



Speech By  
**Brittany Lauga**


**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 3 June 2015

## ADJOURNMENT

### Rockhampton and Yeppoon, Community Cabinet

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (12.05 am): It was a great honour and privilege to have the Premier and her cabinet in Rockhampton and Yeppoon on 24 and 25 May 2015 for the second community cabinet of the Palaszczuk Labor government. The community was so grateful to host the Palaszczuk government's community cabinet so soon after the election and so soon after Tropical Cyclone Marcia devastated many parts of our great region. The Premier and cabinet held a public forum. This is in stark contrast to the community cabinet held by the Newman government last year. That is right: the government held a public forum where people can actually ask questions from the floor and have the answer given to them then and there. There are no closed doors; no invitation-only community cabinet.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is about transparency and accountability. Those important principles of democracy were front and centre at the community cabinet last month. Yes, there were groups of local people at the school campaigning about various issues. The Premier and I both talked with the different groups and listened to their concerns. This is another example of the Palaszczuk Labor government doing what it promised: listening to Queenslanders. We did not ignore them or go in the back door like Campbell Newman did at the last community cabinet in Rockhampton last year. We did what we have always promised: we listened.

Deputations were held by the cabinet with stakeholders, community organisations and constituents representing the entire Central Queensland region. Many issues, concerns, opportunities and ideas were shared with ministers and the Premier over several hours. It was wonderful to join the Premier, Minister Lynham and the Mayor of Livingstone Shire Council, Bill Ludwig, to announce a further \$1.5 million towards the Yeppoon foreshore project. Work is due to start in two weeks and will be completed just in time for summer this year.

Good news also for Rockhampton residents with \$1.12 million committed by the Palaszczuk Labor government for cleaning out our local waterways and to help improve waterway and creek health. These projects will make local watercourses more resilient to flood events, improve river health and water quality flowing into the Great Barrier Reef.

I was also very pleased that the minister also announced an investment of more than \$4.5 million to support vulnerable families in Central Queensland. The funding will establish two new services: Family and Child Connect, to help families struggling to cope to access support, and Intensive Family Support, for families with more critical problems who are at risk of crisis. I thank the Premier and cabinet for their leadership and for holding a community cabinet in Rockhampton and Yeppoon last month. It was a great honour and a privilege for Central Queensland to host you. I know the community greatly appreciates you all taking the time to listen.