



Speech By
Hon. Dale Last
MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

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PRIVATE MEMBER STATEMENT

International Mining and Resources Conference

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (2.27 pm): Last week I had the honour of representing Queensland at the International Mining and Resources Conference—better known as IMARC—in Sydney. With more than 10,000 delegates from over 200 countries in attendance, this was an enormous platform to showcase what Queensland brings to the global resources stage. Let me tell the House: interest in Queensland has never been stronger. After a decade of decline under Labor, whose anti-mining policies sent investor confidence off a cliff, Queensland is back and open for business.

Unlike Labor, the Crisafulli government values our resources sector and we back the hardworking Queenslanders whose livelihoods depend on it. That is the message I took to the global investment community at IMARC, and it is a message that resonated loud and clear. Overseas investors are looking at jurisdictions that offer certainty, stability and an efficient regulatory framework. Under the Crisafulli government, that is exactly what we are delivering. At IMARC, I met with dozens of global investors and company leaders who are now actively considering Queensland as a preferred destination not just for emerging critical minerals, like graphite and vanadium, but for our traditional strengths as well, like our world-class coal.

Yesterday, I addressed the chamber to talk about Graphinex, a Queensland company that has secured backing from the Trump administration through the Export-Import Bank of the United States, which followed a trade mission that I led to North America earlier this year. I also spoke about EQ Resources, which has received US backing to progress the expansion of its Mount Carbine tungsten mine in Far North Queensland, and RZ Resources, which has similar US backing for its mineral separation plant at Pinkenba. These are real projects creating real jobs in Queensland communities. These wins are no accident. They are the result of deliberate, disciplined decisions to put global investment attraction, project delivery and regional development back at the heart of government.

While international investors are putting their money into Queensland projects, there is a glaring absence closer to home. Time and time again, Australian financial institutions are turning their backs on Queensland's resources sector, particularly our world-class coal industry, despite the jobs and regional opportunities they deliver. It should not be up to overseas institutions to believe in Queensland's future more than our own banks do. Australian banks that have made billions of dollars off the backs of Queensland customers and companies should back the industries that underpin our state's economy.

The Crisafulli government is unapologetically pro mining because when a mine opens in regional Queensland it is not just workers onsite who benefit; it is the local cafe owner, the school, the local suppliers and small businesses who see opportunity and growth. That is why we are delivering for Queensland mining families and for our mining communities by restoring confidence, unlocking investment and backing the regions that keep this state running.