

# Climate change a hot issue

THE CLIMATE CHANGE spotlight was firmly on New York over the past week, but two Castlemaine women have also played a valuable role in the debate.

Hot on the tails of the UN Summit was a global climate change forum featuring citizens from 40 countries.

Castlemaine's Liesl Krebs and Vera Rudinica were two of 100 randomly selected Australians who gathered in Sydney to form the Australian leg of a worldwide conference asking citizens of the world their views on climate change and how it has to be dealt with.

For Ms Krebs, 42, the trip to Sydney was eye-opening and very worthwhile.

"I wanted to do this because global warming is such a big issue and thought I could do something that can help, and it also sounded interesting," Ms Krebs said.

"It was incredible, we had to discuss issues within our group.

"Our group was very diverse. It included a truckie from Brisbane, a guy in his 70s from WA and Moham-

By RICHARD WILLINGHAM

mad from Melbourne, but originally from Jordan,"

"Hearing his point of view on climate issues in Jordan was really interesting," she said.

The Sydney conference found 74 per cent of the Australian group thought the price of fossil fuels should be increased to deal with climate change. It also called for a legally binding global agreement.

The global consultation featured more than 4000 people in 38 countries deliberating on climate policy under the headline: "World Wide Views on Global Warming".

Participant nations were as diverse as Canada, China, Uganda, Indonesia, Chile, Mozambique, Uruguay, UK and Saint Lucia.

Across the 4000 people, 89 per cent said it was imperative that developed nations' short-term reduction targets should be 25-40 per cent, or higher.

And another two-thirds thought countries that failed to meet commitments under a new climate deal be subjected to punishment.



Liesl Krebs