

 **MEDIA STATEMENT**

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## **Retailers join arms to inspire sustainability**

Retailers normally battle non-stop over price, but it's a very different matter when it comes to sustainability, with top Australian retailers coming together to educate and inspire other companies to implement environmentally sustainable workplace practices at the National Retail Association's (NRA) annual Sustainability Forum at South Bank in Brisbane on October 27.

The Forum will profile key retailers, such as *Target* and *The Good Guys*, who are leading the way in environmental sustainability, and illustrate ways retailers can implement sustainable practices to not only have a positive environmental impact but to also reduce costs.

NRA executive director Gary Black said retailers comparing notes on their workplace sustainable practices was fantastic for both the greater good of the community and for business growth.

"Retailers realise that while they work in completely different sectors that have very different demands, they share the same consumers and have to respond to the same changing behaviour needs," said Mr Black.

"The corporate social responsibility demonstrated by the organisations at our upcoming forum, reinforces the important leadership role retailers can play in driving the shift to sustainability.

"Exploring ways to introduce sustainable and efficient business practices offers new opportunities for cost reduction which should not be ignored," he said.

The retail sector is one of the largest users of resources and producers of waste, yet awareness of environmental sustainability remains relatively low across the sector.

A *ClimateSmart* representative from the *Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM)* will discuss the engagement of employees and customers through sustainable business processes at the Forum.

The NRA has also called on Dylan Byrne from account and tax advisory firm *BDO* to help retailers gain an overall understanding of the Carbon Tax and how it will directly and indirectly affect retail businesses.

"Retailers must work together to foster the implementation of cost-effective actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions," said Mr Black.

"We are committed to educating retailers on the environmental and economic benefits of improved environmental performance."

The NRA is Australia's largest and most representative retail organisation with more than 3000 members and affiliates located across all states and territories. Its membership includes the majority of Australia's national retail chains and extends across the retail take-away food and fast food sectors.

To register for this free industry event please contact Gemma Axford on 07 9240 0100 or email [events@nra.net.au](mailto:events@nra.net.au).

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