



Speech By
Hon. Jeff Seeney

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2014

MOTION

Mining Industry, Fly-in Fly-out Workforce

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (5.46 pm): I move—

That all words after 'House' be deleted and the following words inserted:

- notes the Labor Party is the only government in Queensland that has ever approved 100 per cent fly-in fly-out operations;
- notes the LNP government, unlike the Labor Party, has always supported a balance between growing resource communities and providing opportunities for Queenslanders, no matter where they live, to participate in the resources sector; and
- commends the LNP government for their commitment to regional Queensland through programs like Royalties for the Regions.

I struggle to remember a more hypocritical contribution to this parliament than what we have heard tonight. There is the only government in Queensland's history that has ever introduced 100 per cent fly-in fly-out and—I repeat the commitment that I gave—the only government that is likely, in the foreseeable future at least, to approve 100 per cent fly-in fly-out. Tonight they come in here and try to suggest that this single issue is the solution to the economic problems that are affecting our resources industry and the communities across regional Queensland. More than anything else, that illustrates to me the extent to which these people are captive of the CFMEU, because it is only the CFMEU that sees this as a major problem. They are captive of the CFMEU, because this issue is important to the CFMEU. It is all about control: control of mine sites, control of miners, control of their communities.

This work practice was introduced in two mines out of about 60. I will say that again: two out of 60. According to the people over there, changing the work practices in two mines is, all of a sudden, going to make Moranbah boom again and it is going to make Central Queensland's resources industry boom again. Of course that is nonsense and even the members opposite know that. Tonight they have been sent in here by the CFMEU with a job to do. The CFMEU is fighting a losing battle. I remember that when those mines advertised for staff to take the jobs that have been described as all sorts of horrendous things by members opposite, some 950 jobs were advertised and they received 34,000 applications—that is, 34,000 applications for 950 jobs because people wanted that lifestyle and people wanted that opportunity.

Our position has always been that people in Queensland, irrespective of where they live, deserve the opportunity to work in the resources industry. These practices were put in place so that people in Cairns, especially, could take the opportunity. At that particular time the economy in Cairns was not good. There were a large number of applications from Cairns. The reason it had 100 per cent fly-in fly-out was to make the charter flights work—that is, so we could put in place four charter flights a week. That amounted to 250 jobs out of Cairns.

So while they bemoan the fact that they suddenly want us to uproot those 250 people from Cairns and forcibly shift them to Moranbah, they do not care at all about the effect that that would have not just on those people themselves but on the economy of Cairns. The fly-in fly-out policies that are in place allow Queenslanders, wherever they live, to work in the resources sector.

What it does not allow is for the CFMEU to control the lives of every one of those people. That is the issue. When somebody goes to work at Moranbah and flies home to Cairns they can be their own person. They are not persecuted and hassled by the CFMEU down the pub or at the school or subjected to the old practices of the union thugs in those towns. That is what this is about.

It is not about two mines. It is not about a small percentage of the jobs in the Bowen Basin concentrated in two mines. It is about the jobs of CFMEU thugs who want to dominate the lives of people who want to live somewhere else.

(Time expired)