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MEDIA RELEASE

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SUPPORTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

A new \$1 million scheme to address climate change risks and vulnerabilities will allow NSW local government organisations to undertake climate change projects and programs, the NSW Government announced today.

Environment Minister Rob Stokes said the Building Resilience to Climate Change grants will provide grants of between \$15,000 to \$80,000 will support local government and communities to:

- implement actions that minimise financial losses;
- address threats; and
- capture opportunities posed by a changing climate.

The NSW Government will provide support to local decision makers to develop practical and effective responses to climate change," Mr Stokes said

In 2013, the Productivity Commission noted local government barriers to adaptation measures include financial and professional capacity constraints, lack of information and guidance and legal liability concerns.

The grants will promote coordination and collaboration among local governments through:

- bringing private sector and community organisations into decision making;
- building adaptation networks of experienced adaptation practitioners in the local government sector, across the state and across the sector; and
- building regional alliances and resource sharing.

Local Government Minister Paul Toole said local government plays a key role in responding to climate change, as many impacts and risks are at the local level.

"These grants will promote coordination, collaboration and knowledge sharing at the local government level and foster regional alliances, common activities and resource sharing," Mr Toole said.

"This three year program is funded through the Office of Environment and Heritage and the NSW Environmental Trust, and administered by Local Government NSW."

President of LGNSW, Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM, welcomes the funding for climate change resilience.

“Many NSW councils understand the importance of planning for climate change, as it can directly affect council assets and services to the community.

“These grants will also promote more effective coordination and knowledge sharing between councils, allowing more efficiency in sharing resources and common practices with regards to climate change,” said Cr Rhoades.

Information on how to apply is available at:
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/climateChange/helpnswadapt.htm>