

Rockdale will get climate funding

By Marianna Papadakis

ROCKDALE Council will be among 33 councils nationally to receive Federal Government grants to prepare for the impact of climate change.

But while most of those councils were awarded \$50,000 to undertake risk assessments and action plans, Rockdale Council got only \$24,380, despite the region being identified in a CSIRO report as the most at-risk from rising sea levels, heatwaves and floods.

Funding was announced by Federal Attorney-General and Barton MP Robert McClelland last Tuesday. Responses by Rockdale councillors to the report have varied.

Greens Cr Lesa de Leau welcomed the funding, saying it was folly for the council to continue throwing money at the Brighton-Le-Sands pier and marina projects in light of the CSIRO findings.

"We could end up with a glamorous pier and marina under water," Cr de Leau said. "It is time to reset priorities."

But Cr Gary Green slammed the report, saying the western suburbs would not suddenly turn into a new beachside area.

"Sea levels have responded to naturally varying climates for many thousands of years," he said.

The council had also spent comparatively less on community services despite advocating high urban density policies.

CSIRO research scientist Benjamin Preston said the impact of climate change would be determined as much by management of the urban environment as by climate hazards.

Lavoisier Group secretary Ray Evans said there was no prospect of greatly rising sea levels.

"Models are designed to predict global warming as a consequence of increasing CO2 concentrations," Mr Evans said.



Up and up: Construction is under way for a nine-storey building by Veeco Holdings in Bay Street, Brighton-Le-Sands. **Picture: Chris Lane**



Artist's impression: How the Veeco Holdings building will look when it is completed.