




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Coal Seam Gas

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (10.23 am): This morning an article appeared on the ABC Queensland website reporting that the former LNP government allegedly cut funding for coal seam gas compliance activities. These allegations are false. The ABC article claims to have obtained cabinet documents that show that the budget for overseeing the CSG industry was repeatedly cut. This is inaccurate. State budget documents covering this period clearly document that the allegations in this ABC article are incorrect. In fact, the 2011-12 budget, the last budget of the Bligh government, allocated no money for CSG compliance activities. I table an extract from the 2011-12 state Budget Measures document which shows the last budget allocation for CSG compliance activities was made by the Bligh government in 2010-11, with the 2011-12 forward estimates left vacant.

In fact, the incoming LNP government were confronted with an unfunded allocation by Labor, a measure we accommodated in our first 2012-13 state budget. I table a state Budget Measures extract to support this statement.

In addition to covering Labor's \$9 million shortfall, the former LNP government allocated an additional \$3.6 million to CSG compliance activities in our first budget in 2012-13. I table the Budget Measures extract to support that statement.

In our second budget, the former LNP government provided a further \$11 million for coal seam gas compliance activities across DEHP, DEWS and DNRM. This represents the largest state budget allocation ever by any Queensland government for CSG industry oversight, supervision, compliance and regulation—something the LNP did in recognition of community concerns about this issue.

In our third budget, the former LNP government put into place the very first substantial long-term funding for CSG compliance activities, with a \$23.4 million allocation over four years—again, more than any other Queensland government. This funding was allocated through the departments that I have previously mentioned but, in addition, funded the activities of the newly established GasFields Commission. I table a state government Budget Measures extract that clearly demonstrates these allocations.

Tabled paper: Extracts from State Budget 2013-14: Budget Measures—Budget Paper No. 4, relating to Department of Environment and Heritage Protection [\[329\]](#).

When the former LNP government left office in early 2015, it had put in place funding for CSG compliance activities that were sustainable across the forward estimates, in contrast to the unfunded mess that we found when we came to office in 2012.

It is extremely disappointing that the publicly funded national broadcaster has failed to check publicly available, published state budget documents to corroborate the information it alleges to have secured from a leaked cabinet document. The performance by the Minister for Environment was absolutely embarrassing. He has relied on a factually inaccurate article by the ABC to mount a childish political attack on the Leader of the Opposition, an attack that is completely unfounded.