

Queensland To Update Climatesmart 2050

Queensland's ClimateSmart 2050 strategy will be updated to ensure it fully addresses the potential impacts of climate change. According to Climate Change Minister Andrew McNamara, the strategy will be updated to take account of significant new scientific evidence and policy advancements. Developments include the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the ratification by Australia of the Kyoto Protocol, the announcement of a range of climate change election commitments by the new Federal Government, and the work being done by Professor Ross Garnaut. McNamara says the combined effect of these developments is that all governments need to reassess their response to climate change. "In particular, the science is now telling us that climate change is happening faster and with greater impact than previously estimated," McNamara says. "ClimateSmart 2050 was an important first step in Queensland's response to climate change," he says. The strategy was the first comprehensive set of measures designed to reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions and prepare its communities and businesses for the impacts of climate change, according to the government. "A major achievement was the establishment of the Queensland Climate Change Fund, with an initial investment of \$430 million from the sale of energy assets to provide an ongoing amount of about \$30 million per year for new climate change initiatives," says McNamara. "However, the world has moved on since ClimateSmart 2050 was released, and is in need of an update to take account of the kind of pressures and responses outlined in Professor Garnaut's interim report," he adds. "The review of ClimateSmart 2050 will examine further ways to reduce Queensland's greenhouse gas emissions and prepare Queensland for the physical impacts of climate change," says McNamara. He adds the review will commence within weeks, and be completed in the second half of the year, to align with Professor Garnaut's report and national policy development.

[Source essa news]