



Speech By
Andrew Cripps

MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK

Record of Proceedings, 9 May 2017

MOTION

Resource Projects

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (6.01 pm): I move—

That this House condemns the Palaszczuk government for its secret support of attempts by extreme activist groups to block the jobs and investment opportunities associated with Queensland resource projects.

The story of the Palaszczuk Labor government and its treatment of the resources sector in Queensland is a duplicitous and dishonest one. It is extraordinary how the Palaszczuk government can take the jobs, investment and royalties of the resources sector for granted while increasing uncertainty, sovereign risk and red tape and selling the industry out for Greens preferences. Since assuming office the Palaszczuk government has amassed a long list of hostile actions against the resources sector. It has reinstated the ban on uranium mining which crushed that fledgling industry as it tried to get off the ground and it delayed the assessment and approval process for the expansion of export capacity at the port of Abbot Point to accommodate Queensland's growing coal sector.

Labor has interfered in the process with special legislation in relation to the assessment of the Aurukun bauxite deposit. Labor rushed changes through this House to re-establish third-party objection rights for green activist groups to frustrate and delay resource projects that have already been assessed by the Coordinator-General and then infamously tried to justify its actions with the fraudulent Broccoli Broccoli petition. We have seen Labor undermine the future of the North Stradbroke Island community by moving to shut down the island's biggest employer—the sandmine—without any coherent plan to transition the local economy. We have also seen Labor introduce new and retrospective underground water assessment and approvals processes that threaten both stage 3 of the Acland coalmine and indeed Adani's Carmichael coalmine in the Galilee Basin. Only a last-ditch campaign by industry, business and community leaders from across north and Central Queensland saw Labor do a backflip and exempt Adani's project from these additional processes. This was a political deal rather than a demonstration of support for Adani's project because, unfortunately, the exemption did not extend to stage 3 at Acland which has now been subjected to an additional and retrospective process.

The Palaszczuk government's relationship with the resources industry is akin to a story of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. It has two faces with two completely different personalities. Labor's Dr Jekyll—Dr Lynham, the Minister for State Development and Minister for Mines—always seems to be mouthing the right words. He talks about the jobs and the investment and he sounds like he knows what he is talking about—and, to be fair, I think he probably does. Sadly, when the light of the day fades and the dark of night comes, the equivalent of Labor's Mr Hyde emerges in the form of the Deputy Premier. Here lurks Labor's real and ideologically driven hostility, compelled by the constant need to satisfy the beast that is their inner greenie. This leaves the Palaszczuk government hopelessly compromised between its jobs rhetoric and its political addiction to Greens preferences. Dr Lynham is of course

outnumbered because, if you check inside the Deputy Premier's handbag, you will find the environment minister and the energy minister, who together stand ready to create some extra green tape or plunge taxpayers' money into another heavily subsidised renewable energy project.

The Deputy Premier and these two ministers are closely linked to the extreme activist groups gunning for the resources sector in this state. This motion seeks to highlight the relationship between Labor and the extreme activist groups because they are insidious and they have extreme and serious ramifications for Queensland, particularly regional Queensland where most resource projects are located. Queensland jobseekers need to understand that the links between these extreme activist groups and Labor is impacting on their opportunities to secure employment. We know the Deputy Premier, the environment minister, the energy minister and the Attorney-General are meeting with the activist group GetUp! which is engaged in a major campaign to prevent Adani's Carmichael mine from proceeding and delivering much needed jobs and investment to communities in central and North Queensland. We know that the Palaszczuk government is handing over huge sums of public money to the EDO whose chief objector, Jo Bragg, is a former Greens candidate to help fund legal challenges to resource projects across Queensland, and I table a set of documents that demonstrates the extent of the Palaszczuk Labor government's and the EDO's relationship. For all of those reasons, the Palaszczuk government should be condemned and today, through this motion, Labor is going to have to pick a side.

Tabled paper: Bundle of documents obtained under a right to information application regarding the Environmental Defenders Office Queensland [668].