




Speech By
Hon. Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

CopperString 2.0

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.09 am): The North West Minerals Province is home to rich deposits of critical minerals from copper through to vanadium. These are the minerals the world needs to produce batteries and renewable energy in the quest to decarbonise. One of the biggest hurdles that the north-west faces in opening new mines to unlock the region's critical minerals is the lack of energy infrastructure to provide secure, reliable electricity rather than their own isolated generation. The 1,100 kilometre CopperString 2032 project changes all of that. The Palaszczuk government's record \$5 billion investment to build CopperString and the renewable energy SuperGrid is a major turning point for Queensland's growing critical minerals sector. It is a game changer not only for North Queensland but also for the entire world.

CopperString is the most significant investment in economic infrastructure in North Queensland in generations. It will create opportunities for resource companies to develop critical mineral projects in the broader North West Minerals Province. I cannot think of a better present for Mount Isa's 100th birthday than this record \$5 billion investment. CopperString 2032 will ensure Mount Isa remains the beating heart of the North West Minerals Province for centuries to come.

By unlocking affordable renewable energy and our critical minerals, this government is creating more good jobs and investment from Mount Isa to my electorate in Townsville. CopperString and the Townsville critical minerals demonstration plant will go hand in glove to act as a magnet for clean energy investment in North Queensland. Townsville will become a renewable manufacturing epicentre, sitting right at the doorstep of the largest renewable energy zone in the nation and the world-class North West Minerals Province. Our Queensland SuperGrid, the nation's largest, allows Queensland to produce, use and export the next era of high-value extracted minerals. Together with our 100 per cent government owned investment in CopperString and our Townsville critical minerals demonstration plant, the Palaszczuk government's plan for North Queensland to become a global renewable energy powerhouse is certainly well underway.