


Queensland Parliament Hansard Green

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MEMBER: Ms LAUGA

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (12.28 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Before I go to the heart of the bill I want to offer my sincere condolences to the five mine workers who were seriously injured as a result of a gas explosion at Anglo American's underground Grosvenor mine two weeks ago on 6 May 2020. I am very pleased for one of the miners who has been released from hospital; however, his four comrades are still in hospital in a critical condition and they will likely have a very long road to recovery. I wish them and their families and co-workers all the very best. I also thank the first responders who were there to support those miners after that incident.

I would also like to pay tribute to the victims of the Moura mine explosions and those workers who lived through those tragedies. I know from having spoken to one Moura miner, John Hempseed—who lives in my electorate and who suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder after those explosions—that this incident was a serious trigger for him. I recognise that this explosion would have been a very serious trigger for a lot of those Moura miners and their families who experienced those tragic events all those years ago. I want to thank those Moura miners who have worked so incredibly hard to deliver the Moura mines explosions memorial in Moura.

019 I would also like to reiterate how dangerous mining as a profession is and that miners really do put their lives on the line every single day they go to work. Safety in our mines is incredibly important. Every man and woman who works in our Queensland mines and quarries deserves as safe a workplace as possible. I can report that the collection of evidence and reconstruction of the scene prior to the explosion at the Grosvenor mine is underway and that there are nine inspectors who form part of the Queensland Mines Inspectorate team with specialist expertise in mechanical, electrical, mining and geological disciplines on site.

Debate, on motion of Ms Lauga, adjourned.