



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media Statement

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Maranoa MP calls on mining companies to support the local economy in Dalby, Chinchilla and Miles by not using workers' camps

DALBY, Chinchilla and Miles are vibrant communities and shouldn't be viewed as just holes in the ground for gas extraction as Maranoa MP David Littleproud pushes the industry to support the towns where they operate and phase out workers' camps.

"Next week marks the cut-off for community submissions to the local council to oppose Ausco's Dalby Stayover – which can house 554 people per night – but I'm also calling on industry bodies and mining companies to support local businesses rather than these camps which are dislocated from the community," Mr Littleproud said.

Camps were originally constructed as a temporary fix to the dramatic influx of CSG workers in the Surat Basin but have since applied to the local council to become a permanent accommodation fixture in the region.

"These camps were only meant to operate temporarily and mining companies need to move away from this mentality, especially now as we've seen the transition from construction to production and there's less worker volumes in the Surat Basin," he said.

"The council received more than 500 objections to Ausco's Stayover Chinchilla 1000-bed camp so mining companies need to take notice of the community's opposition to this type of accommodation."

Mr Littleproud recently met with CSG companies and peak industry bodies to outline his concerns and push for more community connection.

"During these meetings I was able to strongly outline community concerns not only in Dalby and Chinchilla but also the proposed 500-man camp at Miles," he said.

"These camps are dislocated from the community and don't contribute to a town's economy especially when we've got a high-level of vacant rental accommodation and onsite facilities can be accessed rather than checking out the local pool, cinema or cafes.

"Our communities are vibrant with great schools and medical facilities so mining companies need to support the region where they operate."

–ENDS–

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