



**EMBARGOED: Thursday 22 September 2011**

## **ClimateWorks and the Property Council call for solutions to unlock the barriers to cogeneration**

ClimateWorks Australia, working with the Property Council, today released the report of its Unlocking Barriers to Cogeneration project. The report identifies a number of solutions for greater deployment of cogeneration\*.

Jennifer Cunich, Executive Director of the Property Council in Victoria, said “increasingly, Australian property developers and owners are pursuing cogeneration for their existing buildings and new developments. However, they face a complex and burdensome connection process and regulatory barriers that inhibits them from deploying the technology.”

The Unlocking Barriers to Cogeneration report proposes practical solutions to promote greater deployment of embedded generation including:

- a national, standardised connection process for small to medium sized generators;
- automatic connection rights, similar to residential solar PV systems; and
- practical district level licensing frameworks.

Professor John Thwaites, former Victorian Deputy Premier and Chairman of ClimateWorks Australia, launched the Unlocking the Barriers to Cogeneration report.

“We are pleased that this project has resulted in specific recommendations, including a change to the National Electricity Rules to provide for an automatic right of connection for standard cogeneration projects,” said Professor Thwaites.

Cogeneration is a readily available technology. It is 80 per cent more efficient than conventional, coal powered energy generation. It also produces 60 per cent less carbon emissions and can be fuelled by natural gas and renewable fuels.

“Co and trigeneration technologies offer a critical step toward achieving the goal of green grids of building and precincts that power themselves,” said Peter Verwer, Chief Executive Officer of the Property Council.

Anna Skarbek, Executive Director of ClimateWorks Australia, said “the recommendations in this report are the result of a genuinely collaborative process.”

Drawing on a portfolio of six 'live' Victorian-based commercial cogeneration developments, the project working group spanned the supply chain - with customers, market participants, regulators, operators and policymakers working together over three months coordinated by ClimateWorks with support from Seed Advisory.

Ms Skarbek thanked the participants in the project for their contributions, and Seed Advisory for their technical expertise, research and advice throughout the project. Ms Skarbek also gratefully acknowledged the financial support provided from industry and government.

\* Cogeneration (including trigeneration) is a form of embedded energy generation, referring to its location being 'embedded' in buildings or industrial sites near the energy users.

The report is available at [www.climateworksaustralia.org](http://www.climateworksaustralia.org)

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