



Speech by

Hon. Ken Hayward

MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR

Hansard Wednesday, 11 February 2009

GREENHOUSE GAS STORAGE BILL

Hon. KW HAYWARD (Kallangur—ALP) (4.04 pm): I rise in support of the Greenhouse Gas Storage Bill. The purpose of this bill is to help reduce the impact of greenhouse gas emissions and protect jobs in our mining and energy industries. This legislation paves the way for Queensland to be a world leader in clean coal research and development. This is what will make Queensland a stronger, smarter state—world-leading research and development, high-tech jobs and international investment in our industries. Tomorrow's Queensland will be stronger for this legislation.

The legislation provides a framework for the granting of authorities to explore for and use underground geological formations or structures to permanently store a greenhouse gas stream. The process of greenhouse gas storage involves the capture—and that capture is generally from fossil fuel fired power stations—and transport of a greenhouse gas stream and injection of this stream into an underground geological formation suitable for permanent, safe storage.

The state government, through the Geological Survey of Queensland of the Department of Mines and Energy and in conjunction with the Commonwealth government and the coal industry, has developed the Carbon Geostorage Initiative. The Carbon Geostorage Initiative will identify within Queensland geological formations or structures that are likely to be able to store greenhouse gases permanently and, I think very importantly, safely and their approximate storage capacity. Currently, mapping is underway to assess basin storage potential.

The bill provides that composition of a greenhouse gas stream allowed to be stored will be overwhelmingly carbon dioxide. The definition of a greenhouse gas stream in the bill recognises that, in the process of separation of the carbon dioxide from its source, there are many minor impurities—such as methane or nitrogen oxides—remaining in the greenhouse gas stream.

Given the extent of the current global economic crisis from which Queensland has unfortunately not been immune, it is gratifying to see legislation before the House that, in essence, will create a new, green industry. That means new green jobs, green investment and, through all of that, as other speakers have said, a greener future for Queensland.

There are critics who argue that Queensland should not be investigating low-emission coal technologies. To those critics I would respond that in the battle against climate change we need to be in a position where we take no chances and, to that extent, we should fire every shot that we have in our locker. We need to investigate every possible avenue for lowering carbon emissions. That means we need to invest in renewables, we need an energy-efficient crusade and we need clean coal.

Queensland coal has been responsible for a large part of the world's carbon emissions. We have to recognise that. Our coal is burnt at home and also in Asia and Europe. Tomorrow's Queensland will export not just world-class coal but also world-class clean, green technology for burning that coal. As Professor Ross Garnaut said, clean coal will be Queensland's gift to the world. I commend the bill to the House.