

OCC Weather

Executive Director's note

Welcome to the first edition of the OCC Weather for 2009. Already we have seen many significant changes and events around the climate change agenda. Significantly, here in Queensland the OCC now reports to a new Minister, the Honourable Kate Jones MP, Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, who was sworn in on 26 March 2009.

Further, the OCC is now located within the new agency of [Environment and Resource Management](#), with a new Acting CEO Mr John Bradley. The OCC looks forward to working in support of this new state leadership team for climate change. As Executive Director for the OCC, I would like to acknowledge the support and leadership of the Honourable Andrew McNamara during his time as Minister.

At the recent State Election a number of significant climate change policy initiatives were committed to by the returned Government including:

New solar program for Queensland

- An Australian first, 200,000 solar hot water systems will be provided for Queensland families at a greatly reduced cost - \$500 fully installed (\$100 for pensioners and concession card holders).

Cleaner and greener buildings – supporting sustainable developments

- High performance development fast-tracked under “green door” policy and new Australian-best building standards for energy efficient homes, offices and government buildings.
- Green Building Skills Fund to boost sustainability expertise in the construction sector.

Partnering with the bush on climate change

- New regulations will further cut discharge of dangerous run-off threatening the health of the Great Barrier Reef.
- Recognising carbon trading rights on leasehold land under the proposed CPRS.

Supporting our heroes - protecting life and property

- \$12.98 million to boost the capacity of the SES and Rural Fire Service to respond to natural disasters

At the federal level the exposure draft of the CPRS legislation was released on 10 March 2009 and it is expected that this Bill will be debated in the coming weeks.

As the international community moves towards the landmark climate change conference in Copenhagen in December, the United States has significantly entered the playing field with President Obama convening and sponsoring his own “pathway” of discussions and importantly including Australia.

Returning to Queensland we expect to finalise and publish our review of the ClimateSmart2050 shortly.

Overall, a very ambitious and crowded agenda for climate change in 2009. I look forward to working closely with all of you throughout the year.

Greg Withers
Executive Director, Office of Climate Change

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Policy update

Climate Smart Strategy Review Update

The review team has been busy over the past few months finalising the results of public consultation on the Issues Paper. A detailed scientific and policy assessment to guide the updating and consolidation of Queensland's Climate Change Strategy in light of recent national and international policy developments is expected to go forward for Cabinet consideration later this month. Policy commitments given by the Bligh Government during the recent State Election will also feature in the final review report.

The review exercise was set up to address two of the most significant results from the Garnaut Review and the Commonwealth modelling of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme: that Queensland stands to lose more from unmitigated climate change than any other state, and that there are clear benefits from early action to prepare key industries and communities for a transition to a lower carbon future

The review included an independent assessment of Queensland's existing and new mitigation measures to ensure they do not duplicate. The final report on the independent assessment is expected to be discussed at COAG in mid-June.

Machinery of government changes

The Queensland Government announced a range of changes to machinery of government arrangements on 26 March 2009. As a result, the Office of Climate Change is now part of the integration of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Natural Resources and Water forming a single agency called the Department of Environment and Natural Resource Management (DERM).

The Premier has approved a reduction of the number of departments from 23 to 13 organised around six key areas of government priorities. Each of the 13 Departments will be headed by a Director-General and Associate Directors-General (DG). DERM's new acting DG is John Bradley supported by Associate DG's Terry Wall and Scott Spencer. The changes announced are significant for the public sector and may cause some disruption to scheduled events and meetings but will be settled as quickly as possible so that we continue to deliver high quality services and advice to the Queensland community.

Our new Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability is Ms Kate Jones, MP for Ashgrove. Ms Jones is one of the youngest members of the newly appointed Cabinet. She also serves as Deputy Government Whip and holds a Degree in Journalism and Politics from QUT. To read her full bio-note visit www.qld.alp.org.au

For a full summary of the new portfolio responsibilities and Ministries visit www.premiers.qld.gov.au/policy/machinerygovt/ or refer to the Queensland Government Gazette.

1,000,000 hectares of regrowth under moratorium

The Queensland Government has moved to implement a moratorium on the potential clearing of over a million hectares of endangered regrowth vegetation. Legislation is being prepared for Parliament which will mean that the clearing of endangered regrowth vegetation in rural areas across the state, will be prohibited. Also prohibited will be the clearing of all native vegetation in riparian areas of the priority Mackay/Whitsunday, Wet Tropics and Burdekin reef catchments.

