

**Introduction to Senator the Hon Penny Wong
Ai Group Deputy National President Don Matthews
The Park Hyatt Melbourne – Wednesday 6 February 2008**

- Ladies and gentlemen, it is a privilege for the Australian Industry Group to have the opportunity to host this address by the Minister so early in her tenure.
- Senator Wong was sworn in as Minister for Climate Change and Water just 10 weeks ago. Minister, I am very sure it must seem quite a bit longer than that since you took on the responsibilities not only for this critical portfolio but also as a member of the new Cabinet.
- Over this short period the Minister has, as Heather mentioned,:
 - represented Australia at the historic UN Conference on Climate Change in Bali and played a central negotiating role.
 - *(I understand that there were some lighter moments in Bali and that Sections B1 and B2 of the Bali papers were known by the Australians there as the “banana paragraphs”)*
 - Senator Wong has also chaired the first meeting of the Council of Australian Governments’ Working Group on Climate Change and Water.
 - And this week she announced the next steps towards creating a national framework for corporations to report greenhouse gas emissions and actions to reduce emissions.
 - A busy schedule indeed.
- Senator Wong first took her place as a Senator from South Australia in July 2002 after practicing as a barrister and solicitor in Adelaide.
- Her appointment to Cabinet came just five and a half years after joining the Senate and after a relatively brief three years in the Shadow Ministry.
- Her Shadow portfolios included: Employment and Workforce Participation; Corporate Governance and Responsibility and Public Administration and Accountability.

- Today we're looking forward to hearing from the Senator more on the Government's climate change agenda.
- Would you all please welcome, the Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong.

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- Thank you Minister for your address today. I'm sure it will be the first of many with Ai Group and the first of many consultations with business in general.
 - As our Survey with Sustainability Victoria showed many business have some way to go in understanding and preparing for Climate change policy and these forums are very valuable for them. Thank you for coming here today.
 - Would you all please thank once again the Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong.