



MEDIA RELEASE

Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Minister for Climate Change and Water

PW 61/08

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\$3.45 MILLION TO BOOST LOCAL CAPACITY TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, today announced \$3.45 million to help local government and professionals such as engineers and architects better manage the effects of climate change.

Senator Wong made the announcement during a speech to the Queensland Media Club.

“As well as reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that are causing climate change, the Rudd Government recognises the need for us to adapt to the climate change we can’t avoid,” Senator Wong said.

“The Government is providing \$1.55 million to assist councils to learn more about the local impact of climate and plan ahead.

“Another \$1.9 million has gone to tertiary institutions and professional associations to integrate climate change into their education and training courses through the Climate Change Adaptation Skills for Professionals small grants program.”

Senator Wong said infrastructure including roads, bridges and buildings were highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change including increased frequency and intensity of storms and drought.

“This funding will help fill gaps in current education and training programs in fields including engineering, architecture, urban planning, and water resource management.”

Fourteen organisations received grants of up to \$150,000 under the program.

Senator Wong said the \$1.55 million provided in grants to local government organisations would help them assess risks and develop action plans to deal with the effects of climate change.

“Local governments play a major role in planning and development, natural resources management, infrastructure, and health and recreational facilities – and so are crucial to managing the effects of climate change on their communities,” Senator Wong said.

A full list of recipients under both grants programs is available at <http://www.climatechange.gov.au/impacts/index.html>