

# STRENGTHENING THE STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE COMMUNITIES ACT

ENSURING DECISIONS REFLECT THE REAL IMPACTS ON RESOURCE COMMUNITIES

The Isaac region underpins some of Queensland's most productive resource operations. Our towns supply the workforce, services, housing, emergency response capability and the community backbone that keeps these projects moving.

The *Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act* was meant to ensure nearby communities shared in the economic and social benefits of major resource projects. On the ground, it is not meeting that intent.

Communities carrying the weight of large-scale resource activity are not being recognised consistently or fairly in planning or decision making.

## WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW

Several towns most affected by major mining activity are not acknowledged as nearby regional communities because of the fixed 125 kilometre boundary. Clermont is a clear example. It is the closest community to the Carmichael Mine and provides workforce, policing and emergency response support, yet it is excluded under the current definition.

The Act also treats construction and operational workforces differently. Construction phases often bring larger numbers and significant short-term pressure on housing, services and daily community life. When these workers are not recognised, their impact is neither considered nor planned for.

Communities are also dealing with the combined effects of multiple operating mines, new projects and mines emerging from care and maintenance. The Act assesses each project in isolation. It does not reflect the cumulative pressure communities manage every day.

Commitments made through Environmental Impact Statements and Social Impact Assessments are not monitored or enforced consistently.

Councils and communities are left carrying expectations without clear accountability.

## WHY IT MATTERS

When the Act does not recognise real impacts:

- Local planning is weakened.
- Housing pressures grow.
- Emergency services are stretched.
- Health and social services struggle.
- Communities feel decisions are being made around them rather than with them.

This undermines stability and confidence in towns that play a key role in Queensland's economy.

## WHAT WE'RE ADVOCATING FOR

We seek practical amendments so the Act can deliver on its original purpose. We ask the Queensland Government to:

- **Remove the fixed 125 kilometre radius** and recognise communities based on actual impact.
- **Include construction** workforces from the outset.
- **Require cumulative impacts** of new and existing projects to be assessed together.
- **Strengthen monitoring** and enforcement of EIS and SIA commitments.

These changes support fairness, transparency and long-term community wellbeing.

## WORKING TOGETHER

Resource communities like Isaac are proud of our contribution to Queensland. To keep doing that, we need legislation that reflects real conditions on the ground. We stand ready to work with the Queensland Government to ensure the Act delivers what it was designed to achieve.