



Speech By  
**Shane Knuth**


**MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Mining Industry, Labour Hire Companies**

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (2.42 pm): Firstly, I wish to commend and support the member for Mirani for lashing out at his own government, using the word 'gutless' to describe the actions—or rather inaction—of both the state and federal governments in doing nothing to help the men and women who have lost their jobs at the German Creek mine. The failure of all levels of government to take action has paved the way for multinational mining companies and labour hire companies to enforce ruthless tactics against their workforce.

Last week, the *Daily Mercury* reported that a labour hire contractor has advertised for workers at the Bowen Basin mine. I table the article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the Mackay *Daily Mercury* online, dated 6 November 2016, titled 'Mining jobs advertised as German Creek braces for cuts' [[2051](#)].

On the same day, Anglo American confirmed that 83 positions would be made redundant at the German Creek mine near Middlemount. Since August, about 140 workers have been striking at the coalmine. This dispute was about securing local jobs and supporting local families and communities in the region.

Previously, I have detailed in the House the deplorable behaviour of the labour hire companies. These companies have been using the tactics of dropping the hours of workers' shifts from 12 hours to eight hours, which translates to a pay cut of \$36,000 a year. Labour hire employees are receiving less and less pay, with cuts of up to \$34 an hour. These labour hire companies that supply labour for mine sites have no compassion and no consideration for families or their long-term plans. There is no job security. It is apparent that the labour hire company employees are being exploited on every level.

The sacked employees from the German Creek mine have families in the local area. They have invested in their communities and contribute to local sporting groups, schools and small business. To replace these workers, the labour hire companies will suck in employees from all over the country on the pretence of job security, only to spit them out when they have questioned mine safety, pay, or the need to seek personal leave. These employees' contracts are terminated without compensation or consideration for the employees' families or the impact those terminations will have on local communities. Multinational mining companies and labour hire companies will stop at nothing to put profit before people. That is why I call on the federal and Queensland governments to introduce strong legislation and regulations to protect these employees from the exploitation and ruthless tactics of these companies.