



Speech By  
**Patrick Weir**


**MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE**

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## **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

### **Palaszczuk Labor Government, Resources Industries**

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.58 pm): This tired and arrogant third-term Palaszczuk government has given up on governing in Queensland's best interests. We know there are integrity issues plaguing this government. We hear about a new scandal every day. For this reason, government service delivery falls by the wayside, industry suffers, uncertainty grows and Queenslanders pay more. The two ministers I shadow are perfect examples of this. Labor's resources minister talks a big game, especially when there is an opportunity to be in the limelight and gain the attention of the media. He desperately tries to be relevant but in this House, around the cabinet table and when it counts the resources minister is ever so silent.

This is a minister who refused to speak against his own government's increase to coal royalties, making Queensland the highest taxing jurisdiction in the world. This minister refused to repair broken trade partnerships stemming from his own government's broken promises—broken promises which threaten the future investment in critical minerals exploration and important investment in renewables, considering the effect of the recent Land Court decision.

This minister, as part of the Labor government, refused to allow scrutiny of this government's own legislation, forcing confidentiality contracts on consultation for a bill that has the potential to again undermine confidence in Queensland's resources industry. This minister was forced to reintroduce legislation on mining safety which, two years later, was still poorly consulted on and poorly constructed and, most importantly, is not in the best interests of the safety of Queensland's mineworkers. This minister has failed to address workforce shortages and training and skills development requirements—common issues within the industry.

Labor's embattled energy minister is no different. I note that the CFMEU as recently as today has called on him to resign, calling into question his integrity. Media reports today also expose government owned corporations Powerlink and CS Energy threatening to withdraw membership from the Queensland Resources Council. The fact that these corporations would withdraw because the QRC is challenging the government's decision-making is astounding. Was this decision a captain's call by Labor's energy minister? We know that the government does not like negative publicity. Its members will do anything they can to deflect, distract and attack, but this is an issue of the Premier and her ministers' own making.

What we are seeing from Labor's energy minister distracts from what the government's priority should be: reliable, affordable and sustainable energy. Federal Labor has already said that electricity bills will rise by over 56 per cent. Today we are reminded in the *Courier-Mail* that the average household electricity bill will soar by more than \$800 over the next two years. Labor is more interested in public spats with industry and spin than in addressing these spiralling cost increases. Queenslanders deserve so much better than those opposite.