



Speech by

Hon. T. McGRADY

MEMBER FOR MOUNT ISA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Canada; World Mines Ministries Forum

Hon. T. McGRADY (Mount Isa—ALP) (Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development) (10 a.m.), by leave: I would like to inform the House of my recent visit to Canada, where I attended the World Mines Ministries Forum held in Toronto from 8 to 10 March. It is not true that I brought back from Canada the tie being worn this morning by my colleague the Honourable Paul Braddy.

Over 300 Ministers and senior officials from countries around the world attended this forum, which covered major topics including sustainable development, mining and the community, geoscience in the information age and the competitiveness of nations. There are many significant issues which are common to the mining industry right across the world. As well as attending the forum, I was able to meet with counterparts to discuss these issues. The issues included mining and the environment, indigenous rights, landowner concerns and the taxation and royalty regimes— all of which are very relevant to Queensland.

There was also a common global concern about the decline in mineral exploration expenditure over recent years. There was great interest in the initiatives that we are taking in Queensland to address this decline. Queensland is looked on as a leader in the mining world and is, without a doubt, regarded as one of the best places to conduct mining business. I was very happy to reinforce this view.

I had the opportunity to meet with the South African Minister for Energy to discuss our recent innovative remote area power scheme. So impressed was she that tomorrow a delegation from South Africa will visit Brisbane to personally inspect and discuss how our scheme can be implemented in South Africa. One of the many meetings I had with international mining houses has also resulted in a delegation coming to the north-west of the State next week to further discuss the possibility of development in the North West Province.

With the feedback I received during this trip, I am convinced that Queensland is very well placed to take advantage of the generally expected upswing in levels of activity when it comes in the mining industry. I table a report on this trip.
