




Speech By
Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.25 pm): The Labor Party has deserted workers in regional Queensland for Greens voters in Melbourne. Bill Shorten's comment yesterday that he no longer supports the Adani project is a kick in the guts for Queenslanders. It is clear that the only job that Bill Shorten cares about is his own, not the thousands of new jobs that the Carmichael mine will create for Queenslanders. Today we awoke to find that Bill Shorten has done a complete backflip and declared his outright opposition to the Adani Carmichael mine, turning his back on thousands of crucial Queensland jobs in a desperate bid to save one Labor member of parliament in Melbourne. That is right: yesterday, Bill Shorten said, 'I don't support the Adani project ... So I am a sceptic, and I am not supportive of it.'

Well might one ask why Bill Shorten would turn his back on the project and the thousands of jobs that go with it. The answer is pretty simple. In their desperate bid to win a by-election in Melbourne, Labor has sold out Queensland workers. On 21 February this year in Rockhampton, Bill Shorten said, 'I understand the importance of mining ... I've spent my life standing up for blue-collar engineering workers.' We now know that Labor talk with a forked tongue when it comes to supporting resource projects and the jobs they deliver. It is clearly apparent that the Labor Party, at both state and federal levels, have two messages. When they are in the north, they fall over themselves to talk up their support for the mining sector. Of course, doesn't that message change when they come back to the city and have to pander to their green mates? There is no better example of that than Bill Shorten's pathetic attempts to shore up green votes for his Labor candidate in the Batman by-election at the expense of blue-collar workers in the regions.

Let me remind the House of what resources are worth to Queenslanders: \$5.1 billion in wages paid to 38,150 employees; \$16.4 billion in purchases; and \$3.8 billion in royalties, which that crowd over there are happy to put their hands out for and gladly accept. There are flow-on benefits of 244,483 additional full-time employees and an additional value-add of \$29.6 billion. In 2016-17, the total contribution by the Queensland resources sector to Queensland's economy was \$55.1 billion or one in six dollars of the Queensland economy and one in eight jobs. It is such an important industry for this state.

During the state election, we saw Annastacia Palaszczuk put her own interests ahead of the jobs of Queenslanders. Labor threw Adani under the bus in an attempt to reset a disastrous start to their campaign and garner the green vote. During the election campaign the self-proclaimed open and accountable Premier ignored the advice of the Integrity Commissioner and decided to veto a NAIF loan for the railway line for the Carmichael mine. Previously they had supported the loan. They had written to the Commonwealth government saying that a railway line for the Galilee Basin was a priority for NAIF

funding, but because of a personal conflict of interest the Premier ripped up Labor's support for the loan. Again, a Labor leader was putting her own job first and selling out jobs for Queenslanders. Queensland has the highest unemployment rate in Australia and that is a sad indictment on Labor and Annastacia Palaszczuk's leadership.

We have seen high unemployment in regions like Townsville. The youth unemployment rate in outback Queensland is over 60 per cent. In Townsville the unemployment rate is 8.6 per cent. That is Labor's record. What is the unemployment rate in Melbourne? It is around five per cent. Clearly, this government and Bill Shorten are not serious about jobs for Queenslanders.

Where is Labor's mines minister? Does he have a voice? Is he a man or is he a mouse? The Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy recently said—

... the Indian conglomerate's project had leapt more environmental hurdles than any other resources project. Adani has had the green light since June last year, and we support it and want it to go ahead.

The Queensland government says time and time again, 'Let's go.' He further said—

I have never seen a resources project so heavily conditioned than this resources project.

What has he said lately? There has been silence. Is he going to stand up to Bill? Is he going to stand up for the resources sector in this state or is he just going to continue to stand out on that long, skinny limb collecting a pay cheque and talking with a forked tongue?

The protestors and objectors have had their day in court. They have had their say. It is now time for the biggest objectors of all—the Labor Party, Bill Shorten and Annastacia Palaszczuk—to provide the certainty any company needs—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): The member will refer to other members by their titles.

Mr LAST: The member for Inala needs to provide the certainty any company needs and the bipartisan support that is essential to finance a multimillion dollar project.

(Time expired)