



Speech by

Hon. S. ROBERTSON

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

Hansard 5 December 2001

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Rural Leasehold Land

Hon. S. ROBERTSON (Stretton—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines) (10.20 a.m.), by leave: Rural leasehold land forms the backbone of Queensland's prosperous primary industries sector and covers approximately 112 million hectares, or 65 per cent of our state. The Beattie government is committed to achieving sustainable management of all of our state's natural resources, including leasehold land. We also recognise that this is best done in partnership with an economically viable rural farming sector. To this end, the government is committed to increasing certainty for stakeholders in the state's rural leasehold land, including indigenous and conservation interests, and to increasing accountability.

As the first step towards achieving more sustainable management of rural leasehold land, I am releasing today for public comment a discussion paper called *Managing state rural leasehold land*. This paper has been written to broadly canvass the issues currently affecting the management of this essential component of the natural resource base of the state. It will provide a focal point for community discussion of the strategic direction of rural leasehold land management over the next five to 10 years. It represents the initial step in the development of a new state government strategy covering rural leasehold land.

As development through Queensland has progressed over the years, the need has arisen to address leasehold land issues such as land degradation, economic viability, and social and cultural sustainability. This discussion paper canvasses all of these issues and is designed to engage all stakeholders in the debate about the best approach to the future management of Queensland's rural leasehold estate. The discussion paper and a questionnaire can be accessed online via the Department of Natural Resources and Mines web site and copies of the discussion paper will also be available shortly at the regional offices of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

The discussion paper is available for public comment until 1 April 2002. A number of public workshops on the discussion paper will also be held during the period of consultation. Information about these workshops will be available on the department's web site in the near future.
