



Speech by

# Hon. Geoff Wilson

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Hansard Tuesday, 6 February 2007

---

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Power Stations, Water Supply

**Hon. GJ WILSON** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Mines and Energy) (10.24 am): We are in the grip of the worst drought in south-east Queensland in recorded history. It is a challenge not only for all levels of government but also for industry and the community. Today I want to talk about the supply of water to power stations and their ability to generate power during the drought. Tarong Energy has forecast that there will be sufficient water available to continue to generate power at Tarong Power Station during this summer and the next, and the state government has committed to fund the \$1.7 billion Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme. The Swanbank section of the pipeline will be completed by the end of August this year and the Tarong section by the end of June next year. When it is up and running, it is intended that neither Swanbank nor Tarong power stations will be drawing any water from the Wivenhoe system.

We are working right now to reduce water usage. Tarong Power Station stopped drawing water from Wivenhoe Dam for its cooling towers in March last year. This measure saves around 43 megalitres a day. The water is now drawn from Boondooma Dam, which does not supply drinking water to Brisbane. Tarong Power Station is also implementing a number of recycling and conservation alternatives that are expected to save around 8,000 megalitres a year. On top of this, Tarong Power Station has modified its power generation in off-peak times to save an additional 7,000 megalitres over the next 18 months. Water-saving initiatives at Swanbank power stations will reduce consumption by 727 megalitres this year. In the last five years, Swanbank power stations have cut their total water usage by 22 per cent. Swanbank E is the country's newest, most efficient and most advanced gas-fired power station. As well as these initiatives, the dry-cooled Kogan Creek Power Station is expected to be up and running around September this year. It will boost the state's generating capacity by 750 megawatts. Kogan Creek will use one-tenth of the water used by its wet-cooled counterparts, and that water will be drawn from adjacent deep-well bores. We are facing the worst drought in 100 years and we must all work together to meet the challenges ahead.