Question on Notice No. 277 Asked on 7 March 2006

Mrs E CUNNINGHAM asked the Premier (Mr Beattie) -

QUESTION:

With reference to media reports that have indicated his Government's intention to sell electricity assets in spite of promises to the community that electricity would remain in public ownership—

What other Government Owned Corporations are being assessed for sale and have any profits from Government Owned Corporations been forward sold?

ANSWER:

In its Fiscal and Economic Statement of 25 October 2005, the Government announced that it would undertake a comprehensive review of the Queensland energy government owned corporation (GOC) sector to ensure that its future structure is best suited to meet the demands of the changing market.

It would be inappropriate for me to comment on the review until my Government has had the opportunity to fully consider the matter. However, I can say that the review is being undertaken in keeping with the key objectives that the Government has for the energy market, specifically:

- the maintenance of competitive markets for electricity and gas which are a key component of economic growth;
- an energy GOC sector which is able to respond to the new market challenges;
- the timely development of new generation and gas projects to meet the demands of the fastest growing energy sector in the country;
- the maintenance of a strong Government owned distribution and transmission sector which is committed to the five-year capital program already established and the implementation of other recommendations contained in the Electricity Distribution and Service Delivery Report; and
- the commitment to recruit new staff and develop skills throughout the sector to ensure reliability of supply.

No future profits from Queensland Government-owned Corporations have been forward sold.