Queensland's coal royalties are the highest in the world

Queensland's coal royalty system was historically stable, simple and globally competitive, with a top rate of 15% for more than a decade.

That changed on 1 July 2022 when Queensland adopted the world's highest coal royalties, introducing three new royalty tiers of 20%, 30% and 40%.

Those rates were introduced during a period of temporary record coal prices. Since then, coal prices have fallen, operating costs have risen 29% and competition for investment has intensified, while producers face higher diesel, water and energy costs and unfavourable exchange-rate pressures. Despite this, royalty settings remain unchanged, increasing pressure on jobs, operations, investment and local spending across regional Queensland.

A growing sector pays more in royalties over time. A shrinking one pays less.

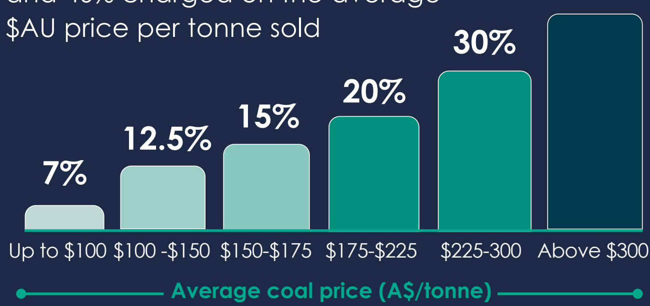
What are royalties?

Royalties are payments made to the Queensland Government for the right to mine Queensland-owned resources. They are paid on top of company tax, payroll tax, land tax and council rates and are paid regardless of whether a project is profitable or not.

Royalty revenues help fund essential public services and infrastructure including hospitals, schools, roads and transport.

How are they calculated?

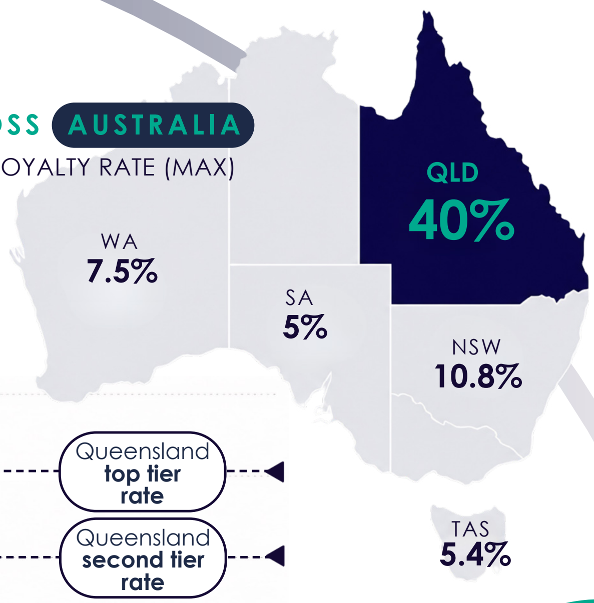
Paid on a sliding scale: Between 7% and 40% charged on the average $AU price per tonne sold



How does Queensland compare?

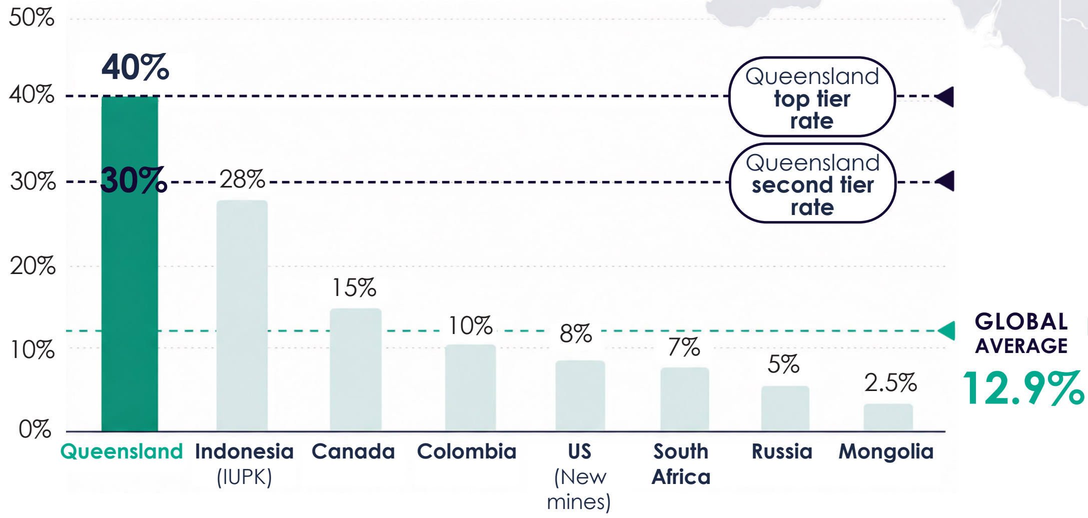
ACROSS AUSTRALIA

COAL ROYALTY RATE (MAX)



GLOBAL COMPARISON

COAL ROYALTY RATE (MAX)



Queensland's top royalty rate is nearly **4x higher than global average**

THE FACTS | QUEENSLAND COAL ROYALTIES

Why this matters to all Queenslanders

For decades, coal has powered Queensland's economy.

In 2024–25, Queensland's **coal sector**:

- **CONTRIBUTED**
$76 BILLION
to Queensland's economy

- **SUPPORTED**
360,745 JOBS
across the state, including over **48,200 direct full-time jobs**

- **PAID**
$5.6 BILLION
in wages and salaries to Queenslanders

- **SPENT**
$23.8 BILLION
with more than **8,500** local businesses, community organisations and councils

$57B
for Queenslanders generated through coal royalties
over last 10 years (to 24-25)

Reforming royalties can strengthen Queensland by:

- keeping investment, jobs and future opportunities in Queensland.
- growing regional businesses, supply chains and local communities.
- providing reliable funding for hospitals, schools, roads and essential infrastructure.
- protecting our long-term energy future and largest export industry.
- improving living standards and securing stronger futures for Queensland families.

What needs to change?

Queenslanders benefit significantly from coal royalties through jobs, regional economic activity and funding for essential public services and infrastructure.

The challenge is ensuring those benefits continue long into the future.

Queensland competes globally for mining investment and future projects. Under current settings, coal export volumes could decline by up to 49% by 2050, placing future jobs, regional investment and royalty revenues at risk. The sector contracted by $9.6 billion in 2024-25 and the sector has seen jobs fall 24% between May 2024 and May 2025, with more than 1000 jobs lost since.

A review of royalty settings would help maintain Queensland's global competitiveness, support regional economies and protect long-term royalty revenues for public services and infrastructure.

Learn more

Want to help?

Sign the Regions Before Royalties petition and mail your local MP at **regionsbeforeroyalties.com.au**

Speak to your local state MP or mayor about what coal mining means for your local community

Read the QRC Coal Economic Contribution Report to see the full extent of how coal contributes **here**