




Speech By
Hon. Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Resources Industries, Safety

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.08 am): Safety in our resources industry—safety in any workplace, in fact—is the most important thing. It must always be at the forefront of every person’s mind, and today safety is the focus of teams from right throughout the state who are competing in the Queensland Mines Rescue Service Memorial Cup at the Oaky North underground mine. Our first responders do an incredible job any time they are called up to give that help. Events like today’s give them the chance to hone their skills.

There will be five teams competing in today’s events which will test their skills in a range of scenarios including search and rescue exercises, managing gas issues and extrications. The firefighting and first aid abilities along with the theory element of mines rescue knowledge will form part of the competition as well.

These competitions give team members an opportunity to put their skills under pressure at a much higher level than when they are training and everyone is able to learn from each other to improve their level of skill and knowledge. This year there will be three competitions run in Queensland by the Mines Rescue Service including the Australian competition in August this year.

I want to wish everyone good luck today in the competition but, more importantly, I want to thank them for the amazing work they do as part of the Queensland Mines Rescue Service. They do a difficult job and, sadly, they often need to do it during some of the most tragic times. They are the ones who go into the mines when everyone else is evacuating from the mines.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a shout-out to everyone who has been recognised since the last competition with five-year and 10-year service badges. In particular I would like to give a shout-out to Rodney Graves, who today will receive his 20-year service badge for his work with the Queensland Mines Rescue Service. I am sure all members will agree that is an amazing effort.

The health and safety of all workers is paramount for the Palaszczuk Labor government. Safety is my No. 1 priority as the Minister for Resources, and as a government we will continue to back the safety of our resources workers.