




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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MOTION: NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (6.17 pm): I find it hard to follow the member for Hinchinbrook. I think he has his mojo back. I do not know that I can compete. He must have almost had a direct transcript from the meeting between the Premier and the member for Mirani this morning. He did not need to be a fly on the wall, he could work it out straightaway. It is indeed a sorry state of affairs that as a result of statements made by a member of the clueless Palaszczuk-Gordon government we are compelled, in the first full sitting week in this place, to place on record this parliament's support for the resources and mining sector in Queensland. Who would have ever thought that the parliament needed to make this statement in this place in the first week of a new government. The need for this sort of resolution would never have arisen under an LNP government and even the hapless Bligh government did not make the same mistakes that this government has stumbled into with the comments from the member for Mirani in his address-in-reply.

On top of recent reports showing that the government has lost the confidence of the property sector and the small and medium business sector, we now have an unjustified attack on the resources sector companies. Particularly disturbing is the fact that the member for Mirani also takes a huge swipe at the managers of those companies. Reigniting the old us-and-them attitude and battles of the fifties and sixties is surely a sign of a government held in thrall to the dictates of the extreme union movement.

This was not a comment by an inexperienced backbencher. This was a comment by the person placed by the Premier and her government in charge of the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee, which reviews policy and legislation of direct consequence to the resources sector. How can that sector now have confidence in a government if it appoints someone so obviously unable to exercise the judgement and discretion necessary to chair such a committee? But truth be known, this government was already struggling with confidence in the resources sector. After coming to office without a plan, one of its very first actions was to immediately, for no good environmental, scientific or economic reason and without consultation or discussion, simply ban uranium mining in Queensland. However, with an energy minister who was a campaigner for the antinuclear movement and the member for South Brisbane exercising the numbers of the left, what more could you expect? It should come as no surprise. The battles between the poor member for Stafford and the member for South Brisbane in this government are becoming legend.

Let us compare that to the LNP, which came to office with a 59-page energy and resource sector policy. We do not need to stand in this place and spout the figures that were spouted by the member for Stafford and the member for Townsville. We know those figures. We are not here like empty chambers, re-echoing some hollow numbers that have been given. We were about putting in place policy, legislation and actions to actually support that sector. We established a resources cabinet committee that met every fortnight and provided a direct link so those involved in the industry could speak to all relevant ministers in relation to mining. Our government worked to ensure that the mine at Mount Isa can successfully operate in an environmentally sound way. That was another

exercise in plagiarism by the good doctor opposite, as the project was announced by the former environment minister and the former local government minister. We did all the work to put that in place. Importantly, ours was a government that was able to support the resources sector without approving one single 100 per cent fly-in fly-out mine, unlike the previous Labor government that approved 100 per cent fly-in fly-out mines at Caval Ridge and at Daunia. It was done by the Labor Party; it was never done by the LNP.

Now we wait, because the acid is on the new minister. What will he do with new Acland stage 3? Will he approve new Acland stage 3? Will he support the 700 jobs in that industry? Will he support the local communities that he so proudly talks about or will he be held hostage to the dictates of the extreme green movement and radio journalists from Sydney? Will he make a decision to support Queensland or will he make a decision to support radio ratings in Sydney? The acid is on the member for Stafford to make that decision and that is the real test of this government's commitment; not some simple figures spouted here in the parliament.