SSEE Climate Code Red – Opportunities for Action
Brisbane, 5th October 2009

Meeting Outputs – Summary

The Climate Code Red workshop held at Main Roads building Spring Hill on the 05th October delivered the following outputs

Opportunities
Key opportunities were identified as follows;

B1	***Carbon Warriors***
B2	***Market based Mechanism***
B3	***Changing Community Values***
B4	***Increased Public Transport Update***
B5	***Forests & Fibre***
B6	***Agents for change***
B7	***Fair Dinkum resource costs***
B8	***Distribution Energy Generation***
B9	***Rationing – Demand Management***

Call to Action
Within each of these opportunities, recommendations for actions were identified for each of 4 stakeholder groups by people who were passionate about each opportunity. The 4 stakeholder groups were;

a. The Engineering profession
b. Industry
c. Government – State & Federal
d. Community & Households

The table on the following page outlines these actions.

Next steps

SSEE
- further workshops will be held in Newcastle, Adelaide and Melbourne
- additional opportunities and actions will be identified
- a composite of the key ideas and actions emerging will be brought together into a single report
- this summary will be tabled at the National SSEE conference, and

Attendees
- individuals reflected on their own responses to this question
    - ***As a result of the ideas and actions discussed tonight, what is one thing you can do immediately at a personal level***

Appendix A *Recommendations / Call to Action*

Opportunity	*Call to Action / Recommendation*		*Who*
B1 Carbon Warriors	B1 – E1	Rule book to play game & adjudicate	
	B1 – I1	Teams forming across sectors	
	B1 – C1	All Australians to reduce their footprints collectively	
	B1 - C2	Game based approach to engage community support	
	B1 – C3	Sponsors, champions, communicators	
	B1 – C4	Multiple Focus projects	
	B1 – C5	Klean up Australia but with prize money	
	B1 – C6	People Power – Create a carbon warriors scheme for every industry, school etc with $100,000 prizes nationally in every sector for their Carbon Reduction Achievement	
	B1 – C7	Create Hall of Fame, Australian of the Year	
B2 Market Based Mechanism	B2 – E1	Appropriate costing for alternate products	
	B2 – E2	Honest Broker EA to scope real costs for community	
	B2 – G3	Legislate for strong clear long term carbon reduction	
B3 Changing Community Values	B3 – E1	Educate clients, governments, co-workers, other industries	
	B3 – I1	Product stewardship	
	B3 – G1	Take advice from profession & regulate	
	B3 – C1	Green Advertising Campaign	
	B3 – C2	Education program & labelling whole of life costs	
	B3 – C3	Rating products (independent website)	
	B3 – C4	Redefine abundance	
B4 Increased Public Transport Uptake	B4 – E1	Design new Busways if needed	
	B4 – E2	Redesign roadways to incorporate priority public transport	
	B4 – E3	Design new low/zero emissions buses + trains + trams eg mini buses for shorter local routes at night	
	B4 – G1	Fund extra buses, Change bus schedules	
	B4 – G2	Interlink Buses & trains & ferries (feeder services)	
	B4 – G3	Change laws on how buses operate (safety laws etc)	
	B4 – G5	Promote confidence in buses, security, personnel, lighting at bus stops at night	
	B4 – G6 along	Cheap/Free Public transport with buses stopping anywhere you want the route at night time.	
	B4 – C1	Use the buses, “try it out for a night”	
B5 Forests & Fibre	B5 – E1	Design & maintain forest as ecosystem	
	B5 – E2	Design and implement new fibre technology	
	B5 – E3	New materials	
	B5 – I1	Change fibre sources, eg hemp	
	B5 – I2	Develop new fibre uses	
	B5 – G1	Legislate change, land allocation, cash, replant forests to soak up carbon	
	B5 – C1	Involvement with implementation in community	
B6 Agents for Change (communicating the sense of urgency for immediate action)	B5 – E1	Put forward solutions for implementation, providing technical information	
	B5 – E2	dump “sustainable development” introduce SUSTAINABILITY	
	B5 – I1	Adapt to sustainable/low carbon technology	
	B5 – I2	Lobby for tax incentives	
	B5 – G1	Recognise the need for bi-partisan support	
	B5 – G2	Respond to voter needs	
	B5 – G3	Responsibly plan for the future & legislate accordingly	
	B5 – G4	Insert “limits to growth” in the constitution	
B7 Fair Dinkum Resource Costs	B7 – E1	Implement identify and seek best solution	
	B7 – I1	Comply: pays real cost tax, passes on with real price to consumer	
	B7 – G1	Legislate real cost of resource, externalities identified & taxed & redistributes the costs (tax)	
	B7 – C1	Call for action: the pricing structure for a resource (energy, water, materials) needed to accurately reflect the real cost of supply	
B8 Distribution Energy Generation	B8 – E1	Drive research into methodologies to integrate high levels of distributed generation	
	B8 – I1	Incentives for R+D, innovation as % of capital	
	B8 – G1	Fed govt. to implement R+D policy & tax incentives	
	B8 – G2	Fed Govt to provide positive income for distributed energy – regulator	

