



Speech By  
**Hon. Dale Last**

**MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN**

Record of Proceedings, 3 March 2026

**RESOURCES SAFETY AND HEALTH QUEENSLAND AND OTHER  
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

**Message from Governor**

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (3.28 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

RESOURCES SAFETY AND HEALTH QUEENSLAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2026

*Constitution of Queensland 2001*, section 68

I, DR JEANNETTE ROSITA YOUNG AC PSM, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999*, the *Coexistence Queensland Act 2013*, the *Land Access Ombudsman Act 2017*, the *Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024*, the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*, the *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999* and the *Resources Safety and Health Queensland Act 2020* for particular purposes

GOVERNOR

Date: 03 March 2026

*Tabled paper*: Message, dated 3 March 2026, from Her Excellency the Governor, recommending the Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 [252](#).

**Introduction**

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (3.28 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999*, the *Coexistence Queensland Act 2013*, the *Land Access Ombudsman Act 2017*, the *Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024*, the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*, the *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999* and the *Resources Safety and Health Queensland Act 2020* for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Primary Industries and Resources Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper*: Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 [253](#).

Today I rise to introduce the Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. This bill implements important reforms to institutions and regulatory processes to support a safer resources sector that continues to grow and underpin Queensland's long-term prosperity. Amendments are being made to strengthen Resources Safety & Health Queensland by enhancing governance, accountability and operational oversight. Improvements to coexistence institutions are also proposed, revising governance arrangements and reducing the financial burden on the resources industry by repealing a proposed industry funding model. Procedural and administrative amendments to the mining tenement framework will be introduced, streamlining requirements and removing unnecessary provisions to improve clarity and efficiency to provide certainty to resources companies that want to do business in Queensland.

Queensland's resources industry is the cornerstone of our economy, contributing billions of dollars annually and supporting thousands of jobs across the state. Last year alone the resources sector contributed more than \$115 billion to our economy and supported nearly 550,000 direct and indirect jobs. It also delivered billions of dollars in royalties that fund essential services such as schools, hospitals, roads and police that benefit all Queenslanders.

As we use our natural resources, we must also protect the rights and livelihoods of landholders and local communities. Resources Safety & Health Queensland was established in 2020 as the independent regulator responsible for safety and health outcomes across Queensland's mining, quarrying, petroleum, gas and explosives industries. With this regulatory model operating for five years, a review of the model was warranted. As such, I commissioned Professor Susan Johnston from the University of Queensland to undertake this review last year. The review assessed Resources Safety & Health Queensland's effectiveness, governance and operational performance, reflecting our government's priority to strengthen accountability in the resources sector and ensure ongoing safety and public confidence. The review made 16 recommendations. Importantly, it confirmed that the model had not increased safety or health risks. It recommended retaining Resources Safety & Health Queensland as an independent statutory authority while establishing a governing board to provide strategic oversight.

The findings of the review were sobering. It found that the current model provides limited oversight and accountability and lacks clarity around the role of the commissioner, constraining overall effectiveness. It also identified opportunities to: strengthen the coal and mineral safety and health advisory committees; address leadership and cultural challenges; improve technical expertise in the explosives inspectorate; and enhance investigations, enforcement and information sharing.

This bill delivers reforms to implement the government's response to those recommendations requiring legislative change, including establishing a skills-based governing board to provide strategic oversight and accountability while maintaining operational management through the chief executive officer. The role of the Commissioner for Resources Safety & Health is abolished, with all statutory functions transferred to the governing board, including oversight of the resource advisory committees. The reforms also change the way in which the chief executive officer may be appointed or removed.

These reforms will strengthen transparency, coordination and confidence in Queensland's resources safety and health system. Importantly, the men and women who work in our resources sector deserve a safety regulator they can trust. These reforms will ensure the system is doing its job and delivering on the Crisafulli government's commitment to making Queensland safer. Recommendations that are operational, focusing on strengthening Resources Safety & Health Queensland's internal structure, leadership and regulatory effectiveness, are being implemented by Resources Safety & Health Queensland.

The bill also enhances Queensland's coexistence framework through changes that will support the more efficient operation of the office of the Land Access Ombudsman. Importantly, the Land Access Ombudsman industry funding model, introduced by the former Labor government, will be repealed. This approach will support industry to assist in managing growing operational costs, fostering a more supportive environment for growth and investment in this important industry for Queensland. The Land Access Ombudsman will continue to be directly funded by the government, ensuring coexistence outcomes are strengthened by retaining and expanding this function and ensuring landholders and resource companies have access to a trusted independent body to assist with the negotiation and resolution of land access disputes.

To optimise efficiencies, the chief executive officer of Coexistence Queensland will be taken to be the Land Access Ombudsman under the bill and the appointed members of Coexistence Queensland as the Land Access Ombudsman's advisory council. This recognises synergies between both institutions to produce improved coexistence outcomes across Queensland. If a conflict of interest arises from the dual nature of these roles, the Land Access Ombudsman will delegate the relevant function to an appropriately qualified officer within the office of the Land Access Ombudsman. This will support the independence of the Land Access Ombudsman along with the neutrality of the CEO of Coexistence Queensland.

The office of the Land Access Ombudsman will transition to a statutory body, with the costs of this minimised by co-locating this office with Coexistence Queensland. A cost-sharing arrangement between offices will also be put in place to support the efficient management of government funds. Measures will be put in place to ensure the appropriate separation of each office in delivering their functions. This arrangement will take effect from 1 July 2026.

Another area of reform in this bill is implementing procedural and administrative amendments that will streamline and provide clarity to the mining tenement framework by amending the Mineral Resources Act 1989. This bill is compatible with the human rights protected under the Human Rights Act 2019. I note that the proposed legislative amendments to deem the Coexistence Queensland members as the Land Access Ombudsman advisory council and the chief executive officer of Coexistence Queensland as the Land Access Ombudsman engage the right to take part in public life under section 23 of the Human Rights Act by limiting the eligibility and access to appointment. However, this human right is not limited as the appointment to the Coexistence Queensland positions, when vacant, is open to all eligible individuals. This upholds the principles of fairness, transparency and equal access to public roles. I commend the bill to the House.

### **First Reading**

**Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (3.36 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### **Referral to Primary Industries and Resources Committee**

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr J Kelly): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Primary Industries and Resources Committee.