

A strong voice for our future

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MEDIA RELEASE

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LNP chaos causes delayed mining jobs

Hundreds of mining jobs are in limbo as a result of the LNP's internal fighting which has stalled signing off on the Olive Downs coal mine in Central Queensland, the Member for Keppel Brittany Lauga said today.

"While the LNP are at each other's throats, Central Queenslanders are missing out on jobs.

"Resources Minister Matt Canavan has resigned, the Nationals are in disarray and the entire LNP Federal Government is preoccupied with their own internal war," Ms Lauga said.

Ms Lauga said the Olive Downs mine southeast of Moranbah, was approved by the Palaszczuk Government on 13 May 2019 through the Coordinator General, yet the mine's owners are still awaiting Federal Government approval.

"A decision by the Commonwealth Minister was due on 24 June 2019, 30 business days after the Federal Government received the Coordinator-General's evaluation report.

"This is the maximum allowable time under the Federal Government's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

"Bewilderingly, it's now been over 7 months and still no federal decision," said Ms Lauga.

She said this inaction was delaying a new coal mine that will bring a \$1 billion investment along with 500 full-time equivalent jobs during construction and an

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average of 1,000 full-time equivalent operational jobs, with an anticipated operational life of 79 years in regional Queensland.

“The sad reality is the Federal Government has taken more than six months to do something that’s supposed to take 30 days, and have used that time to re-do an approval process already completed by the Queensland Government.

“I understand the project is ready to start construction within two months of receiving final approvals.

“I’m calling on the Federal LNP Government to get their house in order and sort these approvals to allow more jobs to flow for Central Queenslanders,” said Ms Lauga.

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