The moratorium will apply on both freehold and leasehold land, except where there is an existing certified Property Map of Assessable Vegetation or an existing development approval. This moratorium means that reasonable discussions can be held with stakeholder groups, without panic clearing of high value regrowth vegetation that may, in future, be protected by amended vegetation management laws.

The government intends to move as quickly as possible after this period of consultation to finalise the longer term arrangements and provide the necessary certainty for landholders and rural industries. The moratorium will assist the government to work through how riparian vegetation can support its commitment to improve the water quality of the Great Barrier Reef.

More details on the moratorium can be found on the department's website at www.derm.qld.gov.au or by telephoning 13 13 04.

New ClimateSmart Business program launched

With the current financial crisis impacting heavily on business viability, a new ClimateSmart Business program has been launched by the Department of Environment and Resource Management's Sustainable Industries team to help businesses reduce their costs whilst improving environmental outcomes.

The program provides information, products and partnerships to help businesses identify climate change risks and opportunities and to incorporate carbon reduction and resource efficiency programs into their office, café, retail outlet or workplace.

For more details visit the ClimateSmart Living website: <http://www.climatesmart.qld.gov.au>

Business leaders invited to head ecoBiz clusters

The Department of Environment and Resource Management is seeking 20 ClimateSmart Business Leaders to establish strategic business clusters. Each cluster will consist of around 20 companies working together to bring about cost-effective environmental savings. Brisbane's Queens Plaza, part of the Colonial First State Property Management Group, has already agreed to establish a ClimateSmart Business Leaders cluster involving their food court operators. Other interested business or consultants should contact the ecoBiz team at ecoBiz@epa.qld.gov.au to register your interest.

National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF)

Established in early 2008, NCCARF is responsible for leading the Australian research community to generate information needed by government, industry and the community to manage climate change impacts.

The facility, hosted at Griffith University, has just released its first newsletter outlining what it has achieved to date, the key activities for the next six months as well as information on the 2010 International Climate Change Conference.

The newsletter will be produced on a quarterly basis. Its can be accessed through the NCCARF website at www.nccarf.edu.au

The CSIRO Climate Adaptation National Research Flagship

Last year CSIRO launched its new Climate Adaptation National Research Flagship, a \$40 million research program led by Queensland scientist Dr Andrew Ash.

The overall objective of the Flagship is to enable Australia to adapt more effectively to the impacts of climate change and variability by informing national planning, regulation and investment decisions.

The Flagship has four themes of research focussed on:

- providing sound scientific knowledge about potential climate change impacts to underpin decision making and understanding the socio-economic drivers and barriers that influence the adaptation process*

- *developing planning, design, infrastructure and management solutions to help Australia's cities and coasts adapt to a changing climate*
- *designing and delivering adaptation options to protect Australia's marine and terrestrial species, ecosystems and the services they provide from the impacts of climate change*
- *developing adaptation options for Australia's primary industry and resource sectors to reduce the vulnerabilities and enhance opportunities created by climate change*

The Flagship brings together expert scientists from across CSIRO to work in partnership with governments, industries and community groups.

For more information contact: louise.matthiesson@csiro.au

Australian Wind Energy Conference

In association with the World Wind Energy Association, the 2009 Australian Wind Energy conference will be held in Adelaide from 29-30 April.

The conference will analyse developments of regional energy strategies, business opportunities and advances in wind turbine technology and scientific development while simultaneously addressing issues such as site identification, land use agreements and environmental impact assessments. This annual event will bring together senior executives, researchers and decision makers from the scientific, regulatory, manufacturing and supply sector of the industry to discuss new policies and strategies for tackling the current and emerging issues within the burgeoning wind energy sector.

Further information on the conference can be found at www.informa.com.au/conferences/energy-utilities/power-electricity/australian-wind-energy-conference

Science update

Key projects and achievements report available online

The Queensland Climate Change Centre of Excellence (QCCCE) was established in March 2007 as the hub for the provision of science and information on climate change and its impacts. The Centre plays a key role in improving Queensland's knowledge base about the challenges posed by climate change and what we can do to deal with the impacts.

