

## Plan to reduce emissions

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CHANGE needs to happen now to meet greenhouse gas reduction targets of governments and scientists, Latrobe Valley government and business representatives were told at an Environment Protection Authority forum in Traralgon yesterday.

Former State Environment Minister and ClimateWorks Australia chair John Thwaites said low carbon emissions could mean growth in Gippsland, which they had proven.

"Gippsland will be affected by climate change more than anywhere else in the country," Mr Thwaites said.

"ClimateWorks Australia's Low Carbon Growth Plan has identified 54 separate opportunities for Australia that will meet the 25 per cent reduction in emissions by 2020 regardless of a carbon price.

"There is no silver bullet, we need to target all of these opportunities and need to start now."

Regional Development Victoria has provided funds for ClimateWorks Australia to develop a regional low carbon growth plan for the Latrobe Valley and Gippsland, which will be facilitated by local councils.

A panel will be appointed in February to complete the plan in June.

As it has done in Geelong, ClimateWorks Australia will use local data, work with local leaders, business and the community to cater these opportunities for the region.

Environment Protection Authority Gippsland manager Elizabeth Radcliffe said the ClimateWorks Low Carbon Growth Plan would be valuable to businesses and households looking for opportunities to reduce emissions and save money.

"This will give business the confidence and knowledge to look at the environmental and economic gains which are possible through responding to climate change," Ms Radcliffe said.

"ClimateWorks has identified a suite of measures across a range of industry sectors to reduce their emissions at the lowest cost."

The plan provides the first comprehensive economy-wide blueprint for how Australia can achieve an ambitious reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, while building a growing low-carbon economy, ClimateWorks Australia executive director Anna Skarbek said.