



Speech By  
**Dale Last**


**MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 November 2022

## ADJOURNMENT

### Moranbah Senior Training and Education Program

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (6.10 pm): Moranbah in the Burdekin electorate is at the centre of Queensland's resources industry, an industry that contributes billions to the economy and billions to the state government each and every year. Moranbah is also proud of its students—and with very good reason. Back in 2015 Moranbah State High School students were recognised in the school-based apprentice or trainee of the year awards. In 2019 Brenton Tomlinson was named as a finalist in the same awards after securing a school-based traineeship through Moranbah State High School's M-STEP program. M-STEP is the Moranbah Senior Training and Education Program and, to many locals, is symbolised by the big blue shed at Moranbah High. How many M-STEP finalists will we see in next year's awards? The answer is none, because today the big blue shed is closed.

Just this morning the Premier spoke about training students for future jobs in trades. Yet, today, a facility that has a track record of training students for just those jobs sits closed. Yesterday the Minister for Training and Skills Development could barely contain her excitement during her ministerial statement when she described Queensland as 'leading the way' on apprenticeships and traineeships in schools. When speaking about the government strategy she said, 'An important component of that centres around equipping our school students for the jobs in demand now and in the future.'

Apparently that component is less than important in Moranbah. Despite all the talk about traineeships and apprenticeships from those opposite, the big blue shed at Moranbah is without a teacher—and it is closed. It is a slap in the face for each and every worker in Queensland's resources sector that, in the heart of the Bowen Basin, a program to train the workers of the future has stalled. Even worse, it is a slap in the face for students at Moranbah State High with dreams of working in that industry.

Once again, this government has failed to deliver for Moranbah, for the resources industry and for our children. If the Premier's words about the importance of training students for future jobs in trades are to be believed and the minister really believes that Queensland is leading the way on apprenticeships and traineeships, we will see the big blue shed open again in the near future. If not, Moranbah only has this government to blame.

That community is centred around the resources industry. I have seen what that shed delivers with the equipment and the resources that are contained within that shed. To think that that shed is now closed because of a lack of a teacher is absolutely disgraceful. Everything needs to be done to make sure that that shed reopens to give those students in Moranbah the opportunities that they deserve going forward.