

Media statement

10 November 2009

More jobs for Queenslanders as Stanwell and Wesfarmers reach coal agreement

A new coal mining deal between state-owned Stanwell Corporation and Wesfarmers will see the Curragh mine expanded, resulting in up to 300 construction jobs and 90 full-time workers for Queensland.

Treasurer Andrew Fraser said the new agreement will provide for additional coal from Stanwell's excess reserves to be mined by Wesfarmers, with Stanwell to share in the revenue generated from exporting the coal.

The deal ties into a Wesfarmers Board approval to expand Curragh via the construction of a new coal handling and preparation plant, creating an additional 90 jobs.

The expansion is expected to increase the annual exports of metallurgical coal from the Curragh Mine from approximately 6.5 - 7 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) to an estimated 8.3Mtpa.

The commitment to expansion will see Wesfarmers inject significant capital into the Curragh Mine, positioning Curragh for higher coal sales through to 2025.

Mr Fraser said the proposed expansion by Wesfarmers, facilitated under the agreement with Stanwell, would produce additional jobs and export royalties.

"Approximately 90 full time equivalent jobs will be created and an additional \$18 million per annum in export royalties will be generated under this arrangement. In addition, up to 300 jobs will be required during the construction phase," Mr Fraser said.

"This agreement creates jobs, earns export income and financially benefits all Queenslanders through royalties paid to the State."

Member for Rockhampton Robert Swarten said the announcement would provide a welcome injection into the central Queensland economy.

"This is great news for our region. The agreement between Stanwell and Wesfarmers is a vote of confidence in Central Queensland," Mr Swarten said.

"Mining is a critical industry in this region, and we all know its been hard over the last 18 months.

"The new investment in Curragh will provide new jobs and security of employment in and around Blackwater, and show the rest of the country that central Queensland is open for business."

Mr Fraser said this agreement unlocked more of the value in the coal reserves held by Stanwell in excess of the requirements of Stanwell Power Station.

"Stanwell Power Station has a secure, cost competitive coal supply agreement in place to meet the future needs of the station.

"This agreement allows for Stanwell's excess coal reserves to be mined and exported, providing a benefit to Wesfarmers, Stanwell and the State."

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