




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2017

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Go Local; Telecommunications Infrastructure

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (10.10 am): It gives me pleasure to update the House on the Palaszczuk government's Go Local campaign highlighting the important role small businesses play in supporting Queensland jobs and the economy. Unlike those opposite, we know supporting local businesses pays off in more ways than one. Go Local is creating awareness of the benefits of spending money locally. Where you choose to spend your money can have a direct impact on economic growth. Even better, it creates jobs for people in your local area. The Go Local campaign, and the Go Local, Grow Local campaign, featuring newspaper ads and a social media campaign are part of the Palaszczuk government's \$4 million disaster recovery package. The Premier and I announced the package in the wake of Cyclone Debbie and the subsequent weather event in March. Our Go Local campaign also complements the recently released Buy Queensland policy.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to supporting jobs for Queenslanders right across the state. We are also committed to improving the lives of Queenslanders by putting in place necessary infrastructure connecting our regions, communities and businesses to the digital economy. The Palaszczuk government is working with all levels of government as well as telecommunications providers, local communities and industry to deliver major infrastructure outcomes that make a real difference to communities across the state. For instance, as ministerial champion for the Wujal Wujal community in Far North Queensland, I was pleased to announce the council being awarded \$1.1 million in funding through our successful Works for Queensland program, which is administered by the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning under the guidance of the Deputy Premier.

A significant portion of this funding will be used to create a high-speed wireless network and digital forum, supporting more than 14 jobs and enabling reliable communications for a community that has struggled with an inadequate telecommunications service. I was also pleased to recently announce that the government, through the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation, is providing an additional \$274,000 to boost digital connectivity for Wujal Wujal and the neighbouring community of Ayton. On a larger scale, DSITI has also sourced and committed just under \$24 million across two rounds of the Commonwealth funded Mobile Black Spot Program to date. This commitment is delivering 144 new and improved mobile base stations to communities across 54 different councils. All towers will be rolled out by the end of next year as per our agreement with telecommunications providers.

Today I have only mentioned a few examples of investment the Palaszczuk government has made in digital infrastructure, but we remain determined to continue building on this so we can position Queensland to meet its future digital needs in creating jobs and growing the economy.