

Statement of Reservation

LNP Members of the Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee

The LNP will always support measures which improve safety outcomes in Queensland. There are however some concerns opposition members wish to raise that would make this bill more fit for purpose.

Firstly, the committee heard once again there was a lack of genuine and meaningful consultation in the development of this bill. Tripartite working groups have been recommended numerous times as a means of developing sound, stable, considered mine safety regulation. Unfortunately, it is clear the government has not followed this process yet again, resulting in ambiguous safety changes that many stakeholders state lacks the detail needed. Both union and industry representatives said they believe these concerns would have been addressed if a tripartite arrangement had been in place, in full, in the development of this legislation. The opposition supports tripartite arrangements, and we express our disappointment that this process wasn't followed.

As per the Brady Review, an increase in the number of High Potential Incidents (HPI's) are generally representative of a sound safety culture. With this in mind, and with mine safety data being complex, any reporting released by the department under the release of information clauses must only be done so strictly to improve safety outcomes and provide appropriate context. In the hearing, RSHQ specifically said this is not intended to be a naming and shaming clause, even though concerns were raised by submitters to this regard. It is critical the minister further explains the intent of this when the bill comes back to the house for second reading.

Concerns were raised that while there is a time limit being imposed on the prosecution in relation to incidents at mine sites, the time limit for investigations by RSHQ is being removed. In other words, there is still no final time limit on the whole process. It is important investigations conducted by RSHQ be completed in a timely manner for the sake of all impacted parties, with comprehensive communication throughout an investigation. This is imperative for public trust in what is a critical process. The amendments proposed mean the investigation could take a decade before it is brought to the prosecution, who then are bound to follow through in two years.

Genuine questions were also raised as to whether these changes will exacerbate workforce shortages of critical mine site personnel. If these are not addressed, this may lead to poorer safety outcomes and could be detrimental to the economic success of the resource sector in Queensland.




Pat Weir MP
Member for Condamine
Deputy Chair



Bryson Head MP
Member for Callide



Trevor Watts MP
Member for Toowoomba North

Queensland Legislative Assembly	
Number: <u>5724T1037</u>	Tabled <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 12 JUN 2024	By Leave <input type="checkbox"/>
MP: <u>MS RICHARDS.</u>	
Clerk's Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	