




Speech By
Adrian Tantari

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

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**PROGRESSIVE COAL ROYALTIES PROTECTION (KEEP THEM IN THE BANK)
BILL**

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (3.54 pm): I rise to add my contribution to the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill 2024. The bill amends the Mineral Resources Act to prescribe a minimum coal royalty rate floor and to ensure parliamentary consideration is required for any changes that would decrease the coal royalty rates. This bill is about making Queenslanders' coal royalties a permanent part of our state's revenue base and keeping them in the people's bank of Queensland. We know that that is a foreign concept to those opposite.

When I speak to the people of Hervey Bay they tell me that they know the progressive coal royalties are right for our state and for our regions. When it comes to providing support to my community, the coal royalties have made people's lives better with our cost-of-living support, our services, our programs and our Big Build infrastructure. The progressive coal royalties have provided much to the people of Hervey Bay, but there is a risk because, in my opinion, the LNP is very uncomfortable with giving progressive coal royalties to the bank of Queensland. That means billions of dollars less—and we have heard other speakers talk about \$16 billion—for the people of Queensland if these laws were to be deleted. That is our money and it is supporting over 50,000 jobs in our regions.

They do not like that we are providing \$1,000 off power bills. They do not like that we are providing 20 per cent off rego. They do not like the expenditure on the hundreds of thousands of FairPlay vouchers. They do not like funding going to free kindy or free TAFE. All of those cost-of-living measures make life easier for the constituents of Hervey Bay. As the member for Maryborough said earlier, the 50-cent fares are having an impact, helping our people to get to and from work and around our region at a reduced cost. All of those reductions in costs and rebates leave money in their bank to ensure they can afford their day-to-day expenses.

In my opinion, all of the great investment we are providing in new schools, new hospital infrastructure, new roads and housing would be at risk under an LNP government. In Hervey Bay that would include things such as a new police station and a new fire and rescue station, the beautiful school halls being built at Urangan State High School and Urangan Point State School, the increases that have been committed to by this government for the expansion of our ED and the building of our mental health unit, the multistorey car park, the 24-bed ward and the list goes on and on. It includes the refurbishment of our specialist spaces and classrooms and, in particular, the wonderful new pump track built at Pialba. Those would obviously be at risk. There would be no new infrastructure under an LNP government.

As always, Labor governments deliver while the LNP know only one thing: profit over people. They will always make sure that the rich multinationals get their fair share and not the people of Hervey Bay. The only way that the people of Hervey Bay can stop cuts to their progressive coal royalties, which would return their money to the multinational billionaires, and the only way they can protect all of Hervey Bay's funded and committed cost-of-living measures, programs, services and Big Build infrastructure is to vote for a Labor government on 26 October 2024. I commend the bill to the House.