




Speech By
Amanda Camm

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

Record of Proceedings, 18 August 2022

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Coal Industry, Royalties; Comments by Premier

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.30 pm): I thought it important to raise and bring an issue to the attention of the Treasurer, who yesterday outlined in comments that since the new royalty regime was introduced Whitehaven Coal has confirmed that its new mine at Winchester South has been unaffected. I thought I should correct the record in the House with a direct quote from managing director and CEO Paul Flynn, who outlined that the lack of consultation and just the dramatic nature shows that it is clearly not a royalty, it is a tax, and that the unpredictable nature of such things that have occurred here in Queensland do not really foster the confidence necessary to commit billions of dollars in capital.

I also point out to the Treasurer that I represent a region in the Whitsundays, the Greater Mackay community, along with the member for Burdekin where our region contributes billions of dollars in not just natural assets but in labour force and in economic multipliers that feed the coffers of this state. Queensland royalty rates are of the highest in the world. They are double the rates of New South Wales.

Mr Madden: Hear, hear!

Ms CAMM: While those opposite say, 'Hear, hear,' we are not seeing a return on those royalties and a fair share to communities like mine in regional Queensland. We are not seeing the investment in road infrastructure in regional Queensland. We are not seeing the investment in health services in regional Queensland. This demonstrates the short-sightedness of the Treasurer.

Further, with regard to the Queensland Resources Council, the Minerals Council, the Resource Industry Network that I work closely with in Mackay, the CCIQ and others, I remind the Treasurer that consultation is not practising your budget speech in the mirror. Consultation is sitting down with stakeholders and actually explaining what the tax bracket would be, the impact for business and to understand what those ramifications are. Right now this policy puts at risk regional Queensland jobs and regional Queensland infrastructure projects into the future.

Along with my fellow colleagues, it would also be remiss of me not to call out the inappropriate comments made by the Premier this morning in question time. If the Premier is now taking advice and responding in this House through vexatious tweets, then I think the Premier needs to take a good, hard look at herself. On behalf of Tamika, Brooke, Lauren—amazing young women in our community; on behalf of my fellow colleagues—hardworking members of this House—the member for Surfers Paradise and the member for Bonney; and on behalf of all women, whether they have attended this House or not, the Premier needs to apologise. The imputation of a late-night rendezvous is unacceptable from the woman who holds the highest office in this state.