



Speech By  
**Scott Stewart**


**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

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## **MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

### **North Queensland Stadium**

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (3.23 pm): I rise today to inform the House that the groundwork on the Townsville stadium has officially started, with the turning of the first sod by the Premier, the mayor of Townsville, federal member Angus Taylor, the director of the North Queensland Cowboys Laurence Lancini and Australian Rugby League chairman John Grant.

By building this infrastructure in the Townsville Waterfront Priority Development Area it will generate approximately 2,000 direct and indirect jobs—local Townsville jobs. According to Townsville Enterprise, it will generate approximately \$85 million in wages for local people. It will inject \$440 million into the local Townsville economy—all this during the construction phase.

Mendi Constructions were instrumental in the building of the 1300SMILES Stadium in Townsville, the current home to the Cowboys, some 23 years ago. This local family business will again be instrumental in building the new stadium, with 30 local workers due to start work this week. Interestingly, five of the workers starting work on the new stadium this week helped build the original stadium.

I would also like to highlight the work of state development regional director Paul Holden and his team in Townsville in building the capability and capacity of the city's contractors and tradies. Mr Holden recently conducted a 'meet the principal contractor' afternoon where 115 tradies and subcontractors could meet with the principal contractor and plan how they could access projects in the north.

The phrase 'Townsville people building Townsville's stadium' means more than people just turning up and doing their jobs; it is about building the city they are proud of—the city where they raise their family, the city where they buy their groceries, the city where they send their kids to school, get their hair cut and watch their kids play sport on the weekend. It is about keeping their money local by employing local people to build their city. That is what I have worked hard to achieve with the Minister for State Development with this contract.

Brian Glancy from Watpac, the principal contractor, gave me his personal guarantee through his handshake that a minimum of 80 per cent of local workers would be used on this project. When Brian Glancy shakes your hand, he gives you his word. The federal assistant minister for cities, Angus Taylor, gets it too. He said, 'Townsville has a lot to gain from this project, not just in terms of wonderful games of Rugby League but in terms of jobs, investment and opportunity.' On 16 June last year I read on the front page of the *Townsville Bulletin* an article by Charlie Peel which read—

CASHED-UP investors buoyed by the news that construction of Townsville's inner city stadium will go ahead have flooded Townsville City Council's development department with calls expressing interest in being involved in the CBD's transformation.

Around the same time the Treasurer announced the additional \$40 million for the stadium, the paper ran a feature article by journalist Victoria Nugent which stated—

TOWNSVILLE is already fielding interest from property developers, accommodation providers and construction companies in the wake of the confirmation the city's long-awaited CBD stadium will be built.

The article went on to state—

Hotel chains setting up in Townsville's CBD, a reinvigorated night-life and more people choosing to live in the city are already being tipped as flow-on effects.

I can tell members that this is true some 12 months later. The international hotel chain Hilton have announced that they have signed an MOU with the Townsville City Council to build a Hilton hotel on the site adjacent to the stadium. When determining the site for its new hotel, the Hilton hotel chain cited that Townsville was a golden opportunity for its hotel. This is the Palaszczuk government delivering on jobs, delivering on local jobs and delivering on our election promises, all without selling our government assets.