




Speech By
Barry O'Rourke

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Record of Proceedings, 12 June 2019

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Federal Election

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (5.47 pm): I rise to oppose the motion. It is no secret that I am disappointed by the federal Labor government's performance at the federal election. I am disappointed for a lot of reasons, one being because of the falsehoods about mining. The fact is that Labor is a great friend of the resource industry, in particular at the state level in the Palaszczuk Labor government. Let us look at the facts. In April of this year our government declared Winchester South coalmine to be a coordinated project. That involves a \$1 billion investment, 500 construction jobs and another 500 jobs when operational. Another \$1 billion mine, the Olive Downs mine, was declared a coordinated project in 2017. An EIS was approved on 13 May.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members to my left, I will not have any more calls of relevance. It is my role to determine whether a member is being relevant. According to the motion I see before me the member is being relevant. There is a process. If you wish to ask a question about relevance, rise to your feet on a point of order. Otherwise cease the interjections.

Mr O'ROURKE: Both of those mines include significant thermal coal production as well as their main purpose of metallurgical coal. That is just the start. The Amrun bauxite project near Weipa is a \$2.6 billion project, supports 1,200 jobs and was first in production in December 2018. The Byerwen coal project in the Bowen Basin is a \$1.7 billion project that supports 545 jobs and secured mining leases in April 2017. The Charlie gas project in Western Downs is a \$1.7 billion project with 1,600 jobs, approved in November 2015 and completed in late 2017. The Dugald River zinc mine near Cloncurry is a \$1.4 billion project that supports 400 jobs and achieved commercial production in May 2018. The Northern Gas Pipeline, Mount Isa to Tennant Creek, is an \$800 million project that has 431 jobs and opened in late 2018. Daandine and Tipton fields exploration in the Surat Basin is an \$800 million project announced in the 2016-17 financial year. The Roma East gas expansion was a \$750 million project with 400 jobs which was announced in February 2018.

Let us be clear: in the year to March 2019, our gas exports increased by \$4.8 billion, metallurgical coal was up \$3.9 billion, other minerals were up \$1.3 million and there have been many more. Since the Palaszczuk government took office, we have facilitated better than \$20 billion worth of investment in resource projects, supporting thousands of jobs. My message to those opposite is that you might have got away with some dirty tricks at the federal election, but you can think again—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member, you will put your comments through the chair.

Mr O'ROURKE: They can think again if they think it will work on our government. We have the runs on the board and a better record for creating mining jobs than anything that they have achieved in government. Not for one moment will we stop reminding Queenslanders of that. We have seen in excess of 30,000 resource jobs created in the Bowen Basin. We are supporting the resources industry in Queensland.