



Speech By
Hon. Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

Record of Proceedings, 29 October 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Resources Industries

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (2.27 pm): When the people of Queensland put their trust in the Crisafulli government we promised to restore certainty, strengthen confidence and get Queensland's resources sector firing again. Twelve months on, we are delivering. We are backing projects, fast-tracking approvals and getting the fundamentals right to unlock jobs and investment across regional Queensland.

At the centre of that effort is the Resources Cabinet Committee—a key election commitment—now delivering real outcomes. This committee has met regularly with industry, examined longstanding bottlenecks and developed a focused agenda to cut red tape, streamline approvals and provide clarity to investors. It is out with Labor's decade of decline, delays and uncertainty, and in with faster and clearer decisions that create jobs for regional communities. So far I have renewed 16 mineral development licences, 98 exploration permits and 125 coal resource authorities across the exploration, development and production pipeline. These approvals are about putting projects back on track, unlocking private investment and sustaining jobs in the communities that rely on mining and gas. This is what delivery looks like.

This committee is also helping advance the Eva copper project, has secured third-party access to tailings at Mount Isa and is actively supporting new phosphate production by delivering rail access incentives on the Mount Isa line. Just last week Queensland company Graphinex secured \$1.32 billion in US backing from the Export-Import Bank of the United States, or Exim, for its Esmeralda Graphite Project. This is a project that has been fast-tracked by the Crisafulli government which delivers 200 new jobs in the north and North-West Queensland, with a mine near Croydon and a processing plant in Townsville. They now join EQ Resources advancing the Mount Carbine tungsten project in Far North Queensland and RZ Resources developing a mineral separation plant at Pinkenba in securing major US backing through Exim.

Earlier this year I engaged directly with Exim to help secure this investment because we know that international partnerships matter. This announcement was not buried in a trade journal; it was made by President Trump himself as part of the critical minerals framework signed between the United States and Australia. When the President of the United States stands up at the White House backing Queensland's resources, it sends a pretty clear message that, after a decade of decline under Labor, Queensland is back on the world stage. We are sending investors around the world a clear message from the Crisafulli government: Queensland is open for business. We are working with industry, not against it. This is what delivery looks like. That is the record of the Crisafulli government.