



Speech By
Hon. Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Resources Industries

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (10.05 am): Over the past year, the Crisafulli government has delivered what Queensland's resources sector has been crying out for—certainty, clarity and confidence. We have taken the handbrake off and we are backing the hardworking Queenslanders who work in our mines and our regional economies and provide our export earnings. Let's look at the fruits of that over the last month alone, with three big decisions on consecutive days, backing Queensland mining jobs.

One: as mentioned by the Treasurer, Harmony Gold confirmed its final investment decision for the Eva Copper Mine, set to be Queensland's largest copper operation. It did not happen by chance. It happened because the Crisafulli government, through the Resources Cabinet Committee, worked relentlessly to facilitate approvals and fast-track progress. The project will deliver around 1,000 construction jobs and 450 ongoing positions and produce 60,000 tonnes of copper each year over its 15-year life. It is a massive boost for North-West Queensland and Townsville.

Two: we have locked in long-term certainty for Central Queensland coal jobs with a major new investment in Fitzroy Australia resources by a consortium led by Argo Queensland, securing the future of the Broadlea, Carborough Downs and Ironbark mines, and protecting 1,000 jobs.

Three: as the Deputy Premier just mentioned, the Crisafulli government has also declared Centurion Mine in my electorate a coordinated project.

This is what it looks like when a government says yes and backs it with action. These decisions mean jobs for boilermakers in Rockhampton, for the leckies in Mackay and for the tradies in Townsville. It means confidence for local communities that rely on a strong and stable resources sector.

Contrast our approach with those opposite. In the previous sitting week, Labor attacked coal jobs in this chamber. During their decade of decline, Labor created confusion instead of clarity with any mining policies that sent confidence over a cliff. The opposition leader stood on the sidelines while global investors looked elsewhere, and his federal mates have taken it even further, joining forces with their long-term partners, the Greens, to ram through anti-Queensland amendments to the EPBC Act.

Queensland's resources companies operate under world-class environmental standards, but the Greens' amendments, which Labor supports, ignore all that, imposing more red tape, stripping away streamlining for coal and gas approvals and handing Canberra bureaucrats the power to override Queensland's only rigorous processes.

It is blatant federal overreach. No other state has been singled out like Queensland, and that tells you everything you need to know about where Labor stands when it comes to Queensland jobs. Let me tell you that we will be reminding Queenslanders every single day that Labor traded away Queensland jobs for Greens' votes.

Queenslanders know where the Crisafulli government stands on mining jobs. They know we are on the side of those hardworking Queenslanders who get on a plane at five o'clock and go out there to do their seven-on, seven-off roster. They know that we will never trade Queensland jobs away for Greens' votes. We will keep restoring Queensland's reputation as a place where projects get approved, investments get moving and jobs get created, because regional Queenslanders know who is in their corner, and it is not Labor.