




Speech By
Julianne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

Record of Proceedings, 23 March 2017

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Mackay Ring Road

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.52 pm): I would like to share with the House an update on the Mackay Ring Road. The Mackay Ring Road is the largest transport and roads project ever undertaken in the Mackay region. This is a \$560 million project which will create 603 jobs and provide a huge economic boost to the region. The project is expected to take up to three years to deliver. The project will be approximately 11.3 kilometres long and will include the construction of 13 new bridges, off-ramps and dual-lane roundabouts. This project has begun with preparatory work last September to relocate services. The realignment of the Bald Hills Road commenced at the same time.

In January this year the contract administrator to oversee the main construction was awarded to GHD Pty Ltd. The procurement process for the main contractor is well underway. Stage 1 is already complete and successful short-listed tenders have progressed to stage 2. The contractors tendering need to be preapproved for tier 1 projects under the Commonwealth procurement procedures. Local contractors and suppliers will be needed to deliver the ring-road. That is why the Palaszczuk government is committed to maximising local content through business profile matching and supporting local businesses to understand the requirement to qualify for work packages, subcontract arrangements and supply opportunities.

Mackay contractors and suppliers are keen to secure work on this project. The member for Mirani and I want to see as many locals working on this project as possible. We have both written to the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and the Minister for State Development to coordinate workshops conducted by local staff of the Department of State Development and the Department of Transport and Main Roads. We have asked for the program to include opportunities awareness, including communications support, and potential supplier engagement so that all local contractors will know what they need to do to be part of this project. I have spoken to both of these groups and they said that workshops will begin as soon as their prime contractor has been awarded.

This afternoon I call on the federal member for Dawson to stop playing games with this project, stop interfering and stop making false accusations about the delivery in a timely manner of this project. Right from the beginning he has played interference. If he does not like the way the procurement process works, he needs to get in and change it at the federal level because that is what the state government is working by.

(Time expired)