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Climate Change and Australia's Aid  
Program – Brian Dawson



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## Climate Change

- Climate change is a serious issue and has major implications for the developing world:
  - 2007 IPCC report
  - Stern/Garnaut Reviews
  
- Commitment to 'dangerous climate change' is imminent



## Climate Change

- ❑ Adapting to 2°C possibly required even if concentrations stabilized at today's levels
- ❑ On current trends 550-600ppm before 2050
- ❑ Climate change adaptation and mitigation will be high priorities for the aid program
- ❑ Mainstreaming climate change is essential



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## Impacts, Timing and Priorities

### ▣ Five key development fundamentals at risk (WEHAB)

▣ Water

▣ Energy

▣ Health

▣ Agriculture

▣ Biodiversity

▣ Longer term (post 2050): sea level rise, ocean acidification



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## Development Assistance Priorities

- ❑ How do we respond to these issues and how should that influence country programming?
- ❑ Both mitigation and adaptation are essential elements of a balanced response
- ❑ Climate resilience and cross sectoral approach is important
- ❑ Investments must be future focussed



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## Key elements of assistance

- ❑ Capacity building to understand the risks
- ❑ Accommodating extreme events (DRR)
- ❑ Infrastructure, low carbon development paths, human settlements
- ❑ Water and food security
- ❑ Health and education



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## Current Activities

- International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative
- International Forest Carbon Initiative
- Economic Infrastructure Initiative
- Disaster Risk Reduction



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## Conclusion

- ❑ Climate change has enormous repercussions for AusAID
- ❑ Essential to integrate climate change into programming
- ❑ It will take time to build programs and partnerships