



Speech By  
**Julieanne Gilbert**


**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**

---

Record of Proceedings, 3 November 2016

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Whitsundays, Community Cabinet**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.39 pm): I thank the Mayor of Whitsunday Regional Council, Andrew Willcox, for the hospitality he and his councillors showed the member for Mirani and me when we visited his region to attend the Whitsunday community cabinet meeting. It was great to see Mackay Mayor Greg Williamson and Andrew Willcox share with the Deputy Premier the GW3 plans for the Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac regions. Mayor Baker was unable to attend the meeting due to commitments in her region, but on her behalf the other mayors outlined the plans they have for progressing the economic future of our great combined regions. Mayor Willcox certainly showed off the best of his region.

Many announcements made on the weekend and Monday were well received by locals. Minister Byrne gave an update on the planning for both the \$7.5 million Mackay and \$2.4 million Proserpine new fire stations. They will both be located out of the busy city centres, with modern, up-to-date facilities that will deliver a high standard of service in each community.

Already over 60 unemployed people in the Mackay-Whitsunday region have been engaged in work due to the Palaszczuk government's Back to Work program. I will share one story with members. D'artagnan is a business owner I spoke to about the program. He had in his business two volunteer workers who came in off the street, both of whom had been unemployed for over 12 months. He was telling me about how he would like to keep these two workers on in his business. D'artagnan applied for a payment for Jarrod and was able to get \$15,000. The process was very simple and quick. Because it was so simple and quick, he applied in relation to the second young man. With this money D'artagnan is going to buy new equipment and upgrade his workplace facilities. He has also been able to buy a machine to replace the screens on tablets and laptops. He is the only person in North Queensland who can do this. There are great outcomes from this program.

Also over the weekend, on the Sunday we were able to go down to Midge Point to visit the people there who have been battling erosion. They were so pleased to see the minister. They were also pleased to see Mayor Greg Williamson. Some \$20,000 has been given to that community to undertake a feasibility study. They were so pleased that they finally got the truth. They said that they had felt so let down by their member. They finally have an outcome.

**Mr Cripps:** They did not say that at all.

**Mrs GILBERT:** They certainly did.

*(Time expired)*