



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 2 November 2006

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Cyclone Summit

**Hon. PD BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.38 am): In recognition of the accelerating impacts of climate change, my government is committed to help better safeguard communities in coastal Queensland from the impact of cyclones. During the election campaign I launched my government's Safeguarding Cyclone Communities policy. One of the key planks of that policy is to hold a planning summit to review the lessons learned from Tropical Cyclone Larry and to consolidate planning for future cyclone seasons. The summit, titled *Living with Cyclones: Queensland Prepared*, will be held in far-north Queensland at the James Cook University campus in Cairns on Thursday, 7 December and Friday, 8 December. I seek leave to incorporate in *Hansard* the details of my ministerial statement for the information of members.

#### Leave granted.

The summit will include international delegates as well as State Government agencies, Local Government representatives, climate change and weather experts.

It will explore new and improved ways of making cyclone communities safer during the cyclone season—including better planning and building approaches, new approaches to early warning and education campaigns.

Cyclones have always been a part of life in Far North Queensland, but soon they might be bigger, more frequent and further south because of climate change. We need to better understand the risks created by climate change so that we can prepare for the future.

Smart State cyclone strategies should be based on the best research and experience available, here and internationally.

I have also asked that local people who lived through Cyclone Larry—the most powerful cyclone to hit our state in its history—speak to the summit about their experience.

Everyone involved in the Cyclone Larry preparation and response and recovery can be proud of the work they did earlier this year. This summit is an opportunity to ensure that the knowledge and experience we gained from that enormous storm can be used to make Queenslanders even safer during cyclones in the future.

We have provided financial and hands-on assistance to help communities affected by Cyclone Larry get back on their feet, recover and rebuild.

The local communities have proved themselves to be just as resilient and hard-working as their reputation would have us expect.

The Queensland Government will continue to work with emergency service personnel, local Councils and communities to safeguard cyclone communities and to enhance their capacity to respond to violent meteorological events such as cyclones and storm surges.

Further information about the summit will shortly be available online at [www.qld.gov.au/cyclonesummit](http://www.qld.gov.au/cyclonesummit). Members of the public are encouraged to put forward their ideas and comments.