



## **BEYOND THE CARBON ECONOMY**

Capricorn Conservation Council welcomes the announcement that Australia will be taking its first major steps towards reducing our carbon footprint by introducing a price on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

“The science of climatic and environmental impacts of greenhouse gasses has been known for decades. Recent data indicates an acceleration of climate trends in Central Queensland which is expected to continue to become hotter and dryer, with fewer but more severe cyclones and storms,” Michael McCabe CCC Coordinator said today.

“Atmospheric concentrations have risen from under 300ppm\* to around 390ppm since the industrial revolution and the massive acceleration in the burning of fossil fuels. Between 1751 and 1994 surface ocean acidity is estimated to have increased by almost 30%” (Nature 437 (7059): 681–686).

“This century we are expected to experience average temperature rises of 2 degrees C or greater, causing significant threats to natural ecosystems, water and food security plus dramatic impacts on coastal communities. If atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> reaches 450ppm ocean acidity may cause mass extinction of corals resulting in the collapse of the Great Barrier Reef.”

“Several years ago CCC ran a public debate on the future of CQ beyond coal. The scientific and political discourse has runs for decades, so the announcement of a carbon price should be no surprise for industry and the community. Australia follows over forty countries in introducing such measures. The pricing of carbon emissions creates financial incentives to invest in the transition to renewable energy sources, which Australia has in abundance,” Mr McCabe said.

\*ppm: parts per million

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