




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TRAEGER

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Traeger Electorate, Manufacturing Industry

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (2.56 pm): Deeds, not words, are what people are after—whether we are talking about a copper smelter or a copper refinery in Townsville, whether we are talking about ethanol and biofuels, or whether we are talking about stimulating manufacturing in this state. I received the news this week that the United Dalby Biorefinery has shut down after the state government made a big song and dance about assisting them. The assistance was, 'We'll put you in touch with some people who will buy some of your hand sanitiser.' This ethanol plant, where you have soaring grain prices and low fuel prices, was unviable and it shut down. But we can open up! We can make hand sanitiser from that. What a great idea!

I helped them out by putting them in touch with people. The state government said, 'We'll help you,' but it was words, not actions. You need to buy a big heap off them so they are viable. Instead, we got floods of it from China. It is a pretty good gig for China: they give us coronavirus and now they are selling hand sanitiser which the state government is buying, but we cannot buy our own to keep the Dalby biorefinery going. It is actions and not words that are needed.

They have shut down now, so 50 jobs have been directly affected, 100 jobs indirectly, plus the impetus for biofuels, plus the impetus for ethanol. Where is the drive for biofuels and ethanol that should be there? Where is the commitment to the mandate we made in the last parliament? It is not there. It requires action, not just words. The government will be judged on outcomes, not just making an announcement at the start that you are throwing cash at it.

Which takes me to the copper refinery and the copper smelter. This is very serious, and people need to take notice of the impact this will have not just on the North Queensland economy, especially Townsville, but Queensland. There is a supply chain or a value chain from Mount Isa to Townsville that is very sensitive and needs the copper smelter going. If you do not have the copper smelter, you do not have the sulphur for the phosphate mine that employs 600 to 800 people. If you do not have the phosphate mine you do not have the copper refinery, which is some 300 or 400 jobs in Townsville. So you have 300 direct jobs in Mount Isa, another 300 direct jobs in Townsville and another 600 to 800 at the phosphate mine that are all under threat, and then everything else becomes unviable if you do not have the critical mass of rail participants and electricity customers out there. It is all on wobbly wheels and we need action, not words. We need Glencore to sign up to the CopperString project. We need commitment and forcefulness from the government to force Glencore to open their copper smelter. We need to make sure that people out there have an investment environment that is not killing them with the world's highest industrial prices.

These things need to be done. It is vitally important not just for North-West or North Queensland but for the Queensland economy. We cannot afford to let the biorefinery at Dalby or any more manufacturing to close in Queensland.