




Speech by

Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Thursday, 4 August 2011

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL AND APPROPRIATION BILL: ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENERGY COMMITTEE

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining) (6.06 pm): I take pleasure in joining this debate around the Environment, Agriculture, Resources and Energy Committee's review of the estimates and its hearing. In doing so, I want to thank the member for Pumicestone for her chairing of the meeting and particularly thank the members for Bulimba and Southport for their responsible engagement during the committee process. Equally, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge my shadow minister, the member for Bundaberg, for his engagement and the good conversations we had during the free-flowing process that was the estimates committee in July. It is genuinely important that we do look at and discuss the importance of the resources sector and the mining industry in this state. As a simple look towards Queensland's coat of arms above Madam Deputy Speaker there will tell you, you see images of Queensland's agricultural industries alongside an image that depicts the great Queensland mining industry—one of our core industries that continues to this day to play a very vital role in the future of the state and its present.

Not only do we see ongoing development and resources arising out of terrific mines and other projects that are underway, but even in the few days since the estimates committee hearing that the committee is reporting on we have seen a range of huge announcements providing new significant investment in the coal industry, in metalliferous mining and in the coal seam gas industry. It is these big projects that are opening up fantastic opportunities—opportunities for tradies, for school leavers and for apprentices, not to mention the flow-on effects and supply chain opportunities in cities and towns right across this great state. Of course, in the context of this budget estimates process it would be remiss not to make mention of the royalties that flow from these great industries—millions of dollars that we will be able to see invested in vital infrastructure and front-line services such as in our schools, in our hospitals, putting more police on the beat and teachers in our classrooms, those fundamental services that are particularly provided in rural and regional areas thanks to the royalties regime.

There is no need for some sort of fantasy about Royalties for Regions—a populist policy that patently does not work in Western Australia. We have the right approach of the people of Queensland raising their revenue from projects and applying that to where the communities have needs across the state. That is certainly the case in rural and regional Queensland.

These processes have seen a great outcome, but I want to turn to one particular issue that was raised at the committee by the member for Warrego, who took advantage of the opportunity to appear by leave. He raised—

An opposition member: Not again.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I am not going to say anything nasty about the member for Warrego. I am going to refer to his concern about a coal seam gas producer and its draft code of conduct for industry activities on rural residential land. The government's new land access laws, which came into effect in November last

year, clearly outline that any activity undertaken within 600 metres of an occupied residence requires a conduct and compensation agreement to be reached between the company and the landholder. That is a groundbreaking framework. Since the matter was raised by the member for Warrego I have directed my department to meet with the senior management of the company and to reaffirm that it must comply with the state's land access laws. The company has removed the draft code from its website and is revising it so that it complies with the law.

Mining is big business in Queensland, and we are a government that will sit down and work with industry. The ultimate beneficiaries of our partnerships are Queenslanders—not just the people who live and work in the mining regions but also the mums and families right across the length and breadth of this state who are benefiting from the resources boom. In Queensland today, mining means jobs and it means stronger regional economies. The Bligh government is backing investment in Queensland and it is committed to working with the private sector to create a greener, cleaner energy future and new economic pathways for the future.