

**Question on Notice
No. 659
Asked on 16 June 2004**

QUESTION:

MRS MILLER asked the Minister for Environment (Mr Mickel) —

How can his department assist retired coal miners, the Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union (Miner's Division) and the Ipswich Historical Society ensure that the history and heritage of coal mining in Ipswich is preserved for future generations?

ANSWER:

The Member for Bundamba is a passionate advocate for the coal mining industry and the important role it has played in the history of Ipswich. The union, the coal mining industry and those associated with it have played a vital part in the heritage of the Ipswich area. The history of the coal industry marks important stages in the economic and social development of Queensland.

It is important that some of those key industrial places that have contributed so much to the development of this State are recognised, and that today's Queenslanders have some understanding of the significant contribution the coal industry has made.

Senior Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) staff met representatives of the Ipswich community recently to explore ways in which the coal-mining heritage of the Ipswich area could best be recognised.

The community representatives were provided with advice on the process by which the Queensland Heritage Council (QHC) assesses the heritage significance of a place, and the criteria it applies when considering whether it should be entered in the Queensland Heritage Register.

By way of assistance my department advises the EPA also has a number of studies and inventories of heritage places - including mining heritage - that the Ipswich group could access should they wish to nominate places that reflect Ipswich's coal mining heritage for entry in the Register.

EPA officers attended a follow-up meeting with community members and officers from the Railway Museum Workshop on 12 July 2004 to discuss matters pertaining to the recording and preservation of coal mining history in the Ipswich region