



Speech by

Hon. T. McGRADY

MEMBER FOR MOUNT ISA

Hansard 1 March 2000

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund

Hon. T. McGRADY (Mount Isa—ALP) (Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development) (10.14 a.m.), by leave: In May last year the Government launched a \$3m Queensland Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund, and through the fund awarded almost \$1m in funding to round 1 applicants. The time has come to call for applicants for round 2 to submit projects from across the energy spectrum, particularly those geared towards promoting energy efficiency and sustainable energy sources. The emphasis on round 2 funding is towards private sector organisations, although public sector applications would be considered. Proposals to develop and commercialise innovative new products will be accorded the highest priority. It is anticipated that up to \$1m will be shared by five to 10 projects.

The Queensland Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund aims to establish Queensland as a leader in developing sustainable energy technologies and practices by allowing the State to become a market leader in specific areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy or greenhouse gas reduction; by creating business opportunities and employment in sustainable energy industries; by addressing needs or opportunities relating to sustainable energy that are specific to Queensland; and by developing expertise and/or community acceptance of sustainable energy technologies or practices in Queensland.

Nineteen Queensland projects were awarded funding in round 1. These projects include the development of a solar pool chlorinator, a low-cost solar water heater, low-cost inverters, high efficiency lights and remote battery monitoring for remote area power systems, and technology to produce fuel methanol from landfill gas. Applications will be considered on a competitive basis, and judged on a range of criteria. The applicants must demonstrate that their proposal will specifically address Queensland needs, problems or opportunities relating to energy efficiency, renewable energy or cogeneration.

Project proposals will be assessed by a specialist technical review committee and funding decisions overseen by a board with members having expertise in commerce, industry and technology development. The successful applicants for funding will be expected to contribute a substantial share of project costs. Applicants will also be assisted in forming partnerships with other industry, research and funding bodies.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to submit an initial expression of interest and discuss their proposals with advisory officers from the Government's office of sustainable energy before submitting a full application. The deadline for receipt of full applications in the second funding round is 31 May 2000. I believe this fund is an important pillar for the Government's support of sustainable energy technologies and industries within this State.
