**United Nations Kyoto Protocol**

The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement negotiated in 1997 that extended the UNFCCC. It established a commitment by 192 countries, including Australia, to binding reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to specified levels during the commitment period 2008 -2012.

The overriding aim of the protocol was to reduce the collective emissions of the countries by at least 5% from 1990 levels.

The achievements of the Kyoto Protocol were the:

* stimulation of many national policies
* creation of an international market for carbon
* development of emissions trading schemes

Many countries developed their own methods to comply with the Kyoto Protocol and to address the environmental issues. It was difficult to secure the global commitment as the protocol is restricted by the:

* modest emission reduction limits
* lack of measures to achieve greater reductions
* absence of penalties for countries not achieving targets