



Speech by

Hon. Geoff Wilson

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Hansard Tuesday, 20 February 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Energy Policy

Hon. GJ WILSON (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Mines and Energy) (9.57 am): There is global recognition of the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and Queensland is on the front foot. We are investing in a range of initiatives to encourage new technology, renewable energy and smarter energy use. Our \$50 million energy policy has helped diversify the state's generation mix. We now have hydro, gas, biomass, wind and bagasse.

Our world-leading 13 per cent gas scheme requires retailers and other large electricity users to source at least 13 per cent of their electricity from gas-fired generation. We have around 3,000 megawatts of gas-fired generation projects on the drawing board. There is our Windy Hill Wind Farm on the Atherton Tablelands; Australia's only working geothermal power station in Birdsville; Swanbank E, the country's newest and most advanced gas-fired power station; Swanbank B's landfill gas supply that generates green energy; and a macadamia nutshell biomass plant in Gympie and a bagasse-fired plant near Childers. Some of these are big, some are small, but most are cutting-edge technology. All up, they are saving tens of thousands of tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

We are also developing the state's first solar farm at Windorah. Then there is ZeroGen, a world-first demonstration power plant outside Rockhampton. It will be the first in the world to integrate the technologies of coal gasification and carbon capture and storage. The amount of carbon dioxide captured would be similar to taking 93,000 cars off the road for a year. Finally, there is CS Energy's Oxy-fuel project near Biloela. It is expected to demonstrate that our coal fleet can be retrofitted with oxy-fuel technology, which will achieve even deeper cuts to carbon emissions. The smarter use of energy is the backbone of our \$14 million Energy Choices election commitment.