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MEDIA RELEASE

Glee for Galilee Basin Go-ahead

Member for Burdekin and Shadow Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Dale Last, has welcomed plans by Adani to accelerate delivery of their projects in Queensland's Galilee Basin.

Mr Last said the decision would be welcomed in regional Queensland, especially following news that Queensland now had the worst unemployment rate in Australia.

"Right from the start I have said that if the Carmichael Mine could meet the stringent environmental requirements it would be great for jobs in North and Central Queensland," Mr Last said.

"Accelerating the project means more jobs sooner than expected and after the appalling unemployment figures today; we need every job we can get."

ABS Labour Force figures, released on Thursday, showed Queensland's Trend unemployment had increased to 6.3%, the worst in the nation; while seasonally adjusted unemployment showed Queensland shared the unenviable title for highest unemployment with Western Australia.

"Queensland needs jobs and things are even worse in some areas of regional Queensland so the government must step up, admit they were wrong and help get this project moving," Mr Last said.

"If I had my way, the work would start tomorrow because the environmental conditions have been met, the agreements with land holders are in place and this is a great opportunity for the whole state."

"In the recent budget, we saw how important mining royalties are to Queensland but Bill Shorten and Anastacia Palaszczuk don't care about people in regional Queensland; they only care about green votes in the cities."

"I fully support resources projects that are environmentally sustainable because they provide jobs and they provide the royalties that build Queensland."

Just prior to the last state election, Premier Palaszczuk withdrew support for the Adani project and committed to vetoing any application to NAIF for a rail line to service the mine. Despite initial fears that this would derail the project, Mr Last said the project was now closer to reality.

"This is great news for all Queenslanders; especially regional Queenslanders and I want to see it started as soon as possible to generate jobs and turn these horrible unemployment figures around," he said.

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