



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Mining Industry**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.04 am): The Miles government is committed to supporting and growing the industries that are critical to Queensland's future success, like mining equipment, technology and services—METS. The METS sector contributes more than \$7 billion of revenue to Queensland's economy and supports 26,700 local jobs across regional communities. This economic contribution is expected to surge as the world moves towards net zero emissions by 2050 which, in turn, will create increased demand for the state's world-class critical minerals and unlock new investment opportunities for Queensland's METS companies.

At the recent community cabinet, I had the pleasure of joining my assistant minister and member for Mackay and the Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals on a visit to the Mackay Resources Centre of Excellence. The centre connects the brightest minds of the sector. It was a fantastic experience to tour its underground mining simulator, equipped with mining equipment and machinery, and its own research and innovation testing facility. This government has supported the Mackay Resources Centre of Excellence right from the beginning through a total funding investment of nearly \$10 million to deliver a Future Industries Delivery Hub with increased capacity to meet growing demand.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Apologies, Minister. Members, I have already asked once this morning. Please keep your conversations to a minimum or take them outside. I would like to hear the ministerial statements.

**Ms GRACE:** While there, I also announced a further \$2.7 million for the METS Collaborative Project Fund. This funding from the Miles government will support businesses and research bodies to find new ways to advance mining technology. Through this fund, we are inviting researchers, government agencies, resource companies and industry groups to come together to help tackle challenges in the sector. Funding between \$50,000 and \$300,000 is available. Projects that address environmental issues, emissions management, renewable energy and mine safety will be prioritised.

We want to champion initiatives that focus on global industry challenges such as automation, mine rehabilitation, reducing emissions across the resources supply chain and collaborating with resource companies to pilot groundbreaking technologies. The Miles government's METS 10-year road map and action plan is part of the \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund. Applications are now open through the Department of State Development and Infrastructure and will close on Friday, 31 May.

Our Energy and Jobs Plan aims to grow our renewable energy supply chains in Queensland. The Queensland battery strategy aims to grow Queensland's battery value chain, and the Queensland METS companies will be integral in delivering these plans as we transition to a net zero emissions

future that supports jobs, industries and our environment. The Miles government is proudly harnessing Queensland's existing expertise in the resources sector to create new renewable industries and shape the jobs of the future.