

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 742

asked on Tuesday, 24 May 2005

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**MR WALLACE** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POLICY (MR MICKEL)—

QUESTION:

Will he advise on power consumption in the north Queensland region for the summer of 2004-05 and how that consumption compares to previous summers?

ANSWER:

My department advises data which shows the peak demands in the 10 transmission zones in the main Qld electricity grid is available in Powerlink's Annual Planning Report 2004 and on its website. I am advised that because the peak demands in the zones occurred at different times, adding the peak demands will not provide true peak demand information for North Queensland.

Queensland families and businesses will benefit from an investment of \$2.275 billion in the electricity network by Queensland's Government-owned power corporations for the 2005-06 financial year. This investment will ensure we have a reliable and cost-competitive electricity supply underpinning job creation and economic and community growth across Queensland.

Ergon Energy has budgeted for a record \$673 million capital expenditure for the 2005-06 financial year, including establishment of a substation at Townsville Port, upgrading high voltage lines around Townsville suburbs and expansion and upgrading of the distribution network in North Queensland. Ergon is investing \$512 million for its networks across regional Queensland. Other works include:

- around \$70million for line inspections and asset maintenance;
- approximately \$59million for substation-related works; and
- around \$32 million for feeder-related works

In the northern region Ergon Energy is investing approximately \$12 million for sub-transmission works, while Powerlink is investing over \$10 million to reinforce the grid supplying north Queensland.

The Thuringowa / Townsville area is leading the way in helping Queensland diversify its energy mix and reduce greenhouse gas emissions with the recent commissioning of the revamped Townsville Power Station. The conversion to coal seam methane is a win for north Queensland's electricity customers. The

power station is an integral part of a \$500 million energy project that has the potential to be the catalyst for significant industrial developments in North Queensland, creating thousands of jobs.

Ergon Energy and Powerlink are committed to providing a reliable electricity supply to North Queensland and to increase capacity to cater for future community and business growth. The Queensland Government is delivering energy infrastructure, delivering reliable energy sources, diversifying energy sources and creating employment opportunities. It remains committed to ensuring the current and future energy needs of North Queensland are met.