




Speech By
Hon. Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

Record of Proceedings, 28 November 2023

**INFORMATION PRIVACY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL;
PUBLIC RECORDS BILL**

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (4.44 pm): I rise to speak to the Public Records Bill 2023 and Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. I would like to speak specifically to the amendments to the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999. My No. 1 priority as the Minister for Resources is worker safety. We all have a responsibility when it comes to this. There are a large number of stakeholders within the industry, including workers themselves—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr STEWART: It is an amendment. Resource companies as well as worker representative groups have a long and strong history when it comes to advocating for mine safety. My office and I regularly meet with multiple unions which represent numerous workers across our industry. Although minor, the amendments are still important. Mine workers have a long and proud history of unionism and solidarity in Queensland. From December 1, the mining division of the CFMMEU will be known as the Mining & Energy Union QLD District Branch. Ensuring that this is reflected in the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 is important because it removes any ambiguity when it comes to the act and ensures industrial safety and health representatives are able to access sites. Industrial safety and health representatives are the backbone of the important work the Mining and Energy Union does for workers' wellbeing. They are often the first on the scene alongside the inspectorate when major incidents occur and do a tremendous amount of work and travel to ensure they are doing the best by workers on sites. It is critical that we support them in this role.

It is important our legislation continues to be proactive, modern and reflective of the current state and practices of industry. Our government is committed to maintaining effective mining health and safety legislation to ensure every worker in the Queensland resources industry goes home safely. I commend the bills to the House.