



Amanda Rishworth MP

Member for Kingston

MEDIA RELEASE

UP TO \$500,000 FUNDING AVAILABLE TO LOWER GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Federal Member for Kingston, Amanda Rishworth MP, today called on local commercial building owners to take advantage of the Rudd Government's new \$90 million *Green Building Fund* which offers dollar-for-dollar support up to \$500,000.

The Green Building Fund will help tackle climate change by reducing the energy consumed in the operation of commercial office buildings. The program opened for business on Thursday, 30 October 2008.

"The Green Building Fund is aimed at owners of existing commercial office buildings, and will support retro-fitting and retro-commissioning projects that reduce energy consumption," Ms Rishworth MP said.

"Under the fund, successful applicants will receive dollar-for-dollar support through grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000.

"Eligible projects can include upgrades to common area lighting, and heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems. Improvements to building fabric through glazing and shading, or investment in monitoring equipment or control systems to improve the energy efficiency of the building may also be covered.

"The Government is keen to include projects involving small, lower grade buildings where there is a significant opportunity for improvement."

Amanda Rishworth MP said grants are also available to develop the knowledge, skills or capability of those involved in operating commercial office buildings, to improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions. Grants of up to \$200,000 will be available to relevant industry organisations, on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

"We all have an obligation to contribute in the fight to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and this is an opportunity for local businesses to be involved."

The program is the third and final element of the Rudd Government's \$240 million *Clean Business Australia* suite. The other programs are:

- *Climate Ready (\$75M)*: to support R&D, proof-of-concept and early-stage commercialisation activities to develop solutions to climate change challenges; and
- *Re-Tooling for Climate Change (\$75M)*: to assist Australian manufacturers improve their production processes, reduce their energy use and cut carbon emissions.

For further information on the Green Building Fund program visit AusIndustry's website www.ausindustry.gov.au call the AusIndustry hotline 13 28 46 or email the hotline at hotline@ausindustry.gov.au