




Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2021

RESOURCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (4.52 pm): I rise to speak to support the mining and resources industries in our state by supporting the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. Labor have always—and the minister and Premier especially—supported the mining industry by ensuring we have strong, stable regulation that has wide community support and provides a strong platform for investment in our mining and resources sector. The bill will ensure the continued effectiveness of key regulatory frameworks by amending the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and the Petroleum Act 1923 to provide certainty to industry and community stakeholders by ensuring the validity of specified historically granted tenures and the standing of existing applications. As has been said by both sides, this is about providing certainty for the resources sector. It certainly shows the government's commitment to the mining industry.

The bill is an omnibus bill that makes minor changes to a number of bills. I noticed that a number of LNP speakers, especially the member for Gregory, criticised this fairly standard process. He, however, did not note that the process of putting forward an omnibus bill was used over 70 times during the Newman government. The hypocrisy there is writ large, and it is really disappointing to see such silly time wasting of this House in putting such arguments.

We hear lots of distracting noise from the opposition about resources and mining, but we do not hear them say much about the facts about the resources industry and mining. I am proud that I and my children are descended from miners on both sides. We know that mining jobs helped our families. We back miners, mining families and mining communities. We back new projects and safe work. We back miners by backing their mining unions that work to create well-paid jobs with good conditions. We are proud of the strong families and communities that our mining and resources sector generates.

Labor recognises that our minerals and resources sector is really diverse. From anthracite to zinc, we mine a diverse range across our great state. We are mining the energy of today and the minerals of the future. Let us not forget that resources provide a vital source of revenue for government, funding important public services and infrastructure such as our hospitals, roads and schools. When it comes to resources projects, we back projects as long as they stack up financially, environmentally and socially. Our position has not changed and it applies to all of Queensland's resources. As the minister has said, this standard is not new and it is the same standard we apply to every resources project in this state. This provides certainty and consistency for miners and the communities impacted by mining operations.

We heard in this House this morning the great work that is in place for further exploration, new exploration and new projects for the jobs of the future. This includes the New Economy Minerals Initiative that is driving exploration for minerals that are vital for the transition to renewable energy backed by energy storage and of course the further expansion into the hydrogen economy. The latest data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicates that the private sector invested \$705 million in

exploration in Queensland over the 12 months to March 2021. That was an increase of 22 per cent over the same period a year earlier. It comes at a time when most states and territories are experiencing significant falls in exploration expenditure.

The member for Toowoomba North misled the House I think when he talked down our mining industry when he completely wrongly described it as a sovereign risk. He joined the Greens party in attacking our mining industry and mining investment. Fortunately, the real investment figures show that the member for Toowoomba North is completely wrong. We know that the LNP and the Greens joined together to elect the member for South Brisbane. It was their preferences that elected that member because they are willing to play politics by undermining our mining industry. Politics comes first, while the jobs of miners, the projects and the investment comes second for the LNP. It is always politics that comes first.

We should also not forget that, unlike so many mining regions throughout the world, in this state we have kept Queenslanders safe from COVID-19. This has meant workers have kept working, mines have kept producing and revenues for schools, hospitals and roads have kept flowing for Queenslanders. Unfortunately, the LNP had a different policy. If they had been in power, they would have opened the borders and that would have shut down the mines. They have played politics first with the pandemic, and they have put workers' livelihoods at risk. In fact they put workers last.

I want to commend the minister, the department, mining companies, their unions and especially the workers for keeping their industry, their fellow workers and their families safe with COVID-safe plans. This is what has kept this industry so strong through this period. It can often be forgotten—as the LNP plays politics with these issues, suggesting 64 times that we open the borders and expose us to New South Wales—that regulation—

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr POWER: This is what we are debating here. Regulation to do with our mining sector is vital and important. Consistency—in terms of investment purposes and how we keep our mining workforce healthy—is so important to this very important industry.

This government backs our mining and resources industry. It keeps workers safe. This bill ensures that we continue to have that consistency of investment with the knowledge that the industry know they are backed by this government. I endorse the bill to continue to keep our Queensland resources and mining sector strong. I urge all to support the bill.