technologies such as hybrid-electric drive trains, new-generation diesel and petrol engines and also electric vehicles;
- push for the adoption of a non-mandatory fuel economy target of 140 gCO₂/km for all passenger cars, which is consistent with the FIA's *Make Cars Green* declaration; and
- engage with fuel manufacturers and distributors in the promotion of cleaner forms of petrol and diesel as well as alternative fuels like LPG.