




Speech By  
**Dale Last**

**MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN**

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### **RESOURCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (4.46 pm): I rise to contribute to the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This is a bill that the LNP will support because it is about surety for business, and that means surety for jobs, especially in regional Queensland. There is now an additional reason for the LNP to support this bill: it is effectively a first for Queensland that a government, through legislation introduced to this House, admits they were wrong. This bill in fact will record for the history books the incompetence and ignorance of this Palaszczuk Labor government.

I remember the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill very well because when it was debated in this House I was the shadow minister for natural resources and mines. It was a bill that was shrouded in mistruths from the get-go. The then minister, Anthony Lynham, accused the LNP of not supporting the bill because LNP members of the committee who reviewed the bill found shortcomings and, as they should, they brought those shortcomings to the attention of this House. As this bill proves, the biggest mistruth was the belief of this government that somehow senior figures in the mining industry would become employees with the stroke of the minister's pen. That might be well and good in communist China or Russia, but it does not work in Queensland where people have rights that cannot be wiped away due to the misguided beliefs of this government.

I met with statutory officers. I met with several SSEs and mine managers when that bill was first brought before this House. They expressed to me their dismay with what that bill implied and how it would work in reality out there in the minefields, particularly in my patch in the Isaac. They could not believe that this government proceeded with that bill in this parliament and that it was subsequently passed. Yet we here we are today, *deja vu*, having to come back to this place and move an extension of 12 months to try to get it right.

The errors that this bill addressed, and the fact that this minister has left it to the last minute to introduce amendments, illustrate the shortcomings of this particular bill. Despite the warnings from the people directly affected, this government pushed ahead with what is now confirmed as bad legislation. This is nothing new for this government. In recent years, we have seen plenty of examples of this government failing the natural resources sector and the communities that support them. If the minister were serious about actually fixing the current government's appalling track record in this space, this omnibus bill would be two or even three times its current size.

Take, for example, the Resources Community Infrastructure Fund—who could forget that?—which was introduced by the former member for South Brisbane. More than a year after it was announced, nothing concrete has been delivered. Couldn't we do with that money out in my neck of the woods in the Isaac? Couldn't we do with that money to fix some of the roads and some of the issues in our schools and hospitals in the Isaac region? It is the same thing we see in this bill. Instead of listening to the people on the ground in those communities, we have a committee headed up by a former Labor mayor. We have seen the fiasco of the unannounced inspections that are actually announced and findings from incidents like the Goonyella mine fire that are still sitting on the minister's desk.

While the new Minister for Resources should be congratulated for finally admitting his government's failures, this failure did not happen without warning. As the QRC CEO, Ian Macfarlane, said—

Too frequently there has been no proper regulatory assessment of policy proposals that impose a regulatory burden on industry.

As I said earlier, the LNP will be supporting this bill. We support a bill that actually provides certainty for the resources sector, but we note the continued Labor themes of a lack of consultation and errors like including the abolition of an ombudsman who no longer existed. We note that again Labor has been forced into amending legislation, this time by the Land Court.

There is a lot at stake when it comes to industrial manslaughter. We have seen a number of fatalities in the resource sector in recent years. A number of those fatalities are still under investigation that may very well result in criminal charges being preferred against people employed by the mining companies or employed by the labour hire companies. This is serious for the families and friends of the deceased persons, and it is serious for the future of the industry going forward.

We note that this bill cements in legislation the failures of this government. For the sake of all Queenslanders, we hope that this is the first step of many that need to be taken to fix the flawed legislation that they have pushed through this parliament in the past six years.