Opportunity	*Call to Action / Recommendation*	*Who*
	driven (AER) B8 – G3 Qld Gov Ban coal fired power stations (C.F.P/S) & conduct efficiency audits on existing CFP/S & legislate a decommissioning program. B8 – G4 Legislate to reduce advertising for increased consumerism B8 – C1 Awareness raising at Primary Schools B8 – C2 Energy efficiency , appliance rating e.g. Kw/hr usage = $$ B8 - C3	
B9 Rationing – Demand Management	B9 – E1 Embedding Sustainability in professional practice & education, e.g. "set & forget" designs B9 – I1 pay for whole life costs B9 – I2 Use different mechanisms to achieve e.g. PPPs B9 – G1 Change building codes B9 – G2 Mandate whole life costs B9 – G3 Mandate on E & Res's Consumption & Reduction (Rationing) B9 – G4 Mandate time of use changing; roads, public transport. B9 – C1 Carbon rationing B9 – C2 Resource rationing (e.g. water) B9 – C3 Smart metering (e.g. real time consumption monitors)	

Appendix B **Feedback on evening**

Individual responses to

"Please write any comments about what you have gained from this evening"

- Company organisations on name tags would have been valuable, Louise Meredith
- Time allowed to read out all the outputs from each group would have been good
- Workshop was challenging & confronting. Discussion would have been greater and learning better if presentation included a summary of current available real technologies and real strategies, David Bristow

Thanks for a fantastic session yesterday. I would like to send these comments to Ian Lowe and Wilf, but only if you are comfortable with that.
These comments are made in a positive and constructive spirit

As a society I believe we suffer a high degree of illiteracy on how the world works. This is an artifact of our worldview which is fundamentally disconnected from biophysical reality. This gives rise to beliefs, institutions and structures that are similarly disconnected. A precursor for any group grappling with the issues of sustainability is a degree of literacy in how the world works. Otherwise we are struggling to try and solve the problem at the level of it's creation! I think that is what we were trying to do yesterday. I think that is what we have been trying to do for the past 30 years. Much of what I heard of solutions yesterday was couched in terms of what one might call the sustainable development paradigm - a paradigm also disconnected from biophysical reality. So we heard a fair bit about pricing and internalizing externalities and incentives. There appears to be little awareness that economics is in reality no more than a 'primitive religion'.

None of this comes to grips with the systemic nature of reality and the problem. There is little awareness that the mathematical logic of the financial system is the systemic root (driver) of exponential production and population growth.
The first step in all of this, in my view, is to have this conversation as the precursor to any work shopping of solutions. We need to appreciate, and see through, the virtual reality painted by our worldview -a virtual reality where perpetual motion, infinite physical growth, living off the interest of our mutual indebtedness, of accelerating rather than diminishing returns, where the invisible hand of the market steers us through our problems, a global financial system that is in reality a Ponzi finance scheme, etc. While this mumbo jumbo kind of worked in an 'empty' world of abundant resources and frontiers and few humans (at least for those who set up the system and their beneficiaries), it is a recipe for disaster in an over full world.

Until we see through the virtual reality of economics and realize that we must deal directly with the physical world and thermodynamic and ecological reality we cannot begin to think, let alone act meaningfully to address our plight.
Does that make sense?

On process, I don't think we got it that our brief was to suggest reduction actions whatever the cost. Most responses in my view were tempered by perceptions of political difficulty, which as I read it was beyond our scope of consideration.
And in terms of solutions I saw little evidence of systemic thinking, i.e. Focus on symptoms rather than roots.