

# Nolan's Transport takes up Greenhouse Challenge

A LOCAL business, Nolan's Interstate Transport, is working to protect Australia's environment now and for the future.

How? By improving energy efficiency and reducing their greenhouse gas emissions, businesses large and small, local and multinational, are working with the Greenhouse Challenge program to protect the environment.

A joint industry-government voluntary initiative, the Greenhouse Challenge has attracted members from Australia's biggest companies, with operations in provincial cities and in the more remote parts of the nation. But Challenge members also include medium and small organisations operating in rural communities and the outback.

The activities of Challenge companies — in mining, power generation, manufacturing, health care, hospitality and education — impact on all Australians, no matter where they live and work. But the ingenuity and commitment of Greenhouse Challenge members in limiting and reducing their greenhouse emissions are especially important in maintaining jobs and services outside Australia's big cities.

Industry, Science and Resources Minister Senator Nick Minchin and Environment Minister Senator Robert Hill have congratulated Australian business for committing to achieve 25 per cent tonnes of greenhouse gas savings by the year 2000.

"Twenty-five million tonnes is the equivalent of all Australian domestic water heating and refrigeration for 12 months," Senator Minchin said.

Speaking at Greenhouse Challenge Day at Parliament House in Canberra, the ministers also announced that more than 333 enterprises had now joined the Challenge — one-third of the target of 1000 set by the Prime Minister when announcing the expansion of the Challenge program last year.

"The Prime Minister has set a very ambitious target for Greenhouse Challenge of 1000 agreements by 2005," Senator Minchin said.

"We are delighted to see that industry is stepping forward to take up this challenge.

"These enterprises encompass all sizes of business and all sectors — energy, resources, manufacturing, services and transport.

"It shows what can be achieved through co-operative ventures such as Greenhouse Challenge where industry and government work together for the benefit of our environment and the future," he said.

As part of Greenhouse Challenge Day some 90 enterprises finalised their Greenhouse Challenge Co-operative Agreements, bringing the total number of agreements signed to 209.

The achievements of these enterprises will play a major role in helping Australia to deliver the greenhouse target set at the Kyoto Climate Change Conference last year.

## NOLAN'S TRANSPORT

Nolan's Interstate Transport is one of the largest family owned and operated local and interstate transport operations in Queensland, based in Gatton. The company's primary freight task revolves around transportation of refrigerated consumables to many destinations throughout Australia, in particular fresh fruit and vegetable markets in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide. The company employs 70 full-time staff with a modern fleet of 40 prime mover and rigid vehicles. The depot boasts administration, workshop, fast cool and loading facilities. In recent years Nolan's has enjoyed rapid expansion, which is likely to continue due to the many changes forecast for the transport industry.

## TAKING UP THE CHALLENGE

"As a high profile company Nolan's recognises transport such as cars and heavy vehicles are a significant factor to greenhouse gas emissions, hence a joint initiative between management and staff saw major benefits in participating in the Greenhouse Challenge," principal Terry Nolan said.

He said Nolan's has always strived for both environmental and business efficiencies, and saw the Greenhouse Challenge as a natural progression.

The Greenhouse Challenge agreement covers the following Nolan's operations: transportation; administration offices; cold and fast-cool plant; and workshop facilities.

In taking up the Challenge, Nolan's has consulted staff about possible savings which could contribute to greater energy efficiencies and reductions of greenhouse gases. Diesel, electricity, gas and water usage and the reduction of waste paper and better tyre maintenance are all ways to aid in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

"While Nolan's staff recognise the difficulties of reducing emissions, all staff are committed to do their part and assist in these efficiencies, as technology is not the only single answer to saving energy.

"Nolan's will conduct regular energy audits to determine both present and future benefits and adopt any actions as recommended in the audit reports," Mr Nolan said.

## EMISSIONS

In 1997-98 Nolan's Transport emitted 13,544 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, mainly due to consumption of diesel (90 per cent of emissions).

## ACTION PLANS

**Company vehicles:** A review of diesel consumption and fuel usage will be conducted to highlight practical ways to reduce fuel usage. Nolan's vehicles are replaced every three years to reduce the likelihood of developing poor efficiencies. Particular attention is paid to the aerodynamics and suspension of all new prime movers and trailers purchased. Staff training on minimum idling times etc., is just one way that Nolan's can help decrease overall diesel usage.

**Lighting:** Nolan's will embark on an internal energy management program titled "Lights Out". This will include all staff and focus on energy efficiencies from basic office lighting to large equipment energy usage. This would promote and encourage more efficient use of lighting and energy conservation. Lighting will be upgraded as a direct result of this program.

**Staff awareness:** Promotion and staff awareness is one of the most important areas in any business. Nolan's plan to continue with on-going commitments topics which include diesel conservation and energy usage among others. Nolan's believe each and every staff member needs to be aware of and support the concern of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

**Paper recycling:** Nolan's plan to conduct an investigation into the amount of waste paper generated from all office and administration areas. The company is currently looking at options available for the paper recycling as well as reducing the use of paper. This year Nolan's Interstate Transport saw the Internet as a means of "paperless" marketing. Nolan's believe technology will play an essential role in the reduction of landfills.

Nolan's have a number of action plans aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Some of the actions Nolan's will be working on over the next five years include:

- \* continual upgrade of vehicle fleet;
- \* investigation into "smart" transport usage;
- \* staff education and training;
- \* use of non-diesel related products;
- \* continual attention to loading and load security;
- \* monitor oil change intervals;
- \* increase use of alloy rims.

Management support: Nolan's management has endorsed the Greenhouse Challenge program for energy management and view it as a management efficiency tool in the reduction of greenhouse emissions.

## FORECAST EMISSIONS AND SAVINGS

If no actions were taken, forecast emissions in year 2000 are estimated to reach 13,924 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. Following the implementation of the action plans Nolan's expect to reduce the year 2000 emissions to 13,506 tonnes — a 3 per cent savings. As further savings are identified these will be included in annual reports to the Greenhouse Challenge.

## FUTURE VISION

"Nolan's is committed to taking a pro-active approach to abate greenhouse gas emissions.

"Nolan's will continue to refine its management and vehicle specification procedures to gain maximum returns from fuel use, kilometres travelled and payload carried.