The Centre leads a range of strategic projects and activities within the Office of Climate Change to inform the Queensland Government's policy response on climate change. The Centre's activities are aimed at:

- *increasing knowledge of how and why Queensland's climate is changing*
- *understanding how climate change is likely to affect the environment and the resources upon which human life and prosperity depend; and*
- *ensuring robust science-based tools are available to help end-users understand and respond to climate change and its associated risks.*

The Centre's first report on key projects and achievements for 2007-08 is now available online. This report is a great tool for stakeholders and members of the public. If you wish to discuss any aspect of the Centre's work in more detail please contact the Director, Ms Lynne Turner at gccce@climatechange.qld.gov.au or call (07) 3896 9742.

To download the report visit:

http://www.climatechange.qld.gov.au/downloads/downloads/3164_QCCCE_achievements_WEB.pdf

Science Day round-up

QCCCE hosts Science Day forums to provide staff and research partners with an opportunity to update colleagues and partner organisations on the progress of key projects and to seek feedback from peers.

The March Science Day presented the historical data and CSIRO climate change projections that have been collated to further understand the impacts that climate change will have across the 13 regions of Queensland. This data has been included in reports that will be released later in the year.

If you would like to find out more about any of the projects discussed by the research or policy experts, please email the Centre qccce@climatechange.qld.gov.au

Visiting Scientist Lectures

QCCCE promotes its links with leading climate science specialists all over the world by encouraging the exchange of ideas and know-how through its visiting science lectures. Visiting scientists are invited to give a presentation on their current projects as part of their research itineraries in Queensland.

Special guests for last month included Dr Rob Allan and Dr Philip Brohan from the UK Met Office Hadley Centre, Dr Gil Compo from the University of Colorado Climate Diagnostics Centre and Professor Tianjun Zhou from the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Dr Allan, Dr Brohan and Dr Compo presented their work in the fields of climate modelling and data reconstructions of weather data across the earth's surface spanning the last 250 years. Professor Zhou gave a presentation on modelling the variability of the the Asian-Australian Monsoon, which was particularly relevant for Queensland.

QCCCE would like to thank all the visiting scientists who gave their time and presented lectures in 2008. If you would like to register to attend upcoming guest lectures please email qccce@climatechange.qld.gov.au for details.

Queensland–China Climate Change Fellowships

Three Queensland researchers and four Chinese researchers have completed their fellowships under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Queensland and Chinese Governments. The agreement facilitates short-term research exchanges aimed at PhD students, postgraduates and early-to mid-career researchers.

The inaugural fellows from China completed their time in Queensland in November 2008 and the last of the Queensland fellows returned from China at the end of January 2009. Reports prepared by each fellow will be made available on the Fellowship website.

Applications for the 2009 Queensland–China Climate Change Fellowship Program are open until 1 June 2009. For further information please contact QCCCE by email at qccce@climatechange.qld.gov.au or telephone +61 7 3896 9742. Applicants will be able to download application guidelines from our website later this month.

Congratulations to the [successful 2008 participants](#).

Cloud seeding research trials assesses potential

An internationally significant project examining the potential of cloud seeding to bolster water supplies in south-east Queensland (SEQ) catchments is nearing completion. Led by the Queensland Climate Change Centre of Excellence, this project is a partnership with the Centre for Australian Weather and Climate Research (CAWCR – ie the CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology, formed in December 2007), the University of Southern Queensland and Monash University. The project is being overseen by a

Scientific Advisory Group, chaired by Professor Roger Stone from the University of Southern Queensland.

The cloud seeding research project is investigating the potential for warm cloud (convective cloud) seeding in the Somerset and Wivenhoe catchments. The Queensland trial is a world first in that the research team has access to both research aircraft instruments and the CP2, state of the art new Doppler radar technology at the Bureau of Meteorology's Redbank Plains facility.

Cloud seeding research trials are undertaken over the summer months. Field activities for the first season ran from December 2007 to March 2008. Field activities for the second season commenced in September 2008 and finished in February 2009. The total number of randomised cases for the project (Season 1 and 2) is 127.

The trials are designed to provide a scientific assessment of the potential for cloud seeding to enhance water resource management in south-east Queensland. An interim scientific assessment is due in late May 2009 with a final report on the findings due in October 2009. Further information is available at www.climatechange.com.au

South East Queensland (SEQ) Climate Adaptation Research Initiative

A new three year research initiative has been established to examine south east Queensland's vulnerability to climate-change and develop practical adaptation strategies to assist decision makers in government, industry and the community.

The SEQ Climate Adaptation Research Initiative will be the first comprehensive regional study on climate change adaptation undertaken in Australia. It will explore both vulnerabilities and adaptation options in response to climate change so that our prosperous regional economy, environment and lifestyles can be maintained into the future.

