




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Record of Proceedings, 14 November 2018

MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES (FINANCIAL PROVISIONING) BILL

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.54 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill 2018. I would like to take a moment to thank the committee for their work on this bill and thank all those people who took the time to make a submission. I also thank the Deputy Premier and Treasurer for her work on this bill.

I am proud to be part of a government that is taking a major step forward in ensuring that, when mining occurs in this state, the community is not left with a bill for the clean-up after the mining has ceased. The reality is that the majority of businesses involved in the mining industry do the right thing, but we do know from experience that there are times when things go wrong. There are times when rehabilitation does not occur at all or it does not occur to a standard that the community expects or demands.

When I talk to people in my electorate about mining and the mining industry, there are certainly mixed views but most people acknowledge a range of things. They acknowledge that our society relies on mining for many of the products that are fundamental to our activities of daily living—such as food, energy, housing, transport, clothing, health care and the list could go on. They acknowledge that, as a state, we are reliant on the revenue generated from the mining industry. They also acknowledge that there will be a demand for the products of mining for many years to come. However, there is also a universal view in my community that when mining occurs the mining site should be properly rehabilitated and the people of Queensland should not be left with that bill as the company exits with the profits.

Mining has been occurring in our state for a very long time. I spent some of my childhood growing up in Charters Towers and it was not uncommon for me and my brothers and sisters and friends to play in and around abandoned mine sites. Some of those were conveniently located in people's backyards just on the edge of town or even closer to town. As members know, mining in that town has been going on for well over a century. There are no doubt many other mining towns where there are historic mining sites that nobody and no business is responsible for.

This bill not only provides us with the capacity to ensure that we have the funds to rehabilitate existing and ongoing mining sites; it also allows for the state to deal with these types of legacy mining sites. I believe that is an extremely good thing, particularly in places like Charters Towers, because it probably was not ideal for kids to be playing in and around mining sites.

Changing the way we manage the financial provisioning for resource projects will be of benefit to small and medium resource businesses as the changes will result in a reduction in financial assurance costs. I talked about my community's views in relation to mining. I think this bill is really important because it will ensure community support for mining, particularly for sustainable mining practices into the future.

In various debates around this issue and others, those opposite have had some fun claiming that members on this side of the House cannot say a word that begins with 'c'—coal. Coal is an important resource in our state and will be part of the mix of producing energy and steel for many years to come,

as well as income for our state. However, I can also say two other words that begin with 'c'—climate change. Those opposite certainly cannot say those words. In fact, if they all buried their heads collectively, we could fill some of these voids that we have been talking about here today.

I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government that is leading the way on creating a renewable future and ensuring that, where coalmining communities are affected, there is a just transition. I am proud to be part of a government that acknowledges that climate change is real and is taking real action on climate change. Like all good governments, the Palaszczuk government must balance the competing interests in our society. When it comes to the activities of the mining industry, there are numerous competing interests in this area. This presents challenges for all governments to balance those competing interests, particularly across a state as big and diverse as ours.

I am pleased to be part of a government that through this bill is taking important steps towards balancing out those competing interests. I know the people in my community will certainly welcome the fact that we are supporting the mining industry to continue to produce those things that are so important to our community. We are making sure that we support the people in the mining industry to do the right thing and do rehabilitation properly, but we are also holding to account those people who do the wrong thing and, importantly, we are making sure that Queenslanders are not left with that bill. We not only have money there to undertake this important rehabilitation work; we are not diverting money away from other important services, like hospitals, schools and child safety services.

This bill demonstrates that we support the mining industry by ensuring better financial practices, but we also acknowledge the community expectation that mining companies will rehabilitate former mining sites without leaving the bill for someone else to pay. This bill ensures that we have the financial resources to rehabilitate former, existing and future mine sites. With those few words I would like to commend the bill to the House.