



Speech by

# STEVEN RODGERS

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

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Hansard 2 May 2001

## COLLINSVILLE MUSEUM

**Mr RODGERS** (Burdekin—ALP) (7.28 p.m.): I draw the attention of the House to the fact that the people of Collinsville in their wisdom have decided to try to build a Collinsville museum—a north Queensland miners' museum for the workers in the mining industry. I believe that over the years workers in the mining industry have not received recognition for the work that they have done.

Coalmining began in the Collinsville region in 1919, with mines designed to produce 5,000 tonnes of coal per week. Currently, over 80 years later, those seams are producing not 5,000 but 50,000 tonnes of coal per week. During the period that mining has taken place in Collinsville, tragic losses of life have occurred. On the other hand, record tonnages have been produced and product quality has been improved. Also, a fierce competitiveness has sprung up in the community, especially on the sporting fields. Unfortunately, with high-risk enterprises there are many low points, and the worst of those is the loss of life that can occur. Coalmining is an unforgiving environment and people do suffer. I believe that the coalminers should be recognised for the work that they have done.

The Genesis Production company has been commissioned for preliminary development of the North Queensland Miners Museum. It has been commissioned by people within the community who have the interests of the mining community at heart, not only in Collinsville but throughout Queensland and Australia. They want the contributions of those communities to be recognised.

The museum will be based on realistic animations that depict mining life. Mining displays and tracks with horse-drawn carts will highlight some of the actual features of mining life. The displays will be realistic. The museum will not be all static. People will be able to gain an insight into the full working conditions that have operated in the mines over the years. The museum will highlight to future generations of Australians what our miners of the past have put up with to achieve what the miners of today have.

Time expired.

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