


Speech by  
**Jackie Trad**

**MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE**

Hansard Thursday, 7 June 2012

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## **NEWMAN GOVERNMENT, ALPHA COAL PROJECT**

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (3.15 pm): Former Queensland Labor governments have worked in the interests of Queenslanders with whatever political party was in power in Canberra and with all of the relevant laws that govern our nation, regardless of who introduced them. Let us take, for example, the Clermont coalmine expansion in the electorate of Gregory—a resource expansion approved by the Coordinator-General under the Beattie Labor government and approved by the Howard coalition government without political posturing back in 2005; a resource expansion that delivered 565 jobs during construction, led to at least 450 ongoing operational jobs on-site and supports an estimated further 3,800 jobs throughout the state, mostly in the Mackay region. There were at least a dozen other resource projects delivered by a Labor state government and a coalition federal government in that period of time with not one hissy fit, not one tantrum.

So what happens within 75 days of an LNP government? Let us look at the Alpha Coal Project and get the facts straight in this House. The Deputy Premier stood in this parliament on 29 May 2012 to announce that the Coordinator-General had provided conditional approval for the Alpha Coal Project. Only one day after the report was released, the Deputy Premier again stood in this place to insist the federal government immediately approve the EIS to get the project underway. What the Deputy Premier failed to do was advise the House that the information supplied under his name was incomplete, was flawed and did not meet the basic requirements under the Commonwealth-state bilateral agreement.

If, at best, this was a simple omission or oversight, then the Deputy Premier embarrasses Queensland and his government with his lack of diligence and his management of such an important issue. But this was not the only reason for this sloppy paperwork, given that 48 hours later the Deputy Premier was again on his feet putting out press releases screaming outrage that the federal minister had not rubber-stamped his request. The real reason became apparent on Tuesday from comments made by the Premier himself when he said—

I intend to campaign absolutely relentlessly in the next federal election if we do not see the Prime Minister move to curb this wayward environment minister.

That is what he told reporters. Even this morning in advising the House of his stakeholder meeting today about this issue, it is clear that he has started the campaign already. This project needs to go ahead. The Commonwealth needs Queensland to competently complete its assessment for the state to discharge its obligations under the bilateral agreement, or EPBCA, which it evidently cannot do under the incompetence of the Deputy Premier and the political agenda of the Premier. After such a performance, the Premier really should add another title to his signature block—'Premier for Queensland and State Director of the "Abbott for the Lodge" campaign'.