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Australian CleanTech Cluster Launched to Drive Industry Efficiency

Key Highlights

- 300 member companies helping industry to increase efficiency and productivity
- Finance options launched for members to grow their businesses
- One-stop-shop for Energy, Water, Waste & Environment Solutions

The Australian CleanTech Cluster will be launched today at an event in Perth to help environmental technology companies to secure finance and access industry. The cluster has built its 300 members over four years and originally secured funding under the Gillard Government.

With the loss of Government support, it is now being relaunched with new partners and new services to help cleantech companies to grow and industry to become more efficient and productive.

The cluster has helped provide solutions to a wide range of industries already. It has helped Lend Lease find solutions for Barangaroo, worked with the fishing industry in Port Lincoln to manage wastewater and presented efficiency solutions to the manufacturing sector.

Member companies provide a wide variety of solutions including renewable energy, water, waste, recycling, energy efficiency, energy storage, building products, transport technologies and environmental services.

Industry benefits from gaining easy access to pre-qualified solutions that meet their needs.

"We aim to provide a simple, easy and cost effective way in which the Mining, Manufacturing, Agriculture, Property and Infrastructure sectors can interact with companies and organisations that provide cleantech solutions", says John O'Brien, the cluster manager.

Cluster members will have the opportunity to access three types of finance:

- Matched and pre-funding for grants and R&D Tax Rebates;
- Project finance for building upgrade and industrial energy efficiency projects; and
- Bids to the Emissions Reduction Fund auctions.

The cluster has teamed up with Axsess Finance in Melbourne and Corporate Carbon in Sydney to enable its members to access these financial solutions.

"We are very excited by the prospect that these financial solutions offer to our members. We see this as an opportunity for many of them to make a step change in their growth," O'Brien added.

Commenting on the new arrangements, Zvi Brooks, CEO of Axsess Finance said, *"We provide funding to growth companies and see great potential in many of the cluster companies for significant growth over the next few years."*

Matthew Warnken from Corporate Carbon said, *"We work with cleantech companies to access funding through the Emissions Reduction Fund and are looking forward to connecting with cluster members who are delivering eligible projects."*

Cluster membership is free and more details are available at www.cleantechcluster.org.au

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Launch Event: Australian CleanTech Network hosted by the City of Perth
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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The CleanTech Sector

The cleantech sector in Australia employs 65,000 people and generates \$31 billion of revenue, some 2% of the Australian GDP. Cleantech products and services are smart technologies that enable industry and cities to be more efficient by using less resources, increase productivity and grow investment returns. It is the driver of future growth and creates the next wave jobs, investment and trade.

The Australian CleanTech Cluster is an initiative of Australian CleanTech, the country's leading corporate advisor to the cleantech sector.

Axsess Finance

Axsess Today Professional Finance (part of the Axsess Today Group) - is a funding group focused on working with innovative and growth businesses across Australia. We aim to provide a suite of cost-effective, non-equity funding products to our clients, including funding / pre-payment solutions against selected Federal Government Rebates & Grants (such as the R & D Incentive program) as well as a range of other funding solutions. We operate a streamlined assessment and funding approval process to enable Axsess Today to assist its clients in timely manner - with real funding solutions needed to grow their business.

www.axsesstoday.com.au

Corporate Carbon

Corporate Carbon was founded in 2010 to deliver commercial value from emissions reduction projects for business, partners and investors. As one of Australia's pre-eminent carbon companies, Corporate Carbon has been actively engaged in the development of the local Carbon Farming Initiative offsets industry from its very inception and has recently been successful in Australia's first Emissions Reduction Fund Auction.

Corporate Carbon has taken several CFI projects through the entire implementation process, covering feasibility, design, registration, off-sets reporting, auditing and issue of carbon credits. Currently it is the registered project proponent on 19 projects (including aggregated projects) covering alternative waste treatment, soil carbon, land transport, savanna fire management, reforestation and regeneration sectors.

www.corporatecarbon.com.au