




Speech By
Hon. Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Resources Industries, Exploration Grants

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.03 am): The demand for the next generation of minerals is growing globally as Queensland and the world turn their focus on the future economy. This demand is driven by emerging technologies like electric vehicles, solar panels, battery storage and products for the medical, defence and scientific research sectors. My role as the Minister for Resources is to help drive Queensland's plan for economic recovery and set Queensland up for the future. That is why I am pleased to inform the House that the latest round of Collaborative Exploration Initiative grants is now open.

Up to \$2.5 million worth of grants will be available to assist Queensland explorers find the minerals needed to meet the demands of the world's technology and renewable sectors. This is not only a golden opportunity for Queensland explorers; it will also help boost exploration and investment in the resources sector. Investment in exploration today is what will lead the next generation of projects and jobs, and these grants are in place to put Queensland industry on the front foot. Explorers have the chance to apply for grants up to \$200,000 under a joint government-industry Collaborative Exploration Initiative to help drive innovation, to make new discoveries and drive economic growth across the state of Queensland.

As the world continues to adopt and develop these emerging technologies the demand for minerals such as silica, titanium, lithium and vanadium will certainly increase and Queensland will be front and centre. Just recently Multicom Resources' Saint Elmo vanadium project—just east of Julia Creek up my way—has been the latest to mark a milestone in its development after gaining federal government approval to mine.

The Palaszczuk government understands the important role exploration plays in growing our resources sector. That is why we have invested more than \$6.8 million in exploration grants and programs since its introduction in 2017. The last four rounds of the Collaborative Exploration Initiative have supported 46 projects exploring for mineral resources across the state and, as we heard at the recent Queensland Exploration Council's Technical Forum, the industry is successfully using these grants to make new finds. In fact, one of the principal geologists said that the initiative was a 'core enabler' of their exploration in the new frontier region and went on to say, 'There is no doubt explorers in north-west Queensland benefit from world-class government and institutional support, and this will assist new mineral discovery.' Sensational!

The Palaszczuk government is committed to increasing exploration as we will know it will lead to more jobs and more opportunities, particularly in regional Queensland. We are working with a great sense of urgency to take full advantage of the huge opportunity before us, and we are pushing on every front to support our vital resources sector to make it successful for the benefit of all Queenslanders.