



Speech By  
**Scott Stewart**


**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Townsville, Infrastructure and Jobs**

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (2.59 pm): There is no doubt that the Palaszczuk government is invested in Townsville, the capital of North Australia. Maybe 'Scotty from Marketing' can learn a lesson from the Palaszczuk government and pick up our playbook on how to commit to local jobs and build infrastructure in the north because everyone in this House knows that the Morrison government cannot get any projects started under their four-year-old no-funding initiative.

Tomorrow I will be joining the Premier, the member for Mundingburra and the member for Thuringowa as we thank the local tradies and suppliers who have built the Queensland Country Bank Stadium for North Queenslanders. We will also be hosting locals to the open day on Saturday. We are expecting thousands upon thousands of people to come along to see their stadium. On 13 March, the Cowboys will flog the Broncos as they host them at the new stadium for their first game which is already sold out. While it is not quite an Origin match, for us in North Queensland it is pretty close as this is north versus south.

The investment by the Palaszczuk government into local jobs and infrastructure is not just in our stadium. As the Minister for Transport and Main Roads highlighted yesterday, we are investing \$118 million in the Port of Townsville to widen the channel. While this may not be as sexy as a new world-class stadium, it will build the capacity of the largest commercial port in North Australia to provide a direct import and export port that will open more trade opportunities across the Asia-Pacific area.

While we have received some welcome rain recently and the monsoon event of last year that dumped 1.4 metres of rain in nine days, which was not so welcomed, Townsville was in drought conditions prior to those events. At a cost of \$30 million a day—that is \$30 million a day—Townsville City Council was pumping water from the Haughton Channel to supply the basic water needs of a growing city. With a population of 200,000, that pumped water was never going to sustain a large city like Townsville. I was able to convince the Premier that security of water was essential to attract industry and sustain our city. The Premier responded with \$225 million for stage 1 of the Haughton water pipeline, no strings attached, no conditions, nothing, just the money up-front. Due for completion at the end of the month, over 1,000 local workers have been part of building this vital piece of infrastructure that will futureproof our great city. This is the Palaszczuk government investing in North Queensland and investing in local jobs and infrastructure for now and for the future.