



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 15 March 2007

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Clean Coal Technology

**Hon. PD BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.49 am): Clean coal technology is vital to our energy sector and to the jobs of thousands of Queenslanders. The development of this vital technology will ensure that our enormous coal reserves continue to drive jobs and investment in this state while providing clean energy for millions around the world. Queensland is leading the way with the 80 megawatt ZeroGen project—a first of its kind; a clean coal power demonstration project—which involves integrated gasification combined cycle and carbon capture and storage. ZeroGen has the potential to allow us all to make large cuts in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The proposed prototype power station will produce enough base load electricity to supply 80,000 homes from coal, which will substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions compared to existing coal and gas-fired power stations. It could capture and store up to 420,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year. That is the equivalent of taking 93,000 cars off the road.

Tomorrow the ownership of ZeroGen Pty Ltd will be transferred from the government owned power generator Stanwell Corporation to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. I seek leave to have the details incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

It is appropriate that the Queensland Government takes up this opportunity to test clean coal technology on a commercial scale for new power stations in Queensland.

Knowledge from the ZeroGen project will be critical if we are to deploy large-scale gasification and carbon capture projects in Australia and the world.

ZeroGen is well advanced with its Environmental Impact Statement Process and feasibility study, stakeholder engagement and design.

In July 2006 Shell Development signed up to provide specialist expertise for the ZeroGen clean coal project and will be offered a 10% interest.

The Clean Coal Technology Board was established in the same month and the Board has recommended the project be transferred to the Queensland Government.

Construction is scheduled to commence in the first quarter of 2009 subject to funding and regulatory approvals.

In the next five years the project is expected to deliver an operating clean coal power station prototype.

By 2020, clean coal technology could become the norm for all new power stations in Queensland.

We have invited the coal industry and the Federal Government to participate and invest in the development of ZeroGen's prototype power station and that offer is still on the table.

ZeroGen is a significant project, not only for the national and international power and coal industries, but for the local community.

It will create around 700 jobs in the construction phase and up to 150 permanent jobs during its operation.

Queensland could soon be in the position to sell its clean coal technology to China and India, some of the world's biggest consumers of coal—and therefore contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions.