



Speech By  
**Hon. Scott Stewart**


**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 1 September 2022

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Carborough Downs Coalmine**

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.45 am): As metallurgical coal prices remain strong, there is no better time to invest in Queensland's coal sector. We are continuing to see investors who are eager to take advantage of these prices as well as our state's large deposits of high-quality steel-making coal, which is important to support Queenslanders looking for good, secure jobs that will help to continue our state's economic growth.

I am pleased to inform the House that the Palaszczuk government has given the green light for the extension of the Carborough Downs mine near Moranbah. This investment is a strong vote of confidence in Queensland's resources sector and, importantly, supports its workforce with more than 700 good, secure jobs. The Carborough Downs mine is a significant employer and economic contributor to the Isaac region and this extension will increase the mine's lifespan by another 11 years. The extension will create flow-on economic benefits for the entire Isaac and Central Queensland regions from tools, safety and workwear suppliers right through to pubs, clubs and accommodation providers.

Carborough Downs owners, Fitzroy Australia Resources, are focused on making sure that much of its workforce lives local with nearly 70 per cent of employees either residing in the Isaac region or part of a drive-in drive-out workforce. There is an amazing lifestyle on offer in regional Queensland and it is important that those job opportunities are on offer to our local communities. Coal production in the mine's extension is expected to begin within the next 12 months. The Palaszczuk government will continue to support the resources sector for the royalties and jobs that it generates, particularly in regional Queensland. The resources industry directly supports around 77,000 jobs across the state, particularly in regions that account for around two-thirds of all mining jobs. The industry is forecast to generate more than \$7.6 billion in royalties in the 2022-23 financial year.

Queensland is naturally blessed with the world's highest quality metallurgical coal, which the world needs to make steel. Queensland will be a coal exporter for many years to come, meaning that coalmining and jobs will be part of our economy for the foreseeable future. Even as the world transitions to renewables, steel-making metallurgical coal will remain essential and, therefore, a viable international export commodity for Queensland. That is why our government has supported more than \$21 billion in resources sector investment since 2015, with the sector playing a key role in supporting Queenslanders into good, secure jobs as we continue Queensland's economic growth.

I also give a shout-out to Dom Cameron and her partner, who are moving back to Townsville. It will be good to see them come home. I welcome Madura McCormack, who also cut her teeth in Townsville at the *Bully*. Well done.