

Research Program: R1

R1.100 - Emissions Trading - Developing Rail Industry Foresight

Background:

Climate Change and the ramifications to overcome its impact are with us. Australia has now signed the Kyoto Protocol and the Rudd Government has made a commitment to introduce an emissions trading scheme (ETS) in 2010. All transport modes will have to operate in a new environment where carbon emission and fuel supplies play an increasingly important role in everyday operations.

The rail industry therefore needs to develop greater awareness of the issues surrounding the formulation and implementation of emissions. The rail industry also needs to play a leading role in the public and political debates surrounding this issue.

Objective:

The objective of this research project is to ensure that the rail industry develops sufficient foresight with regard to political, scientific and policy trends relating to carbon trading at both a national and international level.

Project scope:

The scope of this project is to present a number of comparable case studies or scenarios that will evaluate the effects of various implementations of an ETS on the rail sector. These scenarios will then be analysed in order to determine the effect of various models of emissions trading on the rail sector.

Benefits:

The outputs of this project will benefit the rail industry as a whole. The report and outputs of this project will be used to inform the rail industry of the issues surrounding the implementation of an ETS for rail, and how rail could use this to its advantage over the other transport modes.

Expected outcomes:

Establishment of transport task and emission factor models and completion of economic modelling and case study/scenario evaluations.

Project timeframe:

18 Months (from January 08)

Project Chair:

Brett Hughes, Manager Policy, Australasian Railway Association

Project Leader:

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