

**Western Australian Sustainable Energy Association (WA SEA) Inc.**

**Media Release**

**Climate Change Announcement: A Step in the Right Direction**

The Western Australian Sustainable Energy Association Inc (WA SEA) welcomes the Premier's announcement to commit an extra \$8.6 million over the next 5 years for climate change research. This funding will be used to support stage three of the Indian Ocean Climate Initiative (IOCI) to further research the South West and also the North West and to identify WA regions and sectors most vulnerable to climate change impacts and to develop adaptation programs.

'By the State Government continuing to fund IOCI and invest in further regional climate change research it is acknowledging that WA is highly vulnerable to climate change and there is an urgent need to take action and mitigate its impact' says Dr Ray Wills, Chair, Western Australian Sustainable Energy Association Inc. (WA SEA)

'Western Australia has already been experiencing the effects of climate change from as early as the 1970s and the data suggests the situation is unlikely to improve without decisive action to significantly bolster energy generation from renewable sources.'

'While this announcement is a step in the right direction, there is a lot of work that still needs to be done. As well as reducing emissions the community must also prepare for the inevitable changes that will occur because of global warming.'

'The need for a response to dangerous climate change is increasingly urgent, reinforced today when a joint statement issued by US and European polar ice experts at the University of Texas in Austin stated "surprisingly rapid changes" were occurring in Antarctica.'

'WA SEA and its members are seeking significant initiatives to address dangerous climate change to be announced as part of the Premier's Climate Action Statement. This will clearly demonstrate to the community and industry how committed the Carpenter Government really is towards addressing climate change in Western Australia' says Dr Ray Wills.

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Media Contact

Dr Ray Wills

Chair

Western Australian Sustainable Energy Association Inc (WA SEA)

Phone: 0412 653 127