

NATIONAL QUEENSLAND TRAGEDY

# Tributes flow for 'popular' miner killed on New Year's Eve

By [Lydia Lynch](#)

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A Queensland man killed in a mining accident at a remote mine will be "sadly missed".

Allan Houston, 49, died on New Year's Eve when a dozer he was operating rolled from a height.





Allan Houston died in a mining accident on New Year's Eve. He leaves a 23-year-old daughter behind. FACEBOOK

The BHP Billiton miner, who lived at Gracemere near Rockhampton, had been working at the company's Saraji Mine, near Moranbah in central Queensland.

Understandably, Mr Houston's family has been rocked by the news.

"I really don't know what to say, I don't have the right words but he was just loving and selfless and would do anything for anyone," a grief-stricken family member told the *Brisbane Times*.

In a statement, BHP Billiton said Mr Houston was "a well-known and popular member" of the Saraji team.

"Allan began his career as an apprentice boilermaker at Blackwater Mine in approximately 1988 and since then, worked in the industry at various mines in Queensland," the statement read.

"Allan's father, Winston, had a long history in the Blackwater region and was a well-known and respected Dragline Operator for many years. Allan's family is especially proud of his reputation as a highly skilled dozer and dragline operator.

"We extend our deepest sympathy to Allan's loving mother, 23-year-old daughter, sister and brother as well as his friends and colleagues."



**Lydia Lynch**



Lydia Lynch is a reporter for the Brisbane Times

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