



Speech by

**Hon. HENRY PALASZCZUK**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Hansard 12 November 1999

### **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

#### **Climate Forecasting Technology**

**Hon. H. PALASZCZUK** Inala—ALP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (9.44 a.m.), by leave: Under this Government, Queensland is forging ahead breaking new ground in the field of climate forecasting. This Government recognises the value of leading-edge climate information for primary producers as well as the broader economy. The Queensland Centre for Climate Applications is drawing international attention for its leading-edge work in climate forecasting based on the Southern Oscillation Index. Currently, work is focusing on extending the climate forecasting ability up to five years and enhancing the scientific accuracy of this forecasting.

It is with pleasure that I announce today a world first feasibility study into the potential use of global positioning system—GPS—satellite technology for improved climate forecasting. GPS technology is being used by farmers to enhance their productivity via reduced inputs, such as chemicals, diesel and fertiliser. GPS technology is also pivotal to sustainable farming practices, such as precision farming and controlled traffic farming.

The aim of this feasibility study is to examine the potential to use this technology for climate forecasting and for severe weather alerts through the measurement of changing atmospheric conditions. The study is a joint project between QCCA, through the Department of Primary Industries, the Queensland University of Technology and the Cooperative Research Centre for Satellite Systems.

This technology has the potential to be applied worldwide across a number of industries. In particular, there are significant benefits for Queensland, which has one of the most variable climates in the world. After all, by better understanding our climate, we can work smarter, we can plan more confidently, we can be more self-reliant, we can be better managers and we can shape the future instead of being shaped by it.

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