




Speech By
Hon. David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

CopperString

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (10.35 am): On 24 June, I will hand down the Crisafulli government's first budget. This budget is about delivering for Queensland and it is laying the foundations for the fresh start we promised. I had the pleasure last week of travelling to Townsville to make a significant commitment that represents a massive opportunity for North and North-West Queensland, and indeed our entire state. The commitment was simple: the Crisafulli government is saving CopperString and it will be built from Townsville to Mount Isa. It will be delivered for a lot less than what it would have cost under Labor.

The 2025-26 Queensland budget will include \$2.4 billion to go towards constructing CopperString. That is a record investment in this project. It is real money to be spent on building the transmission line, and real investment in the economic growth of our state, including our mineral-rich and renewable-rich north west. It means real on-the-ground work in the upcoming financial year as work progresses to connect the \$225 million Hughenden hub to future renewable energy and wind projects around Flinders to the National Electricity Market. It means Powerlink can prepare site accommodation across the Eastern Link and oversee the procurement of transformers, lines and tower steel needed to build CopperString. This is the biggest energy project in North Queensland's history and it is being delivered by the Crisafulli government.

Powerlink and QIC continue to work with local governments to ensure CopperString delivers for North Queensland. This investment in our state sends some very clear and important signals. It sends an explicit message to communities in North and North-West Queensland, to industry and to business that we are delivering on our commitments, giving them the confidence and certainty they need. It means QIC can use that certainty to help drive private investment into and around the project to reduce the cost to taxpayers which, under the former Labor government, had been forecast to blow out to \$13.9 billion. It shows we are delivering on our vision of providing economic development and industry-sustaining infrastructure in our vast interior.

It shows that Queensland is open for business, and it shows that our word matters. When we say we are saving CopperString, we mean it. Under Labor, CopperString never would have been delivered. We are delivering CopperString and together with it the jobs, economic growth and wealth-creating opportunities for our great state.