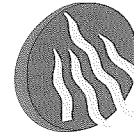




Hon Geoff Wilson MP
Member for Ferny Grove



**Queensland
Government**

Your Ref:
Our Ref: ME/08/1761, MC1233

Minister for Mines and Energy

10 NOV 2008

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I am in receipt of Petitions number 1068-08 received on 3 June 2008 by the Queensland Legislative Assembly. I have considered the Petition carefully and in accord with the requirement of Standing Orders of the Queensland Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to provide my response to the Petition.

The principal petitioner, Mr Peter Simpson alleges in the Petition that the wage negotiations previously under way for Government Owned Corporations ENERGEX Limited (ENERGEX), Ergon Energy Corporation Limited (Ergon Energy) and Powerlink Queensland (Powerlink), have been purposely delayed and employees were asked to accept an offer that is below the Consumer Price Index.

The enterprise agreements for ENERGEX, Ergon Energy and Powerlink nominally expired on 16 March 2008, 15 February 2008 and 4 March 2008 respectively. Following lengthy negotiations that were interspersed with protected industrial action, these corporations have now agreed on new enterprise agreements with their respective employees. During this period, I consistently encouraged the parties to the disputes to seek the assistance of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission (AIRC) to achieve settlements. In each instance, the parties to these disputes ultimately reached their agreements with the AIRC's assistance.

During the negotiation process for the new agreements, each corporation was committed to achieving a fair and equitable enterprise agreement with staff that embodies a reasonable and fair balance between business objectives and staff expectations. Each corporation was also committed to developing an agreement that offered attractive wage increases and employment conditions, while continuing to reward and retain their skilled and dedicated workforces.

The new agreements embody fairness and equity to all parties to the negotiations, including a 4.5 per cent wage increase per year over three years. In particular, the wage increases include a provision to ensure that increases will be in excess of the Consumer Price Index for each of the three years of the new agreements.

Yours sincerely

GEOFF WILSON MP
Minister for Mines and Energy

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