

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2009
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Topic: Election Commitments

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Question: (Senator Birmingham)

What action has been taken in regard to the following 2007 Labor election commitments:

b) Develop a Pacific Climate Change Strategy.

Answer:

The Pacific climate change policy document, 'Engaging our Pacific Island Neighbours on Climate Change: Australia's approach', was launched by the Prime Minister, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, at the Pacific Islands Forum, Cairns, August 2009. The release of this document fulfils an election commitment to develop a 'Pacific Climate Change Strategy'. The document is the first comprehensive statement of the Australian Government's commitment to assist Pacific island countries to respond to climate change.

The document defines the challenges of climate change in the Pacific and provides clear guidance on future support by articulating Australia's commitment to:

- ensuring that Pacific views are represented in international forums;
- providing support for practical adaptation activities to increase resilience and reduce vulnerability in support of sustainable development;
- assisting Pacific island governments to build their institutional arrangements and skills to respond to and integrate climate change into development policy and planning;
- improving the quality of and access to accurate, localised and relevant data necessary for effective decision making; and
- contributing to better development coordination.