




Speech By
Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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ADJOURNMENT

Townsville Stadium

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (7.03 pm): This is an important week with many different events going on, but in Townsville none is more important than the kick-off to the NRL season when the Cowboys play the Sharks on Friday night. More importantly, it is JT's 300th game. What complements JT's 300th game is the Townsville stadium. In 24 months, they will be kicking off in the brand-new stadium, built by the Palaszczuk government as the result of a 2015 election commitment. It is the Palaszczuk government's only major infrastructure project and is worth \$100 million. Mr Speaker, as former treasurer you contributed another \$40 million to make sure that project got up and going. I shall tell the House what is happening with it.

I lobbied exceptionally hard with the former minister for state development. I said to him that we needed local content in this particular project, that is, locals building our local stadium. He said to me, 'Member, we'll do a minimum 80 per cent of locals building that stadium for you.' I can tell the House that 99 per cent of the jobs in the construction of that stadium have gone to locals. So far, there have been 28,267 work hours spent on the stadium. The project has a target construction workforce of 6.6 per cent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, which is not a bad target. What is Watpac achieving? I can proudly say that, through its efforts, Watpac is delivering 26.9 per cent of jobs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, remembering that the target was 6.6 per cent.

It is also interesting to note the estimated number of North Queensland businesses engaged in the extended supply chain, which is about creating jobs. Two hundred and thirty-eight North Queensland businesses are involved. This government is getting on with delivering jobs. The total value of trade packages awarded is \$35 million and, as I have said, 99 per cent of jobs have gone to locals. To give one example, NQ REO decided to make the concrete pylons that are being driven into the earth. That would have been outsourced, but the company decided to step up and do the job.

The North Queensland stadium is being built by North Queenslanders for North Queenslanders. It will be the home of the North Queensland Cowboys. The Palaszczuk government is delivering on its promises, delivering on local jobs and delivering on confidence in North Queensland. This Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job.