



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 6 June 2007

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### ClimateSmart Adaptation Plan

**Hon. PD BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.46 am): As members are aware, the Queensland government has released a broad-ranging and practical, fully funded plan to help everyone in this state do their bit to combat climate change. In addition to providing funding for research, technical innovation and practical household based assistance, we are also working to adapt to the impact of climate change as we are experiencing it now.

Queensland's climate has already changed. While our efforts to combat climate change must move on apace, we must also address the impacts we are experiencing now on an environmental, community and economic level.

Queensland is vulnerable. Our low-lying coastal communities are under threat from the increased likelihood of storm surges. In the south-east corner, we are suffering from a shortage of water brought on by the worst drought in our history. In the north, our communities will be battered by bigger and stronger cyclones, more often.

On Monday I addressed a national lunch of the insurance industry. These were the top-of-mind issues for them, and they are top-of-mind issues for us. I indicated to them that we want to work in partnership and they agreed.

We are already responding, building the water grid and linking major catchments up the Queensland coast. We are doing the modelling for local communities to gauge likely impacts of severe weather events.

Today, on behalf of the Minister for Natural Resources and Water and the government, I am pleased to release the ClimateSmart Adaptation Plan 2007-12. I table a copy for the information of the House and copies will be distributed to members.

*Tabled paper:* Document by Department of Natural Resources and Water titled 'ClimateSmart Adaptation 2007-12, An action plan for managing the impact of climate change'.

This is a five-year plan containing 62 actions that we will take and the deadlines we have set ourselves for completing them. It has short, medium and long-term policies that help ensure the continued long-term prosperity of Queensland. It aims to generate knowledge about climate change and include it in government and business decision making.

ClimateSmart Adaptation is a major initiative in its own right. ClimateSmart Adaptation will be led and coordinated by the Queensland Climate Change Centre of Excellence and implemented across government. The plan focuses on action in seven priority sectors, which were identified by stakeholders and the community as likely to be most affected by climate change. They include water planning and services; agriculture; human settlements; natural environment and landscapes; emergency services and human health; tourism, business and industry; and finance and insurance.

ClimateSmart Adaptation builds on the Queensland Greenhouse Strategy 2004. Each of the 62 actions is given a high or medium priority, a completion date and the responsible government agency is identified. Some of the actions include identifying regional-scale climate change projections and offer more localised information for planning and decision making, to be completed by 2010; reviewing available options to manage the impacts of climate change on Queensland's at-risk ecosystems, to be completed by mid-2009; integrating climate change considerations into decisions about water infrastructure and water quality management, to be completed by 2012; working with agribusiness to have climate change included in farm management systems and whole-of-property risk planning, to be completed by 2011; and examining ways to incorporate climate change into the terms of reference for environmental impact statements and other assessment processes, to be completed at the end of this year.

ClimateSmart Adaptation will help us seize the opportunities presented by climate change to create jobs and build our state, protect vulnerable communities and plan appropriately for the long-term future of Queensland.