

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1879**  
**Asked on 27 November 2008**

MR WEIGHTMAN asked the Minister for Tourism, Regional Development and Industry (MS BOYLE) —

**QUESTION:**

As tourism in Queensland is a big industry—

What is the government doing to assist this industry to move towards sustainable practices?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Cleveland for the question.

The Bligh Government works closely with Queensland's tourism industry to develop and implement sustainable tourism practices. We want to protect our lifestyle and environment and build a strong tourism industry in tomorrow's Queensland. Therefore, we have made it Tourism Queensland vision for the future to be the champion of world's best practice in sustainable tourism. This vision will be reflected in Tourism Queensland's activities across the board.

The Queensland Government encourages the tourism industry, on both a whole of state and a regional level, to approach sustainability on three levels: ensuring financial viability, the environment's long term sustainability and delivery of both visitor and community expectations.

The initiatives outlined below are strongly aligned with the Toward Q2 initiative to promote a green Queensland.

To build a strong economic future and ensure financial viability of our tourism industry, the Bligh Government has introduced regional planning regimes that give the regional tourism organisations and industry a sound basis for business decision making. Destination Management Plans have been developed for each region. These documents are regularly updated to ensure relevance and accuracy and form the blueprint for the future of tourism across Queensland's regions.

We live in a world that is rapidly changing and to safeguard Queensland's tourism operators against unforeseen circumstances, a number of tools and guides have been developed collaboratively by Tourism Queensland and my department. These tools focus on risk management planning to combat the effects of climate change, natural disasters, epidemics, and fluctuations in the economy. To help Queensland's business operators stay competitive in these uncertain times, tools focussing on areas such as business continuity planning can be accessed by visiting the departmental website

[www.business.qld.gov.au/resilience](http://www.business.qld.gov.au/resilience) and Tourism Queensland's corporate website [http://www.tq.com.au/tqcorp\\_06/resource-centre/industry-assistance/](http://www.tq.com.au/tqcorp_06/resource-centre/industry-assistance/).

Queensland Government is committed to facilitating sustainable tourism practices across the industry and in doing this we plan. In 2006, the Queensland Tourism Strategy (QTS), a ten year vision was developed to provide the planning framework for the coordinated and sustainable development of tourism across Queensland.

In line with our vision to build a green Queensland we encourage our tourism businesses to be environmental sustainable. As part of this effort, a number of QTS initiatives focus on encouraging tourism operators to adopt green practices:

- We have developed an online resource centre, Sustainable Tourism Handbook, outlining practical ways tourism businesses can reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change, the importance of being carbon friendly and the need to reduce, reuse and recycle. It involves incorporating new practices and procedures into day-to-day business operations.
- We have also established a new website [www.industry.qld.gov.au/climatechange](http://www.industry.qld.gov.au/climatechange) which is a central point for up to date information and tools about carbon trading in Australia, steps to reduce emissions and funding programs available.
- In addition, we run a series of sustainability and climate change workshops hosted by Tourism Queensland, the Queensland Climate Change Centre of Excellence and regional tourist organisations across the state which were well received.

The Queensland Tourism Strategy also links to other strategies and initiatives currently underway that seek to achieve sustainability goals. Examples include Climate Smart National Climate Change Framework for Action and Emissions trading scheme

In order to deliver practical information tailored to the tourism industry, Tourism Queensland has developed a dedicated website that focuses on sustainability and climate change [www.tq.com.au/sustainability](http://www.tq.com.au/sustainability). The website features useful information on a variety of issues that would be of interest to tourism operators such as the information on both State and Federal Government climate change assistance grants.

In addition, my department has developed a new business information service including a 10 minute climate change quiz that gives tips to businesses on how to reduce their impacts and promote these achievements to suppliers, clients and employees. [www.business.qld.gov.au/climatechangequiz](http://www.business.qld.gov.au/climatechangequiz)

In terms of social sustainability, investigations into ways to examine the impact of community perceptions of tourism are being undertaken by Tourism Queensland.

As part of this effort, Tourism Queensland is investigating consumer holiday needs. Outcomes of this research are available online [www.tq.com.au/marketing/indexcfm](http://www.tq.com.au/marketing/indexcfm).

Tourism is a vital industry in Queensland, a major employer of Queenslanders and one of the drivers of our economic growth. As a Government, we realise the significance of the industry to our State's future and we are committed to ensuring that tourism in tomorrow's Queensland stays strong. However, we also want to protect the natural wonders and the great lifestyle we are so lucky to have here in Queensland. Therefore, we are making ongoing effort to drive Queensland towards a green future and in doing so we will continue to facilitate sustainable tourism practices.