

A strong voice for our future

BRITTANY LAUGA MP

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**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL
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MEDIA RELEASE

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Olive Downs finally ticked by Federal Govt

Jobs at the newly-approved Pembroke Olive Downs Mine will quickly flow to Central Queensland after the Federal Government broke a year-long wait for its approval, the Member for Keppel and Assistant Education Minister Brittany Lauga said today.

She applauded the belated move by the Federal Government which has finally provided environmental approval conditions for the \$1 billion Pembroke Olive Downs.

Despite the Commonwealth Environment Minister being required to make a decision within six weeks of the Coordinator-General's approvals, it has taken more than 12 months for the Federal LNP Government to finalise their approvals – despite no objections to the project being raised during the EIS process.

Ms Lauga said now with Federal Government approval finally in place, local job opportunities would quickly follow.

“We were told the approvals would be in place by early 2020, but it’s taken until now for a decision to be made,” Ms Lauga said.

“If the local Federal member Michelle Landry had stood up for this project like she should have, we would already see jobs being created at a time when we desperately need them.”

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Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing Glenn Butcher said he welcomed the project approval but questioned why it had taken so long to happen.

“The Federal Government effectively stopped the clock on this proposal,” Mr Butcher said.

“When you look at the conditions imposed on the proposal, it’s difficult to see how it has taken more than 12 months to provide an outcome.

“That’s more than 12 months of holding up 1500 jobs in regional Queensland at a time when we need our economy firing on all cylinders.”

Construction on the project is now expected to commence in the coming months.

ENDS

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