




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Resources Industries, Vanadium

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure) (9.40 am): That is not the only good news I have for industry in regional Queensland today.

Ms Palaszczuk: Tell us about it.

Dr MILES: I will, Premier. The Palaszczuk Labor government strongly supports growing the energy sector in Queensland, and that includes the vanadium mining, processing and manufacturing industry. Queensland's North West Minerals Province is one of the world's richest mineral-producing areas and will support Queensland's production of critical minerals for the global renewable energy sector. This government is already investing heavily in the province, including \$75 million to build an Australian-first vanadium and critical minerals demonstration facility in the Townsville State Development Area.

Today I am happy to share that the proposed \$242 million Richmond-Julia Creek vanadium mine is one step closer for north-west Queensland with finalisation of the terms of reference for an environmental impact statement. The Richmond Vanadium Technology Project is another shot in the arm for confidence in the North West Minerals Province. The Richmond-Julia Creek vanadium project is proposed for a site located 45 kilometres north-west of Richmond. If approved, the project is expected to create up to 100 construction jobs and up to 200 operational jobs over 25 years.

RVT will now prepare a draft environmental impact statement responding to the terms of reference, which requires a rigorous assessment of social, economic and environmental impacts. The community can have its say on how project impacts should be managed when the draft EIS is released for comment when the Coordinator-General calls for public submissions. The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is supporting the development of critical minerals production in Queensland, and we know that means more jobs and a long-lasting future for Queenslanders.

Finally, I understand it is Jack McKay's last parliament day as part of the Queensland Press Gallery. Jack has covered our work for much of our time in government.

A government member: He's been pretty decent.

Dr MILES: He has been pretty decent. I know he will go on to do great things. We wish him well in the future.