



Speech By  
**Scott Stewart**


**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 August 2020

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Townsville, Water Infrastructure**

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (2.52 pm): There is no doubt that water is so important to every single community. Everyone in this chamber knows how important water security is. That is why the Palaszczuk government committed \$215 million to stage 1 of the Haughton water pipeline. That created a thousand local jobs with 420 local businesses. It had a 100 per cent success rate for local jobs. During the program we realised that by building stage 2 immediately after stage 1 there would be a saving of between \$45 million and \$55 million on that project. On 5 November 2018, a media release by the LNP Deputy Prime Minister, Michael McCormack, said—

The Liberal and Nationals' Government will invest up to \$200 million to secure Townsville's long-term water supply.

...

Up to \$195 million will fully fund Stage 2 of the Haughton Pipeline extension and \$5 million to compile the project's business case.

The press release later stated—

Funding committed through the City Deal for the Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor's (TEARC) development will be re-allocated to enhance opportunities for Townsville's development, including to support Stage 2 of the Haughton Pipeline.

I table that document.

*Tabled paper:* Document, dated 5 November 2018, titled 'Funds flow for Townsville Water' [1380](#).

The member for Herbert was elected on that promise—elected by the people of Townsville to deliver that funding for stage 2 of the Haughton water pipeline. However, when the time came to stump up for stage 2 the LNP said, 'Oh, sorry, that will come out of the state's GST allocations.' In fact, the state government would end up paying for it. In the *Townsville Bulletin* of 3 June, the member for Herbert said that the deal had been struck. The article states—

... he had spoken to the Deputy Prime Minister and Infrastructure Minister, Michael McCormack, and said a final draft for the agreement had been agreed to.

"He and Minister (Anthony) Lynham have reached their agreement through their long, drawn out debate, and it is positive, the money is ready to roll," Mr Thompson said.

I table that document.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 3 June 2020, titled 'Haughton pipeline stage two firms up as discussions come to head' [1381](#).

When I spoke to Minister Lynham he said that he has never heard of the deal. He has not had a phone call, a text message or an email—absolutely nothing. We are sick of the argy-bargy from this LNP government. What did we do? The Palaszczuk government stepped in and committed \$195 million to the project to get it going. What do we have? We have an LNP broken promise—again—to the people of Townsville. Does that sound familiar? Campbell Newman said that no public servant needed to fear

him. Then 14,000 jobs were cut. The member for Herbert said on ABC Radio that the \$195 million will stay in Townsville, but that afternoon he changed his tune again to say that he would fight to keep the money in Townsville. I table the *Townsville Bulletin* article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 4 August 2020, titled 'Townsville MP promises to spend \$195m in his electorate' [1382](#).

Why is it that Townsville people do not trust the LNP? We just heard why from the member for Redlands. We are sick of hearing these broken lies—promises.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr STEWART:** I withdraw.