




Speech by  
**Jon Krause**

**MEMBER FOR BEAUDESERT**

Hansard Thursday, 2 August 2012

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## **SCENIC RIM, MINING EXPLORATION**

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (2.59 pm): I rise to voice the concerns of the Beaudesert electorate regarding coal seam gas and other forms of mining. Shamefully, the previous Labor government—in particular the former member for Stretton, Stephen Robertson, when he was the minister overseeing the resources industry—sold CSG exploration permits over much of the Beaudesert electorate, the Scenic Rim. An area that is renowned for its exceptional agricultural land, rural residential living, including for commuters, and pristine national parks, an area that has no history of mining other than quarries for local roads and infrastructure, was at the stroke of a pen by the Labor Party subjected to exploration by CSG companies. Make no mistake, a returned Labor government in 2012 would have almost certainly seen the commencement of CSG production in the Scenic Rim, in a community that did not ask for it, does not want it and, as the Premier made clear in the 2012 campaign, should not have CSG. Then there is the proposed open-cut coalmine at Croftby, south of Boonah. Residents are concerned about what this might mean for their homes, their roads and the impact on the natural environment at the foot of Mount Barney National Park.

This government is working to fix the problems created by Labor. I say to those in my electorate who have concerns about CSG and mining that the Premier, the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Mines and their departments are working together with me to implement our commitments for the Scenic Rim. We are doing this in two ways. Firstly, the Minister for Mines approves mines and CSG production. As part of the LNP team, this minister knows our commitments to the Scenic Rim. To my knowledge, no mines or CSG production have been approved since the election and nor are there any applications on the table at this time. Secondly, the government plans amendments to the SEQ Regional Plan to set out for the long term planning measures that fix land use conflicts in accordance with our commitments to the Scenic Rim.

I refer to the alarmist claims made by some which could certainly, if inadvertently, serve to whip up fear in the community that there are no legislative impediments to tenure holders commencing mining or CSG production. That is simply not the case. There is a rigorous application process that must be completed before any production commences and, in any case, the Minister for Mines retains the right to not approve resource tenements.

In the short term, the best protection our community has to ensure that they are listened to is the fact that we have an LNP government and an LNP local member who is listening to the community and is working with the government. I stand with and I am working for those who consider our community to be entirely the wrong place for these industries to take root. I ask members of the community to be patient. As part of the SEQ regional planning area, the Scenic Rim's planning forms part of a much larger project. The government needs to get all of this right to ensure that our community's vision for its future is accurately planned. As the saying goes, if you fail to plan, you should plan to fail and in this case never a truer word has been said.