




Speech By
Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Mining Industry

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (2.51 pm): Mining has been a big part of my family tree for many generations. In fact, my great-grandfather Walter Davidson was one of the original miners in Mount Isa after John Campbell Miles discovered copper ore in the area. I table this photograph of Walter with John Campbell Miles.

Tabled paper. Photograph depicting prospector John Campbell Miles and the first staff of Mount Isa Mines Limited in 1924 [787](#).

Wally, as he was known, was so well regarded that Mount Isa Mines named a mine shaft in his honour, the Davidson Shaft. It does not stop there. My older brother entered the mining industry. Following his work in iron ore and gold mines, he became manager of the Lady Loretta Mine, a zinc-lead mine in the Mount Isa region. I am very proud of my brother and his achievements in that industry. I am told that his peers and fellow workers also held him in high esteem.

On Labour Day last week I had the opportunity to visit Dugald River mine, a zinc-lead mine around 60 kilometres north of Cloncurry. Site manager Sam Rodda had great pride in showing me around the mine and introducing me to several workers at that site. I thank Sam for taking time out of his very busy schedule to assist me as a visitor on his site. During that time, Sam outlined the specific steps the mine takes to protect the environment, specifically to ensure run-off is expertly managed. This was especially essential during the recent monsoon rain event. In fact, many of our conversations were based around environmental protection and management. I have since learned that Dugald River mine is one of the leading mines for effectively managing its local environment in terms of having some of the highest levels of mineral output.

Perhaps one of the best aspects of the mine visit was meeting a past student, Paul Matamua. Paul now towers over me, at around six foot three in the old scale—a little different to when he was sitting opposite me in my office as a mischievous 14-year-old. I am extremely proud of what Paul has achieved. Sam Rodda spoke very highly of him as well. Around 50 per cent of the 500 workers at Dugald River come from Townsville. With Olive Downs coalmine coming into the mix and the Resolute goldmine expansion project, Townsville is well placed to support the 1,400 jobs that will be created in just these two mines.

Over 7,000 mining jobs have been created in the last five years, worth over \$20 billion. I back mining and I back the opening of the Galilee Basin as long as it stacks up environmentally, because it will create future jobs for thousands of people like Paul Matamua.