




Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**

**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 November 2018

**MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES (FINANCIAL PROVISIONING) BILL**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (12.02 pm): I am pleased to rise to make a very brief contribution in support of what I think is an incredibly important bill. I am proud to be part of a government that has taken on what is a very challenging issue. In 2015, as I came into the role of environment minister for this state, I was surprised, as no doubt many Queenslanders would be, about how little mine rehabilitation was occurring and how many jobs we were missing out on because that rehabilitation was not occurring. During that time a whole series of companies went broke, deserted mines and tailing dams and other facilities and the government was left with a massive shortfall in financial assurance. The more we looked at it the more we discovered that there was a range of structural shortfalls built into the financial assurance system that meant that there would never be enough financial assurance. I think the vast majority of Queenslanders would take the view that they, through their government, issue permits to mining companies to extract resources that they own in return for jobs, in return for taxes and royalties, but on the promise that those sites will be rehabilitated once mining has concluded. That is the deal that has always been there and this bill fundamentally makes good on that deal for the benefit of our environment, for the state, for the jobs in this state and for certainty for the mining sector.

I know that getting to a point where there is consensus across government stakeholders, the resources sector and the environment sector has been very challenging, having been a part of debates like that in the past, so I congratulate Minister Lynham, the Deputy Premier and Minister Enoch in arriving at the point we now find ourselves at. I also acknowledge the role of the former treasurer and now Speaker and the contribution that he made working with myself and Minister Lynham in the previous government to do the foundational work. It is important and I certainly strongly commend the bill to the House.