




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2025

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; PRIMARY
INDUSTRIED AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE, REPORT**

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (7.41 pm): It is interesting that the member said if he had his choice he would call a point of order on every question—we virtually saw that. I notice that the Leader of House is leaving the chamber. It is just as well that he is leaving because I am going to do a character assessment on some of the things that he did. I had done half a sentence of my second question and the member for Burnett immediately made a point of order which was, of course, quickly dismissed because his point of order was completely out of order.

The LNP, at the direction of Premier Crisafulli, attempted to block the opposition at estimates. But I am here to tell you that, despite less time and frivolous points of order, that did not stop us revealing that in respect of the mining and resource sector, like all of the other sectors that we found—we are going to get to agriculture—the LNP said one thing before the election and then after it they made cuts and broke promises. We heard this not only in Treasury, health and education but also in agriculture. When it came to examining the area of mines and resources, it was clear that the Premier gave direction to the Leader of the House to stop questions at any point—making him seem ridiculous. I want to say: we will not be stopped, we will hold you to account and some of the things we did in the mining sector are vitally important, one of them being in the Mount Isa area. We recognise how important the Mount Isa copper smelter is. Thousands of jobs back the mineral economy of the whole region. It was alarming to see that both the department and particularly the minister seemed completely unprepared. They could not tell us dates; they did not know whether they had costings; they did not seem to have any direction about when they knew of the impending closure. It highlighted a complete lack of accountability from the government to address those vital concerns of the Mount Isa community.

Further to this was the government's cuts. Their failure to support the North West Minerals Province through the critical minerals sector was seen with the axing of the Collaborative Exploration Initiative. Bravely, the director-general said there was one round left but we know that after that it dies because this government does not value the exploration for critical minerals in the North West Minerals Province that are so vital to finding the mines of the future. So when the minister goes out to events and says, 'You find it, I will sign it,' he does not intend to help them find it, he actually wants to block that by taking away funding. It is evident that the mining and exploration centres in the western province deserve respect and trust. By cutting the CEI grants, the minister and his government have completely undermined that.

We did not get time to but we wanted to also examine natural hydrogen which is a new form of exploration that has often been overlooked in previous exploration. We wanted to give miners the resources that we can provide to them about the geology of Queensland and where they can explore for because we have seen finds throughout the world but especially in South Australia. We do not want to let the South Australians and their gas industry—

Mr Head interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): One moment, member for Logan. Member for Callide, do not call out across the chamber, thank you.

Mr POWER: We do not want to see the South Australians get ahead but that is what this government is doing. We also saw complete confusion over coal royalties. The minister did not seem to know. He was, of course, going up to Townsville and telling them that we would meet everyone's expectations when it comes to coal royalties, but when we asked him he came out and said the matter of coal royalties sits within the Treasurer's ambit and cabinet deliberations. However, that was not what he was telling miners. My question for the House on this vitally important issue is: is there a job where he is sent out to Central Queensland to say one message—the not-true message—and then the Treasurer and the Premier go to their banker friends in the south-east and say a completely different message? Is that what this government is about because that is what we have heard?

We also heard about consulting jobs for donors. One of the most concerning things we heard was that the minister directed the director-general to engage Mr Ian Davies for a period of up to 25 days and during that 25-day period the department of natural resources will pay \$187,500. These were the facts that we found out. I suggest that you read the rest of the statement of reservation. Queenslanders are rightly concerned about what is going on within mines and resources in Queensland.