

# AAA welcomes carbon green paper

**Australian Automobile Association (AAA) Executive Director Mike Harris has welcomed the Federal Government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Green Paper and the acknowledgement that in recent years motorists have endured significant increases in the price of petrol.**

The AAA says that as a result of escalating petrol prices, motorists are facing strong incentives to reduce their fuel use.

"This has already resulted in motorists moving to smaller and more fuel-efficient vehicles, which are less carbon intensive," Harris says.



"The Government's proposal to offset fuel taxes on a cent-for-cent basis in the first three years of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme gives motorists five years to plan for potentially even higher fuel prices."

"AAA has always argued that motorists should

pay their fair share and that there needs to be more transparency in fuel taxation," says Harris.

"On this basis, we have argued for fuel excise to be abolished in favour of a fairer and more equitable system of road charges, ahead of the introduction of emissions trading."

"The Government's proposal to remove part of the excise and replace it with a more transparent carbon price is potentially a first step towards a more progressive system of road charges," says Harris.

The AAA says there is also a need for Governments to continue to introduce complementary measures which reduce fuel consumption and the emissions of all vehicles, including tackling traffic congestion which can increase fuel consumption by some 30 percent in peak hour and providing enhanced opportunities for the community to use public transport.

Harris says that many of these measures are underway, but more is needed.

"We will be reviewing the specifics of the Green Paper and providing Government with a detailed submission on a range of issues, including the question of how periodic assessments of the fuel tax adjustments might occur."



Mike Harris

# Auto-IT strikes major Mexico deal

**Leading Australian software developer Auto-IT has struck a deal to install its retail dealer management software system in all John Deere agricultural equipment dealerships in Mexico.**

The deal follows the sale earlier this year of Auto-IT's proprietary software system to John Deere Information Systems (JDIS), a supplier of software to all John Deere dealers in North America.

Ken Fife, Auto-IT's chief executive officer says the deal with JDIS made in January had paved the way for sales into other international markets which are potentially estimated to be worth in excess of A\$1.5B.

EQUIP is a fully integrated software system, which is designed specifically for retail dealerships in the agriculture, construction and trucking industries.

The software provides retail dealerships with a tool that enables principals to better manage their business through an integrated solution that improves performance and boosts productivity and efficiency.

The system is intended to be rolled out to 34 dealer groups in 115 locations in the John Deere network in Mexico over the next three years.

John Deere Mexico's IT Manager Mario Garcia says Auto-IT's EQUIP dealer management system is endorsed and ratified by JDIS, which gave us great confidence in the system's ability to handle their technical, managerial and reporting requirements.

"We expect the roll-out of EQUIP in all John Deere dealerships will improve each dealership's interface with head office, while boosting dealer efficiency and profitability."



# General Motors to cut even further

**After suffering a sharp drop in US sales, General Motors is cutting 20 percent of its salaried staff costs in an effort to prepare for 'rapidly changing market conditions.'**

Up to 6400 jobs could go, if all the cuts came directly through staff reductions.

The world's biggest car maker which announced it had liquidity of \$US4 billion worth of assets wants to raise \$US2 billion in extra capital to strengthen its cash flow.

Any cuts will go mainly in North America, where the white-collar workforce has shrunk by 12,000 to 32,000 since 2000.

The company is cutting healthcare provision for retired people over 65 and freezing the pay of salaried staff for this year and next year.

A move they say will boost liquidity by \$US800 million through next year, GM will also be suspending its dividend payments.

## Queensland Prestige Plates

# "CARS"

## \$9500

- NO Annual fees
- Never displayed

Call 0412 726140

To advertise numeric or rare plates (any State) contact Steve - 0412 726140 or 1800 113101