




Speech By
Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2020

MOTION

Coronavirus, Economic Response

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (3.40 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Premier in the House today. I have just been on the phone with Peter Fry, the HIA executive director in North Queensland. He is jumping out of his skin. He said that this is absolutely fantastic news. He said the concreters, the chippies, the plumbers and the sparkies will be lining up for this funding. He is excited about the extra \$5,000 for the first home buyers scheme, which will mean a rejuvenation of the building industry in Townsville. He said, 'The problem is that I don't think we will have enough land.' That shows how confident he is about the announcements that have been made today.

This is about investing in our communities, whether it is the Townsville community, the Rockhampton community, the Cairns community or the Brisbane community. This is about creating jobs that will generate even more jobs and create flow-on benefits that will support our kids. This will create jobs into the future. It will strengthen the economy. This is about investing in the sectors that need it the most and what needs it most of all is the building industry, because the building industry will create more jobs and opportunities for young kids who are looking at buying their first home.

In Townsville, young people will be able to access the \$15,000 first home buyers grant, plus the extra \$5,000 as part of that grant, and the federal government is chipping in \$25,000. What an opportunity! People can receive \$45,000 towards buying their first home. If that is not incentive enough to build a house, I do not know what is. We know that when we create jobs for tradies, they will take on apprentices and they will buy new utes. That money will continue to flow through the Townsville economy, creating more jobs and ensuring that we can continue to build a future for our kids. This is about building our way out of COVID-19.

Last week when the Premier was in Townsville, we heard from the chamber of commerce and small business owners. They said, 'We loved the small business adaptation grant, but that \$100 million disappeared so quickly because people wanted to get their hands on it.' So we are backing it in with another \$100 million. This is about looking after our small business operators, because they are the backbone of our economy and it is what we need to do.

The allocation of \$15 million for airline routes is about bringing people back into the city. We need to ensure that we open up regional routes so that people can travel to our city, whether for tourism or for business. This is forward looking. It is future planning. This is not just about now; it is about looking after our kids and building a local economy that is based on real jobs. That is what this vision is all about.