




Speech By
Hon. Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Resources Centre of Excellence

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.11 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to creating a diversified resources industry and more good Queensland jobs, particularly in our regions. That is why I was so pleased to join with the Treasurer earlier this month in Mackay to announce as part of the Palaszczuk government's budget a \$5.7 million investment over three years into the Resources Centre of Excellence. These funds will underpin an expansion of the centre and the development of a future industries hub to support new economy minerals projects and, in turn, good jobs for Queenslanders.

Nearly two years ago to the day the centre was opened after the Palaszczuk government and Mackay Regional Council invested \$7 million to help create jobs and prosperity in the region. The centre has helped make Mackay one of the world's best sources for mining expertise and innovation in the mining equipment, technology and services—or METS—sector. It is a fantastic facility and it will now be able to grow. Earlier this year I launched the Heart 5 mobile health unit at the Resources Centre of Excellence. It is no secret that Mackay and the region has a long and important history as a resources hub in this great state. We know that we can harness the region's existing skills and experience as the emerging new economy minerals sector continues to grow—I can see the member for Mackay nodding furiously. Creating more good secure jobs in our traditional and emerging industries will be an unashamed focus of our budget, and Central and North Queensland are perfectly primed to take advantage of this.

New economy minerals will be in demand for decades as the world continues to decarbonise. Our state is blessed with world-class deposits of these vital minerals. Many Queenslanders will have these minerals in their hands right now: copper, cobalt and tungsten, just to name a few. These minerals are needed for everything from mobile phones and medical technology to electric vehicle batteries and solar panels. The Palaszczuk government's 30-year vision for the resources sector is to mine, process and manufacture these minerals right here in Queensland, taking them from pit to product. Our investment in the Mackay Resources Centre of Excellence will help us achieve exactly that. This \$5.7 million in funding will help expand the centre's research, development and commercialisation and training services for our new economy minerals sector. For decades the resources industry has provided jobs for Queenslanders and the royalties for our teachers, health workers and police officers. Growing our new economy minerals sector will help ensure the resource sector continues to create good regional jobs and prosperity for many decades to come.