

Remainder incorporated, my leave

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LAI'D UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE
THE CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENT

R. Morrison

[Signature] 26/11/03¹

CENTRE FOR LOW EMISSION TECHNOLOGIES



Mr Speaker, my Government is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and protecting the environment.

That commitment was enhanced last week when I officially launched the Centre for Low Emission Technology at Pullenvale in Brisbane.

*Joined by inspection Minister Paul Lucas
Fed Science Minister McGeogon. David Watson (Moggill)*

This new Centre will help make the Smart State a world leader in two things - producing low cost electricity and addressing the issue of carbon emissions from coal.

It also demonstrates our commitment to working with other governments and industry to meet the global greenhouse challenge.

The Queensland Government has committed \$9 million over four years towards the Centre, with the CSIRO contributing another \$9 million.

Tarong Energy, Stanwell Corporation, CS Energy, Xstrata and the University of Queensland have also indicated in-principle support for the Centre with possible contributions of \$2 million each over four years, which would bring total funding for the centre to \$28 million.

The development of this centre also acknowledges the importance of coal to Queensland's economy and the need to ensure we have a sustainable coal industry.

Coal accounts for 30 per cent of our total exports and we continue to export to new markets such as Germany.

Last financial year a record 129.2 million tonnes of coal worth \$8 billion was exported from Queensland.

Coal generates 88 per cent of our electricity and it contributes immeasurably to regional development.

Our high quality, cheap coal allows us to produce some of the world's cheapest electricity.

My Government intends to maintain that competitive advantage and the Centre for Low Emission Technology will help us achieve that.

The work at this new Centre will focus on advancing technologies that will capture greenhouse gases from electricity generation and minimise the amount of Carbon Dioxide released into the atmosphere.

It will also look at improving the environmental performance of existing coal-fired power stations and examine the commercial potential for cogeneration with renewable energy sources such as sugar cane bagasse.

The Centre will also seek further collaborations with the coal and generation industry, research and development providers, the Federal Government and international partners.

I am proud that some of Australia's leading scientists are working at this centre.

Their revolutionary research will help turn around the perceptions that have given coal a bad name and will deliver dividends not only to the environment, but also to consumers, by helping Queensland maintain a viable coal industry and cheap electricity prices.

I thank the Commonwealth and the CSIRO for working with us on this project.