

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1641

asked on Thursday, 30 October 2008

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the new safety and health levy, and as many mining workers (such as drill rig contractors) can work on multiple sites and for multiple companies in any one year and many workers are also invoiced individually for the levy—

- (1) Do mining, drilling and explosives operators pay multiple safety and health levies for the same contractors/employees?
- (2) Are operators forced to pay the levy regardless of whether or not an individual employee or another operator has already paid?
- (3) As the fee is based on the total number of employees in the industry and not the number of jobs, does his department reimburse the extra funds where a levy has been paid for an individual employee more than once?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

The new mining industry safety and health levy will boost the services provided by the state's mine safety watchdog, the Queensland Mines Inspectorate.

The Inspectorate provides vital safety and health services that help save lives. Nothing is more important than that.

The Bligh Government is asking for \$26 million from an industry worth more than \$26 billion to Queensland in 2006/2007.

Queensland has the best mine safety legislation in Australia and it must continue to be enforced mine by mine, employer by employer, worker by worker.

This new levy will fund seven new specialist mines inspectors, two investigators, five scientific research staff, an occupational hygienist, a statistician and a manager of health surveillance.

With reference to the Member's questions I have been advised by my Department that:

- (1) Mining, drilling and explosives operators do not pay multiple safety and health levies for the same contractors/employees.
- (2) Operators are not forced to pay the levy if an individual employee or another operator has already paid.
- (3) As the fee is based on the total number of employees in the industry and not the number of jobs, my Department does reimburse the extra funds where a levy has been paid for an individual employee more than once.