

A strong voice for our future

BRITTANY LAUGA MP

B Urb Dev (Urb&Reg Plan)(Hons), C.dec

**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL
AND ASSISTANT MINISTER
FOR EDUCATION**



MEDIA RELEASE

20 May 2020

CQ miners safer after new mining manslaughter laws: Lauga

The Member for Keppel Brittany Lauga said Central Queensland miners will be protected by the safest mining laws in the world after tough new laws passed in Parliament today.

The new legislation, which she encouraged to be brought forward for debate to this Parliamentary sitting, opens the way for mining executives to face up to 20 years' jail if mine and quarry workers die because of their criminal negligence.

On May 12 Ms Lauga wrote to Mines and Energy Minister Dr Anthony Lynham urging him to bring forward the debate on the new legislation to force mining companies to uphold Queensland's mine safety laws which are the toughest in Australia.

In that letter she lobbied for the Bill to be prioritised and it was put at the top of the Notice Paper because of its urgency.

She wrote that the recent tragedy at the Grosvenor Mine, where five miners were seriously injured, should be another catalyst for the Palaszczuk Government's ongoing drive to ensure the health and safety of mine workers.

"We also had eight mine and quarry workers die in the past two years. This is simply not good enough.

"Given the seriousness of this most recent mining disaster in Central Queensland, I would urge you to bring this legislation forward for debate in the next Parliamentary Sitting Week starting Tuesday May 19," she wrote.

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Ms Lauga said the passing of the new legislation today sends the clear message to employers and senior officers that the safety and health of their workers is paramount.

“Safety on a mine site is everybody’s responsibility.

“I’m committed to working to ensure that the health and safety of workers is the number one priority for the mining sector.”

The new laws also require people in critical statutory safety roles in coal mines to be mine operator employees – not contract workers.

The new laws complement a suite of sweeping mine safety and health reforms under the Palaszczuk Government, the most substantial suite of reforms in 20 years. They include:

- increased maximum penalties for offences to \$4 million and powers for the regulator to issue fines without going to court.
- statewide safety reset sessions for mine and quarry workers to refocus on health and safety
- better detection and prevention of black lung, and an improved safety net for affected workers.
- \$2.2 million for a mobile screening service to support the early detection and prevention of mine dust lung diseases
- \$35 million to deliver reforms to improve the safety and health of our mine workers
- a commitment to tighter controls on mine dust levels
- establishment of an independent resources health and safety authority from 1 July.

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Video footage of Brittany Lauga discussing the new mine safety legislation is to be found on

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/n1zdg6frllldf0b/AABlnLQk0pfTtBh6zExK4ja/200519%20-%20Lauga%20-%20Mining%20Law%20Grab.mp4?dl=0>

ENDS

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