

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 803

asked on Thursday, 24 May 2007

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

QUESTION:

Will he provide details about the Government's Climate Change Centre of Excellence?

ANSWER:

As you are aware the Queensland Climate Change Centre of Excellence (the Centre) was launched on 15 March 2007 by the Premier, myself as the responsible Government Minister and yourself as the State representative for the area. The Centre's purpose is to strengthen the State's leadership in preparing for the inevitable consequences of climate change. The Centre fulfils an announcement made by the Government during the 2006 election.

I am aware of your great interest in the Centre, which is partly based in your electorate, at the Indooroopilly Science Centre. I know you are a strong supporter of its work.

The Centre will help Queensland communities to better understand, forecast, prepare and adapt to climate change, and to develop practical measures to further reduce and offset the State's greenhouse gas emissions.

The Centre, which is the first of its type to be established by a State Government, has brought together the scientific and policy expertise in climate change from the Departments of Natural Resources and Water, Primary Industries and Fisheries and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Ongoing linkages with Queensland industry, business and community, and State agencies will be an important function of the Centre. These linkages will provide information and advice on the impacts of emissions and climate change to inform decision-making on future infrastructure, urban and regional planning, natural resource use, and rural production.

The Centre will further develop links with national policy makers and researchers, including those from the Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO and universities to ensure Queensland benefits from the national and global research agenda. New areas of science will include water services, coastal impacts, health and tourism.

Whilst on a trade mission to London in March 2007, the Premier formalised international links to undertake collaborative climate change research projects with the Walker Institute for Climate Systems Research at the University of Reading, and the Met Office Hadley Centre for Climate Change at the University of Exeter. The projects will expand the basic climate science program of the Centre and are currently being negotiated for the first three years.

The Centre finalised the Queensland Government's *ClimateSmart Adaptation 2007-12: An action plan for managing the impacts of climate change* (the Action Plan), which was tabled in Parliament by the Premier on 6 June 2007. The Centre is implementing the Action Plan, preparing a paper on sector and regional vulnerability and sensitivity to climate change, developing a cloud seeding research project, coordinating policy advice across Government on a whole-of-issue basis, developing techniques to assist regional and catchment scale climate change projections, and contributing to national climate change and greenhouse processes and initiatives.