

**Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability
The Honourable Kate Jones**

Friday, December 11, 2009

WORLD LEADING UK CLIMATE CENTRE TO SET UP IN QUEENSLAND

The United Kingdom's best and brightest climate change scientists will carry out collaborative research in Queensland, Climate Change and Sustainability Minister Kate Jones said in London overnight.

Ms Jones was opening a Flood Risk and Climate Change workshop at Reading University.

She said the establishment of a 'shop front' for Hadley Centre within the KBRB Ecosciences Precinct at Brisbane's Boggo Road in 2011 would be an important outcome of this Fellowship Program.

In addition, the Queensland-UK Climate Science Fellowship program will see Queensland scientists gain and share important data and knowledge with UK.

Hadley Centre Deputy Director Dr Christopher Gordon welcomed the further collaboration and said UK scientists would start travelling to Queensland next year under the program.

"This is an important program between the State Government's Queensland Climate Change Centre of Excellence and the United Kingdom's world renowned Met Office Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research," Dr Gordon said.

Ms Jones said the partnership will deliver better informed climate change policy for Queensland.

"We've had a formal relationship with the Hadley Centre for the past few years with the first collaborative project involving historical climate data and global climate models," she said.

"The Fellowship program will enhance Queensland's international profile and reputation in the translation of climate change data to inform policy.

"It will ensure the investment in this Fellowship will facilitate continued collaboration with the Hadley Centre."

Ms Jones said the Queensland Climate Change Centre of Excellence was contributing to the International Panel of Climate Change 5th Assessment report – the pre-eminent international science on climate change.

"We're helping to inform the IPCC through a climate modelling project with the help of a \$4 million super computer at the centre's Indooroopilly base," she said.

"Collaboration with international research groups will enhance this important modelling project and a program between the QCCCE and UK climate science groups will provide a formal mechanism for achieving this."

The Fellowship exchanges will range between three and six months to allow sufficient time for Fellows to establish carry out substantive collaborative work.

The Queensland contribution to the two-year program would be \$120,000 to support a total of four inbound fellowships of between three and six months.

The Hadley Centre is currently hosting Dr Helen Fairweather from the QCCCE.

Queensland and UK experts in hydrology and climate and meteorology also participated in a workshop to explore the frequency and intensity of Queensland's historical climate and how it related to changes in the flood risk.

"It also looked at what the latest climate models were telling us about the future flood risk, focussing on rivers, streams and sediment loss.

"This is particularly important in Queensland given the devastating effects of flooding and the potential risks associated with climate change and because 80 per cent of Queenslanders now live on the coast.

"It's why we recently had out for public comment a new Coastal Management Plan to better plan for tidal inundation."

The outcomes of the workshop will directly inform the science component of the Queensland Government's joint project with the Local Government Association of Queensland to help councils better identify inland flood prone areas of the state.

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