

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 994

asked on Tuesday, 7 August 2007

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the links his department has formed with Singapore to increase Queensland's expertise in the management of water resources—

Will he advise of any other international links maintained by his department?

ANSWER:

Our relationship with Singapore has indeed been instrumental in furthering our understanding of the global efforts undertaken to manage water efficiently, and our special interest in urban water use management.

Currently, my department has established similar international relations that provide Queensland with unique opportunities to share and access knowledge and skills that assist us in working towards ensuring the sustainability of Queensland's natural resources.

Recently, we have invested \$1 million over three years to support international climate research between the QCCCE and United Kingdom science groups. Through this agreement, our scientists have contributed results from Global Climate Models run on the department's super computing facility to the IRI consensus climate forecast. The QCCCE has also undertaken collaborative projects to study climate impacts on agriculture.

We have existing relationships with China, where NRW provides training for Chinese land officials. To date we have trained more than 150 Chinese Government Officers and land administration professionals.

NRW has also been working with China's Institute of Atmospheric Physics, Chinese Academy of Science (CAS), since October 2004, during which time NRW has been exchanging the latest research and development information on mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and increasing carbon dioxide storage in land-based ecosystems.

We have also focussed on working with Australian community groups to provide short-term training opportunities for government officials in other countries. NRW has established short term skills training programs for Papua New Guinea's Department of Lands and Physical Planning and work placements for Chinese Ministry staff within the NRW in Queensland.

I am more than happy to share the details of these relationships. Each one greatly assists Queensland to develop and further enhance knowledge and skills and to build a better State.