

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 143

asked on Tuesday, 20 February 2007

MR KNUTH ASKED THE MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY (MR WILSON)—

QUESTION:

How many licenses have been issued by the Queensland Government to companies to explore uranium deposits and how many companies are currently exploring uranium deposits in Queensland?

ANSWER:

Queensland currently has greater than 1300 granted Exploration Permits for Minerals. An Exploration Permit for Minerals allows the holder to explore for all minerals other than coal. Under the current legislation, specific approval is not given and is not required to be given for an exploration permit holder to explore for uranium.

All of the current exploration permit holders can explore for uranium. However, approximately 18 current permit holders specified uranium as a commodity sought in their original application for an exploration permit. At the time of grant of an exploration permit, the holder is informed of the Queensland Government's policy of not granting any mineral development licences or mining leases for the purpose of mining uranium.