




Speech By  
**Mark Ryan**

**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

---

Record of Proceedings, 30 August 2016

**MOTION: CARMICHAEL MINE**

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (6.14 pm): I start by joining with other members of this House in offering my condolences to the family and friends of the man who sadly died today at Glencore's Newlands open-cut mine operation near Glenden. I am sure the thoughts of all members of this House are with his family and friends right now.

I rise to speak in support of the motion. Let us be clear: the Palaszczuk government is a strong advocate for the responsible and sustainable development of our mining sector and has considered applications relating to the Carmichael mine in an open, transparent, efficient manner and in accordance with law. On 3 April this year it was the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines who announced the approval of the mining leases for this game-changing project for the north, not the member for Hinchinbrook. Interestingly, when the member for Hinchinbrook was the relevant minister, the applications for these mining leases just sat in his department. For a then government which claims to be so pro-Adani, there was a distinct lack of approvals being granted by those opposite. The question must be asked: did the member for Hinchinbrook as minister do anything to advance the approval of the mining leases?

On this side of the House we have been responsible in the way we have dealt with the Carmichael mine project. It was the Palaszczuk government that reached an agreement to have dredge spoil dumped on land at T2 and not on the Caley Valley Wetlands as proposed by those opposite.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I wish to hear the member's contribution.

**Mr RYAN:** It was the Palaszczuk government that restored balanced community objection rights after they were ripped away by the previous LNP government. Yesterday, the Federal Court dismissed the Australian Conservation Foundation's application for judicial review of the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment's approval for the project. I note that this matter was considered by the Federal Court. It considered a federal government's decision made by the federal LNP government. This is the second time the Federal Court was asked to adjudicate on this matter. The first time the Commonwealth LNP minister, an LNP mate of those opposite, decided to withdraw his decision as he made a mistake. This decision, which is still subject to appeal, and another which will be heard in the Federal Court are the responsibility of the federal LNP government.

**Mr Cripps** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Hinchinbrook, you have had your chance.

**Mr RYAN:** Have we heard a single word from the member for Hinchinbrook or from his federal LNP mates on this issue? Has he asked them to reform the Federal Court? Has he asked them to remove the right of community groups to appeal those decisions? No, not a word. He is doing the same as he did when the coal price went through the floor—he is doing nothing.

In the state courts, there are three court actions currently being considered. There is a judicial review of the environmental authority for the mine, a judicial review of the environmental authority for the T0 at Abbot Point and a judicial review against the decision to grant the mining leases. Let's be frank: all three of these judicial reviews would have occurred under the LNP's framework—all three. In terms of expediting this project, those opposite were impotent. I know that the minister and the Attorney-General are working to review current Land Court arrangements and automatic referrals to deliver efficiencies. I also welcome the comments of the new President of the Land Court, Ms Fleur Kingham, who has indicated that the court will undertake a strategic assessment of its functions and processes to develop a progressive pathway forward.

The work by the Land Court and their staff is much valued by this government and we will ensure that we will work with the court to deliver reforms that benefit Queensland as a whole. The Palaszczuk government will consult widely in making sure the changes will work in the best interests of the parties and the court.

I support the motion but, before resuming my seat, can I remind the House that the award-winning Banksia Beach State School big band will be performing in the Speaker's Hall at the conclusion of this debate, and I encourage all members to attend.