

Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill 2024

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AWU Submission to the Cost of Living and Economics Committee Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in The Bank) Bill 2024

The Australian Workers' Union (Queensland Branch) (AWU) are writing to the Queensland Parliament's Cost of Living and Economics Committee regarding the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep them in the Bank) Bill on behalf of our membership.

The Australian Workers' Union has represented working people for 138 years. We represent workers in various public and private industries, including in metalliferous mining, health, manufacturing, construction and agriculture, who directly benefit from infrastructure and services that Queensland progressive coal royalties provide.

The Australian Workers' Union strongly supports the Queensland Government's decision to retain progressive coal royalties. This system ensures a fair return for Queenslanders on our valuable, finite coal resource, especially during periods of high global prices.

Progressive royalties ensure that a greater share of the profits from this resource extraction stays in Queensland, benefiting workers through better wages and working conditions.

Cost of Living Relief

The Queensland Government has used revenue from progressive royalties to provide cost-of-living relief measures like electricity bill rebates. This helps ease the burden on families and working people across the state.

The Australian Workers' Union supports the State Governments decision to use progressive coal royalties to provide direct cost of living relief when Queenslanders need it most.

Regional Queensland

Revenue from progressive royalties allows the government to invest in regional Queensland, including coal mining communities.

This investment creates and sustains jobs in essential services, infrastructure, and diversification projects. A strong regional economy benefits everyone, including workers and their families.

Royalties also provide the ability for the State Government to deliver the services and infrastructure Queenslanders need while investing in the industries and technologies that will assist Queensland transition to a clean energy future.

Renewables

The resources sector is undergoing a transformation. Progressive royalties can fund training programs to equip working people with the skills needed for future jobs in clean energy and other sectors.

These programs are of benefit to rural and regional communities across Queensland.

David Crisafulli and the LNPs refusal to endorse and support progressive coal royalties represent a direct threat to these communities.

The LNP has a history of misleading Queenslanders in the lead up to elections. Previously they promised that the public service had nothing to fear, before sacking over 14,000 Queenslanders and demonising the union movement.

David Crisafulli is already on the record that he does not support Queensland progressive coal royalties and will cut them at the first opportunity.

He has called them 'deceitful and dishonest', he has said they are a betrayal of multinational companies 'investing in our state', and he has stated that the 'mining industry should be free of the burden of taxation.'

When taken in their full context, all of these statements leave no illusion that an LNP Government would cut the progressive coal royalties Queenslanders rely on given the first opportunity made available to them.

Given the chance, the LNP will always side with multinational companies over working Queenslanders.

It is for these reasons that the Australian Workers' Union supports the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep them in the Bank) Bill.