



Speech by

**Hon. T. McGRADY**

**MEMBER FOR MOUNT ISA**

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Hansard 13 April 2000

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Mount Isa Mining Expo**

**Hon. T. McGRADY** (Mount Isa—ALP) (Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development) (9.52 a.m.), by leave: It gives me a great deal of satisfaction to place on record the success of Mount Isa's first mining expo in the new millennium. Since the initial expo was held in 1995, this event has grown in significance each year in parallel with the increasing momentum of the new mining development era in north-west Queensland. These new mines are under way on the strength of the region's mineral resources.

Last year the Cannington mine reached full capacity to become a world significant silver and lead producer. This year the Century mine is expected to ramp up to full production and then yield about 8% of the Western World's zinc with lead and silver credits. Also this year the \$270m George Fisher zinc/lead/silver mine and the \$327m Enterprise mine, part of the Mount Isa copper operation, are due for commissioning. At the \$700m Queensland fertiliser project at Phosphate Hill facilities will be progressively commissioned to design capacity.

Mount Isa's mining expo fulfils an important business function in complementing these tremendous new developments. It has become the essential place for explorers, mine developers and operators, service companies and equipment suppliers to meet, seek out opportunities and to gather information on current and future developments. For the first time, the north-west Queensland development initiative has a booth. For the information of members who may not be entirely familiar with this initiative, it is a collaborative initiative between Government, industry and the community and it is aimed at creating opportunities for enterprise development across all sectors of the economy, not just mining. The initiative is designed to be as wide ranging as possible and is also addressing transport and infrastructure needs as well as the area's employment, education and training requirements.

This year's expo has once again been a great success. It is a great achievement for the Queensland mining industry and the Mount Isa/Cloncurry district. I have to add that the Opposition spokesman for Mines and Energy, the member for Callide, also attended the expo and he is now fully aware of where the strength is in our State. He is also now fully aware of just how competent the Minister for Mines and Energy is.

In finishing, I would like to say that mining is still the cornerstone of our State's economy, with the Mount Isa region being the engine room of Queensland's metalliferous mining industry. Long may she live.

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