

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 451

asked on Wednesday 15 April 2008

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

### QUESTION:

With reference to the Australian section of the European Satellite Navigation Competition which he recently launched— Will he outline work done by the Department of Natural Resources and Water in the area of satellite technology?

### ANSWER:

My Department of Natural Resources and Water uses satellite technology for a number of core business functions, ranging from satellite imagery for vegetation mapping to Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS).

Queensland is at the forefront of GNSS application development using the American GPS, the Russian GLONASS, and more recently, Europe's Galileo satellite navigation system.

Global Navigation Satellite Systems are used for geodetic surveys to establish and deliver the geodetic datum and a standard coordinate system for Queenslanders and a number of important projects, including the Heads of Agreement surveys in Cape York and surveys for Indigenous land use agreements.

In South East Queensland my Department offers the SunPOZ GNSS service. SunPOZ is a satellite based technology service delivering improved spatial positioning, reliability and accuracy. SunPOZ uses continuously operating GNSS reference stations, and a centralised computing facility, to correct the signals from satellites and distribute these corrections to clients so that they can know their position more accurately. To access the SunPOZ service, users combine their own GNSS receivers with mobile communications equipment, such as mobile phones. They can then receive the corrections from the SunPOZ computer and position themselves with centimetre-accuracy in real time. SunPOZ offers precise positioning services that are of benefit not only to traditional survey users, but also to an expanding user base requiring precise positioning in the construction, mining and agricultural industries. Further information on the SunPOZ service is available on the Department's website at [www.nrw.qld.gov.au/gnss/pdf/sunpoz\\_flyer](http://www.nrw.qld.gov.au/gnss/pdf/sunpoz_flyer).

The Department is also leading a Commonwealth-funded Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information project, looking into the business and

technical aspects of optimising and delivering precise positioning services for regional areas.

Currently, my Department is implementing, with the Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry, the first Australian regional section of the prestigious European Satellite Navigation Competition. The Competition is organised by the Global Navigation Satellite System Applications Centre of the German state of Bavaria. Known as the “Australian Challenge”, I recently officially launched the regional section here in Brisbane.

Aimed at identifying commercially-viable ideas that use satellite navigation technology, the competition offers the opportunity for innovative ideas to be internationally recognised, receive support from the satellite navigation industry, and realise their full potential.

As lead agency for GNSS in Queensland, my Department’s links, with European geospatial technology centres, have made the Smart State the ideal host for the “Australian Challenge”, and has created an opportunity for GNSS applications developers in Queensland and the rest of Australia to take their ideas to Europe and the world.