




Speech By
Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

Record of Proceedings, 16 July 2020

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Townsville Electorate

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (2.58 pm): There is no doubt that Townsville people have been doing it tough. We have seen a downturn in the minerals commodity market, we have seen Clive Palmer close Queensland Nickel, we have seen the floods and, of course, now we have COVID-19. We have copped body blow after body blow, but we keep getting back up off the canvas; however, the Palaszczuk Labor government has invested in Townsville. The Townsville stadium is worth \$290 million. It created hundreds of local jobs and kickstarted our local struggling economy.

Talking about body blows, on Monday it was great to announce that the Jeff Horn fight is back on. It will be held in Townsville on 16 August, which is only a couple of days before my wedding anniversary. I know exactly what gift to buy my wife for our wedding anniversary. I am sure she will appreciate it, because she will be there with me with another 16,000 people. It will be worth \$5.6 million going back into our economy. What a great husband I will be when I present those tickets to her!

It is the Palaszczuk government that is continuing to invest in Townsville. We have invested \$215 million into stage 1 of the water pipeline. Some 1,000 local jobs and 420 local businesses were involved with that. There has been \$69 million for Works for Queensland funding into Townsville City Council. Now we have injected another \$13.5 million. That is 1,500 local jobs.

We know that this is a global pandemic and it is wreaking havoc right across the world either as a health or a financial burden. It is the Palaszczuk government's unite and recover plan that is focused very clearly on creating local jobs and supporting local economies. Let me explain. It is great to see the Back to Work extension—2,700 workers in Townsville in 1,000 businesses. The Sconi mine support announced this week will create 700 local jobs, a project worth \$2.2 billion in mining nickel and cobalt for renewable batteries. CopperString 2.0 will see 400 local jobs created with the opening of the North West Minerals Province, cheaper power prices and extracting a projected \$167 billion worth of minerals. That is a great investment, getting our local jobs moving and showing there is a real strategic direction here.

What are the LNP plans for recovery? It is Strong Choices 2.0. They will sell the assets, they will cut the programs and they will sack the workers.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr STEWART: They don't like it. They just don't like it. COVID-19 has had a huge impact—

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left!

Mr STEWART: Madam Deputy Speaker, I am sure I had a couple of seconds left on the clock.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Yes, you do. Continue.

Mr STEWART: COVID-19 has had a huge impact internationally. The Palaszczuk government has a very clear plan for our economic recovery. We have a proven track record in this, and that is why I am getting on with the job.

(Time expired)