

Speech By

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RESOURCES SAFETY AND HEALTH QUEENSLAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr BOOTHMAN (Theodore—LNP) (8.49 pm): I rise to make a contribution to this very important legislation, the Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026. This is an important step forward in strengthening Queensland's resources safety and health frameworks, improving accountability and delivering a safer resource sector for every worker who goes to work in our mines, quarries, petroleum and gas operations, and other resource industries across our state. I have quite a few fly-in fly-out residents—people like Darren, Robert, Phil and Shirley, whom I talk to from time to time. They stop at my roadsides to discuss what is happening in our wonderful state—what progress is being made by the Crisafulli government to protect workers in their workplaces and our vision for Queensland. The Minister for Mines has been so passionate about building the petroleum industry for quite some time and has been at the forefront when it comes to the Taroom Trough, an area that is certainly close to Shirley's heart as a worker in those regions. I passed on her comments to the minister a couple of months ago now. She told me at a roadside that she wanted to say thank you to the minister for his diligence and foresight in protecting Queensland and helping protect Australia from the fuel crisis we have seen in recent times around the world.

The Queensland resource sector is one of the great pillars of our economy. It supports thousands and thousands of jobs. Even in the electorate of Theodore there are a lot of fly-in fly-out workers such as tradies, diesel fitters and all of these individuals who bring money back to the Gold Coast. Those fly-in fly-out occupations are an important economic driver for the Gold Coast and our regions. We seem to forget how important the resources industry is to our economy, hence why it is so important we make sure we have safety standards up there with the world's best. This bill contributes to ensuring there is a safe workplace for these workers. We expect every worker in every occupation in the resource sector to come home safely. We expect that the laws we pass in this parliament will ensure that the people who are providers for their families will come home safely to continue to provide for their families, and the role of the parliament is to ensure this does happen.

Why does this bill matter? The Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill delivers reforms that will establish an independent governing board for Resources Safety & Health Queensland, RSHQ. This is significant and necessary reform. It will strengthen oversight and streamline advisory structures, reducing duplication and providing a clear framework for decision-making and accountability. For too long—and this is something I have heard from people like Phil and Robert—there has been too much bureaucracy and overgovernance when it comes to these areas. They want a strong framework that protects them on the worksite. They feel there is too much confusion; therefore, this bill is about clearly outlining the responsibilities of the framework and what the authority is meant to do. Workers and industry alike must have confidence that the regulator is operating effectively, independently and with the protection of workers as its highest priority.

This bill responds directly to the findings of the 2025 Johnston review. That review delivered a clear, confronting message: Queensland's resources safety framework was letting down the very workers it was designed to protect. The review identified a number of serious issues including weaknesses in governance, confusion around roles and lack of clear accountability. To be blunt, these are high-risk industries and governance failures have real consequences for these workers. Confusion in roles can delay action, poor accountability can undermine confidence and weak oversight can place lives at risk.

The Crisafulli government has listened to those findings and it is acting. By establishing an independent governing board for the RSHQ this bill provides stronger leadership, creates a clearer strategy direction and enhances oversight of the regulator. It will also help ensure that the RSHQ is focused on providing its core purpose: protecting the safety and health of Queensland resource workers. This reform streamlines the advisory structure and removes duplication, which is a frustration when it comes to these types of areas. A modern safety framework should not be weighed down by overlapping bodies, unclear responsibilities and inefficiencies in arrangements. It should be practical, responsive and accountable. It should support good decision-making and ensure advice is timely and expert focused, because these individuals are the individuals who are growing our state. They are the individuals who are bringing revenue to our state from the export of the natural products which are growing our economy.

The coat of arms behind us here tonight is a testament to how this state was built on the resource industry, and we must work to deliver an industry that is safer while ensuring it has the necessary protocols in place to ensure these men and women who work in these very important areas come home safely. Importantly, this bill is not about changing administration structures; it is about restoring confidence in the industry. It is about ensuring workers, families, industry and the broader community can have faith in the Queensland resources safety framework. It is about creating a system that puts safety first in practice, not just in words.

The resource sector is complex and each area has its own direct needs. One size cannot fit all. Having said that, ensuring the technology is in place for a changing workplace and work practices is critically important for this industry. That is what good governments and the Crisafulli government are about: dealing with Queensland's needs and ensuring that a safety and health framework can meet the challenges of today whilst preparing for the challenges of tomorrow. This bill will help deliver a modern framework. It makes the sector safer for every mineworker. It strengthens the system that exists to protect them and delivers the Crisafulli government's commitment to our workers in this state to make sure they come home safely to be reunited with their families.