



Minister for Climate Change and Water

Mr Geoff Lake
President
Australian Local Government Association
8 Geils Court
DEAKIN ACT 2600

08 DEC 2009

Dear Mr Lake

Thank you for your letter of 18 September 2009 concerning climate change related resolutions from the 2009 National General Assembly of Local Government. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

With the impacts of climate change already being experienced in different parts of Australia, local governments have a key role in helping communities plan and adapt for possible future impacts. I welcome the focus that the Australian Local Government Association placed on climate change at its 15th National General Assembly in June 2009, and, more broadly, its constructive engagement in supporting the development of national responses to climate change, including the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework.

In your letter you sought comments in relation to two specific General Assembly resolutions: resolution one, which seeks close cooperation between the Australian Government and other levels of government in managing the impacts of climate change; and resolution four, which seeks further funding for the Local Adaptation Pathways Program.

With climate change one of its top priorities, the Australian Government has worked closely with the states and territories and local government in developing and implementing a comprehensive national response to climate change focussing on mitigation, adaptation and supporting an international response. These actions will safeguard our environment and support our economy for the future.

The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) will be the most efficient and cost-effective way to reduce the carbon pollution that is causing climate change and will be Australia's main vehicle for reducing carbon pollution. The Government has also committed to a range of other measures, which complement the CPRS, to encourage research and development and increase use of low emissions technologies and energy efficiency.

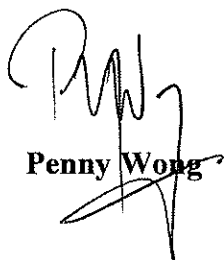
The Australian Government will continue to work with state, territory and local governments, principally through COAG, to identify information gaps, quantify risks of climate change impacts and to build capacity to minimise costs and to take advantage of any benefits.

The Government's climate change policies are backed by a major funding commitment, to support action by households, communities and businesses to address climate change, such as the \$2.75 billion Climate Change Action Fund. In addition, I note that during the Assembly, a second round of funding for the Local Adaptation Pathways Program was announced by the Hon Greg Combet AM MP. Through this round of the Program, 40 local government projects involving over 90 councils are being funded to develop climate change risk assessments and adaptation plans, and the Government has also funded a number of other more comprehensive regional risk assessments to help local governments to identify climate change challenges and develop responses.

The Australian Government is also supporting local government to respond to climate change challenges by funding the development of tools and resources, including the updated *Climate Change Adaptation Actions for Local Government (2009)*, *Climate Change Impacts & Risk Management – A Guide for Business and Government*, and the *Local Government Climate Change Adaptation Toolkit*.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Australian Local Government Association to develop practical solutions to address climate change. Thank you for bringing the resolutions of the 2009 National General Assembly of Local Government to my attention.

Yours sincerely



Penny Wong

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