




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES (FINANCIAL PROVISIONING) BILL

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.57 pm): Today we will make history, but going by the member for Maiwar's contribution just now one would not know it. We will pass nation-leading legislation that will ensure that mining companies, not Queensland taxpayers, are responsible for rehabilitation after mining. This legislation means that there is now an historic new standard for mine rehabilitation. Proposals for new mines will have to meet new standards for postmining uses. Mining companies will need to provide a progressive rehabilitation plan seeing mining rehabilitation jobs created throughout the life of the mine, not left until the never-never of a closure plan.

I am proud to be part of establishing this new historic standard for the Queensland mining industry. I think that the Greens and the member for Maiwar really need to get on board with this historic bill that is before the parliament and support these provisions rather than talking it down and talking down the jobs in this industry.

Mr Berkman interjected.

Mrs LAUGA: You might support the bill, member for Maiwar, but all we are hearing from the Greens is a running down of this bill. They need to support this historic bill before the parliament. I know that the expertise of mine rehabilitation that we have here in Queensland will not only serve us well but also be something we can export to other parts of the world. Why should overseas mines be held to any lesser standard?

I am a town-planner by profession and I take seriously my obligation to protect the environment and our built environment for future generations. Despite their election appeals asking voters to make history, the most hypocritical contribution was that made by the member for Maiwar as the representative of the Greens. They say that they care more for the environment than for politics, but the Greens' approach is the most cynically political. Labor has brought historic legislation to the House to protect the environment and Rick Humphries from activist group Lock the Gate said that the government should be congratulated for the most comprehensive review of mine rehabilitation law in Australia's history, yet all the Greens do is come in here and attack Labor—not the LNP, not the mining industry, but Labor.

Let me explain how the Greens work. They used to be about the environment, but now they are all about building political power. They have completely lost their way.

Honourable members: Ha, ha!

Mrs LAUGA: It is funny. Their political strategy means they cannot give Labor any credit, so they have to continually move to more extreme positions—not smarter policy but more extreme policy positions. That is why just now the member for Maiwar spent almost his entire speech criticising this historic bill. They say they care about jobs but then lower themselves by joining the LNP in promoting a culture war at the expense of the environment. The LNP love to say that governments must choose between jobs and the environment. The Greens give this culture war oxygen for their own political

benefit. Their own political strategy means that they must set the environmental bar too high for anyone else to meet. They take extreme positions so that Labor cannot support them without hurting the working people we stand for, but we will not do it.

I know we do not have to choose between jobs and a better environment. There is a better way and it means putting people ahead of politics. However, today the Greens put politics ahead of people. We can achieve a balance between jobs and the environment, and Labor has struck that balance in this bill. They say they want an inclusive society, but the Greens take part in the cheap politics of dividing regional Queensland from the south-east. They say they care about people, but they are not prepared to work with industry and the unions to manage the transition to modern environmental standards like those contained in this bill. Adding insult to injury, they say they support diversity but spend the entire 2017 election campaign campaigning in South Brisbane and McConnel against progressive Labor women from migrant families. It is ludicrous. I am proud to be part of making history here today by supporting the bill before the House.