The Initiative brings together research partners from CSIRO, the Queensland Government, Griffith University, the University of the Sunshine Coast, and the University of Queensland, industries and community groups in a participatory approach to address the challenges of climate change in south east Queensland.

For more information contact ryan.mcallister@csiro.au.

Ever wondered how weather experts model weather patterns?

On the 1st-3rd April Queensland hosted an International workshop at the Gold Coast for climate science experts involved in research that will help improve our understanding of historic, current and future climates. The presenters included the sleuths that track down 'old' weather from ship logs over the last 250 years to the data that was collected by William Dawes at the first observatory in Sydney, on what is now Dawes Point. The presentations include fascinating animations reconstructing some of the worst weather events on record.

The project driving these discoveries is an international collaboration called ACRE – "climate reanalysis over the earth" aimed at unlocking weather secrets of the past. Scientists hope to use this more detailed knowledge of past weather events to test and improve the reliability of climate modelling tools and establish a better understanding of the links between climate change and extreme weather events.

Drs Rob Allan, Philip Brohan and Gil Compo participated in an online press briefing during the conference to explain why we need this data and how it will be used and accessed in the future which can be viewed at the Australian Science Media website (http://www.aussmc.org/Weather_secrets.php). You can read a full summary about the research project in our key projects and activities publication.

Greenhouse 2009 Climate Change and Resource Conference

The Greenhouse 2009 Climate Change and Resource Conference was held in Perth over 23-26 March 2009. Sponsored by the Western Australian Government, the Department of Climate Change and Land and Water Australia the event attracted 500 local, interstate and overseas delegates from government and non-government organisations, as well as private companies.

The Conference was opened via video by Senator the Hon Penny Wong, Minister for Climate Change and Water. In her speech Senator Wong announced the Pacific Climate Change Science Program, which is part of the Australian Government's \$150 million commitment to the International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative to meet high priority climate adaptation needs in vulnerable countries in our region.

Keynote sessions featuring prominent figures such as Prof. Ross Garnaut and more than 125 verbal presentations were delivered through parallel sessions, and more than 60 posters were presented, on a variety of areas such as policy and economics, adaptation, energy, greenhouse gases, human settlements, biodiversity, water, agriculture, climate science and climate modelling. An international workshop on the science of El-Niño Southern Oscillation was also held in conjunction with the conference.

Jozef Syktus from the Queensland Climate Change Centre of Excellence (QCCCE) presented joint work with Greg McKeon and external collaborators titled "A continent under stress: interactions, feedbacks and risks associated with the impact of modified land cover on Australia's climate". The official website of the conference can be found at <http://www.greenhouse2009.com>. Conference presentations will be available soon online.

The Greenhouse 2009 Conference was attended by the QCCCE Director, Lynne Turner, Jozef Syktus and Kenneth Wong.

Free information session and training workshop: Estimating sea level extremes in an uncertain future

*A two-day training workshop, suitable for planners, engineers and other stakeholders, on the need to incorporate the potential impacts of rising sea levels in management, planning and decision-making to prepare for the impacts of climate change will be held in **Brisbane from 26–27 May 2009**.*

A significant proportion of Australia's population will experience the impacts of a changing climate through rising sea levels, increased coastal erosion and extreme flooding events. Infrastructure owners and planners need to be able to assess the likely risk to existing assets and to plan appropriately when building new coastal assets.

If you want to make more informed decisions concerning the maintenance and planning of infrastructure around Australia's coastline and develop appropriate strategies for adapting to the impacts of sea level rise this event is a must. For more information or to register for either of these events visit www.sealevelrise.info or call +61 3 62267652 or email info@sealevelrise.info

Research to reduce emissions from livestock

The Queensland Government and the University of Queensland will undertake three new research projects focusing on minimising methane emissions from cattle and sheep.

Almost \$1 million from the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's Climate Change Research Program and Meat and Livestock Australia will fund the research projects, which will be conducted over three years.

The first project will focus on using viruses that attack methane-producing microbes in the guts of cattle and sheep. The second project will investigate the viability of boosting livestock feed with oils that improve the condition of the animal and cut the amount of methane produced, as well as reducing the organisms in the gut that produce methane. The third project will investigate the value of microbes that turn the methane produced in the gut back into hydrogen and carbon dioxide.

These three projects could help reduce emissions from livestock in the future while contributing to increased productivity within the beef, lamb, dairy and wool industries.

