




Speech By  
**Stirling Hinchliffe**

**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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Record of Proceedings, 7 May 2015

**MOTION: NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES**

 **Mr HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (6.22 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the member for Hinchinbrook and I do not think he ever thought he would hear those words. I am very pleased to support this motion because this House and indeed, I can assure members, this Palaszczuk government, supports the resources and mining sector as one of the foundations of prosperity and job creation in Queensland. That is a very easy thing to sign up to. I acknowledge the member for Gympie who, in his recent first speech, retold the story of the Gympie gold rush and the role it played in saving the fledgling colony from dire financial circumstances. Over 150 years, waves of resource discoveries and developments have contributed greatly to our prosperity, job creation and all manner of economic development in Queensland. Through the population growth and infrastructure development driven by resource development, our wider economy has generally flourished. The minister has run through the quantum, size and depth of the industry in this state, which is a testament to the way that governments over generations have contributed to, committed to and supported the resources and mining industry in this state, and this government continues to support and back that great industry.

As a consequence, this is not just a retrospective. The minister listed the many projects right across our regions, from the North West Minerals Province and up and down the coast. The member for Townsville talked about the important flow-on infrastructure and support for communities that play a vital role in our resource industry. The minister listed those many projects that will continue to contribute to the growth of this industry and, indeed, the growth of our state. The member for Whitsunday made all sorts of allegations that talked down the economy. He barely spoke about the motion, but talked down the economy in every word that he said.

Queensland has an abundance of petroleum and gas resources that continue to make a significant contribution to the state's regional development and jobs. The Queensland petroleum and gas industry currently provides for approximately 16,500 jobs. Queensland is also experiencing a dramatic increase in CSG production. In 2014, CSG production was at 336 petajoules, which is forecast to quadruple in the coming years, bringing exports, royalties and jobs to the Queensland economy. It was a Labor government that recognised early the significance of this emerging industry. Members may recall I referred to it as a sunrise industry. It was the Labor government that supported it throughout the exploration and investment stages and will see it move into production, producing real benefits for Queenslanders. As the responsible minister, I launched initiatives to assist the industry during its initial stages, such as the Careers in Gas website and the specialised coal seam gas operations training centre, which continues to operate out of TAFE SkillsTech at Acacia Ridge, developing the skills required to work in Queensland's gas fields. I also introduced key pieces of reform legislation to assist industry by providing flexibility with the online lodgement of applications and mechanisms to encourage exploration activities in Queensland.

Equally, in relation to the traditional metalliferous and non-metalliferous mining industries, continued exploration is vitally important. That is why I am pleased to see that the current minister continues to support and foster growth in the industry and all mining in Queensland by announcing projects such as the \$1.43 million collaborative drilling grant. That project will support test drilling for exploration targets throughout the collaborative drilling initiative and particularly assist new and junior explorers, which are so important to the future of our industry, in meeting drilling costs. That is vitally important in unlocking the state's resources and releasing continued potential, especially in emerging and important valued resources such as rare earths.

In conclusion, I highlight that the foundations are there for all to see in our coat of arms, where we see depicted a mine head, a pick and a shovel. That has been a part of our foundations for 150 years and it will continue to be under a Palaszczuk Labor government.