

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 948

asked on Friday, 8 June 2007

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

QUESTION:

Will he advise how the Queensland Climate Change Centre for Excellence is investigating the impact of climate change on the Queensland natural environment?

ANSWER:

In March 2007, the Premier and I launched the Queensland Climate Change Centre of Excellence (the Centre), to learn more about climate change and to provide information to help the Queensland Government, industries and communities to better understand, forecast, prepare and adapt to climate changes.

One of the first initiatives from the Centre is implementation of *ClimateSmart Adaptation 2007-12: An action plan for managing the impacts of climate change* (the Action Plan). The Action Plan is linked to *ClimateSmart 2050: Queensland climate change strategy 2007: a low-carbon future*, launched by the Government on 3 June 2007.

There are several actions in the Action Plan, designed to facilitate a better understanding of the impacts of climate change on Queensland's natural environment, and to build the resilience of our natural assets to those impacts.

The Centre will work together with the Environmental Protection Agency to complete several actions addressing the impacts of climate change on Queensland's natural environment.

Information gaps and research priorities for climate change impacts on biodiversity will be identified. Work has commenced on a vulnerability and sensitivity assessment of Queensland's regions and sectors to climate change impacts, as a basis for prioritising actions.

A review of available options and mechanisms to manage the impacts of climate change on Queensland's at-risk ecosystems will be undertaken, with a view to determining the best approaches for protecting and managing these important areas.

Integrating the latest climate change science into conservation and natural resource management programs will be vital for achieving this. The Centre will work with the Environmental Protection Agency on this action.

The impacts of climate change on vegetation types in grazing and cropping land will be also assessed to inform future management of these important systems.

Models of sediment movement and salinity intrusion in coastal and riverine environments will be improved, to enable better assessment and advice on climate change impacts to these resources.

In addition to these actions, the Centre will work to establish partnerships with key organisations, such as the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, to implement joint initiatives that address climate change impacts on the natural environment.

Through implementing these and other actions in the Action Plan, the Queensland Government is ensuring that our natural environment will be protected for future generations.