



Speech By
Hon. Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

Record of Proceedings, 16 October 2025

CORONERS (MINING AND RESOURCES CORONER) AMENDMENT BILL 2025

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (12.04 pm): I rise to contribute to the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025. Queenslanders and the resources industry deserve much more than the failed Labor government and its decade of decline. They deserve a fresh start that the Crisafulli government is delivering, and this legislation does just that. The Queensland resources industry has been the backbone of our state for generations. Across my electorate I have oil and gas reserves in the Cooper and the Surat Basin. In the 2023-24 financial year, the Queensland Resources Council report card estimated that the Warrego electorate contributed \$1.1 billion and supported over 4,000 jobs.

I have visited many of the gas fields, the well sites, the wells under construction and the compressor sites and the workers' camps associated with the gas industry. From firsthand observations, I know that the petroleum and gas industry takes safety seriously. It also takes the welfare of its employees very seriously. Sadly, we have lost workers due to accidents and I can recall people passing due to heat stroke, and that is certainly something that is absolutely preventable. The prevention of accidents is always better than picking up the pieces after an accident. It is better for the family. It is also better for the workplace. That is why this legislation is important, as it will help identify how accidents can be prevented.

This legislation establishes a dedicated Mining and Resources Coroner to conduct coronial investigations and mandatory inquests for all mining reportable deaths. It removes the previous discretion of the coroner to conduct an inquest into a mining related death. The legislation includes the accidental deaths that result from mining related injuries on mines, coalmines, quarries and certain petroleum and gas sites. This bill is all about the workers. It is the workers who put on the hi-vis every day and the families who rely on those jobs and the small businesses that keep those local communities going—the small businesses in communities like Dalby, Tara, Roma and, further to the west, Thargomindah and Quilpie.

Everyone in Queensland benefits from the strength of the resources sector. The Crisafulli government recognises that, and we are determined to make sure those benefits continue to flow for generations to come. However, we also know that prosperity brings very little if it comes at the cost of safety. Every worker deserves to come home at the end of their shift. That is why this bill matters so much. It is about the accountability and transparency and learning lessons to prevent future tragedies. All findings and recommendations will be made public and shared with key agencies, including Resources Safety & Health Queensland, so the lessons are learned across the entire industry.

This reform delivers on a key Crisafulli government election commitment. We are doing what we said we would do and delivering for Queenslanders. It is about restoring trust and strengthening safety, honouring the contribution that every worker in our resource sector gives. For the people of Warrego, for the people of the state, for our gas workers, for our miners and for their families, this bill is about fairness, accountability and respect. I commend the bill to the House.