



Speech By  
**Hon. Dale Last**


**MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 April 2025

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Vitrinite Highwall Miner**

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (9.27 pm): The coal industry has been a cornerstone of Queensland's economic prosperity for more than a century. Our commitment to the resources sector is ironclad. As the largest industry in this state, the mining industry is important to Queensland. This sector contributes an impressive \$86 billion annually to our economy and supports more than 79,300 jobs.

Just last month a Central Queensland mine made history as the first in Australia to deploy an advanced highwall mining system to extract coal with unprecedented efficiency. I had the privilege of joining Vitrinite staff and community leaders at the Vulcan South mine in my electorate of Burdekin to witness this cutting-edge technology in action. The HW300 Highwall Miner, one of only 90 units worldwide, has now been brought online in Australia for the first time. It is machinery that extracts coal that is normally out of reach—a major leap forward for safety, efficiency and environmental impact reduction. It reinforces Queensland's reputation as a global leader in mining innovation.

Investment in technology like the HW300 is a vote of confidence in our government's long-term agenda which will see new and expanded mining opportunities across the state. It is another example of how Queensland is miles ahead of the other mining states in this country. We have not done this through luck; we have done this through innovation, through hard work and through the grit and determination of the men and women who show up every day in high-vis to get the job done. We know how important creating long-term jobs are for our people, strengthening the very communities that power our economy—communities like Collinsville, Clermont, Middlemount, Moranbah, Blair Athol and Dysart, all in my electorate of the Burdekin. They are all constant reminders that when the mining industry is strong so too are our regional mining communities.

That is why we are facilitating the creation of thousands more jobs in our mining industry. The Resources Cabinet Committee—made up of the key decision-makers across resources, environment, planning and energy—has met monthly since December. We are building a system that delivers decisions, not delays. We will continue to find ways to increase opportunities for jobs and opportunities for advanced technology. We will continue to be at the forefront of the mining sector, ensuring we are doing everything we can to unlock Queensland's potential.

The resources industry is what puts money in the bucket. The drillers, the diesel fitters, the engineers and the mineworkers—the high-vis heroes across my electorate—are the people who are keeping our lights on, fuelling our economy and helping us fund our essential services. The Crisafulli government is backing those workers, and we are backing our resources sector with real policy and real intent.