




Speech By
Hon. Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Resources Industries

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (10.00 am): Just over a month ago Queenslanders voted for change and a fresh start for our state, and that responsibility is not lost on any of us. Under our government the resources sector can expect a breath of fresh air and a fresh approach to working with government. Our commitment to the resources sector is ironclad. We know how important mining is to Queensland. It is the largest industry in this state, contributing \$86 billion to the Queensland economy. More than 77,300 people work in the Queensland mining sector and we will never take them for granted. Whether they are working here in Brisbane—Queensland’s biggest mining town—or pulling on their high-vis in Central Queensland, they matter. Our government will create an environment for growth that will continue to underpin Queensland’s long-term prosperity.

We will provide certainty on project approvals—unlike those opposite, who left projects languishing for years, piles of them in fact, gathering dust on the former Labor minister’s desk or who moved the goalposts at the last minute. Industry, investors and importantly the communities that rely on the resources sector will get a clear yes or no.

The era for taking the resources sector for granted is over. Central to that drive is the creation of my Resources Cabinet Committee. Led by myself and joined by my esteemed colleagues the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation, the committee will deliver a cohesive approach to growing the Queensland resources industry and removing the roadblocks preventing new projects taking flight. The establishment of this committee is part of our 100-day plan and it gives me great pleasure to say we have delivered and we will meet for the first time next Tuesday.

The committee will: improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Queensland’s regulatory framework; implement measures to support productivity and investment; strengthen consultation mechanisms; improve the coordination and timeliness of applications, assessments and approvals, so where projects stack up it is not then taking up to 15 years for them to get going; investigate opportunities for regional economic development and investment attraction through cross-sectoral partnerships, including processing and manufacturing; work with industry to attract the best talent and create a pipeline of skilled workers; investigate the sector’s role in ensuring affordable and reliable energy security; and, importantly, uphold Queensland’s environment, social, governance and safety responsibilities. It is not just about sending a message that Queensland is open for business. It is a practical forum to demonstrate that we are not just talking the talk; we are walking the walk. We are laying out an ambitious, long-term agenda which will see new and expanded mining opportunities across the state and we cannot wait to get going.

Let me be clear. Our government values our resources sector and we will not take it for granted. My message is simple. We want your business and we will work with you to give you confidence that you can make long-term investments in our state.