




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2019

MOTION

Mine Safety, Parliamentary Inquiry

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.50 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the shadow minister for mines. I join with everyone in this chamber—from both sides—in expressing my deepest sympathies to the six grieving families who have lost loved ones due to mine safety issues in the past 12 months. I stand in this chamber today to support this motion for a full, frank and open parliamentary inquiry on behalf of those six grieving families. One of those families is very closely connected to my local area. It is on behalf of the Routledge family that I do this.

Everyone in this chamber should support this motion for a full, open inquiry into mine safety. I take offence at the Minister for Mines standing in this chamber and saying that this motion should stop everything in relation to mine safety in this state. I say to the Minister for Mines: do the job you are paid to do. You are the mines minister. No-one on this side of the House is asking the minister to stop what he is meant to do in relation to mine safety today or tomorrow. We are asking for a parliamentary inquiry into what has gone wrong in mines in Queensland in the past 12 months, to hear from the miners at the coalface—the people who go to work each and every day. I say to the member for Keppel that those people cannot go into the closed shop inquiry that the Minister for Mines talked about. Those people, whether they live in Blackbutt, the Burdekin electorate, Far North Queensland or Yeppoon, cannot go into the closed shop inquiry that this mines minister has proposed to the parliament.

I find it incredible that the member for Keppel would stand in this chamber and say words to the effect that—I will confirm this in *Hansard*—you do not do an inquiry until you know the outcome. What does that mean? We now know why the Labor Party do not want a full, frank and open parliamentary inquiry. They are worried about what the answer is. That stinks of a cover-up to me. What did they know and when did they know it?

Mr Mander: No integrity.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection: another integrity crisis. One thing that came to light as a result of these tragic, horrible deaths that is simply unacceptable to the people of Queensland, particularly those in the resources industry, is that the mining health and safety advisory board did not meet because it did not meet gender requirements. What a kick in the guts for every miner, every family and every person associated with the resources industry. Find someone. Put them on. I know that the Queensland resources industry wrote to the minister and suggested people for that advisory board. I do not care whether the people on the advisory board are male or female. I want them on the board.

Mr Mander: The best ones.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: We want the best people on the board. For the government to say that a board should not meet because it does not meet gender requirements is a slap in the face to the hardworking men and women who go out into the resources industry—

Dr Lynham interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister will cease his interjections.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: To know that the Palaszczuk Labor government refuses to represent them because they did not have the right gender—

Dr Lynham interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister will cease his interjections. Minister, you have already spoken in this debate.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The lack of care and compassion from the mines minister is the reason the LNP is moving this motion for an open, transparent and public parliamentary inquiry—so we can get to the bottom of issues on behalf of those families.

(Time expired)