

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

6 February 2020

Lauga demands Lactalis workers be given jobs

The Member for Keppel Brittany Lauga has applied the blowtorch to out-of-favour Rockhampton company Lactalis, demanding local workers be given respect and support as the company closes its Rockhampton factory.

Speaking in Parliament today, ahead of sending a second letter to Lactalis CEO Mr Rod Walden, Ms Lauga called for an “urgent meeting ... seeking updates on the transition of the workforce into other employment” with a focus on those who want to stay in Rockhampton.

“I have told Mr Walden the city (of Rockhampton) is devastated and Lactalis 47 full-time staff are anxious about their future given the company plans to close the factory at the end of the month.

“I am also greatly concerned the full number of employees to be displaced is higher than first thought given the number of labour hire workers.”

Ms Lauga said the employees and their families who have contacted her are “devastated, concerned and feeling worthless”.

“They are deeply anxious about their future. One family is due to welcome a new baby into their family in three weeks’ time.”

In her letter she asked Mr Walden to urgently provide information as to how Lactalis Australia will support these workers affected by the closure?

ELECTORATE OFFICE

Shop 3, Evia Building Normanby Street
Yeppoon QLD 4703

POSTAL ADDRESS

Post Office Box 1474
Yeppoon QLD 4703

CONTACT

Phone: (07) 4913 1500 Fax: (07) 4913 1509
Email: keppel@parliament.qld.gov.au

WEBSITE

www.brittanylauga.com.au

“Lactalis Australia could begin by committing to pay your workers their entitlements in full, provide support to navigate and apply to Centrelink for financial support and provide counselling support to affected workers and their families,” she wrote.

“As I mentioned yesterday in my letter to you, offering positions at other Lactalis factories is not good enough. Some of these families may wish to stay in the Rockhampton community, which they call home and Lactalis must work to ensure that these families are given the opportunity to transition into other employment in their local community.”

Ms Lauga said she was appalled that Lactalis’ labour hire workers lost their jobs immediately and, as a result of their insecure work contract, they are not entitled to any redundancy payments.

Ms Lauga also said she was concerned about the Central Queensland dairy farmers potentially impacted by this decision and sought from Mr Walden a commitment Lactalis will continue to source milk from the 20 Central Queensland dairy farms.

She finished her letter by seeking an urgent meeting with Mr Walden.

ENDS

Contact John 0400787037