

Question on Notice
No. 1443
Asked on 7 October 2009

MR LANGBROEK asked the Premier and Minister for the Arts (MS BLIGH) -

QUESTION:

Does the Premier support the jobs of thousands of coal industry workers, or does the Premier support the rushed and flawed Rudd Government CPRS?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is firmly committed to playing its part in meeting the national greenhouse gas emission reduction target(s), and strongly supports the Federal Government's effort to design an effective Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS).

Economic modelling shows that unmitigated climate change will disproportionately and adversely impact more on Queensland's Gross State Product than any other jurisdiction. Therefore, doing nothing is not an option. A 'do nothing' approach would condemn our tourism industry and would have major implications for agriculture and the Great Barrier Reef.

Recent modelling undertaken by Access Economics on the CPRS impact, commissioned by the Council for the Australian Federation, indicates that Queensland's employment growth will still be strongly positive over the relevant period with employment rising by 285,000 jobs over the period to 2020.

In addition, Commonwealth Treasury modelling of the CPRS suggests that the output from the coal mining sector nationally will increase by 66% by 2050 compared to 2008, providing that carbon capture and storage technologies are successfully deployed.

Indeed, an article in The Age newspaper on 14 September 2009 cited research undertaken by Wood McKenzie that predicts that Australia will see 13 new coal mines (adding to the 120 already in operation) by 2015, with \$23 billion to be invested in the sector over the same period.

I assume the Honourable Member supports the Federal Nationals' position on the CPRS and the need for action to mitigate climate change.