




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Glencore, Oaky North

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.39 pm): It is absolutely ludicrous that a multibillion-dollar foreign mining company that pays no tax can lock 180 Australian workers out of their workplace for over 220 days—not over a pay dispute but because the workers simply want to maintain their workplace representation rights. That is what mining giant Glencore has done. It is ludicrous. This is Australia's longest running industrial lockout.

Mr Harper: Un-Australian.

Mrs LAUGA: I take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa. I believe that it is just un-Australian. No doubt, it was bittersweet for the 180 workers when the Fair Work Commission ordered Glencore to temporarily end the lockout, allowing the men back to work for a period of three weeks commencing yesterday. I seriously hope that this decision results in a permanent end to the lockout and a fair workplace agreement for the sake of these workers and their families.

In Australia we believe that everyone deserves a fair day's pay for a fair day's work, security in their job, and to be treated with dignity and respect. The system is clearly broken when corporations such as Glencore, which pay not one cent of tax, are legally able to lock out workers like this.

The LNP's federal Fair Work Act allows big corporations to get away with treating workers unfairly. The LNP's laws allow multibillion dollar foreign corporations such as Glencore to lock out their Oaky North workforce for over 220 days. While these corporations are making billions in profits from our country's resources, Australian workers are being treated poorly and secure jobs are getting harder and harder to find.

These workers have told me personally about the impact the lockout is having on their finances, their marriages and their mental health. Workers across Central Queensland tell me about the impact that insecure work is having on their lives. The only thing that will stop these cuts and raise wages, protect people's rights and ensure that we have good steady jobs is workers such as the men at Oaky North banding together and calling for change.

The member for Capricornia, Senator Matthew Canavan and the LNP do not give two hoots about local secure jobs. When the Fair Work Commission temporarily ended the lockout, Ms Landry was quick to claim victory. This is the same woman who disparaged the reputation of the Oaky North workers and criticised them in federal parliament. If the federal member for Capricornia were genuine about stopping casualisation and ending this lockout, she would have agreed to meet with the workers on site, but she did not. She flat out refused to meet with these workers.

In fact, when she recently toured CQ mines, the member for Capricornia was too busy getting selfies with the mine bosses to visit the locked out workers down the road. Let us not forget that it was only last year that Ms Landry voted in the federal parliament to cut penalty rates to the take-home pay of tens of thousands of Central Queensland workers.

If Michelle Landry, Malcolm Turnbull and the LNP were genuine about helping local workers, they would be standing up and demanding that companies pay their fair share in tax, put an end to casualisation and reinstate penalty rates. Capricornia workers deserve better representation.