



Speech by


Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, Local Government

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government) (9.55 am): The LNP went to this year's election promising a wider vision for the state than the two sides of George Street. For too long regional Queensland has been ignored. This is the most important budget for regional Queensland in a generation. The wave of new LNP members from the regions and a leadership team committed to growth for the whole state has seen our first budget direct 75 per cent of capital expenditure outside of Brisbane. Despite the hardship, despite the cost cutting that had to take place to address Labor's easy spending of borrowed money, that is what this budget will deliver.

Local governments understand the financial situation we are addressing, and it could not be summed up better than by the Mayor of Boulia, Rick Britton. He said—

If you take over a business or property and it is in massive debt, you have to make some hard decisions for the long term. It takes a lot longer to come out of debt than to go into debt. I'm very disappointed after 10 years of a mining boom this state is where it is because it should be on top of the world. We understood this would be a tough budget, but if we can make the hard decisions now there will be light at the end of the tunnel.

Despite finding ways to help the budget repair task, local government gets a funding boost this financial year ironically as a result of a political game played by former minister Paul Lucas. In a bid to roll out a pre-election pork barrel, approvals for the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program were not given until weeks before the state election—nearly six months after applications were called. As a result, just \$8 million of the \$45 million pool was funded. We will not compound Labor's shenanigans. Despite the responsible budget, this funding has been rolled into this year and communities will get the infrastructure they deserve.

In conclusion, today I announce this year's round of local government grants and subsidies. From Monday councils can apply for both infrastructure projects to address capital backlog in their community as well as funding to help councils implement recommendations from the Floods Commission of Inquiry. Applications will run between Monday, 17 September and 12 October. It is my intention to take the novel approach and approve them well before the end of this year to allow councils to deliver these projects promptly.