

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 720**  
**Asked on 22 May 2007**

MR WEIGHTMAN asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (MR BEATTIE) -

QUESTION:

Will he provide the people of Cleveland, Stradbroke, Wellington Point, Ormiston and Thornside with information about any strategy or strategies put in place by his Government to deal with the possible impacts of climate change through storm surges and coastal erosion?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is aware that parts of the electorate of Cleveland are potentially vulnerable to increases in storm surges and more extreme weather events.

Since August 2004, when the Queensland Climate Change and Community Vulnerability Tropical Cyclones project findings were announced, there has been public information available online at [www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au](http://www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au) about these matters.

With the science behind climate change improving markedly since 2004, my Government has put initiatives in place to update climate change impact information for the whole of Queensland.

As you would be aware, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fourth Assessment Report identified that tropical cyclones are projected to become more intense, with higher peak wind speeds and heavier precipitation, and there will be a further 0.18 to 0.59 metre rise in sea level by the end of this century with regional differences.

My Government recognises that regional studies are vital so Queenslanders can be better prepared.

Initiatives that have been instigated to address the concerns of people living in vulnerable areas include:

- a **State planning policy for climate change** which will ensure that climate change risks and issues, such as vulnerable and threatened areas, and the type of development suitable for use, are incorporated into Queensland's planning and development system. This is part of the Queensland Government's climate change strategy, *ClimateSmart 2050*, which I announced on 3 June 2007;
- the **Climate change modelling by Griffith University**. In May 2007 the Queensland Government committed \$973,920 in funding to Griffith University from the Queensland Government's Smart State Innovation Fund to conduct modelling research for the whole of the State. This includes the electorate of Cleveland. Interim modelling outcomes will be released as they become available with overall findings available by 2010. Ultimately this modelling will pave the way for guidelines for a whole range of activities from emergency management to long-term planning; and

- the new **Queensland Climate Change Centre of Excellence**, which I officially opened in March 2007 and is a first of its kind in Australia. This Centre has a whole of Government focus and is tapping into the latest knowledge from around the world to help Queensland plan for and adapt to our changing climate. Action 29 of the Centre's recently released *Climate Smart Adaptation 2007-2012* plan is about improving the understanding about the risks and impacts of climate change to coastal communities and includes working with local governments and rural industries on their future planning. The Environmental Protection Agency is working closely with Queensland's Climate Change Centre of Excellence on this.

Other existing policies and initiatives include:

- the *State Planning Policy 1/03 on Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Flood, Bushfire and Landslide*, took effect under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* from 1 September 2003. This policy supports local governments in their future decision-making processes in terms of land planning and development assessment in areas subject to natural hazards;
- the 2002 State Coastal Management Plan, which has the effect of a State Planning Policy, is an important tool in the management of storm tides and storm surge. It provides policies and principles for managing the coast to allow for natural fluctuations to occur, including any that occur as a result of climate change and sea level rise; and
- the Environmental Protection Agency has produced a Guideline under the State Coastal Management Plan called *Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Storm Tide Inundation* for use by Councils as part of their land use planning processes.