




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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RESOURCES SAFETY AND HEALTH QUEENSLAND BILL

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (11.58 am): I will make a contribution to the Resources Safety and Health Queensland Bill. My contribution will be brief and will centre on two key elements. Firstly, I place on record the hard work of all who have been involved to get to this point—both the minister and the shadow minister, who are in the chamber today, and all of those people on the committee across recent parliaments. We do so because first and foremost we have a duty to our communities to keep them safe. At no time has that been more evident than in recent weeks with what we are dealing with with COVID-19. We realise just how important community safety is.

Safety takes many forms: it takes the form of somebody being able to go to bed at night knowing that somebody will not break into their house to take their goods; it takes the form of driving on a road knowing that somebody who is affected by drugs or alcohol does not run into you; and it takes the form of being able to go to work knowing that you will return home to tell your loved ones that you love them and you are safe and well. When we reflect on the fact that in the last year there have been eight deaths in Queensland mines, we all know that we all must do better. The point of my contribution today is not to play the blame game—far from it—but to say that this parliament comes together and acknowledges that more must be done to keep those men and women who ensure our mining industry—a great industry in this state—safe.

I want to reflect on how important mining is to the Queensland economy. Right now it is more important than ever. One in every \$5 in the Queensland economy and one in eight jobs is in some way, shape or form attributed to mining. I want to reflect on the one in \$5 because right now the one in \$5 will be a greater portion. Whilst all industries will experience great challenges when it comes to continuing employment and normality, the mining industry will be one that, whilst impacted, will continue in some capacity.

The money that the mining industry generates will need to be used to support businesses and workers in industries like hospitality and tourism that will not have bright futures for some time. It will be there to support small businesses that supply affected industries that will not have a bright future for some time. It will be used to pay the salaries of those government workers, those brave workers of this state, who will go to work every day and put themselves in harm's way to make sure that this community is as safe as it can be in troubling times. At the top of that list are our health workers who are—ironically, may I say—at the coalface.

My final contribution is the most important one: where to from here? The shadow minister has made it very clear that he wants to see a full parliamentary inquiry into mine safety. I back him entirely, because if we are serious about the future we must reflect on the past. We must see what works and what does not and why in recent times we have experienced the issues that we have. To my mind, not to embark on that process would be an error. In conclusion, I wholeheartedly back the bill. I want to make sure there is no blame game. I want to ensure that in the end the community is safer and that for years to come workers can go home and tell their families they are safe.