



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 8 March 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coal Industry

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.48 am): In terms of the Queensland coal industry, I wish to highlight that it continues to boom in response to increasing world demand. In recent times we have seen announcements on expansions at a number of existing coalmines such as Dawson-Moura, Ensham, German Creek, Hail Creek, Newlands, New Acland and Wilkie Creek.

This industry is going from strength to strength and we are building the infrastructure across the state to support this industry. There is already a considerable amount of investment committed—about \$1.2 billion—across a range of transport infrastructure with another \$3 billion or so being planned, subject to future demand and commercial underwriting. Queensland Rail, for example, is working to increase capacity of its coal network from around 145 million tonnes per year to around 200 million tonnes per year by around 2009. In the same time frame, Abbot Point coal terminal is looking to increase capacity from 15 million to 21 million tonnes, Dalrymple Bay coal terminal from 55 million to 68 million tonnes, Hay Point from 34 million to 44 million tonnes and Gladstone from 44 million to 68 million tonnes.

It also timely to mention that the public comment period for the Queensland Rail northern missing link project closes on 3 April. This important project will link the northern Goonyella and Newlands rail systems and increase the number of northern Bowen Basin coal mines that can export through Abbot Point. I seek leave to incorporate the details in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

We have also seen announcements regarding the proposed development of new mines, such as Clermont, Kogan Creek, Lake Lindsay, Olive Downs and Sonoma.

A number of new mines such as Broadmeadow Underground, Rolleston and Minerva have also recently commenced production and shipment of coal and the Millennium, Poitrel, Carborough Downs/Broadlea and Isaac Plains projects are under construction.

In fact, there is increased activity right across the coal mining areas of Queensland.

Of course, this growth can only happen if we have the capacity to transport coal from the mines to Queensland ports for export to the world.

There has been considerable investment by our government, miners and infrastructure providers—particularly for rail and port—to ensure this strong industry growth is able to be met.

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Queensland Rail, for example, is working to increase capacity of its coal network from around 145 million tonnes per year, to around 200 million tonnes per year by around 2009.

In the same timeframe, Abbot Point Coal Terminal is looking to increase capacity from 15 to 21 million tonnes; Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal from 55 to 68 million tonnes; Hay Point from 34 to 44 million tonnes; and Gladstone from 44 to 68 million tonnes.

It also timely to mention that the public comment period for the Queensland Rail Northern Missing Link project closes on April 3.

This important project will link the Northern Goonyella and Newlands rails systems and increase the number of northern Bowen Basin coal mines that can export through Abbott Point.

I am satisfied that there are appropriate levels of planning across all sectors to meet changing and challenging market circumstances in our booming coal industry.