




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Olive Downs Mine

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.45 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to creating jobs in regional Queensland, including in our state's vitally important resources industry. Today I am pleased to announce that the independent Coordinator-General has approved a new coalmine for Queensland. The \$1 billion Olive Downs metallurgical coalmine in the Bowen Basin is now moving forward to deliver 500 full-time-equivalent jobs during construction and 1,000 full-time operational jobs—I repeat that for the benefit of the members opposite: 1,000 full-time operational jobs—on average over its 79-year life span. On top of that, the proponent, Pembroke Resources, will encourage workers to live in towns such as Moranbah, Nebo, Dysart and Middlemount, ensuring that regional communities benefit as required—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I am sorry, Minister. Members to my left, as I hear it, the minister is reading a factual ministerial statement. I would like to hear the statement. I ask that you cease your interjections.

Mr DICK:—by the Labor government's Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act. There will also be significant opportunities for local and regional suppliers, contractors, service providers and businesses. As a further local benefit, the Coordinator-General, for the first time, has nominated the construction phase for this project as being subject to the Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act. That means that local skilled workers will be protected by the act's prohibition on a 100 per cent FIFO workforce and the act's anti-discrimination provisions. When the mine is up and running, it has the potential to contribute up to \$10 billion to the Queensland economy, including \$1 billion in royalties.

Pembroke Resources will produce up to 15 million tonnes of coal per year, with 90 per cent expected to be metallurgical coal. Metallurgical or coking coal is used to make steel, a critical component of our modern economy that is used widely in the automotive, construction and manufacturing sectors. Steel is used to build railways, stadiums, skyscrapers, houses and airports. The world needs Queensland's metallurgical coal to make steel.

The proposed project includes coal handling and crushing facilities, a rail link to transport coal to the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal and a water pipeline and power transmission line. The Coordinator-General has imposed stringent conditions to mitigate impacts on the environment and nearby regional communities. I am very pleased that Pembroke has stated that it will start construction in 2020. I look forward to providing further updates to the House on how our government is growing Queensland's resources sector and creating more jobs for our state.