



Speech By Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Central Queensland

Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.44 am): More than anywhere else in Australia, Queensland relies on the strength of our regions. Regional Queensland is the bedrock on which our state has been built since its earliest days and it is the key to our state's ongoing success, and nowhere is that more evident than in Central Queensland. Anyone who has had the pleasure of walking down Quay Street in Rockhampton has seen firsthand the evidence of the wealth that Queensland minerals bring. Those magnificent buildings reflect the days when Mount Morgan was the richest goldmine in the world. Now Mount Morgan mining will rise again.

Last week I had the opportunity to join with the Minister for Resources, Scott Stewart; the member for Keppel, Brittany Lauga; and the mayor of Rockhampton to announce that the Palaszczuk government is backing the proposal by Heritage Minerals to rework the millions of tonnes of tailings at Mount Morgan. This mine has been sitting abandoned and has been under the government's stewardship for almost 30 years. Heritage estimates that it could recover 263,000 ounces of gold and 5,600 tonnes of copper. As it recovers those precious metals, Heritage Minerals' processes will clean up the acidic water that remains in the Mount Morgan pit. That will provide ongoing benefits to the Mount Morgan community, as will the 130 jobs—skilled, long-term jobs—that this project will support.

At nearby Bouldercombe work is underway to install a 70-tonne transformer that will connect Genex's 50-megawatt battery to the grid. That will support nearby renewable projects in development, including the 370-megawatt Boulder Creek Wind Farm and the 350-megawatt Mount Hopeful Wind Farm. Work is well advanced on Alliance Airlines' \$60 million maintenance, repair and overhaul hangar at Rockhampton Airport supported through our government's Jobs and Regional Growth Fund. Construction is in its final months and the hangar is expected to be operational by March next year. Our government is backing jobs in resources throughout Central Queensland. We are backing the energy infrastructure that will support more heavy industry in Central Queensland and we are investing in infrastructure that will support long-term, highly skilled jobs in the aviation sector because it is our government that cares about central and regional Queensland.