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Resource opportunities abound.

Member for Burdekin and Shadow Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Dale Last, has welcomed the release of the Resources 2030 Taskforce report into the future of the resources industry.

The report, which aims to provide a longer term bi-partisan guide for the industry, highlights the opportunities that are available but also broaches issues that must be addressed for Australia to maximise benefits from the industry.

“The report focuses on the need to work collaboratively on the resources sector to ensure maximum value and good environmental outcomes and I hope that can be achieved because we can all benefit from a strong, responsible resources industry,” Mr Last said.

“I think the biggest challenge will be getting bipartisan support at all levels of government... if you look at the Galilee Basin right now you can see what happens when politics is put in front of progress.”

“What some politicians don’t understand, or they choose to ignore, is that the resources industry has an effect throughout Australia; it’s not just close to a mine or processing centre that the benefits are felt.”

The report shows, during boom times, the sector added 13 % to household disposable income and contributed to wage increases across the board and Mr Last is convinced the good times can and will return.

“Despite all the nay-sayers there will be demand for coal for years to come but the resources industry is about more than just coal,” Mr Last said.

“Australia has deposits of minerals needed for modern technology like hybrid vehicles, battery storage, wind turbines and medical equipment but you still have those small, ignorant groups that want the industry as a whole shut down.”

“Instead of saying it is resources or the environment, we need to work smarter to recognise our riches and to plan for a better tomorrow.”

“The resources industry is essential to communities in regional Australia, including regional Queensland and it’s time that politics was put aside so that all of Australia can benefit.”

“I fully support resources projects that are environmentally sustainable because they provide jobs and they provide the royalties and taxes that build Queensland and Australia.”

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