



MEDIA RELEASE

John Robertson MLC

Minister for Climate Change and the Environment
Minister for Energy
Minister for Corrective Services
Minister for Public Sector Reform
Special Minister of State

EMBARGOED: 00:00, 16 September, 2009

\$5.9 MILLION FOR NSW COMMUNITIES TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

The NSW Government has announced that \$5.9 million will be invested in energy and water upgrades for 247 community organisations from today including pre-schools, sporting clubs, retirement villages and charities.

Minister for Climate Change and the Environment and Minister for Energy John Robertson said that the \$5.9 million state wide investment will achieve emissions savings equivalent to taking a thousand cars off the road for a year and saving 125 Olympic swimming pools of water.

"Together these projects will save 125 million litres of water and 4,560 tonnes of carbon pollution a year," Mr Robertson said.

"They will also help not-for-profit groups save an average of \$3750 a year on their water and energy bills.

"For example, a preschool in Miranda will receive over \$22,000 to install a solar hot water system, energy efficient lighting and water-efficient taps and toilets. These upgrades will reduce the preschool's power use by 21 per cent and save nearly seven tonnes of carbon pollution and 147,000 litres of water a year.

"The Community Savers grants are part of the NSW Climate Change Fund and provide up to \$40,000 per site to cover the costs of simple, but effective, upgrades such as lighting retrofits, installing rainwater tanks, switching to solar hot water and installing water efficient toilets and fixtures.

"The grants will come as a welcome cash injection for smaller organisations and volunteer groups that don't have the up-front capital to implement upgrades but recognise the obvious long-term benefits for the environment and their budgets."

Mr Robertson said the funding supported 58 projects in Greater Metropolitan Sydney, 44 projects in the Illawarra, 37 in the Hunter, 24 in Richmond-Tweed, 19 in South Eastern NSW, 17 in the Central West and 17 on the Mid-North Coast.

"They include 74 preschools, 41 aged care and retirement facilities, 36 RSL clubs and 29 sporting clubs," he said.

"To protect our environment and prepare for the reality of climate change we need everyone to contribute, including all levels of government and the community.

"This program reflects the enthusiasm and commitment of communities in towns and suburbs across NSW to help do their bit to combat climate change, reduce carbon pollution and improve water efficiency.

"These organisations play a vital role in their local communities and the NSW Government is proud to help them through the Climate Change Fund get these important efficiency upgrades off the ground."

The Climate Change Fund was established in July 2007. It also includes rebates to help householders make their homes more water and energy efficient and funding to help business, industry, schools and government save energy, water and greenhouse gas emissions.

Announcement of \$5.9 million Community Savers Grants

**Minister for Climate Change and the Environment and Minister for Energy John Robertson and
Local MP Barry Collier**

10:00am, TODAY, Wednesday 16 September

Miranda Children's Association Preschool, 246 The Boulevard, Miranda

Details of successful projects are available on the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water website at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/ccfpfp

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