



Speech By  
**Hon. Scott Stewart**


**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Resources Industries**

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.31 am): As we continue our economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic we are finding every opportunity to build back better. As Minister for Resources, I take the task of fostering economic development in Queensland very seriously. In simple terms, it is central to my job, and I will speak loudly and often about what we are doing to drive that economic development and the benefits it brings to Queensland.

We will use every opportunity we can to inform, advise and promote Queensland to investors. This is not about banner headlines. It is about the serious work of building awareness of the compelling investment opportunities that Queensland offers. With this in mind, we are developing a new arm of the mineral resources sector—the supply of minerals and products needed for the new economy and their role in the energy transition. Copper, cobalt, nickel and other rare earth elements are essential for this transition, including the electrification of transport and industry.

Queensland has these minerals in abundance, and is well placed to play a key role in this transition. A new market for growing the Queensland minerals sector is in Europe. Large industry groups such as the European Raw Materials Alliance and European Battery Alliance offer us new markets. Our Trade & Investment Queensland European office is working actively with my department on an investor engagement program. This month we ran an engagement session with the Movement of the Enterprises of France—30 firms attended with direct interest in the minerals supply chain from upstream extraction to downstream processing and manufacturing. This is just the first step in a much broader program of engagement, with similar events planned for Germany, Belgium, Holland and the United Kingdom.

This is yet another example that our government is backing the resources sector like we always have and demonstrates the vital role new economy minerals will play in creating jobs as we recover from COVID-19. Combined, the Palaszczuk government has invested around \$50 million in exploration and industry support initiatives which has helped our resources and exploration sector continue working strongly despite the global pandemic. The North West Minerals Province, up my way, and our broader new economy minerals sector will create jobs and opportunities throughout Queensland. That is why we are seeing international interest in Queensland's resources industry.