Commonwealth Government update

Minister Wong proposes international forest carbon market plan

On 27 March 2009, Minister Wong gave a speech to the International Peace Institute in New York proposing a post-2012 global agreement on climate change, through reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries.

Minister Wong identified three key areas that needed to be agreed upon – reaching a global goal; determining specific national commitments to reduce or restrain emissions; and ensuring there are mechanisms to help the most vulnerable adapt. .

The Minister indicated that Australian modelling showed that the inclusion of forest-related activities in a future global agreement had the potential to reduce global mitigation costs by around 20-25 per cent and would also potentially provide a significant economic and environmental opportunity for developing countries.

The proposed forest carbon market mechanism would include reductions in emissions from deforestation and forest degradation as well as enhancing the removal of emissions from afforestation and reforestation. National governments would be issued with forest carbon credits for emissions reductions below an internationally agreed national forest emissions level. The specified level for each nation would be determined internationally, taking into account their existing emissions reduction activities. Reductions in emissions would be reported and independently verified to generate credits, which could then be traded on an international carbon market.

Australia proposes two options for post-Kyoto treaty

The Rudd Government has proposed two options for a post-2012 international treaty in one of several submissions to recent UN climate talks.

Australia's post-2012 treaty submission outlines two possible legal structures:

- **a single, new protocol** that unifies action under the (UN Framework) Convention and builds on the Kyoto Protocol; or
- **two protocols** in the form of an amended Kyoto Protocol and a new protocol under the Convention for economies that are not Kyoto signatories.

The Government submission suggests that in terms of legal certainty, operational efficiency and simplicity, the most effective legal structure for a post-2012 outcome would be a single new protocol.

However, a two-protocol approach could have the benefit of preserving the structure and content of the existing Kyoto Protocol, providing countries "with a greater level of comfort given their familiarity with current commitments and obligations". The submission argued that it could also make it easier to

conclude talks on post-2012 arrangements, given the UN climate body's existing two-track negotiating framework.

Update on draft legislation for cap and trade system

On 10 March 2009, the Commonwealth Government released for public consultation draft legislation for the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS).

The legislation to establish the CPRS gives effect to Australia's obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, to support a global response to climate change, and to meet national emissions reduction targets.

The package reflects the policy positions in the Commonwealth's CPRS White Paper, including:

- an emissions reduction target of 5-15% below 2000 level emissions by 2020 and 60% by 2050;
- broad sectoral coverage, including: stationary energy; transport; open cut coal mining; industrial processes; waste; and forestry (on a voluntary basis), with agriculture excluded until at least 2015;
- a combination of auctioning and free allocation of permits valued at \$11.5 billion in 2010-11 and \$12 billion in 2011-12, to be redistributed to households and businesses through targeted assistance measures.

The exposure draft Bills contained in the package include:

- the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Bill 2009, the main bill of the package that sets out the administrative detail of the scheme;
- the Australian Climate Change Regulatory Authority Bill 2009 to establish an independent Australian Climate Change Regulatory Authority (ACCRA), which will be responsible for administering the CPRS, the Renewable Energy Target and the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System;
- the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2009 to make necessary changes to related legislation; and
- three technical bills relating to taxation charges for Australian emissions units.

Draft regulations that will sit under the CPRS legislation are due for public release in June 2009. These regulations will further define key features of the scheme, including:

- scheme caps for each financial year to 2015 and the scheme gateway;
- the emissions-intensive trade-exposed industries (EITE) assistance program, including defining EITE activities, assessing their eligibility for free permits, and assessing rates of assistance; and
- eligibility criteria for reforestation activities.

The Queensland Government is broadly supportive of the CPRS and outlined its position in a submission to the Commonwealth on the CPRS Green Paper in September 2008.

Submissions to the Commonwealth Government on the exposure draft legislation closed on 14 April 2009. It is expected that the Bills will be introduced into Parliament in May 2009, with the aim of achieving passage of the Bills in June 2009. The Commonwealth hopes to have the Acts in force and the scheme's regulator established by the end of 2009.

Energy efficiency for homes package

In addition to the existing Queensland Government initiatives on creating energy efficient households, the Commonwealth Government announced an Energy Efficient Homes Package as part of its \$42 billion Nation Building and Jobs Plan in February 2009.

The Energy Efficient Homes Package will invest \$3.9 billion to improve the energy rating of Australian homes by cutting their energy waste, making them more comfortable and helping households save up to 40 per cent on electricity bills.

