




Speech By
Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

Record of Proceedings, 25 October 2023

MOTION

Progressive Coal Royalties

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (12.12 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion. They are like a Clayton's priorities over there. They are the priorities you have when you are having priorities but they are not priorities. We know that their priorities are to sack, sell and cut workers. That is what they are there to do. Progressive coal royalties are critical to our government's plan to invest in the regions. We were talking about the \$1,072 electricity rebates and I just heard the member for Callide say, 'They're gone.' We heard him say that as soon as they get into power they are going to cut them. There will be no more looking after the cost of living from them; we know where they are. We will see electricity prices go through the roof. We know where their priorities are now. The member for Callide has taken the blanket off everything and told us what is going to happen.

With the progressive coal royalties, we are seeing things happen around the Wide Bay region that those opposite only dream about. When they were in office, they cut and sold and got rid of everything from the Wide Bay. We are seeing projects like upgrades being delivered to the Maryborough and Hervey Bay hospitals. We are seeing upgrades to the Maryborough mental health unit and the Hervey Bay mental health unit. We are seeing a new hospital built in Bundaberg. This is happening right across the Wide Bay region.

We are seeing record investments in our transport and manufacturing sectors right across the Wide Bay. We are also seeing Maryborough back as the capital of train building in Australia and Queensland. That is because of the Palaszczuk Labor government. That is because of the progressive coal royalties that we cannot get a commitment on from that side. We heard today all woo hoo and sprinkles from the opposition leader. That is all we heard: woo hoo and sprinkles. We never heard a commitment after 2024.

We are going to hold him to that. My electorate is going to hold him to that every day. We know that if they get elected it will be goodbye to the train contract in Maryborough. We will see the guard's van going out of Maryborough with the train contract on it. We will see the jobs disappear from Maryborough, Hervey Bay and across the Wide Bay region. When you are driving along and you see the little red light on the back of the train as it is disappearing, that will be the train contract leaving the Wide Bay, leaving the electorate of Maryborough, going down to the Brisbane port to be taken overseas. We know that is their form. They will not commit to the progressive coal royalties because we know as soon as they get in they are going to cut them.