



Speech by

Hon. Kate Jones

MEMBER FOR ASHGROVE

Hansard Wednesday, 5 August 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Low Carbon Diet Grants

Hon. KJ JONES (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability) (10.21 am): While the Opposition dithers and denies the reality of climate change, ordinary Queenslanders are getting behind the Bligh government's commitment to reduce our carbon footprint by taking a simple diet challenge. Today I am pleased to announce the latest round of grants to sporting teams, volunteer organisations and other community groups to help ordinary Queenslanders cut their carbon usage. The Bligh government has committed \$1 million over two years to the Low Carbon Diet Community Funding Program, which has the potential to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by as much as one million tonnes a year. That is because it works like any good diet.

The 18 successful groups, which are sharing in \$153,000, have all come up with their own ways to help their members cut the amount of energy they use and spread the word to the wider community. For example, the Minister for Multicultural Affairs will be pleased to know that the African Seniors Club will be getting the low carbon diet message out to the African communities in South Brisbane using techniques that suit African culture, such as word-of-mouth campaigns via elders, group leaders and heads of families. And just to show that the low carbon diet is suitable for all ages—children and their families—the member for Mermaid Beach will be pleased to know that at the Broadbeach kindergarten on the Gold Coast the children will be learning how to reduce their carbon footprint both at kindy and at home. For grants of \$2,000 to \$10,000, we expect an eventual flow-on effect to touch around 142,000 Queenslanders.

The strength of the program is that it allows all kinds of community groups and organisations to devise their own most effective methods of raising awareness in their communities. The success of the first two rounds demonstrates that Queenslanders are keen to play their part in addressing climate change and are willing to help each other at a local level to achieve results. I am pleased to inform members that the next round of low carbon diet grants is now open and will close on 24 August. I encourage more community groups to apply for funding and become involved in this state-wide challenge to minimise climate change and the impacts on our environment.