




Speech By
Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

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MOTION

Progressive Coal Royalties

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (11.49 am): I hope that all of the workers in the Isaac region are watching this debate, because I know for a fact that they have had an absolute gutful of the fact that they are not getting their fair share of the royalty pie.

Mr STEWART: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that the member used unparliamentary language.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member, yes, that has been ruled on before. I will ask you to withdraw.

Mr LAST: I withdraw. The frustration and anger in that region about the fact that they continue to get breadcrumbs from this state government are palpable. I will give the chamber an example. The Treasurer comes in here and expects us to fall at his feet because he thinks he is rolling out all of these gold-plated projects and services into the Isaac region. From the last budget there was 0.29 per cent for a new hospital at Moranbah, and the Treasurer expects us to fall at his feet and be oh, so grateful. We are never going to say no to a new hospital, but 0.29 per cent of a \$15 billion budget does not cut the mustard when it comes to the Isaac region. Where is the money for unsealed roads? I will name them yet again in this place: the Mount Coolon Road, the Kilcummin Diamond Downs Road, the May Downs Road, the Suttor Developmental Road—all unsealed major arteries. We expect all of this produce and all of this wealth to pour out of the Isaac region, but it is coming out on road trains on dirt roads. It is coming out on road trains that are overturning carrying livestock.

Mr Bailey: Why didn't you seal them when you were in power?

Mr LAST: What a disgraceful comment! I take that interjection from the Minister for Transport. The minister has had nine years to pour some money back into the region and what do we have? Absolutely nothing. Last week I was driving on Peak Downs Highway. It is a goat track. It is so dangerous. Every time I go out there I have residents and business owners saying to me, 'Please, for God's sake, do something about our roads before we lose another life out here.' That is why I say: give us back our fair share of the pie. We do not want all of it; we just want our fair share of the pie.

Where is the money for the doctor at Clermont that I have been asking for for five years? Where are our multipurpose halls at Clermont, Dysart and Collinsville high schools? These are the communities where the coalmines are. These are the communities generating wealth for this state, but it is not coming back into their region. It should be. Those on the other side of the House ought to hang their heads in shame. I am proud to support the coalmining sector. I will keep standing up for those guys out there and those residents, who want their fair share.