

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 661

asked on Wednesday, 30 April 2008

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

QUESTION:

Would the Minister outline what the Government is doing to push forward research into clean coal technology?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

Coal mining and the resources boom has delivered enormous economic benefits to Queensland and is a magnet for jobs and job security.

But we need to strike the right balance between the need to protect the environment and the jobs of the 17,600 men and women who work in the coal industry.

The Queensland Government is working with industry and research organisations to develop a range of clean coal technologies to reduce greenhouse emissions.

- (1) Clean coal Research and Development (R&D) activities in Queensland are currently undertaken through the Centre for Low Emission Technology (cLET) and the Cooperative Research Centre for Coal in Sustainable Development (CCSD). The Queensland Government committed \$9 million towards cLET, and \$250,000 per year towards the CCSD. Total cLET funding is \$26 million over four years, while total CCSD funding is some \$60 million over seven years.
- (2) To achieve deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity generating sector, clean coal technology is being developed covering a range approaches such as post-combustion capture including oxyfiring, and pre-combustion capture including Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC), each integrated with carbon capture and storage.
- (3) In Queensland, we are paying particular attention to IGCC and Oxyfiring technologies, and through investment in the cLET and the CCSD, the Queensland Government is participating in programs to drive research to respond to the needs of these technologies and develop technology solutions that will fundamentally improve the efficiency and delivered cost of clean coal technology into the future.
- (4) The Queensland Government has established the Clean Coal Council that works in collaboration with the coal industry to progress Queensland's clean coal technology projects and establish priorities that will influence the R&D programs. The State will also continue to cooperate with the Commonwealth Government and coal

and coal industry in response to a National Clean Coal Initiative to ensure a nationally coordinated strategy to accelerate deployment of clean coal technology.

- (5) Finally, in addition to the demonstration projects the Queensland Government has commenced a Carbon Geostorage Initiative (CGI) to address the critical component of identifying suitable carbon dioxide storage sites. Stage 1, due to commence this year, will undertake a state-wide basin characterisation review with Stage 2 to commence in parallel focusing on a number of prioritised basins for more detailed review.
- (6) The Queensland Government has committed \$10 million to the CGI and has received good support from the Australian Coal Association, which has committed \$20 million. The State will also seek significant Commonwealth Government support.