




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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MOTION

Resource Projects

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (6.16 pm): We all know that actions speak louder than words. For the resources and the mining sector in this state, it is important to note that the Palaszczuk government's actions speak very loudly indeed. Not only has the Palaszczuk government actively supported the resources and mining sector, it very useful to compare the actions of this government to those of past governments. The Palaszczuk government has approved three mining leases for the Adani Carmichael mine. When those opposite were in government, they did not do that. There is no more important approval needed—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members, would you like to take your private conversations outside.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you have had a pretty good go. If you persist, you will get warned.

Mrs GILBERT: Since this government has come to power, a total of 31 key Commonwealth, state and local government approvals have been granted for Adani's Carmichael mine and rail project. Yet those opposite, including the member for Hinchinbrook as the Newman-Nicholls government resources minister, managed to facilitate just five approvals for the Carmichael mine. The difference between the actions of the Palaszczuk government and the empty words of those opposite could not be more stark. The facts show clearly that, when it came to getting Adani off the ground and delivering the jobs and business opportunities for regional Queensland, those opposite were on a go-slow. My region desperately needed those jobs and those opposite did not fulfil their duties.

In the last month, the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines has approved both the Colton and the Byerwen coalmines. Only last week the Department of Natural Resources and Mines approved the Arrow Bowen Pipeline to bring Bowen gas to the market. During the term of this government, we have seen expansion programs in the coal seam gas industry. The QCG Charlie and Ruby projects and the Arrow Energy Tipton field development were announced this week. These are hardly the actions of a government that is involved in some sort of secret conspiracy to stop major resource projects in the state, which was the fairy tale peddled by the member for Burdekin. We are seeing the major bauxite project at Amrun on Cape York which is being delivered by Rio Tinto. Further, the Palaszczuk government has established a North West Minerals Province Taskforce to focus on the development of mining activity in the Mount Isa region. This government is committed to driving further investment and growth in the sector to breathe new life back into this important region of Queensland. Importantly, our North West Minerals Province Taskforce seeks to help build the social fabric of the great region of Mount Isa.

This list of approvals and new mines and projects, which is by no means exhaustive, demonstrates that the Palaszczuk government is very strongly committed to the development of natural resources in this state. The proposition that this government is seeking to slow down or stop resource development in this state is an absurd proposition. The resource sector employs thousands of Queenslanders directly. I have immediate family members working at mine sites in the Bowen Basin. The sector also creates millions of dollars in business opportunities, in particular in regional areas like Mackay. Mackay is proud to be a service centre for the resource sector, in particular in the area of engineering. That is why the Palaszczuk government continues to advocate strongly for the sustainable development of our natural resources to generate jobs and business opportunities. As the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines has said in this House before, the member for Hinchinbrook is very good at saying 'should have', 'could have', 'would have', but the fact is he very rarely did.