



Speech By  
**Hon. Scott Stewart**


**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2022

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Critical Minerals**

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.45 am): Critical minerals are in demand throughout the world and Queensland is ready to take up this opportunity which will create and support good jobs in our regions. Mr Speaker, you do not have to just take my word for it though, because, as of yesterday, one of the world's biggest automobile companies General Motors is investing in our future right now.

I can inform the House that General Motors has entered into a collaboration agreement with Queensland Pacific Metals to help them secure nickel and cobalt to support their fast growing electric vehicle production. This material would come from Queensland Pacific Metals' Townsville Energy Chemicals Hub, which is planned to be built at the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct near Townsville. General Motors is a massive global company and they can see what is happening in Queensland right now. They know we have the manufacturing capacity with the appetite to grow our critical minerals industry, along with the renewables sector.

As the resources minister and a local Townsville member, I welcome this announcement by General Motors and Queensland Pacific Metals. The Palaszczuk government has always been a backer of the Townsville Energy Chemicals Hub at Lansdown, with it being declared a prescribed project last year. Queensland Pacific Metals' TECH project will create around 800 construction jobs and its operational phase will create an estimated 1,700 jobs—

**Ms Grace:** Wow!

**Mr STEWART:** Absolutely. This is a game-changer. It will also include 300 highly skilled advanced manufacturing jobs at the facility and 1,400 jobs in support industries.

Critical minerals, particularly in the North West Minerals Province, are a key part of Queensland's Energy and Jobs Plan and the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan, and will become more and more in demand in the very near future. We want to continue to grow our manufacturing supply chain in Queensland. We have the confidence and expertise to do that, and global companies like General Motors can see that as well. Critical minerals, which Queensland has in abundance, will be needed for electric vehicles, which General Motors is investing heavily into as the company recognises this global demand.

It is the Palaszczuk government that is driving our economy forward, and projects like this will kickstart a new age in industry that will create jobs which Townsville and North Queensland are ready to take advantage of.