




Speech By  
**Hon. Lance McCallum**

**MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 September 2024

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

 **Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (4.12 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill. This is a bill that ensures every Queensland, not just the multinational mining giants, reaps the rewards of our state's rich natural resources. This is a bill that is not just about revenue; it is about fairness, equity and our future. It is a bill that puts Queenslanders first and keeps Queenslanders' coal royalties in the bank.

Coal royalties go towards keeping our hospitals running, building affordable housing and lowering the cost of living for all Queensland families. Thanks to the Miles Labor government's record cost-of-living relief package it means \$1,000 energy rebates, \$650 energy rebates for small businesses, more energy rebates for pensioners, our signature 50-cent fares, a 20 per cent discount on registration, free kindy and free TAFE.

Royalties have funded upgrades at Bundamba TAFE. Locally, they have delivered state-of-the-art infrastructure in health care, like our Ripley Satellite Hospital. They are delivering the \$450 million investment that is going to turn Swanbank Power Station into South-East Queensland's very first clean energy hub. They are delivering the major upgrade of the Bundamba train station—the first one in over three decades. They are delivering new schools. We have already had a new school open at Woogaroo Creek. We have a new school at Bellbird Park. Another school is under construction in Collingwood Park, and Ripley Central State School opened only a year ago. This is what revenues from progressive coal royalties have meant for my local community and so many other local communities right throughout Queensland.

This is all at risk. I believe that, given the chance, the LNP will get rid of progressive coal royalties. I derive that belief from the fact that the Leader of the Opposition and LNP keep on making statements on the public record that viciously criticise our progressive coal royalty regime. On Sky News the Leader of the Opposition stated—

I want the mining industry to be free from a government that's constantly looking to find new ways to tax and regulate them.

In March this year at the Queensland Resources Council's Resources Roundup he said, in front of the coal lobby, that when he releases their tax and royalties policy they can 'take it to the bank'. Maybe this is because the leader and members of the LNP had 33 meetings with coal industry interests from March to July this year. I think there is a lot of evidence out there that Queenslanders should rightly be extremely concerned about when it comes to coal royalties should the LNP get into government.

They can come in here and speak on this bill and vote for this bill, but that does not guarantee anything. It certainly did not guarantee anything when they stood up and voted for the Path to Treaty bill. We only have to look at submission No. 7 to this bill to see that a former LNP vice-president and campaign chairman stated—

... which is to try to “wedge” the Opposition on coal mining royalties. It will fail at this as well, as the opposition has said it accepts the royalty regime, and of course the option will be there for them, should they become the government, to amend the bill in the parliament. In a unicameral system, this is a relatively easy thing for a government to do.

The cat is out of the bag, thanks to one of their own in a submission to this bill.

Only Labor can be trusted to make sure Queenslanders get the fair share they deserve from their mineral resources. We will keep them in the bank and continue to do what matters for Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.