



Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 12 August 2020

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Isaac Downs Coalmine

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing) (9.57 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to strengthening our state's economy as we continue to battle the global COVID-19 crisis. That is why we are delivering Queensland's plan to unite and recover to support key Queensland industries that are creating jobs right around the state. Today I can announce that a key Bowen Basin mining project that will deliver hundreds of jobs is a step closer after I declared Stanmore Coal's Isaac Downs project a prescribed project. The prescribed project declaration allows the Coordinator-General to work with Stanmore Coal to ensure that all necessary project approvals are obtained in a timely manner.

The \$900 million metallurgical coal project is located in the Bowen Basin about 10 kilometres south-east of Moranbah. I am advised that the Isaac Downs project has the potential to deliver \$2.5 billion to boost the region's economy and that over the course of its anticipated 16-year life the mine is also expected to generate a further \$457 million for Queensland's broader economy. Pending all necessary approvals, and Stanmore's business plans for the site, the project construction for the new mine could begin as soon as early 2021. I am advised that on that time line, the mine could be expected to be operational by the middle of next year.

The construction phase of the project is expected to create over 250 jobs. Having recently travelled to Moranbah and met with the Isaac Regional Council Mayor Ann Baker, councillors and manufacturers who supply into the resources industry, I know this project will be a huge boost to the region. The project would also provide ongoing long-term employment for workers at the company's existing Isaac Plains Complex, with 220 workers transferred to the new mine. In addition, Stanmore Coal estimates that, when operational, the new mine would create an extra 80 jobs on site. Stanmore Coal in January 2020 submitted an Environmental Impact Statement to the Department of Environment and Science, a process which includes reviewing and responding to public submissions.

Once again the Palaszczuk government is supporting our resources sector to create jobs in regional Queensland. We will continue to back resource industry workers as we deliver Queensland's plan to strengthen our economy in the wake of the global COVID-19 pandemic.