




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Record of Proceedings, 12 September 2024

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

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (4.22 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill 2024. There could not be a more appropriate final bill to be debated in this place in the last term of the 57th Parliament.

On this side of the House sits a Miles government that wants to keep a fair share of profits from resources owned by all Queenslanders in the hands of Queenslanders—royalties that pay for improvements to our schools like the Oakleigh State School hall that is being built in my electorate; royalties that pay for improvements to our transport like the 50-cent fares initiative and the Ferny Grove Railway Station commuter car park; and royalties that the Miles government gives back to Queenslanders through cost-of-living relief in the form of the \$1,000 power bill rebates, 20 per cent off vehicle registration and free kindy—just to name a few measures.

These royalties are at risk. The member for Broadwater stood up in front of mining executives from multibillion dollar, foreign owned companies in March at a Queensland Resources Council function. He has been given the opportunity to clarify to Queenslanders time and time again whether he will support them by locking in the Miles government's progressive coal royalties in perpetuity. Instead of giving his assurance to the people of Queensland, he effectively winked at mining executives by telling them at that QRC function that he would give them a royalties policy that they 'will be able to take to the bank'.

It is my view that this and other statements by shadow ministers show where the LNP's priorities lie—not with the hardworking families of Queensland but with mining executives at the top end of town. Without this bill that is before the House today, it is my view that the LNP would rip billions of dollars worth of services for Queenslanders out of the budget. When billions are ripped from Queenslanders' public purse by the LNP, we know what comes next. We have seen this all before. We saw LNP cuts right across the board when they were last in power.

In my portfolio alone, the Leader of the Opposition sat around the cabinet table with Campbell Newman and helped to cut Agriculture and Fisheries to shreds. Had it not been for the progressive coal royalties, we would not have been able to replace the 26 per cent cut to jobs on Queensland's biosecurity front line. We would not have been able to replace the 28 per cent cut to fisheries jobs. We would not have been able to replace the 44 jobs axed from the fight against fire ants and a total of more than 600 jobs cut from my department.

That is without taking into consideration their cuts to health, education, training and transport that saw 14,000 Queenslanders lose their jobs. That is what is at stake at this election. In my opinion, that is what is at stake if the LNP get their way with progressive coal royalties. On that note, I commend the bill to the House.