



Ms Janet Cavanaugh
Secretary, Clarence Branch
Climate Change Australia
clarenceclimate@yahoo.com.au

Dear Ms Cavanaugh

I refer to your email of 13 April 2011 to the Premier, the Hon Barry O'Farrell MP, regarding climate change and recent changes to the NSW public sector. The Premier referred your email to the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Robyn Parker MP, and I am responding on her behalf.

I acknowledge Climate Change Australia Clarence Branch's concerns and appreciate the time taken to write to the Premier about this matter.

Recent changes to the NSW public sector are part of a consolidation of the current structures across the broader NSW public sector aimed at enabling better service delivery. The establishment of the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) within the Department of Premier and Cabinet shifts the responsibility for the environment closer to the centre of government. The Premier has made the environment one of his own priorities and the change in structure reflects the importance of the portfolio.

The NSW Government is committed to becoming the leading state on environmental outcomes. The Government has stated publicly that it does not support a carbon tax. There is a wide range of alternative measures that reduce emissions while avoiding the serious negative impacts of a large new tax. In particular, the Government is prioritising energy efficiency programs because they help families and businesses save money on power bills and cut emissions in a very cost effective manner.

The Government also recognises the integral role that renewable energy will play in the State's future. Renewable energy resources such as wind, solar, biomass, geothermal and hydro are plentiful throughout NSW and their potential will continue to be explored.

Our climate is changing and this in turn will have significant impacts across the State. The NSW Government is therefore supporting local and regional communities to deal with the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events, particularly on critical infrastructure and along the coast.


Further information on policies and programs that address climate change, conserve biodiversity and encourage environmental sustainability can be found on OEH's website at www.environment.nsw.gov.au.

Please be assured that the NSW Government and OEH are focussed on developing practical, cost effective solutions that support families, businesses and communities reduce emissions and get ready for future changes in our climate.

Thank you for raising Climate Change Australia Clarence Branch's concerns with the Premier.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



27/6/11.

ZOE DE SARAM
Acting Director
Climate Change, Air and Noise