




Speech By
Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

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ADJOURNMENT

Glenden

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (7.06 pm): Just 123 kilometres from the coast lies the small town of Glenden. Like many other towns in the Bowen Basin, Glenden was, and is, home to people who work in the mining industry. Perhaps that is the problem. The Newlands mine lies about 40 kilometres north-west of Glenden; 30 kilometres to the west is the Byerwen mine. With activity at the Newlands mine winding down and activity at Byerwen ramping up, you would think Glenden would be booming or at least holding its own. Instead, community clubs are closed and crumbling while families and business owners face uncertainty.

The essence of the reason for the uncertainty is a dispute between Glencore, the owner of Newlands, and QCoal, the owner of Byerwen. Both the Isaac Regional Council mayor and I have sought to mediate the dispute, and I thank Mayor Baker for her efforts. When our efforts did not achieve an outcome, Mayor Baker and I sought the assistance of this government. Given the fact that, as I said before, Glenden relies on mining and the resources industry contributes billions of dollars to the Queensland government's coffers, one would think that help would be forthcoming. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Both prior to the last election and since, the Palaszczuk government has done nothing. Despite numerous requests for the Deputy Premier to meet with Mayor Baker and me we are yet to receive any assistance. Perhaps the reason for this ignorance is that we are talking about people who work in, and therefore support, the coalmining industry. Perhaps it is because the residents of Glenden dare to live in regional Queensland rather than the city. Regardless of what industry they choose to work in or where they choose to live, Queenslanders expect their state government to stand up for them when they need it. Queenslanders expect ministers, especially senior ministers like the Deputy Premier, to be prepared to help when Queenslanders face uncertainty. Unfortunately, the Deputy Premier's reluctance to meet with the mayor and me is sending the wrong message to the residents of Glenden in their time of need.

There is still time for action. The people of Glenden are passionate, hardworking Queenslanders who want to continue to contribute to Queensland. They are people who want a future for their families and who want to continue to reside in the community of Glenden. It is a beautiful little town with a very uncertain future. Unless this issue is resolved in the short term, the future of that particular community is at severe risk.