

Question on Notice

No. 350

Asked on Wednesday 12 March 2008

MR RICKUSS ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (MR MICKEL) —

QUESTION:

- (1) What action is being taken to prevent coal dust from coal wagons on the railway line from Darling Downs to Brisbane from affecting neighbouring properties?
- (2) Are these prevention measures being monitored?

ANSWER:

- (1) I am advised prior to coal being loaded onto QR Limited coal trains, coal is crushed, screened and washed to remove both coarse and fine coal particles. One of the principal methods of minimizing dust is through the use of water. Loaded coal is required to have a specified coal surface water content to reduce fine particle emissions during rail transit to the port.

I am advised some of the other techniques used to reduce dust include overloading controls, load profiling (where the top of the loaded coal is flattened to create a more streamlined profile), and cleaning of wagon sills to remove spilt coal thus minimizing its loss to the track during transit.

- (2) I am advised QR Limited regularly reviews its overall environmental performance.