



ALP would fly into legal storm over FIFO bans

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LABOR has sent a shudder through the mining industry and set a course for a potentially huge compensation battle with BHP Billiton over a promise to outlaw future 100 per cent fly-in, fly-out projects.

At the party's campaign launch yesterday, leader Anastacia Palaszczuk (pictured) also said her government would scrap a promised subsidy of up to \$300 million to help fund the Galilee Basin to Abbot Point Rail project.

Ms Palaszczuk took a hard line against corporate subsidies in the mining sector but also vowed to grant a three-year payroll tax holiday for companies moving to the state under the Advance Queensland program.

Ms Palaszczuk also said a Labor government would not pay the expected hundreds of millions of dollars for the Newman Government's compromise on the Abbot Point dredging plan.

Deputy Premier Jeff Seeney has attempted to sidestep legal delays for the original plan to dump Abbot Point dredge spoil at sea by devising a plan to use the spoil to reclaim land that could be used as part of the port's expansion.

"Labor will not support the financially risky plans by the LNP for taxpayers to fund a private company's dredging operations at Abbot Point, even be-

fore its planned mine has proved to be commercially viable," Ms Palaszczuk said.

The FIFO policy would mean a review of the existing arrangements made by the Bligh government, which allowed BHP Billiton's joint venture BMA to develop two mines, Daunia and Caval Ridge, with 100 per cent FIFO.

But the Labor policy means that projects near existing communities which have 100 per cent FIFO will be forced to change. Both mines are near the town of Moranbah.

BHP said it did not comment on election commitments but said BMA made a careful, considered decision to operate Caval Ridge and Daunia with remote workforce arrangements for a range of reasons, including the ability to source a diverse workforce and to share the economic benefits of employment in the mining industry more broadly across Queensland.

Resource industry employer group AMMA said the FIFO policy raised serious concerns for the state's mining sector and the thousands of jobs it supports.

"The shortsighted policy, announced today by ALP state leader Anastacia Palaszczuk, could have wide-ranging implications on investment and jobs," chief executive

Steve Knott said.

The Queensland

Resources Council also expressed concern about the ALP policy. "We have heard nothing from Labor about what they would do to unlock the rich Galilee Basin coal province," the QRC said.

