




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MOTION

Progressive Coal Royalties

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (11.33 am): We have just heard five minutes from the Leader of the Opposition, who has still refused to say whether they will support royalties post 2024. What is he going to take to the election? What is he going to say to Queenslanders after the election? He says one thing before the election, but those opposite have form on doing completely the opposite after the election.

As the health minister I am incredibly concerned, because if those opposite walk away from coal royalties, which the Leader of the Opposition is refusing to say they support, our Big Build in health, including a hospital in Biloela, is on the chopping block. Our biggest build in health is all because of our progressive coal royalties. We are delivering a new facility in Blackwater—you are welcome, member for Gregory. We are delivering a new facility in Camooweal—you are welcome, member for Traeger. We are delivering new facilities in Morven, Charleville and St George—you are welcome, member for Warrego. In case that was not enough, we recently announced that Jandowae, Laidley and Biloela have all been added to our Big Build in health because of progressive coal royalties. Let us not forget a brand new hospital for Moranbah, the heart of our mining towns in regional Queensland.

Queensland's natural resources belong to the people of Queensland. They belong to regional Queenslanders in mining towns and they are absolutely entitled to benefit from those royalties. That is what our progressive coal royalties will do: deliver beautiful, brand new, world-class facilities in some of the most rural and remote parts of our state, especially our mining communities. All of this is under threat because time and time again the Leader of the Opposition fails to commit to permanently support progressive coal royalties. That is what we are talking about. He uses a slippery word salad: 'We voted for it before', 'We will vote for it one more year,' but then what is going to happen? Post the election, one cannot trust a word the Leader of the Opposition says.

Our progressive coal royalties are not just funding wonderful facilities; they are also funding the thousands of frontline staff that are needed in these facilities. The record of those opposite is clear. They have a secret plan for cuts—not only to cut our Big Build but also to cut the frontline staff.

Ms Bates interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: Our regional health workers, member for Mudgeeraba, are not duds. They are health heroes. All of our big builds in rural and regional towns are at risk because the Leader of the Opposition will not commit to permanently—

(Time expired)