




Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

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MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES (FINANCIAL PROVISIONING) BILL

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.11 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill 2018. I will try to make my contribution brief because we know that the debate on this bill is about to get cut off. I know there are a number of members who are still keen to speak on this bill.

I know that residents in the electorate of Moggill truly believe that our mining and resources sector is very important to Queensland's economy, but they also believe that our mining and resources sector needs to be responsible for cleaning up any adverse outcomes and contribute to mine rehabilitation. We certainly cannot have the ongoing situation in Queensland where taxpayers are shouldering the burden of issues around mine rehabilitation and adverse environmental outcomes.

When it comes to a financial assurance scheme in Queensland we certainly need a scheme that is fair and evidenced based and not one that is used for any purpose other than what it was intended for. We know that when there is a multibillion dollar fund created in Queensland there is the potential risk that the government might look to that scheme and use it for purposes that it was not really intended for.

We only have to look back to the previous parliamentary term where the Palaszczuk Labor government used the long service leave fund of public servants and the defined benefits scheme to come up with some of their voodoo economics where they loaded general debt onto government owned corporations. So we have concerns that they may use this fund for purposes other than it was originally intended. We all need our mining and resource companies to play their part and meet their environmental and rehabilitation obligations.

When I was shadow minister for environment and heritage protection and shadow minister for national parks and the Great Barrier Reef I visited a number of parts of Queensland where mining and resource companies were doing terrific work. I went up to Weipa and saw the Rio Tinto bauxite mine. They have delivered some great outcomes over the last 30 years when it comes to rehabilitation. It was certainly a pleasure to go up there with the member for Chatsworth in his former role as shadow minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships. Rio Tinto is also contributing to some great employment programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

I know that environmental groups will be supportive of this legislation. In my capacity as the state member for Moggill and shadow minister I have certainly met with them. They reinforced with me the importance of getting mine rehabilitation right here in Queensland, not only in relation to some poor environmental legacy issues but moving forward in the future. I acknowledge that the government has negotiated that this legislation will not be retrospective.

Importantly, in Queensland we certainly need royalties coming from our mining and resources sector. Those royalties are needed for building our hospitals, roads, bridges and schools not only in my electorate of Moggill but right across Queensland. That is very important when we have a high unemployment rate in Queensland—the highest of any state jurisdiction. We have debt in Queensland reaching \$83 billion by 2021-22. We cannot afford not to have that investment in Queensland.