



Speech By  
**Hon. Scott Stewart**


**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 June 2022

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Budget, Resources Industries**

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.10 am): The state budget delivered by the Treasurer yesterday supports our regions and our resources communities. At the heart of this budget is the historic Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan. There is nothing more important to the Palaszczuk government than the health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders, and that is something that all Queenslanders deserve regardless of where they live. It is good to see the resources industry contributing to our economy and in particular to our regional areas where these coalmines are located. I know the resources sector is proud to support the regional communities in which they operate.

As a regional minister I know just how important regional communities are to our state and the amazing lifestyles that they offer, but it is important that these regional communities have access to top class quality facilities, and that is why these royalties are so important. These royalties will go towards giving a great mining town like Moranbah the hospital it deserves. The regions are a great place to live and offer a great lifestyle as well.

Yesterday I spoke with Isaac Mayor Anne Baker to deliver the news that these royalties are going to build a new hospital in Moranbah—one that it deserves. This government has secured funding to build a brand new hospital to help service the heart of Queensland's resources industry right there. During the Grosvenor mine blast two years ago, the work of those nurses kept those five men alive and this is giving back to those communities.

These royalties are important to upgrade our hospitals in Queensland resource centres like Townsville, Mackay and Rockhampton. In fact, in my home town of Townsville we are investing \$530 million for the Townsville Hospital expansion to deliver 143 additional beds. Townsville University Hospital is the biggest tertiary hospital in northern Australia and services huge parts of the north, so that is why this investment is so important. No matter the cause of the problem, we are acting on a solution. Part of that is investing in more health services and health infrastructure for regional mining communities like Moranbah, like Mackay, like Rockhampton and like Townsville. That is what good governments do. We are delivering a record health investment to deliver three new hospitals, 11 hospital expansions and 2,509 extra hospital beds. These are Queensland's solutions to a national issue affecting public health systems right across our nation. We will continue to invest in our health services, and that is what this budget delivers for our regional and resource communities.