



Speech By  
**Andrew Cripps**

**MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 March 2017

**MOTION**

**Queensland Labor Party, Mount Coot-tha Branch**

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (6.00 pm): I move—

That this House condemns the Mount Coot-tha Branch of the Queensland Labor Party for its statement against resources industry jobs for Central and North Queensland.

As much as I would like to take the environment minister, the member for Mount Coot-tha, to task about the public statements of Labor's Mount Coot-tha branch in terms of its position on Adani's Carmichael coal project, I cannot really do that because he has abandoned them and fled to Murrumba, terrified by the prospect of contesting an election against the member for Indooroopilly.

The LNP opposition has moved this motion to give those Labor MPs from North and Central Queensland an opportunity to fully understand the lengths the loony left, extreme green-hugging faction within their party will go to in order to stop the creation of new jobs in the resources industry in their own backyards. This motion will also give those Labor MPs in Central and North Queensland the opportunity to vote for those jobs and reject the scaremongering campaigns run by activist groups and supported by Labor Party branches in inner-city Brisbane.

Labor's Mount Coot-tha branch's Facebook site recently shared a post from an environmental activist group making allegations about Adani. Labor's Mount Coot-tha branch described Adani as disgraceful. This post has been shared by Labor's Mount Coot-tha branch only days after the Premier has returned to India to supposedly strengthen the relationship between that company and Queensland in terms of its investment in the Carmichael coalmine project and the associated rail and port infrastructure and the creation of thousands of jobs.

The Greens candidate for the seat of Maiwar, one Michael Berkman, subsequently shared the post by Labor's Mount Coot-tha branch and invited its members to join the Greens campaign for Maiwar to help fight Adani. Those posts no longer appear on the Facebook page of Labor's Mount Coot-tha branch. They were mysteriously deleted this morning after I gave notice of this motion. Fortunately, I have a copy here for the information of members. I table the screen shot of those posts for the information of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, undated, from Mr Michael Berkman—The Greens' Facebook page, responding to post shared by Mount Coot-tha Labor about the Adani mine and the Great Barrier Reef [\[459\]](#).

For all of the words that come from the Palaszczuk government claiming that it is all about jobs, jobs, jobs, its actions since assuming office in February 2015 have been to do little but frustrate the progress of Adani's Carmichael coalmine project. It is worth reflecting on the fact that one of the first things that the Palaszczuk government did in early 2015 was intervene in the assessment process for the environmental impact statement for the expansion of the port at Abbot Point.

That expansion is critical for the successful delivery of the Carmichael coalmine project, given the significant increase in the volume of coal that will be exported through that port. That development means jobs for communities in North Queensland, particularly like the township of Bowen which has been screaming out for those opportunities for many years.

Labor's intervention significantly delayed the EIS process for the proposed expansion of the port at Abbot Point. It created unnecessary uncertainty and it added to the wider environment of risk created by the unrelenting public and legal campaigns waged by environmental activist groups against this project. This, of course, is the modus operandi of the extreme green activists—delay, frustrate, increase uncertainty and drive up costs for project applicants.

More recently, Queensland narrowly avoided the retrospective application of a completely duplicated underground water impact assessment and approvals process for Adani's Carmichael coalmine project in the Galilee Basin. Last year the environment minister sought to apply an additional retrospective underground water impact statement assessment process to the Adani project, potentially opening up the project to a fresh round of objections and legal challenges—another opportunity to delay, frustrate, increase uncertainty and drive up costs for the proponent.

Fortunately, there was widespread backlash from the community in Central and North Queensland from individual companies, industry groups, civic leaders and the general public and the Palaszczuk government backed down. There is absolutely no doubt that they would not have backed down if there was not that public backlash.

Parts of the Queensland ALP, like the Mount Coot-tha branch and their fellow travellers in the green activist movement, are running a campaign to sabotage the delivery of the Adani Carmichael coalmine project with baseless claims, distorted scaremongering, vexatious and frivolous lawfare and threats of civil disobedience. For that they ought to be condemned.