




Speech by

Trevor Watts

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

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TOOWOOMBA NORTH ELECTORATE

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (2.57 pm): I rise today to talk about a couple of projects that I launched this week in the electorate of Toowoomba North. There have been two projects, both involving Origin Energy partnering with the community. One was at the Wilsonton campus of Toowoomba State High, where they are bringing a crop of trees forward for a bioproject. Having an energy company come onto the campus has given these students a great opportunity to investigate the science and to do a great deal of research around sustainable energy production. I look forward to seeing more partnerships with the resource companies in Toowoomba.

The other project that I launched was at the University of Southern Queensland, a university that is dear to my heart and a university that I think can play a key role in conducting research into the coal seam gas industry, into underground water aquifers and into growing this industry in a sustainable way. The project that I had the privilege of launching this week was called 'Count me in'. It is a project that is conducting research into how to increase participation by women in the resource sector workforce and its expansion on the Western Downs. The project will be looking to not just see where there might be opportunities for women to be trained to go into the resource industry but also the support industries and other businesses that will develop in the community as the coal seam gas industry expands. It was with great pleasure that I launched those two projects. I think the coal seam gas industry gives us a great opportunity to ensure that the education resources that exist in Toowoomba are expanded and supported using third parties that can come in and work with the institutions that are there to ensure that this resource—coal seam gas—is developed in a sustainable way on the Darling Downs.