




Speech By  
**Julianne Gilbert**

**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**

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**MINES LEGISLATION (RESOURCES SAFETY) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.09 pm): Queensland's mining safety and health legislation continues to be regarded as among the best in the world, but we should aim to continually improve Queensland's mining safety and health record. In my region, which is a service centre to the coalmining industry, mining safety is taken very seriously and not just by those in the industry. The retired miners association plays an active role. Mackay will be the centre of excellence for mining. That was a pre-election commitment and the planning for it is well and truly on its way.

The retired miners and the Mine Dust Victims Group are to be commended for their active involvement in ensuring that the insidious disease black lung is wiped out. We want to ensure that there is no place for the disease to be found in retired or in current workers and that preventative measures, such as the adequate monitoring of air safety, ongoing of health checks and research into better health treatments, are all in place. Mr Stephen Mellor is proof of the difference that early detection can make to ongoing health outcomes. More work needs to be done to ensure that workers have access to social and family networks while going through treatment and detection.

I am pleased that the bill addresses 15 matters identified for immediate improvement in the resources safety and health regulatory framework that will increase the safety and health of workers. The bill provides for greater transparency and accountability, improvements to safety and health management systems, and stronger enforcement and compliance powers by implementing amendments to the CMSHA and the MQSHA in relation to ventilation officer competencies; inspector powers, including inspector workplace entry; manufacturer, supplier, designer and importer notification requirements; contractor and service provider management; advisory committees and Board of Examiners membership; safety and health management system requirements; a register to be kept by the Board of Examiners; health surveillance; the notification of diseases; the release of information; penalties; officer obligations; continuing professional development; the suspension or cancellation of certificates of competencies and site senior executive notices; and civil penalties.

The Palaszczuk government is addressing key mining safety and health issues through the reintroduction of these priority reforms. The Palaszczuk government is committed to the safety and health of all workers across all industries. As a government, we will continue to strengthen safety and health protections for all workers so that workers do not fear that the workplace risks or hazards will injure them or make them ill, or, at worst, cause a fatality. Mining is a hazardous industry with a unique set of hazards and risks to our workers' safety and health. The bill strengthens and expands the range of compliance and enforcement options for serious safety and health breaches of the legislation by introducing the options of civil penalties, or the cancellation or suspension of a holder's statutory certificates of competency or other competencies.

For people in regional Queensland, too often they wake up to the news of an accident at one of the mines over the hill. I will give a very small sample of the hazards of mining. Ian Hansen, aged 55, was a UGL contract worker at Newlands mine when he was killed after a piece of steel struck him in

August 2016. Oscar Franz Krobath was working as a haul truck operator at the Burton Coal Mine, 290 kilometres west of Rockhampton, when he was injured in a truck loading accident in late 2011. An article in the Mackay *Daily Mercury* states—

It is with deep sadness that BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance ... confirms that a colleague, a contractor from Independent Mining Services (IMS), has ... passed away as a result of injuries sustained in an incident that occurred during maintenance work at the Goonyella Riverside Mine in Queensland on 5 August 2017.

We do not want to see any more workers get hurt. In August this year, Stephen Smyth, the CFMEU district president, said that about half of the 80-plus cases of mine dust lung diseases in Queensland had been detected in the Mackay region. The workers in our coalfields are our families, friends and neighbours. All workers have a right to expect that their safety and health will be protected at work. This bill will do that. I commend the bill to the House.