

# Earth 'must be core business'

CLARE PEDDIE

LOCAL government must plan for climate change as a "core business" just as urgent as rates and rubbish, a conference in Adelaide will hear today.

Dr Geoff Wells, lecturer for the University of South Australia's new online graduate certificate in sustainable business, says councils must embrace a change of attitude.

Dr Wells will tell the final day of the Beyond Carbon 2008 conference at the Mercure Grosvenor Hotel in the city that every council across the state can expect to be affected.

The conference is co-organised by the Local Government Association and the Committee for Economic Development of Australia.

Dr Wells says it is important to plan for the future using the best available information.

"It's a question of just being realistic," he says. "Look at the science, look at the probabilities, start taking account of this and use the best tools that we've got."

"One thing you can't do is back away and say it's all too hard."

**One thing you can't do is back away.**

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
LECTURER DR GEOFF WELLS



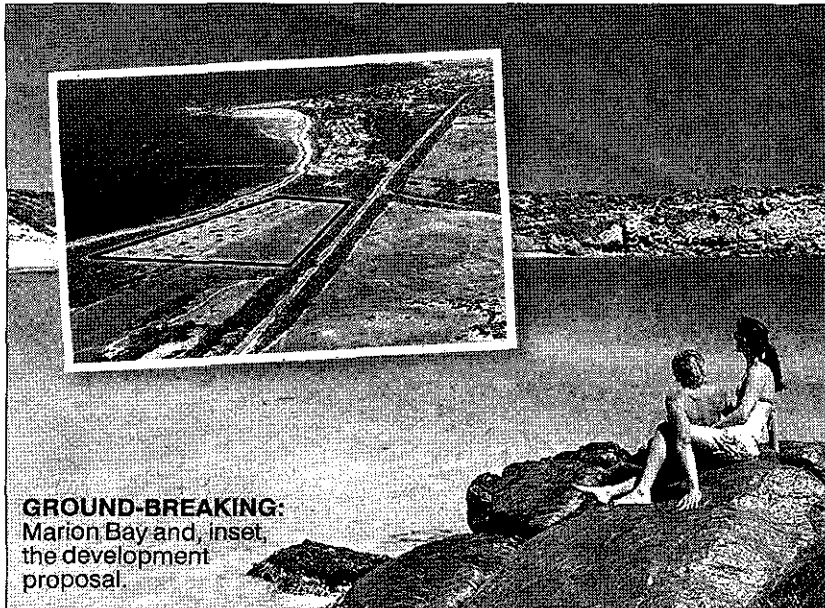
The Local Government Association says there have already been instances where planning development requests have been affected by the issue of climate change.

It announced last week it was investing \$600,000 in a climate-change strategy to combat rising sea levels and mitigate flooding.

LGA president Joy Baluch believes the LGA is being pro-active in its approach to climate change.

"Rising sea levels have already had an impact on the development approval process - with Yorke Peninsula District Council recently, backed by the Supreme Court, on a decision to refuse a coastal development application," she says.

"Local government is determined to ensure that we have the latest authoritative information to apply



**GROUND-BREAKING:** Marion Bay and, inset, the development proposal.

## Precedent alters mind-set

THE legal ramifications of climate change came to the fore this year when the Supreme Court rejected a Yorke Peninsula subdivision because of the potential for rising sea levels.

In what is thought to have been the first case of its type, the Supreme Court ruled on March 10 against an appeal by a developer for an 80-lot subdivision at Marion Bay.

The Court was asked to con-

sider the case after Northcape Properties Pty Ltd appealed against decisions by the Yorke Peninsula District Council and Environment Court to reject its proposal for the land.

The court heard the shoreline was likely to erode inland by between 35m and 40m over 100 years, which would affect an erosion buffer zone and a coastal reserve.

to protect our communities from unavoidable impacts."

Action by councils across the state has reduced greenhouse gas emissions associated with waste management.

The conference yesterday heard recycling and composting has brought emissions down from 1990 levels, even though the total amount of waste that has to be dealt with actually increased.

