



Speech By  
**Scott Stewart**


**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

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Record of Proceedings, 19 September 2019

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Townsville**

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (2.21 pm): Last time we all came together we were in Townsville. It was great to hold parliament in Townsville. We loved having everyone come to visit our part of the world. I call it God's country. Then again, I am a little biased and one-eyed. It is Cowboys country after all.

I want to reiterate some of the week's highlights and announcements. Some \$16 million was announced for the business case for the raising of the Burdekin Falls Dam wall. As the Premier said during the announcement, the project will open up around 100,000 hectares of irrigated cropping land. That will certainly boost our position as the food bowl of North Australia. Also, \$132 million was announced for the Kidston hydro power line. This is about linking renewable energy back into Townsville where it will be utilised. They are really kicking goals.

It was also announced that the 53 extra police for Townsville would be fast-tracked. By the end of December 2020 there will be an extra 103 police in Townsville above what we should be having. The minister announced that every police officer would now have a body worn camera in order to do their job safely. We also heard that police have access to not one but two multi-use helicopters, both equipped with forward-looking infra-red cameras. Those opposite talked about getting a chopper. Police currently have access to two choppers.

Minister Dick announced \$10 million for the manufacturing hub. That is a huge shot in the arm for the manufacturing industry in Townsville. Minister Jones announced \$3.5 million for the ferry terminal upgrade, which will start to transform that whole river area.

**Ms Jones:** It will be world class.

**Mr STEWART:** I take that interjection. There was an announcement of \$5 million for the defence hub; \$1.2 million for the CopperString project; and \$1 million over three years for the Townsville Fire WNBL sponsorship. It is great to see investment by the Palaszczuk government into women's sport, recognising the three-time national champions. We heard about the 20,000 jobs as a result of the Back to Work program. Townsville stadium—that great stadium that everyone came and saw when they were in Townsville—is now 75 per cent complete. The Australian Festival of Chamber Music will receive \$25,000. Minister Jones also announced the Australian Rugby League test match that will be conducted next year.

My quick calculations indicate that these announcements represent \$160 million outside of the budget—compared to what those opposite delivered in their last year of government of \$100 million in total.