



Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2025

CORONERS (MINING AND RESOURCES CORONER) AMENDMENT BILL 2025

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (8.56 pm): After the last sitting I travelled to Moura for the 50th anniversary of the Kiangra Mine disaster. After the event, which was very moving, I drove down to the site which is directly above where those 13 men died. There I met two brothers and two nephews. They were the brothers of Murray Martin, who died in that accident in 1975. The two brothers loved their brother deeply. The two nephews never got to know him. I did not know Murray either, but I want to do him justice by giving perspective to this bill and correct some of the things that have been said. It is a bill that gives the coroner a new name and title and a requirement to examine a minority of deaths in the mining industry, but it stops the majority of deaths being examined by this coroner.

To understand this bill we need to understand where it comes from, and it is vital to understand where it came from. Firstly, Minister Last fulsomely promised a restoration of what he called the mining warden's court. He said as late as October 2024—and I table the press release—that he would be re-establishing and even increasing the powers of the mining warden's court.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 11 October 2024, by the member for Burdekin, Hon. Dale Last MP, titled 'LNP to deliver Mining Warden's Court' [1568](#).

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 15 October 2024, by the member for Nanango, Hon. Deb Frecklington MP, titled 'LNP to deliver Mining Warden's Court' [1569](#).

Tabled paper: Article from *iQ Industry News*, dated 11 October 2024, titled 'LNP plan to bring back Mining Warden' [1570](#).

Indeed, the LNP put out press releases saying they planned to bring back the warden's court and it was not just Minister Last. The then shadow attorney-general, now Attorney-General, promised the LNP would deliver the mining warden's court. There are 128 references to the warden's court in previous acts, and I have a copy here for any of those on the other side who want to see it, but none of them mention anything to do with this bill. They did say that the mining warden's court would do: dispute resolution—not in this bill; recommendations to the minister—not in this bill; investigations on reports the minister asked them to do—not in this bill; it would have a court jurisdiction separate to other courts—not part of this bill. The question is: why did the minister go around promising a mining warden's court and what happened to that promise?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member, is the warden's court relevant to this bill?

Mr POWER: For your benefit, Mr Deputy Speaker, the greens say that the Queensland government made a commitment at the election to re-establish and increase the powers of the mining warden's court.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed.

Mr POWER: Of course, there is no mining warden's court in this bill. You are right to question what it has to do with this bill. The Deputy Speaker, in fact, made my point. Apart from it being mentioned in the greens, it is not actually part of this bill; it is a broken promise.

When the Mining & Energy Union and the Australian Workers' Union came out and said that re-establishing the warden's court would be a backward step, even the peak bodies in the mining industry said it would be crazy to tear up the Land Court and restore the warden's court which had been criticised since the 1990s.

Those opposite promised that families would get quicker investigations. I will not mention the details of Bradley Hardwick's case. I have extraordinary compassion for his family. The minister is just plain wrong and falsely promising if he thinks this will be any quicker. It is still before the courts. He should not have mentioned it because it is sub judice. He should know, because he has already said it publicly, that the Coroners Court cannot examine it until those matters are finished. He is misleading this family if he says this bill will actually do it any quicker.

Debate, on motion of Mr Power, adjourned.