



Speech by

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STATE MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

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EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES IN KURWONGBAH

Mrs LAVARCH (Kurwongbah—ALP) (2.12 a.m.): I am delighted to inform the House that over 60 unemployed people in the Pine Rivers area have now been provided with paid work thanks to the Beattie Labor Government's Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative. In the Pine Rivers area, four very worthwhile projects have received funding under this initiative and, as the second round of the Community Jobs Plan is open for submissions, it is my hope that other community groups within my electorate will seek funding for these worthwhile community projects.

The four projects funded under the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiatives cover a wide range of jobs and skills training. One project is employing 21 people to rehabilitate the wetlands around one of our area's earliest homes, which incorporates a heritage listed grove of trees. With a grant of \$250,000, BIGA, a local non-profit training organisation, is training the participants in horticultural and landscape skills. In turn, the project will assist in improving the native flora and fauna habitat of the wetlands, as well as creating a nature boundary around the heritage listed trees.

Another project has given 10 unemployed people the opportunity to learn computer skills to enable them to provide diagnostic services and reports for year 2000 compliance. This info-tech training program will train and provide paid employment over a three month period within the Pine Rivers, Caboolture and Redcliffe areas. This very relevant project is being run by the community agency East Coast Training and Employment.

The third project will provide work for 20 long-term unemployed people to help construct a heritage museum at the North Pine Country Park. This museum will preserve the history of our area for future Queenslanders, as well as provide an additional tourist facility at the already popular tourist park. With a State Government grant of \$276,000, this project is jointly managed by Career Solutions, a community employment agency, and the Pine Rivers Shire Council. It is scheduled for official opening on Australia Day 2000.

The fourth project is also being coordinated by Career Solutions and aims to provide work experience and training in aspects of horticulture and environmental restoration. The participants are working at the Bunya Environmental Centre and the Pine Rivers Shire Council nursery to receive on the job training in a nursery situation. Their goal is to propagate native flora species in order to provide sufficient stock for the planned revegetation program in the region. I recently met one of the groups working on this scheme at the Bunya Environmental Centre. I can inform the House that not only have they embraced the project but they are thoroughly enjoying their work.

As honourable members can see, those community job projects have provided comprehensive employment initiatives in Pine Rivers. However, the employment opportunities in Pine Rivers do not stop here. State Development, under the stewardship of Deputy Premier Jim Elder, is generating great initiatives for Queensland. It was instrumental in having the New Zealand company Mills-Tui set up its Australian base at Brendale in my electorate. Its special vehicle manufacturing works will provide up to 70 jobs.

Another significant employment initiative is the HITT scheme that is administered by the Department of Public Works and Housing. A Bray Park housing project funded under this scheme has seen a jobs boost for the youth of Pine Rivers. These initiatives and opportunities are putting the Beattie Government in good stead to reach its 5% unemployment target in Pine Rivers.