

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 1344**  
**Asked on Wednesday, 1 November 2006**

**MR ENGLISH** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR MULHERIN)-

**QUESTION:**

How is the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries developing property and farm management systems to support Queensland primary producers?

**ANSWER:**

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) is committed to working in partnership with industry and other stakeholders to meet the growing community pressure to ensure safe and environmentally friendly produce as well as assisting in improving the profitability of primary industries.

Property Management Systems (PMS) focus on the voluntary uptake of business management systems at the enterprise or property level which seek to achieve continuous improvement in practices and integrate on-farm productivity and natural resource management in order to improve profitably and sustainability outcomes.

DPI&F led negotiations on behalf of the Queensland Government that resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government and the Queensland Farmers' Federation relating to Farm Management Systems (FMS) in 2005.

The MoU demonstrates a formal commitment from Government and primary industries to sustainable production in intensive agriculture. DPI&F is also committed to working with extensive industries on sustainability issues through initiatives such as the Grazing Land Management program.

A key platform in the implementation of PMS and FMS is the Property Management Systems Initiative (PMSI) which was recently launched at the Longreach Blueprint for the Bush forum. This PMSI is a key commitment under the Blueprint for the Bush and will contribute to the Queensland Government meeting its obligations under the FMS MoU and the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan.

The PMSI involves the employment of up to 20 officers to accelerate the development of property management systems and related initiatives on-farm. Expressions of Interest for the PMSI positions closed on 24 November 2006 and DPI&F is currently in the process of assessing and prioritising these applications.

It will also enhance industry partnerships with key stakeholders with an interest in Property Management Systems such as regional NRM groups and other government initiatives such as Grazing Land Management, the Rural Water Use Efficiency and Rural Leasehold Land Strategy.

This initiative builds on the excellent work that DPI&F and the Queensland Government are currently undertaking in partnership with industry and stakeholder groups. It builds on the suite of initiatives under the FMS MoU such as Cotton Australia's Best Management Practices program, Queensland Dairy Farmers' Dairying Better 'n Better, CANEGROWERS' COMPASS Program and Growcom's Farmcare program.