




Speech By
Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

Record of Proceedings, 9 May 2017

MOTION

Resource Projects

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (6.11 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the member for Hinchinbrook. When we talk about double standards, there is no better example than this Labor government, which has made an art form out of saying one thing and doing another. Of course, the problem is that, in playing these games, Labor is treating Queenslanders like fools. It makes me sick to my stomach to think that the whole time North Queenslanders have been struggling with an economic downturn, rising unemployment and the aftermath of a cyclone, Labor has been sidling up and funding the extreme green anti Adani group GetUp!, whose entire aim is to discredit and destroy the Adani project.

We need the jobs and we need the investment in the resource sector, particularly in North Queensland. We do not need a Labor government running an agenda behind the scenes to stop or delay these much needed resource projects. I have a message for the Premier and her mates at GetUp! from North Queenslanders—and one that I am happy to share with members tonight—as published on the front page of the *Townsville Bulletin* on Saturday. Yes, that is correct: to Labor and GetUp!, 'Get lost'. I table a copy of that.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Weekend Bulletin*, dated 6-7 May 2017, titled 'Extreme green group's anti-Adani survey backfires as readers declare they want the job-creating project' [\[669\]](#).

North Queenslanders are on to the Labor members. Their subterfuge has been exposed and I say shame on them for selling North Queensland down the drain and shame on them for getting into bed with GetUp!. There are good people in my electorate—in places like Bowen and Collinsville—who would give people the shirt off their backs. They are good, decent, hardworking people who want to live in rural and regional Queensland and who are looking to this government to develop and approve projects that will help them find a job. In an economic climate where unemployed North Queenslanders and their families are desperate to obtain work with the Adani project, the Deputy Premier, the environment minister, the energy minister and the Attorney-General are clandestinely meeting and dealing with GetUp!. It puts a sour taste in my mouth to know that, while the Premier and the mines minister have been publicly supporting Adani's Carmichael mine and the thousands of employment opportunities that it will create, behind the scenes the Deputy Premier and three of her ministers have been meeting and funding people whose sole focus is to destroy the Adani project.

If members need evidence, they need look no further than the fact that Ellen Roberts from the Mackay Conservation Group, who has campaigned for the ALP, now works as GetUp!'s Queensland organiser. Ellen Roberts works with a solicitor called Michael Berkman from the Environmental Defenders Office, which is an organisation that specialises in legal fights to thwart mining projects throughout Queensland. It is supposed to be an independent, non-government organisation, except we know that it is not. It is far from independent. It is being led by Jo-Anne Bragg, a former Greens

candidate for South Brisbane. It is hardly a non-government organisation, because in 2015 this Attorney-General handed over \$1 million of taxpayer's money and on 28 March of this year—yes, the very day that Tropical Cyclone Debbie hit Queensland—this government handed the EDO another \$600,000.

It gets better. The immediate past national director of GetUp!, Sam McLean, has returned to the Labor fold, in October last year joining federal Labor leader Bill Shorten's office to head Shorten's digital campaign efforts. It is appalling beyond belief to think that this government is spending taxpayers' money creating a false public image that it supports Adani and regional jobs when the reality is that the Deputy Premier and senior ministers are secretly meeting with GetUp! and depositing funds into the bank account of the EDO.

The Premier needs to know that North Queenslanders are not a forgiving bunch. They do not take kindly to those who tell them lies and try to deceive them. They might be facing some tough times at present, but that only makes North Queenslanders stronger and more determined to fight for what they deserve and for what is right. I say to the Premier to rest assured that North Queenslanders will come out fighting against her and the extreme Greens in her opposition to the Adani project. They will fight for what is right at the next election. Queenslanders deserve better.