



Speech by

Hon. Geoff Wilson

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Hansard Thursday, 15 March 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mining Industry

Hon. GJ WILSON (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Mines and Energy) (10.15 am): Queensland's mining and petroleum industries have reached a significant milestone. In the 2005-06 financial year the export and domestic sales of Queensland's mineral and petroleum products was a record \$25.4 billion, an \$8 billion increase on the previous year. It is the first time that sales have exceeded the \$25 billion mark.

The mining industry, as we know, is the backbone of the state's strong economy. Royalties from the mining industry—\$1.45 billion last year—help build our schools and hospitals, put police on the beat and teachers in our classrooms. The resources boom is a magnet for jobs and job security. To back this booming industry we are investing \$300 million in clean coal technology projects. By investing in our multibillion-dollar mining industry we are investing in the workers at the coalface; we are investing in their future. Our \$20 million Smart Exploration program is achieving positive results. Today's exploration activity will yield tomorrow's mines and tomorrow's jobs. The new \$29 million Smart Mining program is well underway and will further advance the exploration of Queensland's resources.

These latest figures were dominated by export sales of almost \$18 billion for coal. It reflects the ongoing demand for Queensland's coking coals in the global steel industry and record prices. Metalliferous sales were up to \$5.6 billion, over \$1.8 billion more than the previous year. Petroleum sales, including natural and coal seam gas, were also up, recording just over \$1 billion which is a milestone in itself. The production of coal seam gas is on the rise and this can be directly attributed to the state government's 13% Gas Scheme. The mining industry is indeed booming in Queensland and the state government is backing it all the way.