



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Fly-in Fly-out Workforces**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.45 am): Friday, 30 March was Good Friday, but it will go down in history as a great Friday to be a worker in Queensland as it marked the commencement of our new laws to regulate fly-in fly-out workforces on Queensland resource projects. From that day, the Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act came into operation, and it is delivering on the Queensland government's commitment to prohibit 100 per cent FIFO workforces. Very importantly, large resource projects near regional Queensland communities cannot employ 100 per cent fly-in fly-out workforces.

This is good news for regional communities because it ensures that local residents have access to fair job opportunities and it allows existing workers the choice to live in nearby regional communities. Large resource projects captured by the act are those that have 100 or more workers and an environmental authority and are located within a 125-kilometre radius of a nearby regional community with at least 200 residents. Importantly, the Coordinator-General has the discretionary power under the act to include other projects, for example, that have a smaller workforce or where the regional community is smaller than 200 residents or further away.

Following an extensive consultation process, Queensland's independent Coordinator-General has initially listed 61 large resource projects—43 coal, 15 mineral and three liquefied natural gas projects—and a total of 265 nearby regional communities associated with these projects. This means any project on the list currently operating with a 100 per cent FIFO workforce now has six months to transition away from 100 per cent FIFO and include recruitment of workers from nearby regional communities.

From Good Friday, 30 March 2018, these large resource projects listed are also prohibited from discriminating against residents of nearby regional communities in the future recruitment of operational workers. The new enhanced social impact assessment guideline for future projects going through an EIS will also support local and regional resource communities. Project owners will have to demonstrate to the Coordinator-General that their workforce and supply chain arrangements provide opportunities to build strong and sustainable resource communities.

These are the first laws of their type in Australia and are an important achievement of the Palaszczuk Labor government. They are a particularly powerful legacy of the former member for Mirani, Jim Pearce. I want to pay tribute to his advocacy in this area. I also want to acknowledge the previous minister for state development, the member for Stafford, for his work on this project.

In conclusion, in a debate in the House last night I inadvertently stated that the business case for Nulling Dam was released in February last year. It was, in fact, February this year.