



Speech By  
**Hon. Dale Last**


**MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 November 2024

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Rural and Regional Queensland**

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (9.59 am): It is an honour to again stand in this place and speak on behalf of rural and regional Queenslanders. For the first time in nearly 10 years there is hope, because rural and regional Queenslanders know that the Crisafulli government recognises their contribution to this state and will treat them with the respect they deserve. They know that this government's priorities are their priorities. Just like their fellow Queenslanders across the state, one of their highest priorities is making Queensland safe.

I have lost count of the number of times I have stood up in this chamber and spoken about the victims of crime in places like Townsville and Cairns and other North Queensland communities. North Queenslanders have borne the brunt of Labor's decision to remove breach of bail as an offence and to reinstate the principle of detention as a last resort.

Regional Queenslanders are sick and tired of having their homes broken into and their cars stolen. Members of the public who spoke out about their own experiences were ridiculed, blocked and ignored by the former Labor government. Despite the seemingly endless calls for help from victims, we had at least one Labor member who called the youth crime crisis a 'media beat-up' and the then police minister who, when asked about the value of property and vehicles stolen, called the question irrelevant.

Like other Queenslanders across the state, regional Queenslanders now have not only a government that has listened but also a government that is delivering on its commitments. Queenslanders deserve to be safe. I want all those Queenslanders living and working in regional Queensland to know that they matter. We will work every single day to make their community safer.

Regional Queenslanders also need to be respected for the contribution they make to this great state. There is no greater contribution than that made by the resources sector. Close to 1,000 people attended the annual Queensland Resources Council lunch last week. I share these figures with pride, because that is how every worker in our resources industry should feel: proud—proud of the work they do and proud of the contribution they make to this state. After just one month, we are already seeing increased optimism and confidence from the resources sector—a buoyancy that we have not seen for 10 years. That was clearly evident last Friday at the QRC annual luncheon.

In 2023-24, the resources sector delivered a record \$120.2 billion to Queensland's economy, representing approximately 24 per cent of the state's total economic output, directly generated 62,730 jobs and overall supported more than half a million direct and indirect jobs. That means that one in every six jobs in Queensland is linked to the resources sector.

Under the Crisafulli government, no longer will projects and opportunities languish for years without a decision. I have already established the Resources Cabinet Committee and this committee will meet, as I promised, before the end of the year to ensure that resource companies can move forward with confidence. My message to the industry last week was very simple: our resources sector and Queensland is open for business.