




Speech By
Hon. Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2025

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Beveridge, Mr F; Carmichael Coalmine

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (2.32 pm): ‘Leadership defined by vision, commitment, energy and a deep belief in the potential and future of regional Queensland.’ That is how the LGAQ described the former mayor of Charters Towers Regional Council, Frank Beveridge, who lost his battle with cancer in recent days.

I first met Frank during my time as a police officer in Charters Towers. My first impression of Frank was similar to those who had known him for years. Frank was committed to his region, to its people and to serving his community. Frank described his service as an honour, while others describe it as dedicated and unwavering. That is a fair description of a man who spent more than 20 of his 61 years as councillor or mayor. As Frank’s family told the *Townsville Bulletin*, Frank made things happen, no matter how difficult. When it came to representing his region, Frank was a fierce advocate who put people ahead of politics.

Away from his advocacy, Frank’s first love was his family. He had recently welcomed his fourth grandchild. Frank was extremely proud of his family, but he was not one to sit still. He had climbed to base camp on Mount Everest, travelled extensively in Australia and taken his children to the Great Wall of China. Frank’s toughest challenge was his battle with cancer. Like the true fighter he was, he beat cancer once. Almost immediately after he was given the all clear, he nominated to serve his community again. Diagnosed a second time, Frank did not back down. Instead, he tackled the gruelling Tatts Finke Desert Race. For Frank, the result did not matter; it was about finishing what he started. Whether it was the desert or tackling cancer, Frank took the tough times head-on. Today we pay our respects to Frank and offer our love and support to his family and friends. Vale, Frank Beveridge, and thank you for your service to our region and our state.

I would also like to address a significant development in Central and North Queensland. Thanks to the stability provided by the Crisafulli government, Bravus has committed \$50 million to expand its Carmichael coalmine in the Galilee Basin, laying the foundation for half a billion dollars in further investment and 600 new jobs. This initial stage will deliver critical infrastructure, from worker accommodation and a new dam to rail maintenance facilities. It is a clear sign of confidence in Queensland, and it is happening because the Crisafulli government backs the resources sector. On this side of the chamber we stand with mining families in Townsville, Mackay and Rockhampton. While Labor is divided and directionless, the Crisafulli government is united and focused. We have drawn a line under Labor’s decade of decline, ending overnight royalty hikes and restoring certainty for coal communities.

This commitment from Bravus will deliver real work for suppliers, apprentices and contractors across regional Queensland. It is proof that when government provides certainty industry delivers jobs. The Crisafulli government has the unity, vision and resolve to back our resources sector. We are

backing the industry that powers our economy. We are backing the workers who keep this state moving. We will keep delivering real results, real jobs and real investment for regional Queensland because on this side of the House we understand what the resources sector means to this great state in terms of the tens of thousands of jobs that are provided right across Queensland and the importance that plays in regional communities where those workers live and work.

Last night I attended the 10th anniversary of APLNG, and what a good news story that was. Who would have thought that when they began 10 years ago they would be in the position they are today? How communities like Roma, Miles and Chinchilla have grown and the difference having that gas production has made to those communities, workers and industries that rely on the gas industry in those communities is a good news story. We on this side of the House are backing the resources sector. We will continue to back the resources sector because we understand it underpins Queensland's economy and provides the jobs we so need.