




Speech By
Julieanne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Queensland Mining and Engineering Exhibition

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (11.49 pm): Some of the leading names in Australian mining were in Mackay to attend the Queensland Mining and Engineering Exhibition, QME, held from 26 to 28 July. This expo is held in Mackay every two years and showcases the industry's ever-evolving strides in innovation. It showcases the latest equipment, technology and mining services. New technology and methods of production within the mining sector were the main focus throughout the exhibition along with discussions around the future of the coalmining industry globally.

With a strong customer base and distribution networks in the Mackay area, the exhibition presented an opportunity to connect and network with key industry influencers as well as the local community. More than 200 exhibitors from all sectors of expertise, ranging from conveyor belts to the latest in robotic technology and international supply chain efficiencies, showcased their newest developments at exhibition stands.

To kickstart this year's program, Resource Industry Network hosted a safety breakfast featuring guest speaker Craig Hamilton, mental health advocate and ambassador for beyondblue. His discussion focused on the cost to Australian businesses of mental illness in the workplace and what steps can be taken to address it.

International delegates included the Polish ambassador, and 11 representatives from Coal India attended this year's QME. The member for Mirani and I attended a Coal India networking forum hosted by the Mackay Regional Council. There is great potential for our region to work with Coal India, and QME provided a chance to connect with stakeholders and to identify future opportunities.

One of the key events at this year's QME was the thought leadership panel discussion, examining the position of coal locally and internationally. The panel of influencers provided well-informed feedback and compelling discussion on a range of hot industry topics and what is needed to keep coalmining a viable industry. Minister Lynham provided the opening address for the discussion panel, and thought champion of the World Coal Association, Mick Buffier, was a key participant. The event provided an open forum to discuss vital issues and illustrated how a collaborative approach from all industry stakeholders is vital to creating a sustainable and profitable industry. I also thank Minister Bailey for opening QME this year.