



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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ENERGY ROADMAP AMENDMENT BILL 2025

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (11.47 am): I rise to make a contribution to the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025. At the outset I would like to acknowledge those who have lost their lives whilst working in the mining and resources industry and also acknowledge their families. I would also like to acknowledge the ministers who have contributed to this bill and the committee for their work in considering the bill.

The Queensland mining and resources industry has been the backbone of our state's economy and prosperity for more than a century. In North Queensland it has built our towns, contributed to our communities and given generations of families the opportunity to enjoy the lifestyle and prosperity they do, from some of our state's most remote townships to our biggest cities. In my electorate of Townsville, you do not have to look hard to see the contribution of mining and resources. Townsville is the capital of North Queensland and proud to enjoy an active role in the mining and resources industry, with many in our community either working for the industry locally or driving in and out or even flying in and out. For every miner working out west, there are dozens of workers in Townsville who are keeping them going—in workshops, transport yards, engineering firms and service stations. Every day we see trucks rolling through the port gates, minerals processed at the refinery and local businesses, including tradies and trade operators, contributing to keep the mining and resources industry going.

The mining and resources industry supports tens of thousands of jobs across Queensland. It is important to recognise that the mining and resources industry provides more than just direct and indirect employment to tens of thousands of Queenslanders; the mining and resources industry injects billions into our economy every single year. The mining and resources industry contributes significantly to our hospitals, our schools and our roads—services that every Queenslanders relies on. There is no doubt that the mining and resources industry is critical to Queensland and, indeed, North Queensland.

Having previously worked in a company that served the mining and resources industry, I know how much the industry values their employees and the safety of everyone working in that industry. The mining and resources industry goes to great lengths to ensure every worker who heads out to site returns home to their family or loved ones when their shift is over. Work in the mining and resources industry is tough and it is certainly not for everyone. It is often hot, it is heavy and it operates in some of the most remote parts of Queensland. Given how remote a lot of these worksites are in relation to hospitals and emergency services, the impact of a mistake or accident that results in injury is amplified.

That is why safety has to come first, because one mistake or one shortcut can cost a life. We acknowledge that mistakes and accidents can occur. However, on those occasions that such an event occurs and a life is lost, efforts should be exhausted to understand if there was anything that could have been done differently that would not have resulted in such a tragic loss.

When a life is lost on a mining or resource worksite and there is an opportunity to make the industry safer, we should make every effort to learn how to prevent further deaths. This bill recognises how critical the mining and resources industry is to Queensland and how much we value the workforce

that serves it. It establishes a dedicated mining and resources coroner to conduct investigations and mandatory inquests for all mining related reportable deaths, including accidental deaths that result from mining related injuries on mines, coalmines, quarries and certain petroleum and gas sites.

In comparison to other industries, there is also a lot that is unique to the mining and resource industry worksites. The Mining and Resources Coroner will have the opportunity to develop a deep understanding of these unique industries and access experts and specialist technical advice. Once established, the coroner will not only determine the cause of the death to prevent similar deaths occurring in the future but also keep mining companies accountable. In keeping with the current coronial framework, the Mining and Resources Coroner will carry out general coronial work when not performing mining related work, contributing to reducing the backlog of cases and easing the pressure on the coronial system. All findings handed down by the Mining and Resources Coroner will be made public and recommendations and comments will be provided to the Attorney-General, other relevant ministers and the CEO of Resources Safety & Health Queensland to prevent similar deaths. The public disclosure of the findings will ensure transparency and drive accountability.

The Queenslanders who work in the mining and resources sector deserve to be safe. Should there be a mining related reportable death, they deserve for it to be investigated and, where the cause is identified, steps to be put in place to prevent deaths from occurring under similar circumstances in the future. The introduction of the Mining and Resources Coroner will improve outcomes and enhance the safety and wellbeing on those worksites. By supporting this bill, we are sending a clear signal that we value the mining and resource industry workers and their safety. That is why I commend this bill to the House.