




Speech By
Hon. Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Resources Industry

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.12 am): One of Queensland's key competitive attributes as a global resource investment destination is our skilled workforce. That does not just happen by chance: it happens because of planning and investment by government and industry in the skill sector that we need well into the future. I am pleased to announce the latest example of that right here this morning—a three-year investment by Mitsubishi Development in digital technology education at the University of Queensland.

Mitsubishi will fund the new position of future mining systems initiative director at UQ to develop a new digital technologies curriculum for mining engineering students. This will see future mining engineering graduates excel in fields like automation, data analytics and robotics. Mitsubishi and UQ are confident that these skills and this knowledge will help graduates drive new operational efficiencies and emissions reductions at mine sites. As a former principal, I was very pleased to hear that this partnership will also support UQ's engagement with secondary students, highlighting the career opportunities available in the resources sector.

This is about Queensland's future—future skills, future jobs and future resources investment across the state and growing our regional economies. The resources sector is transforming, and as the resources sector market transforms we need to move with it. As resources become more difficult to access, technology and techniques adapt. This will also provide more opportunities for our world-class mining equipment, technology and services sector. We must ensure we continue to invest in our people and their skills and knowledge, as Mitsubishi and UQ are doing with this latest initiative.

This builds on existing programs such as the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy, a 16-year partnership between the Queensland government and the Queensland Resources Council. The academy offers programs for teachers and students from years 7 to 12 in more than 80 schools. It provides a talent pipeline of employees into the resources sector and supports other STEM industries. The Palaszczuk government is working with the university sector to foster innovation and identify and address current and potential future skills shortages.

Queensland's resources sector employs about 80,000 people and has maintained that performance for the past year despite the pandemic. The resources sector has been an employer of choice for Queenslanders for decades. Thanks to continuing investment from government, industry and the university sector it will continue to offer secure well-paid jobs and rewarding careers well into the future.