



Speech By  
**Charis Mullen**


**MEMBER FOR JORDAN**

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Record of Proceedings, 25 October 2023

**MOTION**

**Progressive Coal Royalties**

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (11.56 am): I rise to speak in support of the Treasurer's motion. A little while ago there was a media article in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* in which one longstanding member of the LNP observed—

David is a moderate. He's also the best expert fence sitter I've seen in politics in 40 years.

I say to the Leader of the Opposition: it is really time to get off the fence. Something tells me that is not going to happen. The release of the LNP's pamphlet over the weekend generated more questions than answers about the policies of those opposite, and the biggest question was: how? They are pledging to make our community safer, but how? They are pledging easier access to health services, but how? They are talking cost-of-living relief, but how will they do that? Then they talk about 'infrastructure done right'. I do not even know what they mean. Of course, not having any actual policies is really helpful when you do not know how you will pay for them beyond 2024. The pamphlet does mention significant royalty increases, but there is no mention of whether the LNP will actually keep progressive coal royalties. They voted for them but then they have distanced themselves from this decision.

The uplift from progressive coal royalties is projected to be worth \$7.2 billion over the five years to 2026-27. We recognise that a prosperous resources sector is good for jobs and good for Queensland, but it is also important to be honest and clear with the resources industry about the future of coal royalties. Our Labor government is very clear: we will continue with our policy of progressive coal royalties. What is the LNP doing? If the LNP wish to reverse these changes after 2024, they should not just tell the mining lobby in secret corridors. They should be honest with the people of Queensland about which projects or funds they will cut to pay for this reversal.

There is \$1.06 billion for CopperString 2.0. We know that this project is already on the LNP's cuts list. They should tell the people of Mount Isa. There is \$7 billion towards state owned pumped hydro, for the Borumba and Pioneer-Burdekin projects. We know that anything state owned is off the table. There is \$550 million for the Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline and \$440 million towards the Burdekin Falls Dam improvement and raising project. The LNP talk about water projects, but how will they fund them? What about the \$3.6 billion that we are investing in new or expanded hospitals in Moranbah and Mackay as well as in Cairns, Townsville, Bundaberg, Hervey Bay and Toowoomba? How will they be paid for?

Then we had the bizarre statement from the shadow minister for home ownership. Does he read the news? Does he pay attention to what is going on? Whitehaven Coal just gave him 6.4 billion reasons as to why he is wrong. The Leader of the Opposition and the LNP will not come clean with Queenslanders. They will continue to sit on the fence on myriad issues. That is their strategy. We know this. They will hide their true agenda by releasing glossy documents with no detail in the hope that no-one notices. Once again, will they keep progressive coal royalties or not?