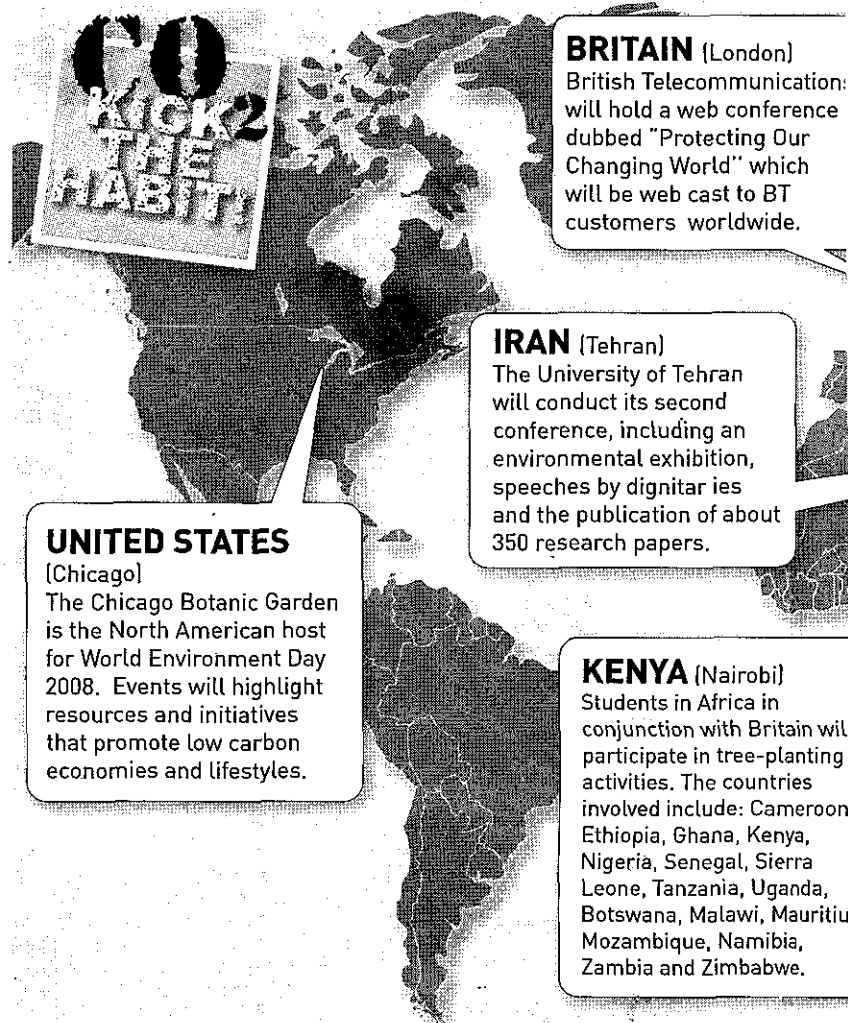
A free public breakfast at the University of Adelaide this morning will raise questions about what schools and communities can do.

Guest speaker from the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, Amanda McKenzie, is running student sessions during the day.

She says young people often feel powerless but they can and are making a difference.

"We have so little time to take action on climate change that if young people wait until they are in positions of power then it will simply be too late," she says.

[www.youthclimatecoalition.org](http://www.youthclimatecoalition.org)



**BRITAIN** (London)  
British Telecommunication will hold a web conference dubbed "Protecting Our Changing World" which will be web cast to BT customers worldwide.

**IRAN** (Tehran)  
The University of Tehran will conduct its second conference, including an environmental exhibition, speeches by dignitaries and the publication of about 350 research papers.

**UNITED STATES** (Chicago)  
The Chicago Botanic Garden is the North American host for World Environment Day 2008. Events will highlight resources and initiatives that promote low carbon economies and lifestyles.

**KENYA** (Nairobi)  
Students in Africa in conjunction with Britain will participate in tree-planting activities. The countries involved include: Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

## Economic powers talk energy

CLEAN energy use in the Asia-Pacific is being discussed at the Asian Development Bank headquarters in the Philippines this week.

The three-day Asia Clean Energy Forum 2008, which wraps up today, is organised by the ADB and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The governments of Australia, Japan, Norway and Britain and the Asia-Pacific Partnership for Clean Development and Climate are involved in the event.

In 2007, the forum involved more than 400 clean-energy professionals from 36 countries.

## What's happening

### CITY PLANT LAB AND DISPLAY

**WHEN:** From 10am to 2pm.  
**WHERE:** Rundle Mall outside the Myer Centre, near the brass pigs.  
**WHO:** A Department of Environment and Heritage team and the odd "whacky professor".

Find out what grew in your local area before European settlement, how to create habitat for native wildlife in your backyard, examine specimens from the State Herbarium and find out what plants can tell us about climate change.

There will be give-aways.

### MARKET STALLS, SOUP AND TREES

**WHEN:** 11.30am to 2.30pm.  
**WHERE:** Flinders University Plaza.  
**WHO:** Greenpeace, Wilderness Society of SA, Trees for Life and others groups.

Flinders Environmental Action Group will be serving free soup.

Students will the lake cou gardeners a

School stu and 12 can e theme for ca give-aways.

Winners w Flinders Uni August 15 ar

### LIVE BENEFIT

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**WHERE:** Flin  
**WHO:** Ocea Usual and m

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### INSPIRATION

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