




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Keppel Electorate, Infrastructure

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.31 pm): I grew up in Central Queensland and I love living there. They say home is where your heart is and last weekend my heart burst with pride as my home, Keppel, took a giant leap forward as we officially opened the \$53 million Yeppoon Lagoon project. I joined Mayor of Livingstone Shire Bill Ludwig, the member for Capricornia and thousands of local people and children to open the highly anticipated new world-class community space for locals and visitors. It was fantastic to celebrate a significant milestone in Livingstone's history.

This is a landmark project for Yeppoon and the surrounding area that will boost tourism and the local economy whilst supporting local jobs. The Palaszczuk government invested \$29 million into this once-in-a-lifetime development in another huge vote of confidence in the Yeppoon community. It was fitting that this opening was celebrated together with Yeppoon's 150-year anniversary.

The Yeppoon Lagoon precinct is loaded with family-friendly activities such as water play areas, a beach amphitheatre, playgrounds and better access for all. It will be a magnet for visitors and a must-see attraction for anyone in the region. I would like to invite all members of this parliament to visit Yeppoon's new lagoon: bring your friends and bring your family up for a holiday and enjoy our beautiful weather, friendly hospitality, relaxing atmosphere and now this exciting Yeppoon Lagoon.

As we have seen stages 3, 4 and now 5 of the Yeppoon Town Centre and Foreshore Revitalisation Project unfold in just over 2½ years, this world-class facility aptly completes this fantastic and major infrastructure development, dramatically improving Yeppoon's foreshore. I am proud that the Palaszczuk government contributed \$29 million towards the project. Livingstone Shire also contributed \$14 million to the project and the Australian government contributed \$10 million. The Yeppoon Lagoon is part of the community infrastructure needed to further drive local job creation and enhance livability for local residents. I am passionate about growing jobs in our local economy. There is nothing more important to economic confidence than employment. The availability of secure, fairly paid jobs is central to the wellbeing and future of every Central Queenslander.

I am proud that the Palaszczuk government is growing jobs in Keppel by investing in job-generating infrastructure. As well as delivering \$29 million for the Yeppoon Lagoon, we are growing jobs and tourism by delivering on our \$25 million commitment to infrastructure on Great Keppel Island. We have contributed \$1.5 million to the Emu Park multisport precinct, which will be opened this weekend. Labor is delivering \$400,000 for a new open-air amphitheatre at Mount Archer, in addition to \$1.9 million for the newly opened Mount Archer Nurim Circuit walk.

We are delivering \$1.8 million on upgrades to the Emu Park Main Beach foreshore; \$3.4 million for Rockhampton Hockey to replace its artificial turf; \$3 million for the Yeppoon Homemaker Centre; half a million dollars for rural floodway upgrades; \$1.3 million for the new North Rocky waterslides; and \$5 million to upgrade the Yeppoon sewerage treatment plant. Labor has delivered \$1.3 million to

construct a local disaster coordination centre and community resilience engagement hub in Yeppoon, over \$7 million to upgrade the North Rocky nursing home and work is also about to start on the \$4.1 million upgrade of the Yeppoon rail line to service JBS abattoir, not to mention Labor's commitment to improving local schools, with millions of dollars in upgrades to local schools including Frenchville, Parkhurst, Taranganba and Farnborough state schools and Yeppoon State High School.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is driving vital infrastructure projects to boost economic growth in Central Queensland. We are continuing to work closely with business and industry to create jobs across Central Queensland. We are working diligently to continue generating more jobs and providing sustained stability for investment. Across Queensland our \$5 billion annual regional infrastructure investment, our Back to Work program, the Works for Queensland program and the Jobs and Regional Growth Fund are all creating jobs beyond the south-east corner. The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to delivering a growing economy that delivers a better quality of living for all Central Queenslanders.