



Minister for Climate Change and Water

Mr Scott Morrison MP
Member for Cook
PO Box 819
CARINGBAH NSW 1495

16 AUG 2009

Dear Mr Morrison

Thank you for your personal representation of 20 May 2009 on behalf of Mr Lawrence Cummings concerning the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and climate science. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

There is clear evidence that our climate is changing, due in large measure to anthropogenic greenhouse gases. In 2007 the IPCC, an international body that assesses the latest climate change research, released its Fourth Assessment Report. The Report concluded that 'most of the observed increase in globally-averaged temperatures since the mid 20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations.' The Report draws on published and peer-reviewed research and was compiled by 1250 authors from over 130 countries. Importantly it is based on multiple lines of scientific evidence for climate change including observed increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level. In rigorously assessing the growing body of published material, each new IPCC Report represents a progressive strengthening of our understanding of climate change.

The interaction between evaporation and the climate system is considered by the IPCC in its evaluation and modelling of climate change.

The IPCC Fourth Assessment Report can be found at <http://www.ipcc.ch/ipccreports/ar4-wg1.htm>. At the end of each chapter of this report there is an extensive reference section. References to the science behind the IPCC's report can be found there, and can be accessed at any university library.

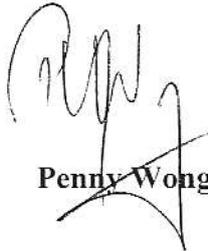
Recently the University of Copenhagen released a synthesis report from the international scientific congress on climate change, *Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges and Decisions*, held in Copenhagen in March 2009. The report synthesises climate change research that has been published since the IPCC report in 2007 and finds that climate change is occurring near the upper boundary of IPCC projections, with many climate trends likely to accelerate if we do not reduce emissions. The report also found that many societies and ecosystems are more vulnerable to climate change than previously thought, and that inaction to reduce emissions and adapt to unavoidable climate change is inexcusable.

Australian Government policy will continue to be informed by the latest scientific research that is peer-reviewed and published in reputable scientific journals.

The Australian Government is committed to action on climate change, through the introduction of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, negotiation of an effective global agreement to reduce emissions and adaptation to the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

Thank you for bringing Mr Cummings' concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely



Penny Wong