



Speech By  
**Robbie Katter**


**MEMBER FOR TRAEGER**

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Mount Isa, Jobs**

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (9.27 pm): Glencore closed the Mount Isa copper mine after 100 years of operation as MIM on 30 July 2025—barely seven months ago—wiping out 1,200 jobs. That is what they initially reported, but then they magically downgraded that to 500 jobs, mostly because a lot of those people did not hang around and moved of their own accord. That is 500 jobs lost from a city of 19,000 people. That is equivalent to 170,000 job losses in Brisbane. It is quite significant. According to Glencore's own annual report, at Mount Isa Mines there is 150 million tonnes of copper at over 1.6 per cent. EVA has now announced they will invest \$2 billion at a smaller reserve at 1.2 per cent copper, with all the risk of a greenfield site.

They are sitting on 150 million tonnes when across the world industrial warfare is going on over copper. They are sitting on it because they say, 'Our working capital is better deployed into our copper mines in Africa and South America for now, but we'll come back to this because the government is letting us. We'll just come back to it. Stuff 1,200 jobs. Who cares about copper production in Australia!' We should care. The rest of the world cares about copper production right now and so should we—and not just federally. The state should care.

Commodity traders in Switzerland should not be making decisions about whether we produce copper and activate those 1,200 jobs in this state. Should it be those commodities traders or the members in this House who represent the people of Queensland? I say it should be the people in this House, which means putting the onus on the government. There are things we can do to make that happen, to force them to mine. We are the custodians of those resources and can make them operate.

Secondly, to add insult to injury, they have now reported that they are seeking 100 workers from overseas. Hold on! Last year they said they were going to find jobs for as many of those 1,200 workers as they could. They found jobs for fewer than 200 of them and now they say they are going to go overseas to get 100 workers. Of those 1,200, they could not find 100 workers. Do you know why? Because they pay some of the worst wages in Australia! To add insult to injury, they will drive wages down further when they have just blown a hole in the town's economy by getting workers from overseas. They say the industry average is around 160 grand. Under Glencore in Mount Isa, it is 120 grand to 130 grand. That is what they are giving us in Queensland. We should have rules in this place to manage and mitigate that. You cannot be allowed to operate under those conditions if that is what you are going to do. We are the custodians of the resources. They should work for the people of this state.

Lastly, I want to mention ethanol. This is the 19th or 20th time that I have talked about ethanol in this House. With the Middle East crisis and the oil crisis, the answer is mandating ethanol, as is done in 63 other countries in the world. If we want to contribute to fuel security in this country, which we had better get serious about, we need an ethanol mandate.