

A strong voice for our future

BRITTANY LAUGA MP

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



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mining bosses could face jail if workers die

The safety of Central Queensland miners has been bolstered by the introduction of new State Government legislation holding mining executives to account, the Member for Keppel and Assistant Education Minister Brittany Lauga said today.

Ms Lauga said under the new laws introduced into Parliament today, mining bosses could face up to 20 years in jail if Queensland mine and quarry workers die because of their criminal negligence.

She said the new legislation created the offence of industrial manslaughter, bringing resources workplaces in line with all other Queensland workplaces.

“Queensland already has the toughest mine safety and health laws in the world.

“These laws will give our Central Queensland mine and quarry workers the same protections as other Queensland workers.

“I have long advocated towards making mine safety ‘Priority No.1’ as the focal point towards eliminating injuries and deaths from Central Queensland’s mines.

Ms Lauga said it was everyone’s right to return home after work and it is on the government, industry and unions to make safety “our Priority No. 1” and ensure Queensland miners come home safely.

“I represent these workers on a daily basis and I fight for their industry and their safety.

“There are over 3855 full-time equivalent positions filled by Keppel constituents in the mining sector, and the sector contributes \$647 million to gross regional product to the Keppel economy every year.”

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Ms Lauga said “These deaths and injuries should not be happening ... and I find them deeply disturbing.”

She said the Palaszczuk Government was working with miners, workers and unions to ensure “Queenslanders come home safely to their loved ones”.

Under the proposed laws, senior officers of a mine company can be tried for industrial manslaughter if criminal negligence is proven for a workers death.

Maximum penalties range up to \$13 million and 20 years’ jail.

“This Labor Government will always act to protect workers,” said Ms Lauga.

The reforms include:

- better detection and prevention of black lung, and an improved safety net for affected workers.
- 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
- \$35 million to deliver reforms to improve the safety and health of our mine workers
- a commitment to tighter controls on mine dust levels
- legislation to be debated today to establish an independent resources health and safety authority.

- extra mines inspectors.

ENDS

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