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MEDIA RELEASE

No prospect for transparency

The details of a land swap deal and the government's methods for ensuring a new haul road won't decimate the fossicking industry around Clermont will remain under wraps after the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy failed to provide details to Member for Burdekin, Dale Last MP.

Acting on concerns raised by locals, Mr Last asked the Minister about both issues but, instead of a response, he says he received "a handball and a sidestep."

"Minister Lynham referred the detail of the land swap to the Minister for the Environment and, on the subject of the haul road, didn't even answer the question," Mr Last said.

"I have raised the issue of the haul road several times based on the concerns of residents and, every time, Minister Lynham has either accused me and locals of not supporting the resources industry or has refused to answer."

"For a Minister in a government that delayed the Adani project to accuse people in Clermont of not supporting the resources industry just illustrates that Minister Lynham and the current government don't understand the Clermont area."

Mr Last said Clermont residents were right to demand answers when an industry and, therefore, jobs were at stake.

"Minister Lynham is happy to talk about a new prospecting area opening but won't be upfront about the potential for an existing site to be down-sized or closed completely."

"The government probably has a dirty taste in its mouth because the people of Clermont were so vocal in their support for Adani and we all know the current Queensland government was against that project."

"The issue isn't about opposing a resources project. It's about ensuring we plan properly to maximise the opportunities."

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Source: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/tableOffice/questionsAnswers/2019/1801-2019.pdf>