

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1801

asked on Tuesday, 25 November 2008

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

QUESTION:

How much money does the department expect to raise through the Safety and Health Levy and what will the government be doing with the money raised?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

Our new industry safety and health levy will boost the services provided by the state's mine safety watchdog – the Mines Inspectorate. The Inspectorate provides vital safety and health services that help save lives - nothing is more important than that.

We're asking for \$26 million from an industry that was worth \$26 billion to Queensland in 06/07. Taxpayers shouldn't have to foot the bill for these vital safety and health services.

We have the best mine safety legislation in Australia and it must continue to be enforced mine by mine, employer by employer, worker by worker. That's where the Mines Inspectorate steps in.

This new levy will fund 7 new specialist mines inspectors, 2 investigators, 5 scientific research staff, an occupational hygienist, a statistician and a manager of health surveillance.

I am confident that industry will see the logic in a safety and health levy.

We've got one of the best mine safety and health records in the world – it's in everyone's best interests to keep it that way.