



Speech By
Bryson Head

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

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ADJOURNMENT

Mines Rescue Service

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (11.34 pm): Queensland Mines Rescue Service is an incredibly important organisation to the mining industry and our regional communities. They have hundreds of dedicated and highly specialised members and volunteers across our state. They are the first ones on site in the face of a mine disaster, and they often work with authorities during other incidents as well. They put their lives on the line for their colleagues and communities. This year they achieved something incredibly special for which they deserve recognition. They are now eligible and recognised under the National Medal. The National Medal recognises long and diligent service by members of recognised government and voluntary organisations who risk their lives or safety to protect or assist the community in enforcement of the law or in times of emergency or natural disaster. It is awarded by Australia's Governor-General.

In June this year, as the Assistant Minister for Resources, I attended the Mines Rescue 2025 Awards presentation evening, alongside the member for Mackay, Nigel Dalton, when for the first time a National Medal was awarded to over 50 Mines Rescue Service members. Congratulations to Anthony Leyshon, who is the first Australian to have received this award as a Mines Rescue Service volunteer. I give a shout-out also to Darren Prince for 30 years of service and to Clive Hanrahan and Mark Freeman for an incredible 40 years of service. Further to the National Medal, more than 80 individuals were recognised for their years of dedicated service, from five years to 40 years, with Queensland Mines Rescue Service medals.

Aside from emergency response, the Mines Rescue Service also provides expertise to the mining industry to assist with managing risk and ensures high safety standards are maintained. These awards are a great reminder to all Queenslanders, especially those working on mine sites, of the volunteers and team members who prepare and are on standby to provide response efforts if and when they are needed, no matter the risk.

I would like to thank all Queensland Mines Rescue Service team members and volunteers throughout Queensland for their dedicated service. To show my appreciation for their service, I am wearing their tie in parliament tonight.

A reminder of the importance of this organisation is the 50-year anniversary of the Kianga Mine No. 1 disaster in September this year. Thirteen miners from the Moura community tragically lost their lives in that incident. Over a two-decade period, many more miners lost their lives in this community in underground mine explosions. Queensland's Miner Memorial Day is in Moura this year to mark this solemn occasion. Both the Minister for Resources and I are planning on attending this event. It is a moment to stop and reflect on the many who have tragically lost their lives while supporting their families and working in the industry that provides so much for our state. Every miner deserves to come home in one piece.