

Premier's Council on Climate Change

Climate change is a global problem, affecting every Queensland community, region and business. The Queensland Government has been proactive in addressing climate change, and has taken steps to ensure that our continued response is informed by the best available advice.

The Premier's Council on Climate Change is 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 the Premier of Queensland, Anna Bligh MP, with the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Kate Jones MP, as Deputy Chair. The Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Minister for Trade, Stephen Robertson MP, is also a member of the council.

The Council provides advice to the Queensland Government about:

- priorities for action to reduce Queensland's greenhouse gas emissions, including sectoral responses such as sustainable energy options, transport strategies and built environment energy efficiency
- adaptation measures relevant to Queensland, that assist communities and industries address the inevitable results of climate change
- priority areas for investment from the \$30 million per annum Queensland Climate Change Fund
- opportunities for innovation arising from climate change for communities and the private sector.

Following the success of the first term, the Premier appointed a second term of the Premier's Council on Climate Change in January 2010.



Council members

The Council members are eminent individuals from across Queensland and Australia, appointed on the basis of their knowledge and expertise.

In addition to the Chair and Deputy Chair, Council members are:

- Professor Chris Cocklin – Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Science and Innovation, James Cook University and a Lead Author, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report
- Mr Peter Cosier – Member, Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists and Governor, WWF (Australia)
- Mr Peter Kenny – Former General President AgForce and Board Member National Farmers Federation
- Mr Grant King – Managing Director, Origin Energy and Councillor, Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association Limited (APPEA)
- Professor Ian Lowe – Emeritus Professor, Science, Technology and Society, Griffith University and President, Australian Conservation Foundation
- Mr Jim McKnulty – Chairman, Conics Limited and Recipient, Queensland Premier's Award for Leadership in Business Sustainability, 2007
- Mr Chris O'Connell – General Manager, Network 10 Television, Brisbane and coordinator of the national network's response to climate change



- Ms Molly Harriss Olson – Convenor, National Business Leaders' Forum on Sustainable Development, Director, Eco Futures Pty Ltd and cofounder, Earthmark
- Ms Fiona Wain – Chief Executive Officer, Environment Business Australia and former Director, Environmental Management Industry Association of Australia
- Mr Ross Willims – Vice President, External Affairs, BHP Billiton Metallurgical Coal and Chairman, Queensland Resources Council Infrastructure Committee
- Professor Jean Palutikof – Director of the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility and managed the preparation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Forth Assessment Report
- Professor Paul Meredith – Professor of Physics at the University of Queensland (UQ), Smart State Senior Fellow and Co-director of the Centre for Organic Photonics and Electronics, UQ.



Council recommendations on support for Queensland households have informed a range of new Queensland Government initiatives including the new \$60 million ClimateSmart Home Service and the \$3 million ClimateSmart Communities campaign.

In October 2008 the council delivered its second working paper – Building ClimateSmart in Queensland: Building and regulatory reform. This paper informed government policy on sustainable building and guided the 2009 election commitment, Cleaner Greener Buildings. This initiative will invest \$450,000 to lift environmental standards for all new homes, offices and government buildings and remove existing barriers to ClimateSmart development.

In June 2009, the Council presented its third working paper – ClimateSmart innovation in urban development. This paper assisted the Government to identify opportunities to support cost effective greenhouse gas reductions while adapting Queensland's build environment to projected climate change impacts.

In October 2009 the Council delivered its fourth working paper – Capturing carbon in the rural landscape: Opportunities for Queensland. This paper identifies research and policy development priorities to optimise environmental and economic benefits for Queensland rural land use from carbon markets.

The Council will continue to investigate and produce working papers on a range of climate change issues. A number of priority areas have been identified for the next 12 months including in the transport sector and household behaviour change.

Each of the Council's working papers can be viewed online along with the Queensland Government response at <www.climatechange.qld.gov.au>

Council achievements

During the first term, the Premier's Council on Climate Change met quarterly and provided advice to the Queensland Government on a range of climate change issues.

The Council delivered its first working paper - Achieving early and affordable greenhouse gas reductions in Queensland: strategies for voluntary household and lifestyle changes in June 2008. The paper examined how the Queensland Government can best encourage householders to take up opportunities to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

