



12 December 2007

Karyn Paluzzano, MP
Chair
Legislative Assembly
Standing Committee on Natural Resource Management (Climate Change)
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Attention: Mrs Cheryl Samuels

Dear Ms Paluzzano

RE: Response to the Standing Committee on Natural Resource Management (Climate Change).

The Macarthur Regional Organisation of Councils (MACROC) makes this submission in response to the Standing Committee on Natural Resource Management (Climate Change).

The Macarthur Region, in the South West of Sydney covers an area of 3,067 square kilometres and MACROC works on a regional level to facilitate and promote economic and social development, as well as environmental conservation.

MACROC recognises the urgent need for councils to work as a Region to establish and implement measures that will limit the factors that impact on climate change.

All MACROC Councils are committed to implementing measures to limit greenhouse gas emissions and thus reduce the impact of climate change with their own individual local government areas as well also across the Macarthur Region

In relation to the Standing Committee's Terms of Reference, MACROC would like to comment in particular on Point d) *"The effectiveness of management systems for ensuring that sustainability measures for the management of natural resources in New South Wales are achieved, having particular regard to climate change"*.

MACROC would encourage the Committee to clearly define and illustrate the roles and responsibilities of all the key stakeholders. In particular there needs to be clarity around the role of Local Government as a practitioner of climate change and sustainability measures, as well as that of the State Government as policy and funding provider.

One of the key issues for local government relates to funding mechanisms for the retainment, protection, embellishment and management of riparian corridors. Given recent proposed amendments to Section 94, good environmental outcomes are going to be difficult for councils to achieve without an alternative funding avenue.

MACROC would encourage the Committee to explore funding sources available to Local Government to ensure that there are adequate and long-term funds available to sustain projects. Funding needs to be available for all aspects of projects including promotion, establishment, and implementation and monitoring.

MACROC, on behalf of its member Councils, welcomes the Inquiry and looks forward to the recommendations made.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Elliott', written in a cursive style.

Cr Rob Elliott
President