



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) (10.33 am): Queensland's coal industry is the backbone of our economy. It employs thousands of Queenslanders, delivers billions of dollars in royalties to the state and keeps the lights on for Australia and our global trading partners. During Labor's decade of decline investor confidence sunk to rock bottom, putting thousands of Queensland coal jobs and regional communities at risk—and it is not just us saying that. When the member for Woodridge and the member for Murrumba were at the helm, Queensland plunged to a diabolical 39th place on the Fraser Institute's Annual Survey of Mining Companies Investment Attractiveness Index. That is right: mining companies would rather do business with Tanzania and Namibia than Queensland under those opposite. That is the legacy of those opposite—a state rich in resources but choked by Labor's anti-mining agenda. Well, not anymore.

I am pleased to inform the House that the latest Fraser Institute survey tells a very different story. Queensland has now surged to 13th globally on the Investment Attractiveness Index—a remarkable turnaround in only a year and a strong endorsement of the Crisafulli government's plan to deliver a better lifestyle through a stronger economy. Importantly, this is the first survey to reflect investor sentiment during our time in office, and it shows that confidence is returning—that our policies are working, that our message that we are open for business is resonating not only here in Queensland but also right across Australia and, indeed, the world. While this is a massive improvement, it also shows that there is more to do.

We are not taking our foot off the pedal. Last month, the Crisafulli government approved a \$314.9 million extension of the Ensham Coal Mine near Emerald. This approval has secured the future of more than 700 jobs in Central Queensland and provides certainty for workers, families and local businesses that rely on the resources sector. This decision will allow the Ensham mine to continue operating for a further nine years, tapping into a potential further 88 million tonnes of coal and repositioning Queensland as a reliable supplier to domestic and international markets. The project was approved by the federal government under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, and the state approval follows the completion of a greenhouse gas emissions reduction management plan.

The Crisafulli government is righting the ship by giving mining proponents a fair hearing and delivering confidence to investors so that they can create jobs. The Crisafulli government is taking a commonsense approach. We will give proponents a fair hearing, back responsible development and ensure Queensland remains open for business. We are backing in our mining sector because we back Queensland mining families and we back our apprentices. More importantly, we are backing regional Queensland.