



Speech By
Janelle Poole

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

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CORONERS (MINING AND RESOURCES CORONER) AMENDMENT BILL 2025

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (12.07 pm): I want to start by acknowledging those who have lost their lives in the mining and the resources industry and their families. Mining is more than digging up rocks in the ground; it is power and steel, it is roads and hospitals and it is jobs and livelihoods. Mining and the people who work in the industry are the backbone of North Queensland and my electorate of Mundingburra. The Crisafulli government will always support those who support our great state, and that is why I rise to speak on the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill.

This bill was a key election commitment of the Crisafulli government and we are a government that delivers on our promises. It prioritises the safety of those who work in the industry. It goes further to provide support to the families, and this bill restores a vital justice service for the sector. The bill establishes a dedicated Mining and Resources Coroner to conduct coronial investigations and mandatory inquests for all mining related reportable deaths. There will no longer be discretion over this. Inquests will be conducted for all mining related reportable deaths. This includes accidental deaths that result from mining related injuries on mines, coalmines, quarries and certain petroleum and gas sites. All findings handed down by the Mining and Resources Coroner will be made public. Recommendations and comments must also be provided to the Attorney-General, other relevant ministers and the CEO of Resources Safety & Health Queensland. Why? To prevent similar deaths.

Mining is not for the faint-hearted. Many of our workers are away from home for periods of time working 12-hour days, out in the elements, underground or at heights. They come back to camp covered in dirt, exhausted and they back it up again the next day. These are high-risk environments and if safety is not always No. 1 on the priority list, that is when we lose lives. That is why this bill is so important. We need an inquest into every mining related death—not just because we want more paperwork but because of the recommendations that will come from it. We do not just implement this bill and walk away; we implement this bill and then we take action on the recommendations that come out of each and every inquest. We take the safety of our mining men and women seriously. We will do everything we can to create safer working environments for them.

We are also doing this for their families. We have listened to the voices of families who have lost their loved ones in our state's mines and quarries. They want more support, more information and greater transparency over the results of investigations. One of the most important aspects of our coronial process is timeliness. For families who have lost a loved one in the mining and resources sector, long delays in receiving answers only adds to their pain and frustrations. These families deserve a process that is not only thorough and independent but also responsive and respectful. Timely findings are vital not only in providing families with closure but also in ensuring any lessons learned can be acted on swiftly to improve safety and prevent future tragedies. It is important to those on this side of the House that we provide that. That is why this bill must be passed. We are also taking this a step further by establishing a position to provide family and liaison engagement throughout the coronial investigation and inquest process. It is important that families are supported, informed and provided with the avenues to engage external agencies should they need it.

As the member for Mundingburra and the assistant minister for North Queensland, I have heard many stories of our men and women out at the mine sites. These are our friends, our neighbours and our families. I would like to thank the Attorney-General for putting this bill forward, the Minister for Resources for his tireless efforts in progressing this bill and the Primary Industries and Resources Committee who recommended that the bill be passed.

The Queensland resource industry benefits everyone in this state. The Crisafulli government is dedicated to ensuring these benefits continue to flow for generations to come. We can only achieve this if we prioritise the safety of those who work in the industry and continue to strive for constant improvement. We must do better for our workers and we must look after our fellow Queenslanders. I commend this bill to the House.