

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 29**  
**Asked on Tuesday, 6 February 2007**

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

**QUESTION:**

With reference to page 1-4 dot point six of the Ministerial Portfolio Statement—

How is the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries proposing to strengthen its collaboration and better integrate its science effort with other Queensland based and national science agencies?

**ANSWER:**

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) is Australia's largest provider of state government funded research underpinning the long term economic viability of primary industries and fisheries production. Queensland has a number of other research agencies helping DPI&F support the sustainable development of primary industries and fisheries. These include other state government agencies, the CSIRO and universities.

To better collaborate with these other research agencies and integrate Queensland's science effort, DPI&F has strategic partnerships with the Department of Natural Resources and Water, the Environmental Protection Agency and CSIRO to develop an Ecosciences Precinct at Boggo Road and with Queensland Health and CSIRO for a Health and Food Sciences Precinct at Coopers Plains. This precinct development, referred to as the knowledge based research and business (KBRB) initiative, is led by the Department of State Development.

Boggo Road's Ecosciences Precinct will bring DPI&F together with Queensland's other major researchers to tackle climate change, protect our natural resources and environment, and grow our farming, mineral, forestry, marine and tourism industries so they are competitive and sustainable. This integrated research effort comprising almost 1 000 scientists and support staff will position Queensland as a global leader in finding the balance between developing strong industries, lowering the impact on our natural environment and enhancing our quality of life. The Ecosciences Precinct will include world class facilities for research into plant and animal production as well as disease and pest control. It will be the major plant research and diagnostic platform for Biosecurity Queensland.

The Health and Food Sciences Precinct at Coopers Plains will join DPI&F scientists with Queensland Health and CSIRO scientists to create a vibrant knowledge centre for health and food. This Precinct, comprising about 700 scientists and support staff, will be a centre of excellence focusing on improving quality of life through advances in healthcare, medicine, food security and nutrition. It will also support animal biosecurity as Biosecurity Queensland's major animal research and diagnostic centre in south east Queensland.

Through collaborative science between DPI&F and other agencies, both precincts will support sustainable futures for Queensland communities. They will help us to manage our aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems; enhance the sustainability and international competitiveness of our agriculture, forestry, fisheries, mining and tourism industries; improve quality of life for all Queenslanders; and better predict the impacts of climate change and population growth on our natural resources, industries and communities.