




Speech By
Hon. Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Resources Industries, Jobs

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.11 am): I rise to talk about the importance of the resources sector and the good jobs it creates and supports. Right now there are more than 75,000 people directly employed in the industry. Under the Palaszczuk government, there has been more than \$21 billion worth of new investment in resources projects, creating more than 8,000 jobs, and we continue to support more good jobs in the industry.

I can inform the House that last week the remaining approval for stage 3 of the New Acland project was granted by the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water when it approved the associated water licence for the project, subject to a range of strict conditions. This last approval comes after I granted the mining lease for the project and an environmental authority was also granted. This was the process set out by the Land Court in a recommendation handed down in December last year. The government's position on New Acland stage 3 has been consistent—to wait for the conclusion of legal proceedings before progressing the consideration of remaining approvals.

As the Minister for Resources, I know there are many workers in the Darling Downs region who welcome this opportunity for good jobs and good jobs close to home that New Acland stage 3 will provide. This project is expected to support 300 construction jobs and a further 400 jobs once it is operational. It is also the indirect jobs that the resources industry supports, like the local mechanic, the hairdressers, the service station or the excellent bakery in Oakey.

The resources industry is important for local communities, and I saw that firsthand when I visited the region earlier this year. I know New Hope has been flooded with job applications since the approval was granted and it is great to see the company looking to support local jobs in the region, and they should be a priority. About two weeks ago, they had received 719 expressions of interest for jobs, along with 65 expressions of interest from businesses wanting to work with the company. What is good to see is that many of the people and businesses looking to work on stage 3 of New Acland are local and want jobs somewhere close to home.

As a government, we support the regions and we support good regional jobs. The resources sector and the coal industry are important employers throughout regional Queensland. Like we always have, we will continue to support resources projects that stack up environmentally, socially and financially.