




Speech By
Hon. Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

World Mining Congress

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.20 am): This government knows that Queensland's resource sector and our deposits are world-class, and we are ready to showcase them to the rest of the world. In one month the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre across the river will host the World Mining Congress, and I am excited. It is the first time in its 65-year history that this event is being held in Australia. What better place to do it than Brisbane? Where else but Queensland! More than 3,000 delegates and more than 200 CEOs from more than 50 countries will be here seeing what a great state we are and what we have to offer.

Queensland's resource sector has a proud history that has underpinned our state's economic development and prosperity. We are hosting the World Mining Congress at a time when the world seeks to address and limit the impacts of climate change by reducing emissions. It is also a time when we are actively investing in the right infrastructure and projects to be ready to capitalise on this global transition. We have the copper needed for powerlines, the vanadium to make grid sized batteries to store renewable energy, the high-purity alumina to make battery separators, the graphite to make anodes for lithium batteries and the cobalt and access to nickel for the cathodes in lithium ion batteries. In short, because we have what it takes to lead the world's efforts to decarbonise, they are coming to Queensland.

Delegates at the congress will hear about the Palaszczuk government's investment in critical minerals through our \$68.5 million Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan—not to mention the Queensland Resources Common User Facility that will be built in my home town of Townsville. This will be an Australian-first facility designed to prove up the commerciality of critical minerals. Through these investments, Queensland will be not only a supplier of critical minerals but also a manufacturer of products made from critical minerals and, importantly, a creator of good quality jobs for Queenslanders. Not only do we have resources below the ground but also Queensland has the sunshine to win energy above the ground to produce renewable energy. Queensland has some of the best scientists and research in the world right here to make it all happen.

After the event, I will be leading a tour to North Queensland to showcase our critical minerals to the world in the hope of driving more investment in our critical minerals sector. From pit to product, from Mount Isa to Cloncurry to Townsville, delegates will have a chance to see the best geology and geography Queensland has to offer and, of course, to experience the very best of Queensland's culture and warm hospitality. They might even get a chance to have dinner under the stars in the outback. I cannot wait for the World Mining Congress to get underway to showcase that Queensland truly is the land of resource opportunity.