




Speech By
Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Budget, Regional Queensland

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.06 pm): The resource industry in Queensland is the saviour of this state and, more importantly, the regions. Yesterday the Treasurer had the gall to suggest that this is a budget for the regions. That claim is an insult to the people who live in regional Queensland and the businesses that call regional Queensland home. With mining making up almost 12 per cent of the economy in 2017-18 and the export of resources accounting for around 60 per cent of exports, one would think the Treasurer would be supporting the resources industry. Let me make that clear: the resource sector will contribute an estimated \$5.3 billion in 2018-19 to the state coffers. That is not enough for this Treasurer.

Yesterday the Treasurer completely blindsided the LNG industry by hiking petroleum royalties from 10 to 12½ per cent which will contribute a dividend return of \$476 million in coming years. Make no mistake, this will make Queensland gas less competitive and will risk jobs and future investment. In short, the government has put the shackles on the LNG industry. Queensland Resources Council chief executive Ian Macfarlane said yesterday that this tax hike risks the gas supply for all Australians. Instead of working to maximise the potential of this booming industry, the Treasurer wants to make us less competitive. Make no mistake, this is a government that has nothing but contempt for the 315,000 Queenslanders who work in the resources sector. This is a government that is happy to break promises to the resources sector while happily taking the royalties and the income from regional Queensland.

The people of regional Queensland are realists. We know that cutting \$127 million from water and vegetation management services will mean less staff and resources to help primary producers deal with draconian vegetation management laws. We know this government has absolutely no intention of building dams in Queensland and no intention of realising the potential that those dams would offer. The budget the Treasurer tabled yesterday provides no extra funding for building the Nullinga or the Urannah Dam. Again the raising of the Burdekin Falls Dam has been put on the backburner with the business case now not completely funded until at least 2019-20.

The wall-to-wall Labor members in regional Queensland have been missing in action and that is proven by this budget. Cuts in this budget will deeply affect regional Queensland's biggest industries. By not funding water projects, this government is placing a millstone around the neck of regional Queensland. This government has proven it has no plan to create much needed jobs in the regions and it is clear it has no intention of re-investing royalties back into the regions in the form of critical infrastructure. The budget handed down yesterday is an insult to some of our biggest industries and it is, without doubt, an insult to regional Queensland.