Under this program, eligible Queensland owner-occupied households can receive Commonwealth assistance towards insulation and solar hot water, with additional measures announced for rented properties.

- **Insulation**

Eligible owner-occupiers who organise installation between 3 February and 30 June 2009 can seek reimbursements for their costs up to a maximum amount of \$1,600.

Additionally, the package includes a Low Emissions Assistance Plan for Renters which enables landlords and tenants (with landlord permission) to claim a rebate of up to \$1,000 to install insulation in their rental properties.

- **Solar Hot Water**

A rebate of \$1,600 will be available to help eligible home-owners, landlords or tenants replace their electric hot water systems with solar or heat pump hot water systems.

As announced during the Queensland State Election in March 2009, the Bligh Government is currently developing further measures to reduce the cost of installing solar hot water systems for Queensland households.

For further information please call the Energy Efficient Homes Package Hotline on 1800 808 571 or visit the website at www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency/index.html.

To find out how the Queensland Government can work with you to make your home more energy efficient visit <http://www.climatesmart.qld.gov.au/>

Communications update

One million women / one million tonnes of carbon campaign

Women make approximately 70 per cent of consumer decisions that affect the household carbon footprint. It makes sense then, to call on the strength of the position of women in community to lead a campaign to tackle climate change. That is exactly why Natalie Isaacs established the not for profit organisation, Climate Coolers, and invited the Queensland Premier to be one of the first early ambassadors to champion the campaign for early on climate change.

The Queensland Government is a proud supporter of this national climate change campaign and is working with Climate Coolers to encourage women to cut their greenhouse gas emissions at work or at home. The campaign is an initiative lead by a dedicated team of ambassadors called Climate Coolers and the first goal is to engage 1 million mothers, sisters, daughters, grandmothers, girls and colleagues in reducing their carbon footprints.

Briefing sessions for ambassadors have been held around the nation ahead of a series of national launch dates designed to inspire women from all corners of the country to join up and cut one million tonnes of carbon – one tonne for every women who answers the call. Through the Climate Coolers website women will be able to access a choice of activities to cut carbon in their daily lives. If you would like to get involved today email natalie.isaacs@climatecoolers.com. The Premier is expected to launch the Queensland leg of the campaign at a date to be confirmed for late May/June.

New Solar Hot Water Program – enquiries hotline

Department of Environment and Resource Management has established a phone line to manage incoming calls for the government's proposed Solar Hot Water Program. The number for people to call to register interest in the program is 1800 243 585.

Please direct all queries to this number where registration details will be collected.

OCC website is changing soon

- *The Office of Climate Change is making some improvements to its main website towards a more user-friendly format. The new site is due to go-live in late April 2009.*
- *This OCC Weather bulletin is also available online:
<http://www.climatechange.qld.gov.au/downloads/index.html>*

Healthy Cities Alliance - Conference

The Office of Climate Change (OCC) was pleased to participate in the Healthy Cities Conference on the Gold Coast from 25 – 27 March 2009. The conference focused on health, sustainability, natural resource management, climate change and the implications for public policy. Key note speakers such as Professor Ian Lowe and Dr Peter Davey prompted keen questions from the floor. OCC staff hosted a trade booth and took the opportunity to interact with other government and industry sector professionals.

Mr John Ridgway from OCC participated in a panel discussion on Making Cities liveable - a session that highlighted the commitment of delegates to tackling climate change impacts and living more sustainably. For details of conference proceedings and presentations delivered visit the event website www.healthycities.com.au.

Australia and New Zealand Climate Forum (ANZCF) 2009

The ANZCF will be holding its next forum in Newcastle from 16-18 November 2009. This year's theme will be Climate Change in Australia and New Zealand: From Science to Adaptation.

Topic areas for the forum will include:

- *Climate Change Science: measurement, modelling and regional variability.*
- *Climate Change Impacts: coasts, severe storms, hydrology, drought and health.*
- *Climate Change Adaptation: climate indicators, atmospheric circulation, storm surges, societal vulnerability and forecasting.*

Keynote speakers will include Professor Andy Pitman, Director, Climate Change Research Centre, University of NSW and Professor Martin Manning, Director, Climate Change Research Institute, Victoria University of Wellington. More will be announced closer to the date.

For further information on the ANZCF 2009 see www.bom.gov.au/events/anzcf2009/index.html.