

Question on Notice

No. 237

Asked on 10 March 2011

MR SEENEY ASKED THE TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE (MR FRASER)—

What infrastructure upgrades are being planned to support the development of the Xstrata coal mine at Wandoan and in particular what progress has been made on making state land available for the expansion of the township and the development of more housing for mine workers?

ANSWER:

The Coordinator-General completed his evaluation of the Wandoan Coal project on 12 November 2010. The Coordinator-General's report contains conditions and recommendations applicable to both construction and operation of the project, to ensure that the Wandoan Joint Venture (WJV), as project proponent is responsible for providing a range of benefits to the local and regional community, including contributions to improving local infrastructure.

The Coordinator-General's conditions require that community health and local infrastructure upgrades will be addressed by the project in the preparation of a social impact management plan, which will be developed in consultation with key stakeholders and the community. A copy of the draft plan can be accessed at www.wandoancoal.com.au

Strategies already identified in the draft management plan include:

- a three year \$750 000 partnership with Queensland Health to re-develop the primary health care facilities in Wandoan
- a three year \$720 000 partnership with the Department of Education and the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy (QMEA)
- initiatives of the Xstrata Coal Wandoan Community Fund, which aims to provide direct funding for local sporting and community organisations
- the Western Downs Infrastructure Deed, signed between the WJV and the Western Downs Regional Council, will directly fund upgrades to community infrastructure such as sewerage and water supply.

Officers from the Department of Environment and Resource Management are working closely with the Western Downs Regional Council to make State land available in Wandoan and that the release of State land in Wandoan will assist the council to respond to the increased demand for services and housing, and allow community growth in the area.

In January 2009, the council applied for 28 hectares of various parcels of State land in Wandoan to be released for future urban, industrial and residential development. These applications have been assessed and the council has been offered this land.