

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 FEBRUARY 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(17) Output 1.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Entry and Stay

Senator Ellison (L&CA 59) asked:

In a speech in the debate on the Migration (Climate Refugees) Amendment Bill 2007 in the Senate on 9 August last year, Senator McLucas stated:

Labor will establish an international coalition to resettle people displaced by the effects of climate change when a country becomes uninhabitable because of rising sea levels, damage to coastal infrastructure or reduced food security and water supplies as part of our Pacific climate change strategy.

Minister, has any work being done in relation to that coalition?

Answer:

The Government is developing a *Pacific Climate Change Strategy* in partnership with regional countries to assist vulnerable communities to adapt to the effects of climate change. International resettlement when a country becomes uninhabitable is one of several elements on which the Department of Climate Change is consulting with relevant agencies, including DIAC. The best response where feasible is adaptation and well-supported internal relocation rather than resettlement.