




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TRAEGER

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Glencore, Copper Mine

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (2.55 pm): Glencore made an anticipated announcement yesterday to confirm the closure of copper mining in Mount Isa. This should be a concern for everyone in this House. This is a business that has been there for 100 years, pumping money into the economy. Everyone in this House should take an interest in this because if we want to pay for the Olympics, Cross River Rail and so on, we need big industries going. If we turn our backs on them, they do not just go on forever. We need to take notice of them and provide fertile ground. We need to ensure the right owners are in place to conduct those activities.

We provide mining leases in this state. We give them the privilege of mining and investing. As long as they partner, head in the same direction and abide by the conditions we impose upon them in this state, they get that privilege. Glencore have said, 'This does not meet our investment criteria,' which is a higher bar than a lot of other junior miners in this company. They have said, 'We have six other big copper mines around the world. Let's park this one up and let's get rid of 1,200 people and make them redundant.' They are trying to say it is 500. It is not. A lot of people have already left, so they are misleading the public by saying it is only 500. It is 1,200 people who have gone. In a city of 18,000 people, that is a pretty big deal. Townsville went on about Queensland Nickel. There were 800 jobs lost in a population of 200,000 people. We are talking about 1,200 jobs in a population of 18,000 people. It is a pretty big deal.

It is also a big deal for this House. We should pull the likes of Glencore into line and say, 'Buddy, if you are not going to mine it, you will have to move away and sell it to someone who will.' I can assure members that there are other mining entities in that region. In Australia and across the world, everyone is trying to get their hands on copper. We are saying that we will be a great minerals province, but this does not just happen; you need to facilitate it.

The government needs to stand up and say, 'Glencore, if you are not going to do it then move aside and let someone else do it.' We need a special economic zone to address the bundle of problems we have with Glencore. The smelter are now going to put their hand out for more money. If they want more money, there needs to be shared equity—shared ownership with other people. It needs to be community-based infrastructure, consistent with a special economic zone.

In relation to the construction of CopperString, we need Powerlink out of the road. We need that connected in and we need the gas reserve policy to plug into that. None of this happens unless the Queensland government is assertive. We should not be dictated to. The future of copper production and mining in this state should not be dictated by a board of commodity traders in Switzerland. It should be done by the representatives of the people. If they do not choose to share the vision of growth in Queensland, they should be punted to allow someone else that does.