




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

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

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (4.17 pm): I rise to speak in support of the bill before us. It is very clear why we need this bill—that is, to protect the progressive coal royalties regime from a possible future LNP government. I will remind people why. My friend the member for Condamine is in the chamber. I listened to his speech on the bill. There are a couple of things that he mentioned that I will touch on. He said that there would be no shocks for industry. Of course there will be no shocks for industry. After 33 meetings with them, what shocks could there be? He also said that they would work with industry. We would expect them to be working well together after 33 meetings. I thought they would get everything ironed out in terms of what they are going to do after 33 meetings. As the member for Bundamba said, I believe that if the LNP ever had the chance they would get rid of progressive coal royalties or undermine them.

The big reason we need progressive coal royalties is that cost-of-living relief is the biggest priority for the Miles government. It is the biggest priority for Queensland families. Every working-class and middle-class family I talk to is feeling the pinch. They need support from their government. It is only Labor that delivers that support. Our \$1,000 electricity rebates are one of the biggest shots in the locker. I say to people that we can deliver this because we own the electricity assets. We stopped the LNP selling the assets. We own the coal that is delivering the royalties to fund the cost-of-living relief measures, including the \$1,000 electricity rebate. We are making our assets work for us so we can put money into the pockets of Queenslanders.

One of the biggest cost-of-living relief measures in my area that we need to support is the 50-cent fares. They are absolutely popular in my area, which is a commuter area. People go into the city every day from North Lakes. They will save between \$1,000 and \$2,000 in just six months. That is an amazing cost-of-living measure relief for them. As I was explaining it to one lady, she was literally jumping up and down with excitement when she realised how much money she was going to save.

I am saying to our pensioners, 'Take a trip into the city.' I spoke to one person today. They are going to go to Roma Street Parkland for the first time. They are going to drive to the train station and hop on the train—50 cents in and 50 cents out. They are going somewhere they have not been to. It is great that many people will take the chance to go to places where they would not usually go to.

Progressive coal royalties are helping preserve a 20 per cent discount on car registration for notices issued between 5 August this year and August next year. That is 20 per cent off your trailer, your bike and your car registration. What a great cost-of-living relief measure that is for ordinary working-class and middle-class families.

Progressive coal royalties are helping to deliver a big cost-of-living relief measure—the \$200 kids sports voucher. They are really important in my area. There is no more means testing. For every kid in Queensland between the age of five and 17, get out your Medicare card, go online to FairPlay and register. You will be sent the voucher and then you send it onto your registered sporting club. You can save \$200 for each kid. That is a huge relief for the parents I talk to. They get really excited about that.

Progressive coal royalties are helping to deliver the cost-of-living relief measure of free TAFE. Over 80 courses, I believe, are now free. Some of them once cost over \$25,000. What a great cost-of-living relief for people as well. Let's not forget \$1,000 for first-year apprentices to help them buy tools. That is another great cost-of-living relief measure for them.

In my area free kindy is always popular. The last year of kindy before you go into prep is now free—15 hours of kindy a week is now paid for all those families who are taking their child to early childhood education.

In a nutshell, we need these cost-of-living relief measures because they are the biggest priorities for our ordinary working Queensland families. They need some help at this time. We are putting money back in their pockets because of these progressive coal royalties. We will keep doing that. I say to them that all of that is at risk under an LNP government. All of that is at risk if there is any threat to progressive coal royalties. I commend this bill to the House.