



SEATH HOLSWICH MP – STATE MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE – ESTIMATES HEARING

17th July 2013

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Mr HOLSWICH: When we look at the renewable energy sources, what kind of future is there in Queensland for renewables? What steps is the government taking now? What steps do government and industry need to take in the future in order to utilise those renewable sources of energy in a sustainable way?

Mr McARDLE: Yes, renewable energy can be part of the mix, but what needs to be understood is that there are costs involved in the use of all these energies. One of the ones that stands out in my mind is the Solar Bonus Scheme. We will talk about that a bit later. It was a wonderful aspiration but the full cost involved therewith was not devolved. This government is not averse in any way, shape or form to this issue, but we need to have a very frank and open debate about exactly what the range of benefits are and what the costs associated with it are. For example, what subsidies are paid for wind? What subsidies are paid for green schemes? What subsidies would be paid for other schemes, such as a geothermal scheme, that may become active down the track.

We also need to look at a range of sources. Our energy source mix is changing dramatically. We only need to look across the globe. In England recently they found the largest deposit of shale oil gas in the world. That will dramatically change the use of energy sources. The shale oil gas capacity in this state is also enormous. The CSG capacity is also enormous. The mix of energy sources must be looked at.

That is why we are looking at a 30-year energy strategy. With that strategy we can crystal ball as best we can in terms of what we are going to look like in 30 years time, understanding that we cannot guarantee that. We can understand what we need to achieve to get the mix right. We can understand the cost drivers involved. When we get that coming together we will have a long-term plan for the state.