



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 8 June 2006

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Climate Change Summit

**Hon. PD BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.53 am): In recent months the Queensland government has been proactive in addressing two major issues confronting the Queensland community. One is the road toll and the other is obesity. We have done this by holding high-level summits here at Parliament House bringing together a range of experts and representatives from government, industry and the community to put forward their ideas about policy and innovative solutions. I want to announce today that the Queensland government will hold a third summit this year, this time aimed at an issue that affects us all—that is, climate change. Details are being worked through. However, I want to advise the House that a climate change summit will be held at Parliament House in August. This is one of the most significant challenges facing governments around the world, in particular Queensland, and that summit will be held in August. I seek leave to incorporate more details in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Again, we will follow the successful formula of our previous Summits and develop a dedicated website to enable Queenslanders to put forward their ideas on the issues surrounding global warming and the way forward for the Smart State.

These issues may include cleaner energy, alternative fuels, water supply and the weather, the impact on species, agricultural production and industry generally, as we grapple with this very serious 21st century problem.

Mr Speaker, if we felt we needed justification for such a Summit, I need go no further than to refer Members of the House to statements made yesterday by Queensland University of Technology's Professor Peter Grace.

His study focused on five of the main wheat growing areas of Australia and predicted a drop in production of up to 24% with an average loss of 15%.

In a news report yesterday he discussed the temperature rising 3 degrees Celcius and rainfall dropping by some 20% over the next 30 to 50 years and, I quote:

"Under these conditions, and with the wheat varieties and agronomic practices currently used in Australia we could expect to see an average decline in wheat yields across the country of 15%, which equates to around \$1 billion in lost income."

Professor Grace, who is Research Director of QUT's institute for Sustainable Resources, further predicted that climate change would lead to the introduction of new pests and diseases.

Professor Grace proposed the need to more fully explore alternative farming practices to save water and identify drought resistant crop varieties which already exist in other parts of the world.

Mr Speaker, it is ideas like these that I want to see come out of the Climate Change Summit in August, and I commend its announcement to all Members.

I table the new report and Professor Grace's press release for the information of all Members.

**Tabled paper:** Media article, dated 7 June 2006, by Roberta Mancuso titled 'Climate change to cost billions'.

**Tabled paper:** Internet article, dated 7 June 2006, by QUT News titled 'Climate changes to cause billion dollar losses'.