

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1775

asked on Thursday, 13 November 2008

MR HOPPER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY (MR WILSON)—
QUESTION:

In light of the success of Linc Energy's trial, where liquid fuel has been produced from coal via underground coal gasification with minimal environmental impact, on marginal land in a sparsely populated area—

Will he rule out Ambre Energy's proposal for an open cut mine and coal-to-liquids plant in the Felton Valley, an iconic area with great agricultural, environmental, and social importance?

ANSWER:

The Member misunderstands the nature of these projects. The two projects utilise different technologies, processes, mining methods, tenures and produce a different product.

They are at different stages of development. Therefore, the Member's comparison of these projects makes little sense. Furthermore, it is not clear why the success of one project logically leads to the rejection of another.

However, I am able to confirm in relation to the Felton Valley, this project will be subjected to the environmental impact assessment process that will consider the potential adverse and beneficial, environmental, economic and social impacts of the proposed mining lease, before any grant is considered.