




Speech by

Ray Hopper

MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

Hansard Tuesday, 29 May 2012

MINING INDUSTRY

 **Mr HOPPER** (Condamine—LNP) (11.41 am): Last week, along with the member for Nanango, Deb Frecklington, I met with the Oakey Coal Action Alliance in Dalby about Acland stage 3 and its impact on the town of Oakey. The Acland mine was in my electorate for three terms until a redistribution and it is now in the electorate of Nanango; however, the mine impacts on a lot of people within my electorate. The action alliance was very concerned about the LNP's promise that Acland stage 3 would not go ahead under an LNP government. Today is the first day that parliament has sat since that meeting and the first opportunity I have had to address the group's concerns—to ask the minister a question on notice and to make this speech. Hopefully today the concerns of this group can be addressed.

This matters of public interest debate is my first opportunity to speak and to put a question on notice to the member for Callide and Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning. The minister is a man I have known for four or five terms now, and I know that when he says something he means it. I had the pleasure of touring this area with the minister before the election, and the minister made the announcement back then that Acland stage 3 would not go ahead under an LNP government. I know that the minister will answer the question put to him by me this morning. This will hopefully put to bed some of the concerns of the action group.

Stage 3 was going to affect the people of Oakey in a big way. It was going to come right in to the side of Oakey. A whole heap of prime agricultural land there would have been dug up and totally destroyed. Land can never be restored to the standard that existed before mining takes place. There is no doubt about that.

Under our new strategic plan the LNP will map Queensland. We have heard the Premier announce that we plan to double the state's food production by 2040. Maps always cause trouble—there are lines on maps, and everyone who owns a block of dirt thinks their block of dirt is the best in Queensland—but the mapping will be carried out properly so that farmers will know where they can farm and mining companies will know where they can mine. This should have been done 20 years ago. In its last two terms in government Labor tossed this problem backwards and forwards. I had many meetings with previous ministers for natural resources and primary industries in an attempt to have planning put in place. They dillydallied. We in the LNP will do this properly so that people in Queensland will know where they are going.

I refer to the Felton mine. The people of Felton are of the same understanding as the people of Oakey. They also heard the promise made by the Deputy Premier that the Felton mine will not go ahead under an LNP government. Ambre Energy are occupying an office in Pittsworth, but they can pack their bags and move out because they will not mine Felton. It is as simple as that.

Tomorrow I will ask the Deputy Premier a question on notice about Felton. There is no better way to confirm things than to put it in *Hansard*. The minister will confirm in *Hansard* that no mine will go ahead at Felton. People will have that in writing from the Deputy Premier and can rest assured that Ambre Energy can pack their bags and move out.

I recently attended the Felton Food Festival with the Minister for Agriculture. That food festival has the potential to be another Woodford or Gympie. It really was amazing. They put on a festival just to show the produce from that valley. It was an exciting day. We had people come from the Gold Coast and Brisbane. I congratulate the people of Felton on their stance.

On Thursday I will ask the Deputy Premier a question about Gowrie Junction. Exploration permit No. 1972 was issued about two years ago. The then Labor government caused a lot of people a lot of heartache by not squashing that immediately. The then member for Toowoomba North, Kerry Shine, ran with his tail between his legs. On this issue I faced two public meetings and received 1,400 letters, which I tabled in parliament, and now our minister will put in writing, in answer to my question, that we will not mine that area around Gowrie Junction. Those people will see for themselves that this will not happen. Their homes will be protected and the future of their children will be protected under an LNP government.