



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 23 May 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Climate Change

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.50 am): Today at lunchtime I will be addressing the 2007 department of natural resources' water conference, with the theme of 'Climate Change: Queensland taking Action'. A CSIRO report released in April showed 90 per cent of 1,800 people surveyed considered climate change the most important issue facing Australia. Such a high level of public consensus is rare. As we need to respond to this issue in March this year I opened the Queensland Climate Change Centre of Excellence with my ministers, the first of its kind in Australia.

Our climate is heating up. By 2030, Queensland's average annual temperature is projected to rise by up to two degrees Celsius and average annual rainfall to drop by 13 per cent. Rainfall has only approached the long-term annual average once in the years since 2000, when rainfall plummeted to a little over 557 millimetres, less than half the average figure. Greenhouse gas emissions are major contributors to climate change, with two principal sources being motor vehicles and coal-fired power stations. We face two major challenges: to ensure reliable and adequate water supplies for the south-east and to find ways to drastically reduce emissions from coal-fired power stations.

Clean coal technology, a carbon emissions trading scheme and coordinating the state's response to climate change are some of the ways to meet these challenges. We are investing more than \$9 billion to build a south-east Queensland water grid that includes the Wivenhoe and Somerset system, Hinze Dam, the future Traveston Crossing Dam, Wyaralong Dam, the desalination plant now under construction at Tugun on the Gold Coast and the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme.

My government has committed up to \$300 million to clean coal research and Queensland's coal producers are also making a significant contribution with a voluntary levy of 20c a tonne which should raise about \$600 million in research for the next 10 years.

As part of our education of the community, we placed advertisements in the *Courier-Mail*, the *Australian* and the *Financial Review* about our clean coal technology plan and our agreement with the coal companies. I table a copy of one of those ads. Similar adds will appear in the *Morning Bulletin*, the *Gladstone Observer*, the *Toowoomba Chronicle* and the *Daily Mercury* in Mackay.

Tabled paper: List of newspapers in which Queensland Government advertisements concerning funding for clean coal technology have been placed.

Tabled paper: Copy of a relevant advertisement from The Australian of 23 May 2007.