



Speech by

Hon. Geoff Wilson

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Hansard Thursday, 22 February 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coal Exports

Hon. GJ WILSON (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Mines and Energy) (9.53 am): Today I am pleased to officially report that business is booming in Queensland's coal industry. In 2005-06, sales revenue reached an all-time record of more than \$17 billion, which is over \$6 billion more than the previous year. Revenues were boosted by higher prices. This year the average price of coal increased by more than \$44 a tonne, to over \$125 a tonne. Total coal sales, including to the domestic market, reached almost 170 million tonnes. Metallurgical coals, which are used in the world's iron and steel industries, again dominated exports. Japan continued as our largest customer, taking more than 54 million tonnes for the year. Other significant customers included Korea, India, Europe, China, South America and Taiwan.

In 2005-06, the state received more than \$1.1 billion in royalties from the coal industry, which is around 80 per cent of the \$1.45 billion in total royalties received. Those royalties help to build our schools and hospitals, they put police on the beat and teachers in our classrooms. As well as the royalties, the state receives rail freight charges and rentals on mining tenures.

Jobs in the Queensland coal industry have also grown. At the end of June last year, more than 18,600 people were employed in the industry, which is around 2,800 more than last year.

Coal exports are expected to grow even more this year, with seven new projects kicking off production. Last month, Rio Tinto and its joint venture partners committed to the immediate development of the \$950 million Clermont coalmine.

All this export and development activity has had a tremendous impact on our economy. The resources boom is a magnet for jobs and job security. To back this booming industry, the state government is investing \$300 million through the Queensland Future Growth Fund on clean coal technology projects. By investing in our billion dollar coal industry, we are investing in the workers at the coal face. We are investing in their future. Contrary to recent interstate attacks, we are standing up for the Queensland coal industry.