QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 412

asked on Thursday, 13 March 2008

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

QUESTION:

How many roads will be affected by the Kunioon Mine (including closures, bridges and any other relevant conditions of usage by residents which may be put in place during procurement, construction and operation)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Nanango for her question and acknowledge the importance of the proposed Kunioon coal mine to her electorate.

Tarong's fuel project will not only create hundreds of jobs in the region, it will deliver a reliable and secure power supply for Queenslanders well into the future.

As the Member would be aware, Tarong Energy had been looking at a number of options for a new long-term coal source for the next 20 to 25 years.

Tarong's decision to develop the Kunioon coal deposit and take over ownership of the Tarong Mine from Rio Tinto Coal Australia (RTCA) came about after widespread consultation over 18 months with stakeholders and the local community.

The Member for Nanango must be acknowledged for her strong support over a long period of time for the proposal by Tarong Energy to purchase the Tarong mine and to develop the Kunioon coal deposit.

This project will create 750 jobs across the state, including jobs during construction and it will secure 550 jobs for workers at the power stations and the mines.

The South Burnett has been severely affected by the drought and this project is a real shot in the arm for people who live and work in the region.

It's going to give them job security. Not only that, it will deliver a long-term, reliable and secure power supply for all Queenslanders.

Tarong Energy has advised that it does not anticipate any state-controlled roads will be closed.