




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 10 May 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Maryborough and Townsville, Jobs

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.38 am): Nothing is more important to my government than supporting our local communities to support jobs for Queenslanders. That is why we are investing \$35 billion over four years to support jobs across Queensland through our infrastructure program. We want Queenslanders to benefit from those jobs as soon as possible. A prime example is our support for the communities of Maryborough and Townsville. Last week, we issued a direction to Queensland Rail to enter into negotiations with both Downer's Maryborough maintenance centre and UGL's maintenance facility in Townsville to secure rolling stock maintenance and overhaul works.

Manufacturing jobs in regional Queensland in places like Maryborough and Townsville are vital to supporting local economies and local jobs in their communities. My government was not going to sit by and watch those jobs vanish. That is why our decision to support jobs, critical skills and regional economies in Maryborough and Townsville is important. It is about more than jobs. It is about people and families.

On Friday afternoon I had a chance to visit the Fraser Coast area with the member for Maryborough. One of the people I met there was Josh. Josh is a second-year apprentice at Downer EDI who was considering where he would complete his qualifications, with uncertainty surrounding Maryborough's economic future. As I was told on Friday night, thanks to the government's decision to support the Maryborough and Townsville regions, he can complete his apprenticeship in Maryborough. We want Downer to continue as a centre of railway excellence in Queensland, and we want UGL's railway facility in Townsville to continue to contribute to the delivery of investment in our rail infrastructure assets and continue its contribution to the local Townsville community and economy.