

MEDIA RELEASE

March, 2008

Climate Change: You can make a difference!

The highly relevant topic of 'Climate Change and linking environmental issues with organisational success' was the topic discussed at the Institute of Public Administration Australia (Queensland)'s Autumn Four Seasons Seminar last week.

The seminar's aim was to bring together scientific research and practitioner experience to give organisations the tools to implement and combat climate change issues today.

The first key speaker was Dr Andrew Ash, Director of the CSIRO Climate Adaptation National Research Flagship, who discussed how society can integrate climate science with decision-making in broader contexts.

Dr Ash touched on his vision of supporting a more resilient and prosperous Australia in a changing and variable climate and his long history of studying the impacts of climate with a particular emphasis on how land managers, industries and communities can adapt to climate variability and change.

The second key speaker was Cr Helen Abrahams, who has been the Brisbane City Councillor for Dutton Park ward since 2003 and is currently the Chairperson of the Council's Environment and Sustainability Committee.

Cr Abrahams discussed her involvement with the development of policy for the city's parks, waterways and natural areas, as well as waste and water management, air quality, energy use, and bicycle and pedestrian needs – and how climate change dramatically affects these areas from a practitioner's perspective.

Overall, the event educated people on the impact of climate change and the idea that it can be reduced by adapting eco-efficient initiatives resulting in continuous improvement of process, innovation - and ultimately cost savings.

IPAA Queensland Chief Executive Officer, Peter Rumph, said that out of the 120 people who attended the event, the majority of them found that they left better educated about the impacts of climate change, particularly on key sectors and regions, than before they attended the seminar.

"We are pleased to announce that through our specialist speakers we were able to convey the severity of climate change and the importance of understanding what climate science is telling us about climate change," Mr Rumph said.

IPAA Queensland holds Four Seasons Seminars on a vital public sector issue at the start of every season.

These informative seminars have been introduced to give people the chance to hear both sides of the story, theory and practice, with two speakers giving an academic and practitioner viewpoint on each topic.

"Bold and stimulating, the series examine timely issues as they emerge, ensuring relevance and currency," Mr Rumph said.

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