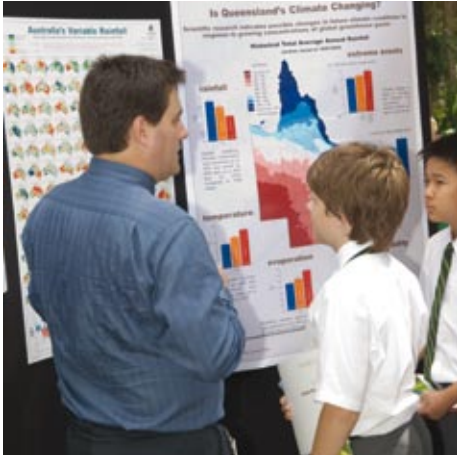


Office of Climate Change



The Office of Climate Change was created in October 2007 within the Queensland Government portfolio of Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation. The creation of the office was a historic step towards integrating and strengthening Queensland's ability to lead an effective climate change response.

The Office of Climate Change leads the development of climate change policy and programs that are based on the best available science and information. These programs will ensure that Queensland is well positioned to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are driving climate change as well as preparing our communities to adapt to climate change impacts.

The Office of Climate Change includes a specialist scientific unit of the Queensland Climate Change Centre of Excellence (QCCCE). The Centre provides government, industry and the community with information and scientific data on climate change and its impact on the community, the economy and the environment.

The combination of policy functions and the scientific expertise of QCCCE enables the Office of Climate Change to utilise the latest scientific information to provide a rigorous evidence base for new policy initiatives.

Office of Climate Change priorities

ClimateSmart 2050 – Queensland's strategy for helping to reduce national greenhouse gas emissions to 60 per cent of their 2000 level by 2050. The strategy





is a \$544 million investment to deliver the next steps in Queensland's climate change response.

The strategy consists of 24 initiatives across all government sectors with an aim of reducing Queensland's greenhouse gas emissions and preparing the state for the impacts of climate change.

This strategy is currently under review to take into account of the latest scientific assessments and policy developments in consultation with all government agencies and external stakeholders. Policy recommendations will be developed for achieving further cuts to Queensland's emissions profile.

A revised Climate Change Strategy will be produced in early 2009.

Queensland Climate Change Fund – based on annual interest derived from the sale of energy assets in late 2007 (\$430 million), the fund will provide approximately \$30 million every year to support new initiatives required to address climate change.

This fund positions Queensland to respond quickly to emerging priorities, and complements other investments in renewable energy, industry energy efficiency and carbon capture and storage technologies.

ClimateSmart Adaptation 2007–12 – coordinating the implementation of an action plan and its 62 actions, for preparing Queensland communities and industries for the impacts of climate change.

Premier's Council on Climate Change – an advisory council established to provide the Queensland Government with high-level, strategic advice on climate change issues and actions. The Council is chaired by Premier of Queensland, Ms Anna Bligh MP, with the Deputy Chair of Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation, Mr Andrew McNamara MP. The Office of Climate Change is secretariat.

Cloud seeding – managing the research project to determine scientifically

whether cloud seeding is able to increase rainfall in south-east Queensland and its potential to increase water storage in Wivenhoe and Somerset dams.

Queensland China Climate Change Fellowship Program – establishing the fellowship program, which will enable Queensland and Chinese researchers, as well as other professionals, to participate in short-term reciprocal exchange programs.

Contributing to federal initiatives

Council of Australian Government (COAG) Working Group on Climate Change and Water – established in December 2007, the role of the working group is to ensure an effective response to climate change and the sustainable water use across Australia. The Office of Climate Change is represented on the working group and the four sub groups that have been established to progress climate change initiatives.

Garnaut Climate Change Review – providing Queensland's input and support for the Review commissioned by the Australian Government and State and Territory Governments.

More information

Climate change in Queensland

www.climatechange.qld.gov.au

