




Speech By
Hon. Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Resources Industries, Safety

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.59 am): We all know how important the resources industry is to our great state's economy, but safety must always be front and centre of everything in the industry. Safety in the resources industry is everyone's responsibility. With National Safe Work Month running during October, resources workers throughout Queensland will take part in biannual sector-wide safety resets. The safety resets will include workers in coal, minerals and quarrying along with the petroleum, gas and explosives industries.

I am advised that as of this week more than 1,000 workers across more than 70 sites have taken part in their safety resets. The focus of this year's safety reset is to empower and support workers to recognise unsafe situations, stop work and report the issue. We want people to take this on board through a simple phrase: see, stop, report. Safety resets provide an important opportunity for every worker to take stock and see what practices must be improved to ensure the workplace is safe.

During the last round of safety resets for the resources industry I visited a number of sites to address workers right across the state, and I look forward to doing the same this year. We must remain vigilant, even when operations are running smoothly, because complacency can lead to injury. Safety is my No. 1 priority as the Minister for Resources, and it must be the same for every single stakeholder and every single worker involved in the sector. Safety in the resources industry is everyone's responsibility, and as a government we will continue to work with the independent health and safety regulator, Resources Safety & Health Queensland, worker representatives and the industry to make sure workers are kept safe.

At the end of the day, the most important thing to come out of any Queensland worksite is our workers. Safety is everyone's responsibility—from the cleaners all the way through to our SSEs onsite. Everyone—everyone—has to look after themselves and their mates when it comes to safety. This year's safety reset program is vital to supporting a positive safety culture. I want to see sites take up this opportunity to ensure their workers' safety is absolutely front of mind. Every site taking part in this program must report their findings back to RSHQ, which is important to help identify any potential barriers when it comes to safety. Put simply, our No. 1 priority is the health and safety of workers and their right to return home safely after their shift.