



Speech By
Hon. David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Record of Proceedings, 15 October 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

CopperString

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.16 pm): When we informed the people of Queensland in April that CopperString had risen in cost from \$1.8 billion to \$13.9 billion, we committed to saving the project. We backed in the project in the budget with a record \$2.4 billion investment, and the Crisafulli government's Energy Roadmap confirms that it will be delivered all the way from Townsville to Mount Isa. Townsville, Charters Towers, Hughenden, Richmond, Julia Creek and Cloncurry—CopperString will go all the way.

I recently drove the 1,000-kilometre stretch to meet with locals, to hear their hopes and concerns and to see firsthand the potential that CopperString offers. Delivery of this transformational infrastructure project is being overseen by QIC, ensuring the project delivers value for money and supports the regions with economic development. QIC's review of the project affirmed our government's decision to commence work on the Eastern Link first to connect Hughenden and the substantial renewables resources there to the National Electricity Market sooner.

The Eastern Link will be completed, as previously planned, by 2032, subject to federal approvals. QIC estimates the Eastern Link alone could drive over \$10 billion in investment in renewables projects. On-the-ground work is already underway at Hughenden with further work in the pipeline, and Powerlink's work camp is readying to welcome staff as development expands. QIC identified the proposed 500 kV specification, arbitrarily expanded by Labor, was not necessary until at least 2050 and that a rescope to 330 kV specification, together with spur lines and connection savings, could deliver cost reductions of \$2.1 billion.

I confirm that work on the Western Link has commenced, backed by our \$200 million North West Energy Fund to support bespoke power solution exploration. It will support the development of up to 55 proposed mines in the North West Minerals Province, home to more than \$500 billion worth of resources.

The community will be locally supported by an expanded \$50 million community benefits fund for priority water and sewerage infrastructure in Hughenden as well as road maintenance and other council-led initiatives. Mayor Kate Peddle described it as 'a win for Flinders, a win for the corridor, and a win for Queensland'. She said that our plan 'supports the people who will build this state-shaping project, and more importantly, positions our community to grow alongside it'. CopperString founder Joseph O'Brien said our government's vision for the project was the 'most well-articulated commitment for CopperString and extending the national transmission grid from Townsville to Mount Isa ever presented'. He said that our plan presented 'a pragmatic policy that creates a stable platform'.

Saving CopperString is part of our commitment, delivering affordable, reliable and sustainable power for Queenslanders. We are doing it the Queensland way, improving the assets that we have while we build what we need for the future.