



Speech By
Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Bowen Rail Company

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.26 pm): On 18 August I attended the launch of the Bowen Rail Company, another project that is creating jobs in regional Queensland due to the resources industry. I cannot recall the last time a rail company was launched in this state. The Bowen Rail Company will be headquartered in Bowen, part of the Burdekin electorate, and increases the diversity of the electorate even more so.

Over 150 years of combined experience is already in place. I am pleased to advise the House that four state-of-the-art locomotives have been ordered, along with the relevant rolling stock. Recruitment for 50 employees has commenced and half of those employees will be new to the industry. Once again, the resources industry is providing new opportunities for Queensland despite the hurdles and delays put in its way by this Palaszczuk Labor government.

Despite the fact that royalties from Queensland's resources sector pay \$1,000 a year for each and every Queenslander, this government continues to impede the resources industry. I can prove that in two words—New Acland. Over a year ago employees from New Acland travelled all the way to Townsville to be heard, but this government still ignores them.

While the Palaszczuk government does everything it can to push coalminers to reskill, while the Palaszczuk government pokes coalminers in the eye and uses them as pawns, the LNP continues to support resources and, more importantly, the coalmining industry. While the member for South Brisbane and the former member for Bundamba tell the truth about Labor's attitude to coal, those opposite continue to lose support.

Why does the LNP support the resource sector? I will make it very easy. It is jobs. To see Labor's true attitude towards resources, I again only need to say two words—Carmichael mine. The truth is that projects like the Carmichael mine not only create jobs on site but also create new jobs throughout North Queensland in places like Bowen. In fact, if it were not for coal Bowen would be a ghost town. Almost 400 staff and contractors work at Abbot Point located just north of Bowen. As I mentioned, an extra 50 jobs will be created in Bowen by the Bowen Rail Company and there will be flow-on jobs from other resource projects throughout the Bowen Basin.

It is not just Bowen that benefits from resources. Those benefits run throughout the length and breadth of our state, and the resources industry will play a key role in Queensland's recovery from the current pandemic. If it were not for the Palaszczuk government's delaying tactics, the resources industry could play an even larger part in that recovery. If it were not for the member for South Brisbane's dream to re-skill mining communities—a dream that is shared by each and every member of this government—

Ms TRAD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Those comments are inaccurate. I find them offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): The member has asked that those comments be withdrawn.

Mr LAST: I withdraw—we may already have some of those jobs in place now. Just this morning the Treasurer spoke about counting days. Maybe the Treasurer could explain to the people of Bowen why the Palaszczuk government delayed the Carmichael mine for 1,581 days. Despite the \$9,893.46 that this government earns in royalties every minute from resources, it is no secret that this government has turned its back on our miners.

The Palaszczuk government delayed the creation of jobs like those at the Bowen Rail Company. The Palaszczuk government's delays put jobs at risk at New Acland and the Palaszczuk government delayed over \$1 billion in contracts that have been awarded as part of the development of the Carmichael mine and rail project. As the shadow minister for mines, I have a very clear message for every mine and quarry worker in Queensland, from Nebo to New Acland: despite the actions of this Palaszczuk government, the vast majority of Queenslanders support you. Despite the delays put in your way by the Palaszczuk government, the vast majority of Queenslanders appreciate the jobs that you create and the royalties that you generate for this state.

The other message for every mine and quarry worker in Queensland is simple: on 31 October, you have a clear choice. You can choose to work in an industry that will create even more jobs, just like those at the Bowen Rail Company, or you can choose another four years of the Palaszczuk government's delays, another four years of being told to re-skill and another four years of being demonised. The LNP is proud to support the resources sector and I will be reminding our miners of that fact every single day between now and 31 October.