



Speech By  
**Brittany Lauga**


**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL**

---

Record of Proceedings, 6 February 2020

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Lactalis; Olive Downs Mine**

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.03 pm): I rise to pass on my condolences to the 47 Lactalis workers who were notified yesterday that as of the end of this month they will no longer have a job at the Rockhampton factory that they have worked at loyally for over 30 years. I understand from further intelligence provided to me that more than 47 workers will lose their jobs at that factory. In fact, a large number of labour hire workers have also been told that they will lose their jobs at that factory. Unfortunately, unlike the 47, they are not even given the benefit—if that is a benefit at all—of a couple of weeks notice. They have been told that they will no longer be working there, effective immediately.

I have written to the CEO of Lactalis to express my deep concern and disappointment in this decision. I have also called for Lactalis to communicate with me regularly about how they plan to support these workers at this very difficult time. I have spoken with a number of these workers. One family is expecting their first child in only a couple of weeks and they are very concerned about their future. Lactalis has a responsibility now to work closely with those workers to make sure they have the support they need to transition into employment and find good, secure jobs in our Rockhampton community.

I am also concerned about the 20 local dairy farmers that supply milk to Lactalis. I have said to the CEO that I want to ensure that those dairy farmers still have the benefit of supplying milk to Pauls and that there are no changes in their contracts that would perhaps change their price or logistical arrangements. I have told the CEO that I expect regular updates—the member for Rockhampton has too—with respect to how they plan to support those employees at this very difficult time.

The LNP has been dragging its heels on a very important \$1 billion coalmine proposed in the Central Queensland region—the Olive Downs mine, an important metallurgical coalmine that the Queensland Labor government approved last year. We have been waiting for seven months now for the LNP's environment minister to sign off on this important job-creating mine for our region. It will create a thousand operational jobs and 500 construction jobs. The Queensland government signed off on this project last year and the federal government has been sitting on its hands in relation to this project for over seven months now. I called on the then minister for resources and Northern Australia, Matt Canavan, to step in. Now, with his resignation, we have a new minister for Northern Australia and a new Assistant Minister for Northern Australia. I call on the member for Capricornia to ensure that the first thing she does when her feet get under the desk in her new role is to get these approvals underway for this important project for Central Queensland.