




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 13 September 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Accelerated Works Program

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.49 am): My government has implemented an Accelerated Works Program to support economic activity and employment in key regional areas. The Accelerated Works Program is supporting local economies and bringing forward employment opportunities in regional areas that are experiencing subdued economic conditions. We have identified more than \$440 million worth of capital works projects that are already funded through the state budget and are being brought forward to commence earlier than planned. We estimate that these projects will support up to 950 jobs.

I am pleased to advise the House that 97 of the accelerated projects have already been completed and at the end of August we had another 36 under construction. These 133 projects represent an investment of approximately \$233 million. The completed projects include Townsville port road, Alligator Creek Road to Allendale Drive overtaking lane, school maintenance works at the North Rockhampton State High School, and repurposing and refurbishment of classrooms at the Mackay West and Proserpine state schools. Some of the 36 projects that are now under construction include port of Townsville berth 4 upgrade, Hervey Range Road widening and wide centre line treatment, Arnot Creek bridge upgrade and Cairns special school.

The projects that have been completed and those now under construction will support more than 600 jobs across Queensland when fully completed. The bulk of these jobs are in the Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, outback and Fitzroy regions. I am pleased to report that various Queensland government departments and government owned corporations are also continuing to see a steady ramping up of expenditure, which is great news for these regions considering the jobs this program is supporting. Further projects are continuing to progress through their design phases and most of the remaining projects are expected to start construction by December this year.

The Accelerated Works Program illustrates my government's commitment to drive the economy and to sustain and create new jobs in regional Queensland. I commend the progress to the House.