




Speech By
Hon. Dale Last
MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

Record of Proceedings, 27 August 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Carmichael Coalmine

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (2.19 pm): I rise to highlight a significant milestone for Queensland's resources sector and for the hardworking mining families across Central and North Queensland. Thanks to the stable and serious leadership of the Crisafulli government, Bravus Mining & Resources has committed \$50 million to expand its Carmichael Mine in the Galilee Basin—laying the foundation for half a billion dollars in further investment and 600 new jobs. The initial expansion will deliver critical infrastructure like expanded worker accommodation, a new water dam, rail maintenance facilities and more.

This is what confidence looks like. This is what certainty brings. It was made possible because the Crisafulli government backed this critical industry for Queensland. On this side of the chamber, we are proud to stand with Queensland's hardworking coalmining families. This is unlike those opposite, who have the member for Cooper siding with the Greens and attending anti-coal workshops. While we are securing investment and creating jobs for regional Queensland, the member for Cooper was the headline act at an event where the sole aim was to make a plan to stop coalmining in this state. It gets worse for the opposition. When the *Townsville Bulletin* approached the opposition leader for a response to these concerning revelations, his spokesman got Queensland's high-quality coal confused with the lignite mine down in Victoria. It is laughable, if it were not so serious.

Let us not forget the shadow resources minister. He took not one, not two, but six months to meet with a Queensland coal-producing company. While Labor is divided, directionless and driving an anti-mining agenda, the Crisafulli government is getting on with the job. We have drawn a line under the chaos. Gone are the days of overnight royalty changes. Those rates are staying as they are. Gone are the days of uncertainty for our coal industry, because there are 400 coal-fired power stations under construction around the world and we want to supply them.

Gone are the days of playing games with Queenslanders' livelihoods. We back the hardworking Queensland families who rely on a strong mining sector. We are rebuilding Queensland's reputation as a place to invest, and this \$50 million commitment from Bravus proves our plan is working. It will deliver more work for suppliers in Townsville, Mackay and Rockhampton. It will deliver more jobs for apprentices and contractors and real opportunities for young people right across regional Queensland.

Those opposite never supported the Galilee Basin. When it came to the final approvals for the Carmichael project, Labor moved the goalposts, stalled, obstructed and delayed at every turn. They tied the project up in red tape, refused to make a decision and let inner-city activists dictate their agenda, putting Central and North Queensland jobs on the line. In 2019 they were so divided, all while thousands of workers waited for certainty—although, I will admit their approach did have one very positive outcome: it cost Bill Shorten the Lodge.

Even after Queenslanders handed down their verdict, the ghost of Jackie Trad loomed large over those opposite, whispering the same old talking points into the ears of the member for Woodridge that have been rejected by Queenslanders time and time again. It is spooky stuff. Spookier still is the fact that Labor has never been on the side of coal communities. They could never have delivered this investment, these jobs or this certainty for regional Queensland because they cannot deliver for the resources sector when their party room is divided, their policies are confused and their backbenchers are sharing the stage with the Greens.

Only the Crisafulli government has the unity, the vision and the resolve to back Queensland's resources sector and to deliver for mining families in Townsville, Mackay and Rockhampton. We are backing the industry that powers our economy. We are backing the workers who keep this state moving. We will continue doing what Labor never could: delivering results, real jobs and real investment for regional Queensland. On this side of the House, we know that Queensland does not start and end in Brisbane.