




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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RESOURCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.31 pm): I support the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. I thought I would start with some brief rebuttal of the member for Toowoomba North. It was fascinating to hear him talking about the fact that the executive is not always right and this being a reason why consultation is important. I presume that he is speaking from great personal experience being a member of the Newman government. He would have experienced on many occasions—in fact, almost daily occasion—the executive not being right. He would have also experienced on many occasions the lack of consultation by the Newman government in relation to a whole range of things including perhaps the 1,600 nurses or so that they sacked, the damage they did to health care and the damage they did to a whole range of things in our community. Being lectured to by the member for Toowoomba North about consultation is like the former leader of the Western Australian Liberals Zak Kirkup lecturing Mark McGowan on how to win an election!

This bill provides certainty to the industry and to community stakeholders. It ensures the integrity of the land tenure system. It enhances water restrictions compliance and enforcement. More importantly, it demonstrates Labor's ongoing commitment to the resources and mining industry.

Many members in this chamber come in here and rightly advocate passionately on behalf of the people in their community who derive their income from the mining industry. I often like to remind those members that, as the member for Greenslopes, I represent perhaps one of the biggest mining communities in the state. I base this on the fact that, whenever I am out doorknocking, whenever I am at street stalls, whenever I am at community events which is very frequently, whenever I am at bus stops, I meet people who are involved in the mining industry. Yes, true, I meet quite a few fly-in fly-out miners—people who actually work at the mines—but more frequently I meet people who do data management, who are Workplace Health and Safety officers, who are ventilation engineers, who specialise in marketing, who are geologists, and who work in the area of native title. All of those people are involved and engaged in the mining industry and they all live in the electorate of Greenslopes.

The Greens political party fantasise about getting their hands on the levers of government, but the reality is that they do not want to do the hard yards it takes to become a serious party of government. The mining and resources sectors generate huge benefits for our community and have done for the entire history of our great state. That does not mean though that the industry does not create challenges and problems. This is true of any area of economic activity. As a government, you have to be prepared to rise to those challenges and to meet those challenges. Our party can proudly point to significant improvements in wages for miners and massive improvements in safety, particularly more recently in the area of black lung disease. I was very privileged to be part of the select committee that worked on the investigation of the black lung disease and made recommendations about how to make things safer. We have opened up whole new areas of mining and whole new areas of industry. I think our party can be rightly proud of the contribution we have made to the resources and mining industry. This legislation continues that work of improving conditions for mining. Our party is definitely a supporter.

If you want to see an example of a party that does not support the resources and mining industry, look no further than the Greens political party. At the last election they told people in my electorate that they were going to give everything to everyone for free and pay for it by quadrupling the taxes on an industry they were going to shut down. It takes some gall to take such an illogical economic argument and proposal to the people of Queensland, but that is what they did. If that were not bad enough—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr KELLY: I know they are upset because they single-handedly delivered a Greens in South Brisbane. They have not got over it. If it were not bad enough that the Greens took that illogical proposal to the election, they also delivered it in a way that alienated people and divided our community. I recall many people at polling booths being told, and in some cases being yelled at, that they were going to kill the planet. One lady was trying to have a conversation with me and she had a Greens volunteer screaming in her face that she did not care about her own children and that she was colluding with Labor to kill the planet and her own children. This is the sort of wacky behaviour that will ensure the Greens party remains on the fringe. It is certainly completely incapable and unwilling to be a party of government. I do not have much respect for the LNP—everyone knows that—but I do respect that it is a party of government.

I do not know which way that lady voted, but I do know that when a political party carries on like that in Greenslopes there is a fair chance you are probably attacking someone who derives their income from the mining industry. There is also a very strong chance that you are attacking a fair-minded person who would be prepared to have a sensible and logical conversation about the mining and resource industry.

The people I speak to understand the economic benefits that accrue to our state from resources and mining. They know we pay for our hospitals, schools, roads, community safety and our environmental initiatives by having a thriving economy of which mining is a part and a significant part. Yes, mining companies do make a profit, and Labor supports people who take a risk to invest getting a return. We also support taxing people who make a profit. We do not engage in the politics of envy and division practised by the Greens political party.

I also know that the majority of people in mining in my community are deeply concerned about sustainability and environmental issues. I know from the many conversations that I have had with those people in our community that they would have a much deeper understanding of those issues than any Greens political party volunteer hurling abuse at a polling booth.

Mining and resources are integral to our state. We stand in a chamber, in a House, that was literally built with Gympie gold. This week a private investor was confident enough about Labor's support for resources that they were prepared to invest a billion dollars in the next resources boom—hydrogen. I support this bill because it is part of Labor's long, ongoing commitment to mining and the resources industry.