



Speech By  
**Scott Stewart**


**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Townsville

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (7.22 pm): Last Thursday the Leader of the Opposition flew into Townsville with what the *Townsville Bulletin* has dubbed 'Deb's blueprint to win over the north'. I table that.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Townsville Bulletin* online, dated 13 September 2018, titled 'Deb's blueprint to win over North' [[1391](#)].

The Leader of the Opposition must not have read her prepared speech too well because in an ABC Radio interview that morning the Leader of the Opposition said she wanted to make Townsville a livable city. Immediately my phone started to ring, with people from all over Townsville saying how insulted they were that the Leader of the Opposition would infer that Townsville is not a livable city. One phone call was from Col who said, 'Mate, she's just like a seagull: flies in here, messes all over the place and flies back out leaving us to clean up the mess.' That is a parliamentary acceptable interpretation of what he actually said. If this is the way the Leader of the Opposition is going to win over the north then I can give her one tip to start with: do not insult those you are trying to impress.

Let us look at this fabulous blueprint and how it is going to win over the north. No. 1 is to develop a long-term water strategy to safeguard supply. I am not sure that the Leader of the Opposition is aware, but the Palaszczuk government has already committed \$225 million to stage 1 of the water pipeline duplication. The Townsville City Council has already started the project and it is due for completion by December 2019. The new pipeline will supply the growing city with its needs for the next 20 to 30 years. No. 2 is to introduce competition into the regional electricity market.

The Queensland Productivity Commission said that the Leader of the Opposition's plan will actually increase the cost of electricity for the average family by \$430 per year. No. 3 was to build a new drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility. The Leader of the Opposition announced earlier this year that she would do community consultation across the state to develop a whole-of-community strategy to address this issue. One of those community consultations was held in Townsville, 19 months after the Premier sat opposite mothers for two hours and listened to every single one of them tell her the impact of drugs on their families.

The Premier has a statewide strategy already and has co-funded to the tune of \$1 million, with the Salvation Army, a brand-new residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility in Townsville. It is operating. It is actually located beside the airport. The next time the Leader of the Opposition flies into Townsville I suggest she have a look around first. Townsville is a great city with fantastic schools, great hospitals but, more importantly, outstanding people whom the Leader of the Opposition just does not understand.