



MEDIA RELEASE

Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Minister for Climate Change and Water

PW 62/08

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\$1.8 MILLION TO HELP PREPARE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, today announced \$1.2 million funding to investigate the effects of climate change on key coastal areas, including the Central and Hunter Coasts region of New South Wales.

Senator Wong made the announcement in Newcastle, at the CSIRO's Energy Centre, where she saw first-hand the practical work of Australian scientists developing clean energy technologies. Senator Wong will also visit a solar farm and a clean coal facility in the region today.

"Newcastle is at the cutting edge of new energy technologies, which are crucial in our efforts to tackle climate change by reducing greenhouse gases," Senator Wong said.

"As well as working to reduce 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.

"The Government is providing \$1.2 million for six case studies on coastal sites across Australia.

"This research will examine how these coastal areas are affected by climate change, and will provide valuable knowledge to help us plan for the future."

The studies will look at issues including the impact of climate change on the coast, on commercial fisheries, and on infrastructure in remote oil and gas communities.

One case study is based in the Central and Hunter Coasts region of NSW, modelling the impact of climate change on estuaries and nearby infrastructure.

It will assess the vulnerability of existing and future residential, industrial and commercial infrastructure to sea level rise, storm surge and intense rainfall.

"This case study will identify critical planning and development challenges facing the Central and Hunter Coasts region due to climate change," Senator Wong said.

"It will give local governments, businesses and community groups the information they need to help plan for a growing population and future development."

Senator Wong also today announced funding of \$600,000 to examine the impact of climate change on Australia's infrastructure.

"Research funded through this project will help the Australian Government to develop and deliver the appropriate policy responses to effectively manage climate change risks to Australia's infrastructure, particularly the effect on the Australian economy," Senator Wong said.

For more information about the coastal case studies go to <https://www.tenders.gov.au> (DCC15/08). For more information on the infrastructure risk assessment, email adaptation@climatechange.gov.au.