



Speech By
Hon. Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Resources Industries, Safety

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (2.20 pm): The Crisafulli government was elected on a plan to deliver and a plan to rebuild trust and make Queensland safer for all Queenslanders. Safety in the resources sector is my highest priority. My mantra that safety must come before production is as strong today as it was when I was first elected to the parliament. That is why in June I commissioned a comprehensive and independent review of Queensland's resources safety and health regulatory model. Queenslanders expect a regulator that is strong, independent and effective. After five years operating under the current model, it was time to take stock and make sure that the regulatory systems that keep our workers safe are working as intended.

The review was led by Professor Susan Johnston, who has decades of experience here in Australia and overseas in improving mine safety outcomes. It was conducted under broad terms of reference and examined the current regulatory framework for resources safety in Queensland, including the structure of RSHQ, its advisory committees and the role of the commissioner. More than 150 individuals from industry, unions, government and RSHQ contributed to this process. Today I table Professor Johnston's report.

Tabled paper: University of Queensland, Leading for High Reliability Centre report, dated 30 September 2025, titled 'Review of the Queensland Resources Safety and Health Regulatory Model' [1815](#).

I want to be clear about the version of the report that I have tabled. In the interests of protecting the identities and privacy of participants, personal particulars including those of RSHQ staff and contributors have been redacted. That confidentiality was critical to ensure open and honest engagement with the review process. However, transparency is just as important so that Queenslanders can see the review findings and understand the actions we are taking in response, because the findings from this review are sobering and the need for reform is clear. The independent review found that the model created in 2020 is not delivering what Queensland workers deserve. It found weaknesses in governance, confusion around roles and a lack of clear accountability. It identified issues with investigations and enforcement. It also found that the advisory committees have become less influential and less connected to strategic decision-making than they should be.

The Crisafulli government will act swiftly. As a priority, we will establish a new governing board to provide real independent oversight of RSHQ. This board will bring together expertise from across the sector and will be responsible for lifting performance and strengthening accountability across the regulator. The new board will report directly to me as Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. We will streamline the operation of the Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee and the Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee to improve efficiencies and coordination. The new board and my department will work with RSHQ to improve internal governance, performance and risk management systems to lead organisational and operational improvements. To remove duplication and confusion,

the role of the Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health will be discontinued. The commissioner's advisory and oversight functions will be transferred to the new governing board. This will create a single modern and accountable structure with clear lines of responsibility and will ensure that expert tripartite advice to me as minister continues through the board and its subcommittees.

I want Queensland to lead not just the nation but also the world in safety. Every family deserves certainty that the system protecting their loved ones is robust, independent and focused on the risks that matter. Over the coming weeks and months, we will deliver a modern and accountable framework that puts workers first.