




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 17 June 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Working Queensland

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.40 am): In our first budget last year, my government launched Working Queensland. It included \$240 million for Skilling Queenslanders for Work to support up to 32,000 jobseekers, \$34.5 million for Rescuing TAFE, \$180 million for Advance Queensland and the Business Development Fund, and \$200 million for Building our Regions. In our second budget, we have expanded on this commitment. We know the importance of Queensland's transition beyond the mining boom. We know the importance of job generation across our state, particularly in regional Queensland. That is why my government has more than doubled the funding under Advance Queensland to \$405 million. That is why my government has added \$175 million to Building our Regions. That is why my government has announced the two-year \$100 million Back to Work package to boost jobs in regional Queensland. That is why my government has provided a payroll tax rebate for apprentices and trainees.

My government has introduced these programs because they were either cut or ignored previously. My government has had to rebuild confidence because it had been undermined. My government has had to restore services because they had been cut. Skilling Queenslanders for Work will support up to 8,000 Queenslanders this financial year to develop the skills they need to get back into the workforce or enter higher level training. The Back to Work program will support up to 8,000 Queenslanders in regional areas to get a job through incentives for employers to take on the unemployed. Through the Building our Regions program, the 42 critical infrastructure projects from round 1 are already having a positive impact on regional communities. Construction has now commenced on eight of the 42 approved projects and a further 28 projects are at the design or tender stage. All projects are expected to start construction by November this year.