

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1464

asked on Thursday, 8 October 2009

MS GRACE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY (MS JONES)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the recent launch of the new climate change strategy, Climate Q— What initiatives will help residents and businesses in Brisbane Central to reduce their carbon footprint?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is committed to working with communities and businesses to help Queensland reduce its carbon footprint.

In August this year, the Queensland Government demonstrated this commitment by investing \$196 million in a range of programs and policies under the revised climate change strategy, *ClimateQ: toward a greener Queensland*. The strategy works to prepare Queenslanders for the impacts of climate change and reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions in several key sectors.

ClimateQ includes a range of initiatives aimed to assist Queensland households and businesses, including those in Brisbane Central, to reduce their carbon footprint.

The *Queensland Solar Hot Water Program* has commenced the installation of up to 200,000 solar hot water systems and heat pumps in eligible Queensland households, at a very reduced cost.

The *ClimateSmart Business Service*, similar to the popular *ClimateSmart Home Service*, will invest \$15 million to help small to medium sized businesses reduce their emissions and prepare for higher energy and other input costs following the introduction of the Commonwealth Government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme. Commencing on 1 July 2010, the service is being designed in consultation with key business stakeholder groups.

The *Carbon Outlook* initiative has been assisting about 50 firms in key sectors to better understand the carbon impacts on their business. The information and case studies from this initiative will be used to engage with industry and inform government policies and programs, including the *ClimateSmart Business Service*.

In addition, nearly \$56 million has been allocated for transport related initiatives which aim to help Queenslanders reduce their transport emissions, including:

- *Improving traffic flow for reduced emissions*: a \$39.3 million initiative to reduce emissions and ease congestion on key roads and motorways in the south-east.

- *Faster, Better, Safer Walking and Cycling*: this \$2.9 million initiative will accelerate the planning and development of key walking and cycling infrastructure in the south-east, with gaps in the network close to key destinations such as the Brisbane CBD and Fortitude Valley being prioritised.
- *Public Transport Planning Tool*: a \$1.3 million investment to develop a planning tool to measure an area's public transport accessibility, based on how easy it is to access important services such as hospitals, schools, shops and workplaces by walking, cycling or public transport.
- *Vehicle Offsets Contribution Scheme*: commencing in November 2009 this initiative will give Queensland motorists the opportunity to offset their vehicle's greenhouse gas emissions, with a matching contribution from the Queensland Government. Up to \$9 million will become available through this initiative to purchase corridors of land to help native ecosystems respond to climate change.

ClimateQ builds on existing government programs and investments, such as the *ClimateSmart Home Service*, the *Low-Carbon Diet* and others to ensure Queensland households are supported on the path to a lower carbon future. The new initiatives in *ClimateQ* will, over time, help households and businesses in Central Brisbane reduce their carbon footprint and play their part in conserving our unique way of life.