



Speech By  
**Hon. Scott Stewart**

**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Cloncurry

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (9.53 pm): It was fantastic to spend two days last week in one of the most important economic powerhouses in regional Queensland.

**A government member:** Gladstone?

**Mr STEWART:** Not Gladstone. Guess again. The resource industry is a traditional strength of Queensland's economy and right now it employs 85,000 people, which is critical to the Palaszczuk government's economic recovery plan from COVID-19. Cloncurry and the north-west region are the heart of the minerals resource industry so it was an absolute pleasure to visit the area. It might only be a small town, but the Curry packs a big punch when it comes to Queensland's economy. While I was in the Curry I visited Glencore's Ernest Henry copper mine for a safety reset where I addressed the entire workforce on site. Thanks again to Aaron Harrison. He said only his mum calls him that, so thanks Harry for your great work in hosting us on the day.

Safety in the resource industry is something that this government takes incredibly seriously. That is why the entire industry is in the middle of a safety reset. As a government we support the resources industry, whether it is through our tough mining safety laws or through our huge investment in the sector.

I was joined on part of the trip by members of Townsville Enterprise, who understand the importance of the region not only for the north but also for the entire state and in particular the pit-to-port approach that we have in that part of the world. We heard directly from the region's councillors about challenges and opportunities and the importance of diversification.

That brings me to the next point: it is not just the resources and agricultural industry that make the Curry hum with activity; this spectacular part of the country featured on national TV during the last couple of months. While I was there I met Cloncurry shire mayor Greg Campbell, who told me how much of a positive impact the filming of *Survivor* had in his town. He told me the bakery went off like a frog in a sock. It understandably did a roaring trade with hundreds of people in town, as did so many businesses. I also hear that the pubs were packed to the rafters and it was hard to find a room to stay anywhere within cooee of the Curry.

Mayor Campbell said millions of dollars had gone into the local economy, which had given the town a major economic boost as well as fantastic exposure to a huge audience. While there were plenty of characters on this season of *Survivor*, the star of the show was undoubtedly the Curry itself. The government backed bringing *Survivor* to the Curry because we knew it would be good for the region. The *Survivor* slogan is 'outwit, outplay, outlast'. They breed them pretty tough in the west, and I do not think there is anywhere in Queensland where that tag applies more than in the Curry.