

15th September 2006

To whom it may concern,

My name is Anna O'Brien. I am currently completing my honours year in Geography at the University of Melbourne. While consistently focusing on a mixture of physical and human areas in geography throughout my undergraduate career, I became increasingly interested in weather patterns and their impact on natural and human systems. The topic of my honour's thesis this year is: *Adapting to Climate Change: A Case Study of the Farming Community in the Urana Shire, NSW*. This research project has taken me to the small agricultural community of the Urana Shire to assess the adaptive capacity of a group of Australian farmers to climate change. The central aim of this study was to identify the constraints on the capacities of these farmers to adequately respond to changes in their local climate, including climate variability and extremes. The understanding of the risks associated with climate change as well as access to accurate long term forecasting tools were common factors which inhibited these farmers from making adjustments in their practises in response to long term changes in weather patterns.

There remains a consistent lack of research which links the science of climate and weather forecasting with the communities that stand to benefit the most from this science. It is exciting to hear that interest in this area is however growing, and I look forward to participating further in social science research which aims to integrate climate science and the relevant stakeholders.

Yours Sincerely,

Anna O'Brien