



MEDIA RELEASES

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The North West committed to tackling Climate Change in their region

Southern Gulf Catchments (SGC) with the support of local community, government and businesses held their inaugural North West Climate Change Forum yesterday as a scoping exercise to the development of a Climate Change Alliance. Attending the function were the Burke Shire Mayor Annie Clarke, Mount Isa Shire Mayor John Moloney, MP State Member for Mount Isa Betty Kiernan, Xstrata General Manager Steve de Krujiff and representatives for education, community groups, AgForce and natural resource management bodies. The forum also welcomed Greg Withers, CEO for the Department of Climate Change, as its keynote speaker.

Greg Withers congratulated the Mount Isa Community for the local level of initiative held with regard to Climate Change concerns and the seriousness the community is taking these issues. "Economically we have failed to see the real cost of our actions," stated Mr Withers. He would also like to see the proposed Alliance formed "to be exemplary for the rest of the state." The Department of Climate Change CEO wants there to be real consideration for specific effects climate change will have to this region and unique projects formed to aid adaptation.

Forum objectives included developing projects to undertake the issues with recycling, cost of transportation, investigating the building of alternate energy generators (geothermal, solar, mini hydro), efficient businesses / housing, the building a Centre of Excellence for Sustainability and more eco-education geared towards the region's youth.

"We have all of these great ideas but leadership is required within the community and this is where the formation of a Climate Change Alliance will make our region as strong and adaptable as possible," explained SGC CEO Donald Coventry.

More on the Climate Change Alliance and how to become a member will be announced as the group is identified and formed.

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Media contact: Donald Coventry ceo@southerngulf.com.au or 4743 1888

Lisa Gammon lisa.gammon@southerngulf.com.au or 4743 1888

