

Ref CTS 18714/25

17 September 2025

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House

[TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au)

1 William Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15216 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
**Telephone +61 7 3719 7400**  
**Email** [resources@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:resources@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
**Website** [www.nrmmrd.qld.gov.au](http://www.nrmmrd.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your email of 26 August 2025, regarding petition 4254-25 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 26 August 2025 concerning sovereign capability and the Mount Isa Mines copper smelter.

The Queensland Government understands the vital role the north west plays in Queensland's economy. Maintaining operations of Glencore's Mount Isa Mines copper smelter and associated Townsville copper refinery remains the highest priority. In partnership with the Commonwealth, the Queensland Government has tabled a responsible offer of support to help protect local jobs and ensure the long-term future of these critical onshore mid-stream processing assets.

We have been making gains in our engagement with Glencore to ensure it supports and gives back to the region, including a commitment to allow third-party access to copper tailings at its Mount Isa Mines site.

To further bolster the support for the region, we have also recently announced that:

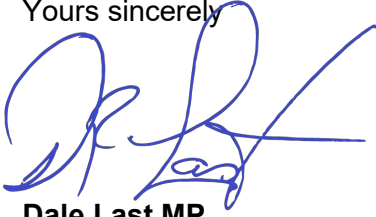
- Queensland Rail will introduce an incentive package to reduce access charges on the Mount Isa rail line, providing significant savings for emerging rock phosphate producers, which is expected to increase freight volumes and support new entrants in the market.
- The Resources Cabinet Committee process will facilitate the delivery of any outstanding approvals or information required to move Harmony Gold's Eva Copper project towards construction. Harmony Gold has advised the project will deliver 800 jobs during construction and 450 long-term jobs during operations.

I also recently attended the Commonwealth Government's Smelter Roundtable to ensure Queensland's perspective is heard as part of the national approach to address country-wide smelting challenges.

As a priority, the Queensland Government will continue to work with Glencore, the Commonwealth Government and local stakeholders to find a solution that protects jobs, sovereign capability and ensures a thriving future for the region.

I thank the petitioners for raising this matter and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dale Last', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Dale Last MP**

Minister for Natural Resources and Mines,  
Minister for Manufacturing  
Minister for Regional and Rural Development