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## **Media Release – Last digs in for certainty**

Member for Burdekin and Shadow Minister for Rural and Regional Affairs, Dale Last, has accused federal Labor of “taking miners for fools” following comments by Deputy Labor leader Richard Marles MP.

Mr Last, whose electorate takes in the majority of the coal-rich Bowen Basin, said Mr Marles’ comments were not just hypocritical, but also insulting.

“In typical Labor fashion, Richard Marles says one thing in Queensland and something completely different in Canberra,” Mr Last said. “People in regional Queensland are sick and tired of having their livelihoods trashed by Labor and then being told they are important.”

“Richard Marles has previously said that market collapses for coal were a good thing and now he expects miners to believe they are a mainstay of Labor’s plans for Queensland.”

“Unlike Richard Marles, people who live in regional Queensland know that leopards don’t change their spots.”

Mr Last said that tens of thousands of workers and people who live in mining towns wanted certainty about their future and that Labor’s backflips had previously sent ripples through entire communities.

“Here we have communities that are battling to attract a GP and Richard Marles is muddying the waters,” Mr Last said. “We are trying to attract professionals to these towns, but Labor’s constant backflips make people wonder if those towns will even exist if Labor wins the federal election.”

“If Richard Marles really wanted to help those communities, he would be picking up the phone and telling the Queensland Premier to actually play her part. The federal government, community members and mining companies are playing their part, but Queensland Labor has done nothing.”

“If Labor is actually now supporting coal then Mr Marles needs to stand up in federal parliament and put it on the official public record. If he refuses to do that, then it proves his recent statement is nothing but another attempt to pull the wool over the eyes of Queenslanders.

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