

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 690

asked on Tuesday, 22 May 2007

MR FENLON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER AND MINISTER ASSISTING THE PREMIER IN NORTH QUEENSLAND (MR WALLACE)—

QUESTION:

Will he explain the role Information Queensland has played in establishing easy formats for the Queensland community to access government related information?

ANSWER:

Information Queensland is a four year, whole-of-Government initiative, hosted by the Department of Natural Resources and Water, providing a smarter way for the public to access and view government information.

Since 2005, Information Queensland has launched the State's first publicly available whole-of-Government online atlas (the atlas). This is an easy to use web mapping tool that features over 60 layers of information from 15 government agencies and four external service suppliers, including the Bureau of Meteorology. Since its launch, public use of the atlas has been steadily increasing and in April 2007, the atlas received over two million public hits. The atlas can be accessed via the Government Homepage at www.qld.gov.au or directly at www.information.qld.gov.au.

The atlas is used heavily in the education sector following promotion in schools and inclusion on the Education Department's Curriculum Exchange. It is also used by employees in both Government departments and industries on a daily basis, to obtain access to basic location, infrastructure and imagery information that is not easily found in one place using other search methods. Several Government departments refer their clients to the atlas to obtain current information about their property.

A mapping application has been funded and built to support Queensland Health's new 13HEALTH call centre. The generic application, which uses the IQ base mapping function, can quickly be reconfigured and reused by other agencies with similar requirements. The application is the first example of a simple Information Queensland funded tool built for one agency that can now be reused by many agencies.

In March 2006, the Information Queensland online atlas was reconfigured to provide timely Internet access to relevant information for Government, the general public and media organisations, and to help response organisations in the event of a natural disaster such as Cyclone Larry. The application provides

access to information and reports from on-ground authorities, key Government agencies and utilities. Examples of information available include infrastructure status, water quality and the location of medical, shelter and funding support.

In late 2006, a data and information service catalogue was installed that provides the capacity for users to publish the existence of valuable information resources. This service will enable staff to locate, evaluate and appropriately reuse other data or information services. By the end of 2007, it is intended to enhance the capability of the catalogue to make it available to all Government agencies as a key component of Information Queensland infrastructure.

In addition, Information Queensland has developed a comprehensive "Information Management Manual", providing guidelines for agencies in how to manage their information to facilitate ease of access and use by the public.

Information Queensland has also completed extensive work with the Queensland Government Chief Information Office on producing standards that will allow for easier and faster sharing of information between agencies, for integrated presentation to the public.