



Speech by

**Hon. Jeff Seeney**

**MEMBER FOR CALLIDE**

Hansard Thursday, 13 September 2012

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Budget, Mining Royalties

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.37 am): Two months ago Labor's mineral resource rent tax came into effect in this country. It was an insidious assault on the constitutional prerogatives of the Australian states. The Treasurer of Australia, Wayne Swan—supposedly a Queenslander—brought in a tax through which he and his incompetent colleagues in Canberra seek to usurp Queenslanders' constitutional right to benefit from the riches of our mineral resources through royalties. Mr Swan has this week attacked the Queensland government for our decision to increase mining royalties to benefit Queenslanders. He has threatened to withhold federal funding from this state. He threatens to deny Queenslanders what they are rightfully owed by the Commonwealth. He tries to bully this government and this state. The fact is his great big new tax on mining is so poorly conceived that it may very well fail to actually collect any taxes. Mr Swan is flailing around blaming anyone and everyone for his own incompetence.

The Newman government, and all state governments, have every right to consider mining royalties and we did so. We did so so that Queenslanders would benefit from our natural resources. In Wayne Swan's whacky world he wants to deny his fellow Queenslanders that benefit. Under Mr Swan's mineral resource rent tax any income gained by the Commonwealth from the mining output of Queensland will be spent elsewhere. Why should we in Queensland forego what is rightfully ours so that Labor's great big new mining tax can be spent in Victoria and New South Wales? The simple fact is that Labor in Canberra wants to collect the benefits from our mineral resources to pay for its big spending promises in other states. It will not come back to this state for the infrastructure and services that we need. We will not get the money from Canberra to build schools, hospitals, roads and fund the services that our communities deserve and require. The revenue, when Wayne Swan gets it, will be used to increase the superannuation guarantee and to slightly—and I repeat 'slightly'—lower the company tax rate and for some other Labor commitments in other states.

The mantra surrounding this great big new mining tax was that it would provide additional funding to the states. The reality is that Mr Swan provided nothing in his last budget to give anything back to Queensland. Nothing from the proceeds of this new tax, not one dollar, came back to Queensland. Mr Swan's MRRT arrangements meant that a resource state such as Queensland does not benefit from its own resources. Instead, he will take the benefits of those resources to fund their big spending Labor promises or build monuments in Canberra, Sydney or Melbourne. It is a deal that we will not sign up to on behalf of all Queenslanders. His mates on the other side of the House did. They have no ideas, no plans, no policies. They were prepared to blindly follow their Canberra incompetents and sell out their fellow Queenslanders, handing income that rightfully belongs to them over to the Commonwealth to be spent in other states. Labor left Queensland in a financial mess. Wayne Swan, Julia Gillard and Kevin Rudd are doing to Australia what Anna Bligh and Andrew Fraser did to Queensland. Mr Swan has betrayed Queensland and he continues to try to do so every day. Their mining tax, just like their carbon tax, is poorly conceived and undoubtedly harmful to the Australian economy. We will do what is necessary and what we can do to protect the Queensland economy and to protect the rights of Queenslanders from their failed policy agendas.