




Speech By
Hon. Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Resources Industries

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.04 am): It is an exciting time to be part of the resources sector. Queensland is well positioned to use our resilience and innovation as the world recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. I am pleased to inform the House that the latest quarterly figures by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that Queensland recorded more coal jobs in the final quarter of 2020 than in any other quarter in the last 30 years. Even looking at four-quarter average employment in Queensland's coal sector, the numbers are strong, with the sector employing an average of more than 29,000 people across 2020. These figures prove that, despite external factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic, our resources sector remains resilient. December trade data shows that the value of Australian coal exports rose by 26 per cent over the previous month, showing coal continues to be an important part of the global energy and industrial mix for many years to come.

I saw firsthand what the coal industry means for Queenslanders when I visited Moranbah earlier this month and took a tour of BMA's metallurgical coalmine at Goonyella Riverside. This mine alone employs 26,000 workers, many of whom live in Central Queensland and support the local economy and the communities they live in. In fact, I got to meet one of my past students, Paul Robke. I did not ask him to present the homework he had not submitted 35 years previous, but as a former teacher I can say that it is great to catch up with your past students and see that they are working in the industry that you are very passionate about.

I also had the pleasure of meeting some of the next generation of resource workers when I attended the all-female Tradies for a Day workshop, hosted by the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy and the Queensland Resources Council, at Moranbah State High School. The event showcased the benefits of a career in mining for regional female students and illustrated to me the benefits to the resource industry in fostering a greater diversity across its operations. Above all, the day reminded me of what an exciting time it is to join the resources industry, which is getting on and delivering a critical contribution to Queensland's economic recovery.

There are currently more than 68,500 resource workers in Queensland, located right across this great state of ours, and this highly skilled workforce is a key driver of our \$29 billion resource export industry. Under the Premier's watch, \$21 billion has been invested in or committed to resources projects, creating some 8,000 jobs. Every single Queenslanders benefits through taxes, royalties, exports, jobs and business opportunities brought about by the resources sector. That is why the Palaszczuk government continues to back the sector and will continue to do so for many years to come.