



Speech by

Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, Infrastructure Projects

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.18 am): The Bligh government believes in the delivery of infrastructure and jobs for Queensland. That is why we made a plan and stuck to it. This year's budget funds a \$17.1 billion Capital Works Program that supports 106,000 jobs—the highest infrastructure spend in Australia for the 10th year running. In the last 10 years this funding has provided busways for Brisbane, the return—I repeat, the return—of rail to the Gold Coast, the upgrade of air and sea ports in Gladstone, Townsville, Cairns and the Mackay region as well as numerous health and hospital upgrades.

For my portfolio this budget means more than \$486 million in capital spending over the next 12 months to continue an ambitious infrastructure and planning program to provide jobs. I am pleased to report that funding for the remaining South-East Queensland water grid projects will top \$315 million in 2010-11. That is \$202 million for the Northern Pipeline Interconnector stage 2 and \$105 million for the Wyaralong Dam, among other projects, to provide water security for South-East Queensland's two million residents.

These projects will also continue to provide jobs, wherever possible sourcing local workers and businesses. The Northern Pipeline Interconnector stage 2, the second stage of the reverse cycle pipeline to link the Sunshine Coast to the South-East Queensland water grid, has already generated a total of 416 jobs and a local spend of more than \$13 million. A total workforce of 650, with up to 60 per cent to be hired locally, is forecast to be reached in August 2010 on the \$440.4 million project between Landers Point and Noosa. The \$348 million Wyaralong Dam, which in conjunction with the Cedar Grove Weir will deliver enough water for 300,000 people each year, will generate a total of 420 jobs in the delivery of that project. The project is currently employing an estimated 370 direct workers and subcontractors, with more than 50 per cent from the local area.

The Wyaralong Dam project has also sourced goods and services from more than 400 businesses, with about 45 per cent from the local area. Wyaralong Dam is also helping break the unemployment cycle and aiding the environment, with a total of 61 Green Army recruits involved in the project. So far, 36 of those involved in the green traineeships have gained local employment following graduation. The next work placement, which starts on 21 June, will see 10 participants at work on the construction of recreation trails around the dam. These important projects are further evidence of the Bligh government's plan to provide infrastructure and generate jobs. We will continue to deliver water security and infrastructure through the nation's biggest building program at \$17.1 billion, protecting 106,000 Queensland jobs.