



Tuesday 11 October 2011

### Search for local climate solutions underway

A regional project to identify the social and economic impacts of a varying climate and develop local solutions to help residents and business prepare and adjust will start on 24 October in Wodonga.

The North East Greenhouse Alliance, which is made up of regional councils and Alpine resorts, has commissioned the project in response to forecasts which show the north east could be drier and warmer with rainfall being less reliable and more extreme in years to come.

Indigo Shire Council Mayor Cr Ali Pockley said it was important that community and business people took part in the project.

“We see that when it comes to climate variation, failure to prepare is like preparing to fail. We believe people living in the North East want local government and government agencies to work together to find solutions that will minimise the financial and emotional cost for them. So, we are giving people opportunities to tell us their experience, for example of coping with last summer’s heat or unseasonal flooding, and what would have helped them,” Cr Pockley said.

The project has been set up so that people can be involved in a way which suits them.

“We have developed a discussion guide which we are encouraging people to use with friends and family, record their ideas and submit them to the project team. Alternatively people can attend one of three community workshops through the north east and we will run another three such workshops for targeted industries – tourism, manufacturing and agriculture,” she said.

“If the forecast climate variation occurs, we know there will be an impact on our local and regional economy and communities. This project will help minimise the impact by understanding the risks and thinking about what we can do to reduce them.”

The project will produce a Regional Climate Adaptation Strategy.

“A survey is also being conducted as part of this project and we encourage you to complete it if you are contacted by the research company, GPS Research,” Cr Pockley said.

The North East Greenhouse Alliance partners are Indigo, Alpine, Benalla, Towong, Wangaratta and Wodonga councils and the Alpine Resorts.

**ENDS**

**For more information contact:**

Cr Ali Pockley on 0448 803 411or

Birgit Schonafinger, Fishbowl Public Relations on 0459 281814

**Workshop details**

Date	Town	Industry groups	Community	Venue
Monday 24 October	Wodonga	3 – 5pm	7 – 9pm	Committee room, Wodonga Council offices
Tuesday 25 October	Benalla	3 – 5pm	7 – 9pm	Civic Centre, Fawckner Drive
Wednesday 26 October	Myrtleford	3 – 5pm	7 – 9pm	Council Chambers, O'Donnell Avenue

To register your interest in attending a workshop, please email [rdc.office@regionaldevelopment.com.au](mailto:rdc.office@regionaldevelopment.com.au) .