

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 739

asked on Thursday, 27 May 2021

MR R KATTER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR RESOURCES (HON S STEWART)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise (a) whether the government expects minerals production from the North West Minerals Province to increase over the coming decades and (b) the role the National Electricity Market will play in providing cheap, competitive and reliable electricity to support any increase in production?

ANSWER:

- (a) The production outlook for the North West Minerals Province is entirely dependent on the industry's ability to find and develop new deposits at a higher rate than production depletion from existing mines. That is not a minor challenge, and the major reason why the Department of Resources has been investing so much to help make the next generation of discoveries. But the department also knows that there is a global challenge in making new discoveries of the traditional base metals—copper, lead and zinc in particular—which is one reason the department is diversifying the sector to include much greater focus on the minerals needed for new technologies, in particular, renewable energy technologies.
- (b) The Palaszczuk Government has signed an implementation agreement with CopperString 2.0 to build a 1100-kilometre transmission line to connect the North West Minerals Province to the National Electricity Market.

CopperString 2.0 would support projects under development including potential mineral operations and renewable energy projects.

As the matter of the role of the National Electricity Market in providing cheap, competitive and reliable electricity to support any increase in production needs to be addressed by the Department of Energy and Public Works, I refer the member to my colleague, the Honourable Mick de Brenni MP, Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement.