



Speech by

Hon. D. WELLS

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Hansard 26 November 2002

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund

Hon. D. M. WELLS (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Environment) (10.02 a.m.): The Queensland Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund fosters innovation in the field of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies. How we meet our energy needs has direct impacts on climate change from greenhouse gas emissions. It affects air quality in our cities and towns, our dependence on overseas sources of transport fuels, and employment opportunities in providing energy services for regional areas. We need innovative ideas that can be implemented cost effectively to drive our transition to a sustainable energy future.

Most of our energy is still supplied from non-renewable fossil fuels, but in this century our energy sources will have to become more diverse. As part of our Smart State agenda, this government actively supports research, development and product innovation in Queensland. To date, more than \$2.1 million has been committed to research, development and product innovation projects under the Queensland Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund. This year, 15 applications were received and these were subjected to intensive technical evaluation by specialists from around Australia.

Today, I announce funding from the Queensland Sustainable Energy Fund for five new projects with a total government funding contribution of \$619,000. Two projects, one based in Mackay and another at Indooroopilly, aim to increase power generated by sugar mills. Another aims to develop high-efficiency replacement for halogen lamps in a Cleveland based firm.

Mr Briskey: Lumascape Lighting—an outstanding innovative company.

Mr WELLS: I thank the honourable member for Cleveland and I thank him for his advocacy for sustainable energy.

Another based at Ipswich West is to develop new sewage treatment technology, which produces all of its energy requirements. The final project aims to reduce energy use by industrial food dryers at Malanda. Projects such as these will help establish sustainable industries and a sustainable future for Queensland.