Local Government Association of Tasmania
Climate Change Update  October 2008

October 2008

Prepared by: Christine Materia, Climate Change Policy Officer
**Regional Climate Change Forums**

Regional climate change forums are being held as follows:

**Southern** - Wednesday 15th October 2008, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, Oatlands

**Cradle Coast** - Wednesday 22nd October, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Burnie

**Northern** - Thursday 23rd October 2008 10:30 am – 3:00 pm, Launceston

The aim of the forums is to:

- provide an update on LGAT’s climate change program including progress against the approved work plan, development of the Statewide Partnership Agreement on Climate Change and proposed communication and consultation processes;
- provide and update on individual council activity around climate change;
- workshop the *Draft Tasmanian Local Government Climate Change Strategy*; and
- workshop the content of the *Tasmanian Local Government Action Pack*

The forum will be facilitated by Phil Harrington. Phil has considerable knowledge and experience in climate change strategy, policy development and program administration both nationally and internationally.

For further details or to RSVP please contact Christine Materia at [Christine.materia@lgat.tas.gov.au](mailto:Christine.materia@lgat.tas.gov.au)

**Representation on Statewide Projects**

LGAT continues to represent councils on the following Committees:

- Integrated Assessment & Response to Climate Change Impacts on Clarence Foreshore Project (Clarence Council)
- Climate Change, Coastal Risk Assessment & management Project (DPIW)
- Managing Natural Hazards through Land Use Planning Project

**Submissions**

Local Government Climate Change initiatives Survey

Local Government Climate Change initiatives Survey was undertaken in September and the Survey report completed in October. The survey provides a summary of current climate change projects, programs and initiatives across councils (including contact information). There are currently seven councils with dedicated climate change officers and over 45 projects across Tasmania. The survey is available on request from Christine.materia@lgat.tas.gov.au.

Finalisation of Reports

The following reports have been finalised and are now available on request from Christine.materia@lgat.tas.gov.au.

- Local Government Climate Change Forum May 2008 Summary Paper
- Local Government Association of Tasmania Climate Change Work Plan

In the News:

Australians 'bored' with climate change

Australians are getting bored with climate change, and many still doubt whether it is actually happening, a new survey has revealed.

Only 46 per cent of Australians said they would take action on climate change if they were in charge of making decisions for Australia, a dip from 55 per cent last year, according to the Ipsos-Eureka Social Research Institute’s third annual climate change survey.

And almost one in 10 Australians (nine per cent) strongly agreed with the statement "I have serious doubts about whether climate change is occurring". A further 23 per cent agreed to some extent.

Ipsos-Eureka director of Sustainable Communities and Environment Unit Jasmine Hoye believes Australians are becoming more concerned with other environmental issues that they can have more direct control over.

"We believe the public is currently overwhelmed by other, more pressing environmental issues - namely water and river health - and sees climate change as something that is largely out of their control," she said.

"However, there is a desire among many Australians to know how they can personally make a difference regarding climate change."

Aside from river and water health, other environmental issues of most concern to Australians included illegal waste dumping, renewable energy, litter, smoky vehicles and packaging.

"What really strikes me is that we still have so few Australians taking specific actions like substantially reducing their household energy use, driving and flying less, switching to green power, or even buying carbon offsets, especially given all of the media coverage on this critical issue," she said. (Source ALGA News October 10, 2008)
Flooding looms for 18,000 properties

A new study has found more than 18-thousand Victorian properties around Melbourne's south-east face being flooded in the face of climate change.

The Federal Government-funded study has found two billion dollars' worth of properties in five council areas from the Western Port region are vulnerable to flood events.

As both the population and temperature rises, the areas will be exposed to other extremes and hazards related to climate change leading up to the year 2070.

This includes storm surges and coastal inundation, bushfires and extreme temperatures.

Western Port includes the local government areas of Bass Coast, Cardinia, Casey, Frankston and Mornington Peninsula Shire. (Source ALGA News October 10, 2008)

Climate change modelling

Treasury has released its climate change mitigation policy modelling assumptions book as part of the Federal Government’s commitment to developing a Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS).

Stakeholder consultation workshops will be conducted from 7 October 2008 using these assumptions. Key assumptions outlined include global population, productivity, gross domestic product (GDP), Australia's terms of trade and technology assumptions. The Treasury has undertaken extensive research and consulted with a wide range of domestic and international experts in developing these assumptions, particularly in relation to historical trends and possible future economic, social and technological developments.

The Government intends to release a report examining the implications of alternative targets and trajectories, containing comprehensive documentation of assumptions and results, by the end of October.

There will be an opportunity for public scrutiny and comment on the detailed Treasury modelling before the Government makes its decision in December on the medium term target range and the indicative national emissions trajectory to 2012-13. More details of the modelling here. (Source ALGA News October 10, 2008)

CLIMATE: Urban Case Studies, Garnaut Climate Change Review

Case studies prepared by various state and territory government bodies have been contributed to the Garnaut Review online resource library. These contributions serve to highlight successful local practices and ways in which Australian communities are already positively addressing the impacts of climate change. For the full listing of Garnaut Review reports and resources, click here. The case studies relevant in the urban context include:

- Lochiel Park: Case Study of a Green Village – South Australia
- TravelSmart and LivingSmart Case Study – Western Australia
- Maine's Power Project – Mt Alexander Shire, Castlemaine – Victoria
- Far North Queensland 2025 Climate Change Project - Queensland
- High resolution terrain mapping of the NSW Central and Hunter coasts to help prepare for climate change – New South Wales
Implications of Climate Change for Australian Fisheries

- Implications of Climate Change for Australian Fisheries and Aquaculture - A Preliminary Assessment
- Climate change threat to Australian fisheries - Media release, 6 October 2008

Draft National Adaptation Research Plan on Human Health

The Australian Government Department of Climate Change and the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility invite you to comment on the Draft National Adaptation Research Plan on Human Health. Find out more

Variability and trends in the Australian wave climate and consequent coastal vulnerability

Harnessing the power of waves to generate electricity is an important area of work as Australia moves to a low carbon economy. However, large waves can also be extremely destructive, inundating coastal areas, causing erosion and disturbing important marine habitats.

New preliminary research from the CSIRO will improve our understanding of wave behaviour in a changing climate to help us manage both the opportunities and the risks.

- Variability and trends in the Australian wave climate and consequent coastal vulnerability
- New research into climate change and waves released - Media release, 10 September 2008