

Minister's Response

Report by the Minister for Industry, Science and Technology on actions taken or to be taken by Government in response to the recommendations of the Economic Development Committee's Report "Inquiry into the Export of Environmental Services and Associated Technologies".

Background

In June 1994 the then Minister for Industry and Employment authorised a reference to the Economic Development Committee to investigate and report on the measures that the Victorian Government can implement to facilitate growth of opportunities for Victorian industries to export environmental services.

The Economic Development Committee concluded its investigations last year and tabled a report titled "Inquiry into the Export of Environmental Services and Associated Technologies" to Parliament in November.

As the responsible Minister, I am required to formally respond to Parliament on the findings and recommendations of the Report.

Comments

I welcome the Report of the Economic Development Committee, titled *Inquiry into the Export of Environmental Services and Associated Technologies*. I consider that it is an extremely useful survey of the world market for environmental services, and of the methods being used by other countries to encourage firms in this industry to compete in export markets.

The Report contains 25 comprehensive and detailed recommendations in ways in which this Government can improve the export prospects for Victorian firms which provide environmental services. My Department has already begun the process of implementing key recommendations which deal with improving access to firms in this industry to the industry development programs delivered through Business Victoria.

Four recommendations (6.4, 6.5, 6.6 and 6.7) involve State agencies for which other Ministers have responsibility. I have referred these matter to those Ministers for their advice.

The accession of a new Government to power in Canberra provides us with a fresh opportunity to explore the ways in which the Victorian and Federal Governments can work together to assist firms to tap into the great potential for exports in this sector. In line with some of the recommendations in the report, discussions have already begun at officer level on ways to progress this opportunity.

I congratulate the members of the Economic Development Committee on their Report, which has added significantly to the body of knowledge on this young but growing sector of the Victorian economy.

26th June 1996

