



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Tuesday, 4 September 2007

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### ZeroGen

**Hon. PD BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.41 am): While talking about good news on the water front, there is also good news in clean coal technology—the future of coal in this state. ZeroGen has cleared the first hurdle in developing clean coal technology. I am pleased to inform the House today that the development of vital technology to help secure the future of this state's coal industry has reached a major milestone. The board of ZeroGen has announced that it has successfully completed the first stage of its test drilling program, a project which if successful will help guarantee tens of thousands of jobs linked to Queensland's coalmining industry.

The ZeroGen project is an advanced feasibility study that is examining the technical and financial viability of using a coal based gasification plant integrated with carbon capture and storage. It is hoped that it will generate safe, reliable and environmentally responsive baseload electricity with reduced carbon dioxide emissions. The first stage of its drilling program has found that the geology in the Northern Denison Trough is suitable to safely inject and store CO<sub>2</sub> in saline aquifers. Put simply, ZeroGen has found in this stage where it can safely store and inject CO<sub>2</sub> into saline reservoirs. This will assist in locating reservoirs suitable for the long-term safe storage of CO<sub>2</sub> which is fundamental to any clean coal technology. It is a big hurdle successfully cleared. The ZeroGen board as a result approved the next phase of test drilling to locate a reservoir with sufficient capacity for the project. The second drilling test will also allow for an analysis of one of the great challenges facing clean coal technology—the costs associated with the carbon capture and storage process. The feasibility study is expected to be completed by the end of 2008.