



# Local input on world problem

On the tail of the UN Summit on Climate Change in New York City, last weekend citizens from around the world met online to express their views on climate change and how a future climate deal should be shaped.

This was the world's first global citizen consultation, run in Australia by the University of Technology, Sydney, and from Castlemaine Liesl Krebs and Vera Rudinica both attended.

Australia was the first country to come online because of our time zone. The group of 100 was selected at random and came from all States and territories. They largely agreed that the price of fossil fuels should be increased to deal with climate change, and on the need for a legally binding global agreement.

During the day, over 4000 citizens in 38 coun-

tries deliberated on climate policy under the headline: World Wide Views on Global Warming. In countries including Canada, China, Uganda, Indonesia, and Chile, citizens with different backgrounds and of all ages discussed how politicians should handle global warming.

In the Australian group an overwhelming majority think that a global climate deal is urgent and should be made at COP15 in December 2009. If it happens, 94 per cent believe Australian politicians should give high priority to joining it.

All results: <http://www.views.org.au/results>

"It was absolutely fantastic, the organisation was exemplary and the outcomes great," Vera said.

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+ The group of concerned citizens who gathered in Sydney last weekend, with Castlemaine attendees Liesl Krebs and Vera Rudinica in the second row, just in from the left.



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The 250 people were shortlisted to 100 to attend the consultation.

Vera said the final recommendation voted on was handed over to Climate Change Minister Penny Wong, to be presented in Copenhagen later this year.

Liesl said she was surprised to make the final selection. "You don't think that Australia-wide you will be picked," she said.

She has always been aware of environmental issues and post-conference she will continue trying to get the word out.

"Ordinary people sometimes feel disempowered, but in your own life, even if what you do about climate change may be a small thing, it is at least doing something," she said.

She said she realised how important the gathering in Sydney was when attendees were told that on that weekend, all over the world, similar groups of people were tackling the issues.