



Speech by

**Hon. Geoff Wilson**

**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

Hansard Tuesday, 6 March 2007

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Mine Inspections**

**Hon. GJ WILSON** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Mines and Energy) (10.01 am): The resources boom has helped build our hospitals, put teachers in our classrooms and police on the beat. While we reap the benefits, we should never lose sight of the fact that there is nothing more important than the safety and health of mine workers. That is why I have requested mines inspectors to undertake a series of targeted safety audits at a range of coal and metalliferous mines across the state. Today the inspectors will arrive unannounced to carry out audits at several mines that were selected on their recent incident record and potential high-risk areas. These are the first of a number that will be conducted over the next three to six months. Mines inspectors will include those who are familiar with the sites and others who are not normally inspectors of those particular mines. External mining specialists will also assist the audit teams.

The audits will help these mines improve their safety record. They will target safety systems and include extensive site inspections. Key areas to be examined include strata control, ventilation, fire prevention, fatigue management and electrical safety. Mine operators, employers and workers are responsible for health and safety on the job. But I am determined that the Mines Inspectorate continue to support the industry operating safely. At an industry-wide level, we have one of the best mine safety records in the world, and I commend the Queensland Resources Council and senior industry leaders for their vigorous support of mine safety. We have the best legislation on mine safety in Australia, but it must continue to be strongly enforced on the ground—mine by mine, employer by employer, worker by worker. Vigilance must be the highest priority on every shift at every mine. All those responsible for safety must fully play their part to ensure they never lose focus. Nothing is more important than the safety of the men and women who work in our mining industry.