

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 755

asked on Thursday, 11 May 2006

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the legal fees incurred by Energex in 2004-05 which were \$4.8m which was four times the legal costs for the previous financial year –

- (1) What were the common law claims (reported separately) against Energex which resulted in legal fees increasing four-fold and what was the result of each of those claims (reported separately)?
- (2) What amount has Energex incurred for legal fees for the current financial year to-date?

ANSWER:

I have sought and received the following advice from ENERGEX:

- (1) The figure of \$4.8 million refers to an estimate only. It is not the actual cost of legal fees for 2004/05. The estimate includes matters unresolved at the end of the financial year. As ENERGEX is at various stages of defending these actions, it would be inappropriate to release estimates of the possible maximum amounts claimable for those individual claims – this may prejudice ENERGEX's position in relation to those claims and end up placing an unnecessary financial burden on the tax payers of Queensland.
- (2) This will be addressed in ENERGEX's 2005-06 Annual Report.