




Speech By
Patrick Weir

MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

Record of Proceedings, 25 October 2023

MOTION

Progressive Coal Royalties

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (11.42 am): I rise to speak to the amended motion moved by the member for Toowoomba South. What do you do when you have only four bills sitting on the *Notice Paper*, one of which would have been completed by lunchtime today if business had gone ahead as it usually does? You pull a stunt because you have to waste time. That shows this government's priorities, which are completely different to those of our side. We have the right priorities. Today, we see that their priority is to waste time. This is a lazy government.

We are talking about the Treasurer's motion. On a number of occasions in this House we have seen his fixation with Ian Macfarlane, the QRC and BHP. Time and time again, he comes in here and goes off on a rant. He has done it again: he has moved this frivolous motion and left the chamber.

Mr STEWART: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Common practice is that you do not refer to somebody who has left the chamber.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): It is custom that we do not refer to a member's attendance. I remind all members of that.

Mr WEIR: I suppose I had better be careful what I say now because I was going to talk about Callide. The minister is not here so I suppose I can talk about Callide.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask all members to take a seat. I am going to take some advice. Member, I had just cautioned you about that. Member, I am going to warn you for that. I had just instructed you around that and you immediately made the same statement. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr WEIR: I note that the motion talks about percentages in the coal industry, such as that worker numbers have increased by 15.8 per cent et cetera. That is true. These mines are servicing now. The approvals were all done 20 years ago. It is not because of the actions of the government. These mines have been operating for many years.

Of course, one of the increases relates to the Callide Power Station where usually coal production services four generators. Two of those generators have been offline for two years so that coal has gone into the export market as well. There are a lot of reasons why the price of coal has gone up.

A comment was made about a visit to the Goonyella mine. I was very proud to visit the Goonyella mine and to see the operations there, and particularly the autonomous vehicles. I am visiting another coalmine next week. I am very proud to do that.

One of the big things that happened following the sudden increase in royalties in the budget was the blow to investor confidence. At every mine that I go to they do not talk up this Palaszczuk government, I can assure members of that. Investor confidence has been rattled and the approval process is a nightmare. Queensland is one of the worst and not just in Australia; it has a bad reputation around the world. This is not a place that business runs to invest in because of unannounced shocks.

It is because of the lack of policy that this motion is in front of the House. It is nothing more than a stunt. When you have only four bills on the *Notice Paper* and no business to put through the House, you pull a stunt just like this. We are wasting our time.