




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

North Queensland

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.40 am): I understand how important it is that the voices of Queenslanders be heard. That is why last week I spent the week working from Townsville alongside my Deputy Premier, the minister assisting me on North Queensland and local members, the member for Townsville and the member for Thuringowa. You cannot make decisions that affect people's lives if you have not been out and about and talked to them.

I had the opportunity to visit Kirwan State High School, along with education minister Kate Jones and the member for Thuringowa, to inspect the new \$2 million bus stop, the new drop and go and car park area, with a \$1.4 million shade structure over the quadrangle to be built and \$600,000 to upgrade the arts building. I met with the Townsville Strikeforce team to hear firsthand about the progress of deployment of extra police officers into the Townsville region and to thank them for their incredibly hard work to date. I travelled to Palm Island with the Deputy Premier and met with Mayor Alf Lacey to discuss initiatives around water security.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, someone is interjecting. Your interjections are disorderly and I will take the appropriate action if I can identify who the person is.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I think it was the member for Kawana.

Mr SPEAKER: If it is the member for Kawana—whoever it is—I ask if you want to interject to be identifiable.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They just do not want to listen to the good news; that is what it is. They do not want to hear any good news. They hate good news. I will start again. I travelled to Palm Island with the Deputy Premier and met with Mayor Alf Lacey to discuss initiatives around water security and the design work to begin next month for a \$16.5 million primary healthcare facility on the island. Also there were Minister O'Rourke and the member for Townsville in his capacity as the local member who had been urging both the Deputy Premier and me to attend. I thank him very much for organising that. I addressed the Townsville business community at the annual CEDA lunch where I spoke about unlocking North Queensland's potential and attended a business forum on the Townsville Stadium and Queen's Wharf projects that was attended by more than 250 business.

The Townsville Hospital's children's ward will receive a \$6.6 million expansion and refurbishment to that space. I thank the Minister for Health for all of his work in this area. I had the opportunity to meet with families and children at the children's wing. I saw my friend Lucy, who was being cared for after stepping on a pufferfish, and also met Cooper and his family. We announced \$14 million for the construction of stage 1 of the Waterfront Promenade with up to 60 jobs expected to be created as part of our Advancing our cities and regions strategy. Townsville has so much to offer. It is a vibrant community. I will work hand in hand with Mayor Jenny Hill, our hardworking local representatives, business leaders and the community to ensure Townsville's future is bright.