



**THE HON GREG COMBET AM MP**  
**Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

GC 04/09

18 May 2009

### **HELPING QUEENSLAND COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE**

Greg Combet, Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change, is visiting Central Queensland to hold discussions with local communities and businesses about the Government's climate change agenda.

"Queensland, the home of the Great Barrier Reef, is particularly vulnerable to climate change because it has a growing coastal population and significant agricultural and tourism industries," said Mr Combet.

"Climate change is likely to increase the risks of flooding and more intense and destructive storms in Queensland - threatening approximately 250,000 coastal buildings in the State."

"To help combat the effects of climate change the Rudd Government is taking a range of actions to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions."

Central to this is the Government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS).

"Recently announced changes to the CPRS will support local jobs and assist industries make the transition through to a low carbon economy, which is vital for the Central Queensland region," said Mr Combet.

The new measures include:

- Delaying the start of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme by one year to help Australian companies manage the impacts of the global recession;
- Supporting those businesses and industries that produce internationally traded goods through a Global Recession Buffer for Emissions Intensive Trade Exposed Industries as they face the most significant exposure to the carbon price;
- A one year fixed price phase will apply between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012. During the fixed price phase, each carbon pollution permit will cost \$10. From 1 July 2012, businesses covered by the scheme will need to purchase permits at the prevailing market price;
- Exempting legacy emissions created by Landfill Waste from the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme to alleviate the burden on local councils and save ratepayers; and
- \$200 million for eligible businesses to undertake energy efficiency measures in 2009-10 as part of the Climate Change Action Fund.

“The Government has also committed to ensuring that 20% of Australia’s electricity will come from renewable energy by 2020 – that’s four times the current levels.”

During the visit Mr Combet will also meet with community and local government representatives to discuss the challenges they face in adapting to the unavoidable effects of climate change.

“The Australian Government understands the need to invest in the research and tools to help prepare Queensland communities for climate change impacts that are already „locked in“ due to the greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere.”

“As part of the National Coastal Vulnerability Assessment, the Government is commissioning a case study to understand the impact of sea level rise on the Pimpama river system in the Gold Coast region.”

“The Government’s Local Adaptation Pathways Program, has also supported the Gold Coast City Council to understand its climate change risks and contributed significantly to the development of its Climate Change Strategy for the South East-Queensland region.”

Mr Combet will be visiting Mackay, Rockhampton and Gladstone.

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For more information on the Government’s Climate Change Agenda please visit [www.climatechange.gov.au](http://www.climatechange.gov.au)