




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (3.29 pm): In her contribution the member for Whitsunday referenced the Capricorn Helicopter Rescue Service and CQ Rescue. However, I think she might need to do some more homework on this because earlier this year I was very pleased, as was the member for Mackay, that the Queensland government was able to fund CapRescue and the CQ Rescue service.

Ms Pease interjected.

Ms LAUGA: I will be writing to the Speaker because it is absolutely so exciting to see that the Miles government has struck a new funding agreement with CapRescue and CQ Rescue, which provide a vital service to the community. Many years ago I said to the minister, ‘Can we please have a state government funding injection into these vital services?’ because, as the member said, in the past it has relied on a number of contributions—

Ms Camm interjected.

Ms LAUGA: I suggest that it would be useful for the member to have a look at how the new funding arrangement has benefited communities like Whitsunday, Keppel and Mackay. The fact is that these services will be able to continue to grow and expand. I believe that a brand new helicopter was delivered to Mackay not long ago.

I rise to speak in support of the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill. The Greens often have a lot to say in here about mining, resources and royalties—they love to have an opinion about Queensland’s resources—but they have absolutely no idea about this critical Queensland industry. That is why in this term of government I wrote to both Greens members—the member for South Brisbane and the member for Maiwar—in my capacity as co-chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Resources. I invited them both to the Kestrel Coal Mine—one of the world’s largest underground metallurgical coalmines, located 50 kilometres outside of Emerald in the Bowen Basin. This visit was attended by a number of members from both sides of the House. I think we had about 30 members attend, which was a really great turnout considering that many had to travel to attend the site visit.

When I did not receive a response from the Greens, I wrote to the members for South Brisbane and Maiwar and personally invited them to attend this site visit as a means for them to better understand the coal industry, to understand the environmental protections in place and to understand the hard labour that goes into extracting these resources and putting the royalties back into Queensland coffers, but I did not even receive so much as a response from the member for Maiwar. I will give the member for South Brisbane credit for responding, but—surprise, surprise—she was too busy to attend this cross-partisan site visit organised by the Parliamentary Friends of Resources. The Greens do not want to know about environmental protections, safety or rehabilitation in Queensland mines. They want to take the royalties, but they want to shut down the industry. You cannot have your cake and eat it too.

Our government has introduced this bill because the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP cannot be trusted with our progressive coal royalties. We have had to legislate in order to protect these progressive coal royalties. The Leader of the Opposition and the LNP have made previous public statements criticising our progressive coal royalties. We have had to legislate so as to protect these progressive coal royalties, but if there is a change of government I have no doubt that those opposite will come in here and repeal this legislation. They are critical of Queenslanders reaping the benefits of Queensland's resources, but why? It is because they are joined at the hip with the big multinational coal companies.

I will never forget when the Oaky North coalminers were locked out of their workplace by multinational coal company Glencore for more than 200 days. Those workers still showed up for their shifts for 200 days and camped out the front of the mine to demonstrate their commitment to the job, but, no, Oaky North—

An honourable member interjected.

Ms LAUGA: I take the interjection. Oaky North locked them out for over 200 days in one of the country's longest ongoing lockouts. I visited those mineworkers and heard firsthand from them their frustration with their multinational coalmining company bosses locking them out of their workplace with no pay. I note the member for Whitsunday's comments about supporting mineworkers. I can tell members that the LNP did not support those mineworkers. It was nowhere to be seen, but some were seen. The LNP's Michelle Landry was seen at the Tieri races down the road from the workers camp, socialising and having a lovely time with the Glencore mine bosses. One would think she could have spared five minutes to drop in to meet with the coalmine workers, but no. Michelle Landry and the LNP are joined at the hip with the bosses and the coalmine companies, and that is exactly why those opposite, if elected to government, will repeal legislation like this that protects our progressive coal royalties.

We know that the Leader of the Opposition and shadow cabinet held 33 meetings with coal industry interests from March to July this year and we continue to see the huge \$40 million ad campaign funded by the Queensland Resources Council—a campaign against the progressive coalmining royalties that give money back to Queensland and Queenslanders. I just want to say how annoying those ads have become in Central Queensland. People talk to me all the time about how they are interrupting their nightly news or their streaming services. Given all of this, it is my view that the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP cannot be trusted with progressive coal royalties—the royalties that build hospitals, roads and schools and fund vital cost-of-living relief.

We still have not heard whether the LNP candidates for Keppel and Rockhampton support progressive coal royalties. They have been absolutely silent on it. I am calling on the LNP candidates for Keppel and Rockhampton to come clean about their position. Do they support progressive coal royalties or not? Will they scrap progressive coal royalties and, as a result, all of the hospitals, roads, schools and cost-of-living relief? Will they cut the 20 per cent reduction in vehicle registration that is helping household bills? Will they cut the Rockhampton satellite hospital? Will they cut the FairPlay vouchers helping Queensland children get into sport? Will they cut the Browne Park redevelopment? Will they cut the \$5 million allocated to clean up the old resort on Great Keppel Island? Will they cut funding to the Royal Flying Doctor Service and LifeFlight? Will they cut funding to the Biloela Hospital upgrade? These are just some of the investments we are making off the back of progressive coal royalties. All of that is under risk under the LNP. I am calling on the LNP candidates for Keppel and Rockhampton to come clean about whether they will back our progressive coal royalties that are delivering hospitals, roads, schools, services and jobs for our local community. Central Queenslanders deserve to know the LNP's position. I commend the bill to the House.