Question on Notice
No. 1222
Asked on Tuesday, 15 September 2009

MR O'BRIEN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY (MS JONES)—

QUESTION:

How will Torres Strait Islands suffering from severe erosion as a result of climate change benefit from the Bligh Government's Climate Q strategy?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government has been proactive in responding to climate change and, through existing programs and the Government's new climate change strategy, *ClimateQ*, will work with the Torres Strait Islands to identify and adjust to emerging climate change risks.

The Department of Environment and Resource Management has been working with the Torres Strait Regional Authority and Community Councils, through the Torres Strait Coastal Management Committee, to identify the causes of coastal erosion and possible solutions on the most vulnerable islands.

The *ClimateQ* strategy will build on these projects to help the Torres Strait manage future impacts of sea level rise by investing $8 million to develop improved mapping of the state's coastline to better plan for climate change responses. This includes the development of a comprehensive high resolution computer Digital Elevation Model.

This coastal Digital Elevation Model will be used to create interactive computer-based maps that can be employed to show the impacts of a range of climate change scenarios, and will build upon work that has already been undertaken by the Department. This initiative will enable decision-makers to better understand the impacts of sea-level rise, storm surge and coastal erosion along Queensland's coastline, including the Torres Strait Islands.

The Queensland Government is also drafting a new Queensland Coastal Plan which will guide future land use planning and development to address climate change impacts, including sea level rise and coastal erosion. The plan provides science-based climate change risks that local governments, including the Torres Strait Islands Regional Council, must consider in future planning decisions.