

Department of Climate Change Call for the nomination of Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Review Editors for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5)

Background

The IPCC has started work on the preparation of the AR5, due in 2013/14, which will detail the state of climate change knowledge. The IPCC is seeking nominations for experts to act as Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Review Editors for the contributions of the three Working Groups to the AR5.

Additional information, including the approved outline of the AR5 and information on IPCC processes, is available at <http://www.ipcc.ch/activities/activities.htm#1>

Department of Climate Change Nomination of Experts

The Department of Climate Change (DCC) operates as the national Focal Point for IPCC activities and is inviting experts to nominate for the Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Review Editors roles.

This approach is being made to relevant research organisations, universities and professional associations. Information about this call will also be placed on the Department of Climate Change website.

Interested parties are requested to complete a short nomination form (attached), detailing qualifications, areas of expertise, recent publications and contact details. These nominations and any requests for further information should be emailed to climatescience@climatechange.gov.au by 19 February 2010.

The DCC will review the nominations and assess them against the below criteria. Those nominees who meet the criteria will be supplied with a username and password with which to complete the online IPCC nomination form. IPCC nominations are due by 12 March 2010.

Criteria for nomination

Nominees for the AR5 should have the following skill set:

- Specialised technical knowledge in one or more of the Work Groups:
 - I. Working Group I: assesses the scientific aspects of the climate system and climate change.
 - II. Working Group II: assesses the scientific, technical, environmental, economic and social aspects of vulnerability (sensitivity and adaptability) to climate change. This WG also considers the negative and positive consequences (impacts) for ecological systems, socio-economic sectors and human health, with an emphasis on regional sectoral and cross-sectoral issues; consistent with recent considerations it will also focus on the adaptation needs, options, opportunities, and constraints to reduce current and future risks.
 - III. Working Group III: assesses the scientific, technical, environmental, economic and social aspects of the mitigation of climate change.

- A proven ability to develop text that is scientifically, technically and socioeconomically sound. You will be asked to submit the names of relevant scientific publications you have produced.
- The ability to faithfully represent contributions from a wide variety of experts and the ability to accurately record views that cannot be reconciled with a consensus view but are nonetheless scientifically or technically valid.
- Previous involvement in preparing an IPCC report or similar and an understanding of the processes involved would be beneficial but is not essential.
- The Assessment Report will be developed from 2010 to 2014. You will need to have the available time to attend a likely 5 international author meetings and prepare your designated section of work. The ability to work to a deadline is a practical requirement.

Role of Coordinating Lead Authors, Lead Authors and Review Editors

Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs): Take overall responsibility for coordinating major sections of the AR5. CLAs will also have the role of a LA with the added responsibility of ensuring major sections of the AR5 are completed to a high standard, are collated and delivered to the Working Group Co-Chairs in a timely manner and conform to overall standards of style. They are also responsible for ensuring any cross-cutting scientific or technical issues are addressed in a complete and coherent manner. CLAs require the skills and resources of LAs with the additional coordination skills. CLAs will be required to attend five+ international meetings.

Lead Authors (LAs): Are responsible for the production of designated sections addressing items of the work program on the basis of the best scientific, technical and socio-economic information available. LA's must ensure the components of their sections are brought together on time, are of uniformly high quality and conform to any overall standards of style. The role of a LA is particularly demanding during the final stages of the Report preparation. It is expected that LA's will participate in five+ international meetings.

Review Editors (REs): Assist the Working Group Bureaux in identifying reviewers for the expert review process, ensure that all substantive expert and government review comments are afforded appropriate consideration, advise LAs on how to handle controversial issues and ensure genuine controversies are reflected adequately in the text. REs require a broad understanding of the wider scientific and technical issues being addressed. It is anticipated that REs will participate in 2+ international meetings.

Government support

Subject to ministerial approval, successful nominees will be provided with grants to support travel and living expenses when attending IPCC meetings. Funding will not cover costs associated with their regular professional engagements such as salaries. Grants recognise the potential for experts to obtain synergies between their work for the IPCC and other professional activities and provide flexibility in the way funds are spent.

While Australian experts contribute to the IPCC AR5 in an individual and independent capacity, it is valuable for the Department to be kept informed on how the work is proceeding. Each author must provide the Department with a report on each meeting he or she attends as part of the AR5 process.