

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 961

asked on Friday, 8 June 2007

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

QUESTION:

Will he outline how the Queensland Climate Change Centre of Excellence is collaborating with the Hadley Centre in the United Kingdom?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Climate Change Centre of Excellence (the Centre) will draw on the best knowledge and science about climate change and its impacts to provide information to help the Queensland Government, industries and communities to better understand, forecast, prepare and adapt to climate changes.

The science of climate systems and modelling of climate change impacts are extremely complex and the Centre will collaborate with leading national and international groups, to ensure that the most up-to-date and accurate information is available to minimise the risks and maximise the opportunities presented by Queensland's changing climate.

In March 2007, the Premier signed agreements to formalise cooperative research between Queensland scientists and two world-class climate groups in the United Kingdom. Up to one million dollars from the Centre's budget has been allocated over three years for joint projects and scientific exchanges under these two agreements to accelerate access to world-class climate information relevant to Queensland.

Cooperative research under a Statement of Intent with the United Kingdom's Met Office Hadley Centre for Climate Change (the Hadley Centre) will commence in July 2007, initially focussing on a strategic three-year project to develop better climate datasets. These will provide new insights into the climate system and how it has changed, particularly due to phenomena such as the El Niño-Southern Oscillation that influences our rainfall and extreme weather events.

Our scientists will also work with researchers in the Walker Institute for Climate System Research (the Walker Institute), at the University of Reading, to understand the impacts of climate change on priority issues for Queensland by linking outputs from high resolution climate models developed in the United Kingdom with models for water resources, agriculture and insurance.

Representatives from the Hadley Centre and the Walker Institute have been invited to participate in the Third Australia-New Zealand Climate Change in Business Conference in Brisbane, in August 2007. As well as speaking at the conference, they will meet with Government and other interest groups to strengthen and broaden linkages with Queensland.

The agreement for joint research with the Hadley Centre is in recognition of the high regard held internationally for Queensland climate scientists. These collaborations with the United Kingdom will complement linkages that the Centre has with groups in Australia, particularly the CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology, and internationally such as with the International Research Institute for Climate and Society, in New York.