




Speech By
Julianne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Jobs

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.43 pm): Thousands of new jobs in regional Queensland have come a major step closer with the Palaszczuk government's approval of the mining leases for the \$21.7 billion Carmichael mine and rail projects in the Galilee Basin. The recent approvals of three individual mining leases mark a major step towards this project after extensive government and community scrutiny. The approval of Adani's Carmichael mine project comes after previous setbacks as a result of the bungling of the federal environment minister Greg Hunt. Minister Hunt's haste in granting environmental approvals without giving due consideration to vulnerable animal species resulted in legal challenges that put the project into considerable delay. The Palaszczuk government's responsible and thorough approach to statutory assessments and decision-making processes has been robust and comprehensive to minimise any risk of further legal challenges. Adani's approval process has included extensive and detailed environmental impact studies of more than 32,500 pages for its mine, rail and port projects. The Palaszczuk government is committed to protecting the Great Barrier Reef and its actions to ensure no dredge spoil will be dumped in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area.

When Labor came to government one of its first tasks was to restore balance to the Adani ports project and ensure the environment was protected. Labor promised at the last state election there would be no dredging for Adani's coal terminal at Abbot Point until it had demonstrated that it had necessary finance in place for the full-time mine, rail and port project. I know the people of my electorate in Mackay welcome the latest progress for the potential jobs and economic development it brings closer for our community. At the same time, stringent conditions will continue to protect the environment, landholders and traditional owners' interests and our iconic Great Barrier Reef. Adani has estimated the mine, rail and port project will generate more than 5,000 jobs at the peak of construction and more than 4,500 jobs at the peak of operation. Local employment and economic opportunities will remain a key priority for Adani and its subcontractors.

I am immensely proud of the Palaszczuk government's efforts to progress Adani's Carmichael mine project while facing enormous pressure from stakeholder and interest groups all lobbying for various interests to be considered while all wanting the same outcome: jobs. When the Premier says, as she has, that nothing will stand in her way when it comes to creating jobs in Queensland, she is not making a garden variety promise, but a promise one can take to the bank. Leadership—that is how you do it!