



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 February 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Accelerated Works Program**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.43 am): Our government is delivering on our commitment to create jobs and grow the economy. Queensland's unemployment rate is at a two-year low, down from 6.6 per cent when the LNP left office to 5.9 per cent. More than 60,000 new jobs have been created since this government came to office and we will do more.

Last month I announced my government's Accelerated Works Program to drive jobs in Townsville, Cairns and surrounding regions. We know that it is not only North Queensland that needs help creating jobs and stimulating economic growth. My government recognises that effective and efficient delivery of our \$10.1 billion Capital Works Program plays a key role in supporting economic activity and employment. That is why we have expanded the Accelerated Works Program to cover all Queensland regions. All ministers have been working with their departments to identify funded capital works projects that can be brought forward. We are prioritising projects that can start earlier than planned in 2015-16 or in 2016-17. To date, the Accelerated Works Program involves over \$350 million worth of projects fast-tracked, creating more than 845 jobs sooner.

I can confirm a further tranche of Accelerated Works Program projects for regional Queensland: an additional \$83 million in projects across the Wide Bay and Burnett as well as in major centres including Mount Isa, Gladstone and Cairns. In total, these projects will support another 106 full-time-equivalent jobs in regional Queensland.

My government is not working alone to drive jobs in regional Queensland; we are working with the private sector as well. Over the past 12 months we have had more than \$17.2 billion in major private sector announcements. These projects will generate an estimated 70,000 jobs over the next decade—projects like the SunCentral Maroochydore on the Sunshine Coast that I visited last week. The SunCentral development will provide a focus for the Sunshine Coast. It will provide up to 30,000 jobs and \$5.9 billion to the Queensland economy by 2040. There are more investments planned and more great news for Queensland to come.