

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 916

asked on Thursday, 7 June 2007

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

QUESTION:

Will he provide an update on the establishment of the Climate Change Centre of Excellence?

ANSWER:

In the 2006 election campaign, the Queensland Government committed to the establishment of the Queensland Climate Change Centre of Excellence (the Centre) in the Department of Natural Resources and Water, with a mission to prepare Queensland for the inevitable consequences of climate change.

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

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

Queensland is being recognised both in Australia and overseas for its leadership in responding to climate change. Since establishing the Centre, Queensland has received approaches from government agencies in New South Wales, Western Australia and Tasmania seeking information about the State Government initiative.

By integrating climate change policy and science, the Centre will ensure the Queensland Government is able to identify and implement climate change adaptation and mitigation measures that support Queensland's continued economic, social and environmental prosperity.

The Centre is also developing collaborative science projects nationally with CSIRO, the universities and the Bureau of Meteorology and internationally with the Walker Institute and the Hadley Centre in the United Kingdom.

The key science projects of the Centre include climate systems research, impacts of climate change and risk assessment applications for important sectors such as water planning, agriculture, environment and landscapes and special projects such as cloud seeding research. The Centre will provide

publicly available scientific reports and summary documents, as well as regular updates on climate signals and forecasts for Queensland.

The Centres key policy projects include implementation and coordination of the actions from the Queensland Government's *ClimateSmart Adaptation 2007-12: An action plan for managing the impacts of climate change*, preparation of a climate change vulnerability assessment of Queensland's regions and sectors, and development of a State Planning Policy for climate change.