

QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 902
Asked on Tuesday, 7 June 2005

MR WALLACE asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR PALASZCZUK)—

QUESTION:

What is the rainfall outlook for north Queensland and, in particular, the Thuringowa area for the remaining year?

ANSWER:

The climate pattern remains in a 'borderline El Niño state'. While this type of pattern is not necessarily as serious for North Queensland as a more mature El Niño pattern, the outlook reflects slightly diminished rainfall potential for the coming 12 months as a whole.

For example, for the Townsville area (and North Queensland generally), based on current patterns there is a 38% chance of receiving the long-term median rainfall for the coming 7 month period.

For just the latter part of summer (January to March) the chances of 'normal' (median) rainfall are somewhat higher at 55%, suggesting some slight alleviation of the current drought situation through that particular time.

Given the unusual nature of current and recent climate and ocean patterns, I would recommend that the Honourable Member liaise with me for further updated information as the year progresses.