




Speech By
Hon. Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Gas Industry

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.05 am): The Palaszczuk government continues to invest in Queensland's gas sector to support regional Queensland's economy and jobs. I am pleased to inform the House that I recently appointed first-time explorer AusGasCo as preferred tenderer for two new blocks of highly prospective land near Injune. They have since moved to the next stage of exploration and have been given authority to prospect at both areas. The opportunity to explore this area was released last year as part of the Palaszczuk government's economic plan for recovery and represents yet another new opportunity to unlock more jobs and the economic benefits that come with it.

Last year alone the Palaszczuk government released a total of 8,205 square kilometres for gas exploration to maintain a pipeline of future resources projects, and we are already starting to see the results. Just last week, Senex Energy reached an incredible milestone at its Atlas natural gas processing facility in the Surat Basin by reaching its nameplate production of 32 terajoules a day—ahead of schedule. Senex has announced it is now supplying Queensland gas users with 10 per cent of their natural gas requirements, which is vital for creating and supporting jobs in the manufacturing industry.

One of the key reasons this government is supportive of the resources sector is because we recognise the benefits that flow to regional communities—regional communities like mine. That is why it is vital that we continue to attract new projects to those regions. I saw this firsthand when I visited Roma, where gas companies Origin and Santos continue to invest in the local communities they work in. Both Origin and Santos are leaders in our gas industry, and to see their commitment to regional Queensland is testament to the confidence investors have in our state. It was great to join Origin as they unveiled their refurbished Roma office. During the construction alone, multiple local contractors were engaged to undertake this refurbishment. I am advised that Origin had spent \$34.6 million directly with 112 contractors in the Roma region in 2020, which resulted in another \$24.5 million of indirect spending injected into the local economy.

To secure our resources industry for the future, this government will deliver a Resources Industry Development Plan. This plan will capitalise on opportunities to unlock more resources and work with communities like Roma to maximise the economic and social benefits the resources sector can bring to all of us. The Palaszczuk government continues to support jobs. We are building on our existing strengths in key industries like resources, we are growing our regions by attracting investment, and we are looking to the future by investing in infrastructure and planning.