




Speech By
Hon. Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Gas Industry

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.07 am): In Queensland our gas industry continues to go from strength to strength. In this state we are doing the heavy lifting with gas production, for both the domestic and export markets. The facilities on Curtis Island near Gladstone are a sight to behold and have created and will continue to create huge opportunities for Queenslanders. We have always backed the LNG sector and we will continue to invest in the industry.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring that there is an adequate supply of affordable gas for the domestic market, which is critical for energy supply and advanced manufacturing. In August we announced a study into new gas infrastructure that may assist in unlocking reserves in the Bowen Basin. Our government will invest \$5 million into the study. If the study finds that the project stacks up, potentially there will be 1,000 construction jobs available and countless opportunities for other industries. Not only would it supercharge the development of new gas production in the Bowen Basin; it would also make more gas available for Queensland manufacturers.

Gas is an essential part of Queensland's economy and will continue to be so in the future. Despite the challenges of 2020, our gas industry has continued to perform. Just last month, Origin Energy announced record production for the past financial year. In October, Senex Energy also talked about the expansion of gas production at its Roma North project, which will see gas production from that project increase by 50 per cent. Earlier this year we welcomed Arrow Energy's commitment to its \$10 billion Surat Gas Project, with around 800 construction and 200 permanent jobs. It will be Queensland's largest gas project to start since 2011. Those projects demonstrate the importance of the natural gas industry to Queensland. Through 2020, to support the development of future gas projects, the Labor government has continued to make land available for gas exploration through competitive tendering.

In May and June this year we released 17 areas for petroleum exploration, across nearly 8,300 square kilometres of land. Five of these areas are for domestic gas only. These land releases create new opportunities for more gas projects to come online and aid our economic recovery and support jobs in regional communities.

This government's commitment to the resources sector is clear. We back all parts of it. We back the resources industry and we know it has played a key role in keeping our people in work during this global pandemic. Because of our health response, we are now able to focus on our economic recovery, and the resources sector has played a major part in this. That is why the government continues to back our resources industry.