




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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MOTION

Mining Industry, Fly-in Fly-out Workforce

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (5.51 pm): I rise to support the Deputy Premier's amendment to the motion moved in the House. I support the amendment because it is quite incredible that we have to listen to the sheer hypocrisy coming from the little corner opposite. It is incredible given, as the Deputy Premier said, that the only government in Queensland to fully approve 100 per cent fly-in fly-out workforces was the previous Labor government. They have the nerve to walk in here today and say, 'We are going to fix it all. We are not going to worry about the workers and their families who are already set up and have their kids in local schools in areas like Cairns. We are not going to worry about them. We are going to kick them out of their houses in Cairns. We are going to get rid of them.' That is what the opposition is all about. Who knows how they intend to fix up their mistakes. This is just another ridiculous piece of Labor hypocrisy at its best.

In the Wide Bay-Burnett region, which the Deputy Premier and I come from, over 3,000 workers go in and out of not just these two mines but over 60 mines in Queensland. It is their choice. Do members know what those opposite seem to believe? They seem to think that everyone involved in fly-in fly-out work lives in either Cairns or Brisbane. That is simply not true.

We have hundreds of such people in Kingaroy and surrounding areas. There are amazing related businesses that can set up in areas like Kingaroy. We have the Perrys from Global Engineering and Construction who fly people in and out of the Cooper Basin which is 15,000 kilometres away. Those people and their workers actually choose to live in a regional community. The economic benefit to our local community is simply incredible. We even have a local pilot who flies them in and out. It is his business. It is really quite incredible what feeds back into our local economy.

I wanted to touch on what the previous government did with the mining royalties. They did absolutely nothing. They squandered them away and did not give a cent of them back to any of our regions. That is unlike our government which has already invested over \$300 million in our regions.

Those opposite did not even think about the regions when it came to squandering all of the royalties that they received. It is absolutely disgraceful. The rivers of gold were absolutely squandered. This government has done amazing things when it comes to critical infrastructure. The Royalties for the Regions program has seen funding go to practical things like the Barcaldine and Blackall child-care centres.

Mr Johnson interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Absolutely. It is fantastic that Royalties for the Regions funding of \$10 million went to the South Burnett Regional Council for the wastewater treatment plant. When the Labor Party were in government it gave absolutely nothing back to those in the bush.

Our government has allowed Queenslanders the right to choose where they want to work and live. The 250-odd workers and their families who are already settled—their kids are in day care and in the local schools and they are being well looked after by members like the member for Cairns—should not have to be forced out of their homes. I think it is embarrassing and typical Labor hypocrisy to come into this House and demand that.

Those opposite are consistently flip-flopping. It is all about chasing the polls. I was interested to hear the Deputy Premier talk about what the CFMEU's role is in this. It is incredible. Obviously they are their masters and that is who they listen to. They do not listen to the people of Queensland unlike those on this side of the House.