

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release



Tuesday 13 September

Retail lacks leadership on sustainability

The Australian Sporting Goods Association (ASGA) says that the retail and wholesale sectors must examine ways to be more efficient in the changing marketplace with a key focus on sustainability. ASGA says that exploring ways to introduce more sustainable, green and efficient business practices is extremely important in light of competition in a global market place.

ASGA Executive Director Brad Kitschke said that the retail sector and retail sector representatives had not done enough to lead industry conversation about best practice sustainability.

“The retail sector and retail sector representatives have not done enough to promote sustainability. Indeed I would go far as to say that many have done nothing. There is no question that changes like the Carbon Tax and a focus on a clean energy future will have an effect on energy costs and the cost of doing business. But there is also no question that we need to change and we need to be more sustainable. We have the opportunity and the incentive to offset some of those cost increases by doing things smarter and more efficiently. Kitschke said.

“It is important to make the point that the Carbon Tax will increase some costs to business, but its equally important to help those business to change, be more sustainable and implement more efficient business practices. I don't see this happening. If we fail to show thought leadership on issues like these as an industry association we are being completely irresponsible.”

“Industry Associations have on the whole failed to lead their sectors and have failed to be thought leaders in this space. Sustainability, efficiency and clean and green retail must be a focus as we head into the future. Industry Associations need to lead the way and educate the sector about energy efficiency and best practice sustainable management of the retail supply chain. At the moment though there is a lack of leadership in the sector. Complaining about the Carbon Tax whilst providing no leadership on the issues of sustainability isn't good enough.”

“ASGA is about the promotion of sport and healthy lifestyles and a clean environment where that sport and physical activity can occur,” Kitschke concluded.

ASGA will hold its annual industry Conference on Thursday 29 September, at the Kew Golf Club and these topics of sustainability and efficiency will be discussed.

Presenting at the Conference will be Green For Retail Managing Director, Tara Allsop who will give insight into the economic benefits of sustainable business practices. www.greenforretail.com.au .

Attendees will also hear from the Australian Packaging Covenant and other specialists in the sector promoting the topic of 'Best Practice'. For more information on the ASGA Conference go <http://www.asga.com.au/topical-item/2011-asga-conference>

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BEST PRACTICE · Thursday, 29 September, 2011

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