




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 15 September 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Infrastructure

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.43 am): I am determined to work with councils to get infrastructure projects up and running across the state. Our \$375 million Building our Regions program is seeing money flow to local councils for important infrastructure priorities. These are councils big and small and we are constantly listening to them and coming up with ways to make it even easier for councils to access these funds.

That is why, today, I am pleased to advise the House that my government will provide an extra \$5 million for critical infrastructure projects to support jobs and economic development in our remote and Indigenous council areas. A total of 31 councils—some of the state's smallest—will be eligible to apply next month for this one-off special funding round. We will also halve the minimum amount they can apply for to help kickstart smaller projects. This is about listening and responding to the needs of Queensland communities.

This money is on top of the \$70 million in infrastructure grants for local government announced last week by the Deputy Premier. These are the smaller councils with lower rate bases. Some of these councils have been battered by the long-running drought. We want to see this money—money that has already been allocated in the budget—make its way to these councils so that they can build projects and create jobs in their local areas.

This is clear evidence that my government is all about building, all about economic growth and, most importantly, all about jobs. We have a \$40 billion infrastructure plan funding the critical infrastructure that our state needs. We are pulling the policy levers to facilitate private sector investment. As the Treasurer has outlined this week, the independent data from the ABS shows that public infrastructure investment is driving domestic economic activity. That is because our State Infrastructure Plan, delivered by the Deputy Premier for the first time in years, is helping drive the economy across our state.

The Townsville Stadium; Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2; North Queensland and western roads funding; new schools in Townsville, Caloundra South, Coomera and Yarrabilba, as well as the long awaited special school in Cairns, are just some examples of projects kickstarted under my government.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I give you notice that if your interjections are, in my view, designed to simply disrupt the minister's or the Premier's contribution, you will be warned and I will take appropriate action.

Ms PALASZCZUK: These are just some examples of the public infrastructure projects in Queensland at the moment. That is why we have every reason to be confident about our economy. We know that some areas of Queensland are doing it tougher than others. We are addressing that by working directly with those communities, as well as putting in place programs such as Back to Work.

I look to the future with confidence, especially when it comes to the public and private infrastructure being delivered now, and the pipeline of projects planned for the years ahead, because those projects mean jobs and economic activity across our state.