




Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**  
**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 November 2023

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Townsville, Renewable Energy**

 **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) (9.38 am): In Queensland we are beginning a golden decade thanks to the opportunities from decarbonisation and renewables. Many of these opportunities are unfolding in the state's north. Townsville continues to emerge as a global renewables superpower. Our khaki city is leveraging strengths as a home to our defence forces, an industrial powerhouse and a transport and logistics hub.

Last week I visited RGM Maintenance in Townsville to announce Queensland government support for the company's planned Defence and Hydrogen Maintenance Hub. Our Industry Partnership Program is assisting what will be a next generation, \$18.79 million facility that is nearly three times the size of its existing space. It will lead the way for North Queensland's new greener era of freight and heavy vehicle transport. It is well positioned to shift gear and take up greentech like EVs and hydrogen fuel cell trucks. The hub will be ready to sell, repair and maintain these new generation heavy vehicles. It will also ensure ADF heavy vehicles have a bigger and better specialist facility for maintenance and repairs.

This is just one of the projects backing regional jobs and growing North Queensland's renewable energy supply chain. It will employ an extra 65 people, including apprentices, doubling RGM Maintenance's Townsville workforce. The hub will train a new generation in the exciting emerging specialties of hydrogen fuel cell and battery powered vehicles. Construction is expected to start in late 2024 in the Cleveland Bay Industrial Park within the Queensland government's state development area, with completion anticipated for late 2025.

The good news for Townsville does not stop there. Australian owned global renewable energy investor Quinbrook Infrastructure Partners has been conditionally allocated a 200-hectare section of the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct for a new project. This will be a state-of-the-art facility for manufacturing polysilicon, the basic building block for solar panels as well as tech like computer chips. Quinbrook proposes to power it using a large-scale solar and battery storage project to be built on land adjacent to the precinct.

These projects are happening thanks to the Palaszczuk government's investments in the region and forward planning. The development of the state development area and support for Lansdown, which has been declared a prescribed project, is paving the way for next generation industry right here in Queensland. Thanks to CopperString 2032 and the development of the critical minerals sector, there will be even more to come for Townsville and for all of Queensland.