

Queensland Parliament Hansard Green

DATE: 12/06/2019

FILE: 12062019_000762_LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY_GREEN CHAMBER.DOCX

SUBJECT: Distribution of GST

MEMBER: Mrs LAUGA

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Distribution of GST

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.09 pm): It was interesting to hear the member for Burdekin talking about royalties in the House today, considering that the federal government is changing the integrity of the arrangements of GST distribution and that they have interfered with the independence of the Commonwealth Grants Commission by instructing the Commonwealth Grants Commission to cease reviewing its mining revenue assessment as part of its 2020 methodology review. Without the commission's proposed changes, Queensland will continue to unfairly lose royalties to Canberra. It is absolutely outrageous that hundreds of millions of dollars of Queensland royalties, which are produced from mining the resources of our state, are now going to Canberra to be spent elsewhere in the country. Those resources are owned by Queenslanders and Queensland royalties should be invested in Queensland.

For years now the Queensland government has been doing all of the heavy lifting when it comes to creating jobs, restoring front-line services, building schools and delivering health services to the people of Queensland. Under Tony Abbott, then Malcolm Turnbull and now Scott Morrison, the LNP have cut billions to our hospitals, our schools, remote Indigenous housing, pensioner concessions, natural disaster assistance and main roads. Queensland Labor has had to fill the gaps. We have had to find money out of Queensland coffers to pay for basic services that the LNP cut and slashed. Queensland taxpayers should be outraged at the fact that Queensland has had to fill the gaps and cover the shortfall.

Queensland Labor has always said that we will not leave Queenslanders hanging, but the LNP razor gang are at it again. This time the federal LNP are taking our fair share of GST and spending it in other parts of the country. I for one will not stand for it and members on this side of the chamber will not stand for it. Queensland is the only state to receive less GST revenue from the Commonwealth government in 2019-20, despite the GST pool growing. Our GST revenue from the federal government has fallen off a cliff. In 2019-20 alone they are cutting \$360 million from Queensland. In fact Queensland's share of the GST has been slashed by \$866 million as a direct result of interference by the federal government.

Queensland is the most disaster affected state in Australia. Over the past decade natural disasters have cost us \$15 billion. In March this year, the federal LNP also decided to adopt changes to the GST distribution that will rip money out of Queensland just when we need it most. In 2019-20 Queensland is set to lose out on \$268 million in GST, because the federal government has excluded natural disaster payments from GST calculations. I suggest that the member for Burdekin talks to his community about that.

The flooding in Townsville and North Queensland caused \$1.3 billion worth of damage to public assets. The federal LNP no longer thinks the recovery funding we provide to local councils and communities should be classed as necessary. Not only is Queensland the only state to receive less GST revenue—

(Time expired)