



Speech by

Hon. Tim Mulherin

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

Hansard Thursday, 18 June 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Blueprint for the Bush

Hon. TS MULHERIN (Mackay—ALP) (Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Rural and Regional Queensland) (10.03 am): This government is committed to rural and regional Queensland, and I am pleased to announce that 48 organisations will share in more than \$1 million in the latest round of Blueprint for the Bush funding. This is allocated from the current budget. The Bligh government's Blueprint for the Bush Our Place, Our Future initiative gives a kick-start to a range of community projects. We all know how resourceful and hardworking bush communities are, and I am sure they will get real bang for their buck from this funding.

The money is going to practical projects designed to strengthen these communities and help attract and retain skilled workers. Some of the projects to be funded in round 4 of the Our Place, Our Future initiative include: \$116,000 to the Paroo Shire Council to implement a community brokerage service to develop and support business, training and employment opportunities in Cunnamulla; more than \$77,000 to the Burnett Inland Economic Development Organisation to establish permaculture gardens within 16 rural school communities as part of the Community Garden Cooperative in Kingaroy; more than \$38,000 to the Rotary Club of Mirani to engage an event coordinator for the River Rock to Mountain Top Community Festival in 2010; \$24,300 to Gympie and District Community Centreplace to publish a comprehensive information services resource for families at Cooloola; \$19,900 to Mission Beach Artists Inc. to develop a community arts centre strategic planning program at Mission Beach; and \$7,000 to the Southern Downs Regional Council to attend the 2009 Country and Regional Living Expo in Brisbane, which will be an opportunity for the council to attract skilled workers and families interested in a lifestyle change.

A major goal of Blueprint for the Bush is for rural and regional communities to be viable and strong. The Bligh government will continue to support the development of practical solutions for rural and regional Queensland aimed at protecting jobs and developing industry. Currently there are more than 150 Blueprint for the Bush initiatives across the state. They are an investment in the future of rural and regional Queensland.