



Speech by

Vicky Darling

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Hansard Wednesday, 11 November 2009

CLIMATEQ

Ms DARLING (Sandgate—ALP) (11.39 am): On Remembrance Day 2009, I pay my respects to the men and women who have served our country.

The Bligh government is leading the way on climate change responses with a multipronged package of initiatives. ClimateQ—toward a greener Queensland—contains \$196 million worth of investments and policies to complement the many world-leading programs already operating in Queensland. Last week, I was pleased to be a part of the climate summit, organised by The Climate Group and held here at Parliament House. Leaders of Queensland industry, peak bodies, acclaimed academics, scientists, economists and politicians discussed the current and future impact of climate change. One thing was clear: climate change is real and its impacts are spreading far more rapidly than ever imagined and the more we delay the greater the cost will be.

Our ClimateSmart Home Service program is unique in Australia and has been embraced by Queenslanders, and the new ClimateSmart Business Service will be launched next year. By responding to climate change now we can build more robust and sustainable farms, businesses and industries. For example, increasing vegetation and restoring carbon to the soil can increase productivity and is a potential source of additional income once a CPRS is in place. Federal opposition leader Malcolm Turnbull is still struggling to convince his team that climate change is real, let alone the need for a major carbon emitter like Australia to be leading a world response.

I am sure that the member for Surfers Paradise understands this struggle. I was not surprised to see the member for Clayfield welcoming climate change sceptic Senator Barnaby Joyce to Sandgate recently where he tried to convince my local community that the best response to one of the biggest global issues in our lifetime is to do nothing. Nick Minchin thinks scientists and politicians are trying to scare 12-year-old girls that their planet is about the melt. I am sure any 12-year-old girl would be able to explain climate change to Senator Minchin and explain the tragic legacy of doing nothing. The Queensland government will not be burying its head in the sand on this issue.