

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1379

asked on Wednesday, 17 October 2018

MR M BERKMAN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM) —

QUESTION:

With reference to the projections for thermal coal use by 2050 in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report - Global Warming of 1.5°C and mining leases for thermal coal in Queensland—

Will the Minister advise (a) how many mining leases for thermal coal extend beyond 2050, (b) the total approved capacity and end date for each such mining lease, (c) how many current mining lease applications for thermal coal propose operations to extend beyond 2050 and (d) the total proposed capacity and proposed expiry date for each such mining lease application?

ANSWER:

- a) Coal deposits mined within Queensland often contain multiple grades of coal, meaning a single mining lease may comprise mineable deposits of coking, pulverised coal injection and thermal coals. No mining lease has been granted beyond 2047 within Queensland for mining of coking, pulverised coal injection or thermal coal.
- b) The *Mineral Resources Act 1989* does not impose limits for coal extraction, as these limits are considered during an application for an environmental authority under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, which is required to operate a mine. Production capacity is approved by the Department of Environment and Science.
- c) There are approximately 60 coal mines operating within Queensland, holding over 300 leases. Of these, only 16 mine thermal coal as a target product from 30 leases. The current benchmark for granting a mining lease is less than 25 years, meaning applications granted today would not generally be approved beyond 2050.
- d) No mining lease has been granted beyond 2047.