




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline Program

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.46 am): This month the Palaszczuk government approved grant funding for 70 projects to assist local councils to turn infrastructure projects from promising ideas into solid proposals under round 2 of the Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline Program. Sixty-seven councils will each get a share of the available \$22 million. For local communities, that means supporting local governments with vital investment in early-stage project planning. The \$30 million program is delivered across two rounds and the interest from councils in both rounds of the program has been significant.

Under the first round of the program, the Palaszczuk Labor government is already working with 22 local governments and industry to assess 40 new infrastructure proposals. Projects range from a strategic assessment of the Flinders Shire Council's tourism proposal for Porcupine Gorge National Park to investigating the best options to deliver economic benefit to the communities within the Central Highlands Regional Council area through revitalising the Emerald Saleyards.

Projects approved under round 2 of the program include the Aurukun Shire Council undertaking strategic planning for the Aurukun Airport; the Lockyer Valley Regional Council partnering with the Somerset Regional Council to develop a Lockyer Valley and Somerset water security business case; the Goondiwindi Regional Council's feasibility study to develop a centre for agricultural excellence; and the Scenic Rim Regional Council's proposal to develop a business case for the Beaudesert Public Library. Scenic Rim Regional Council Mayor Greg Christensen welcomed the announcement, saying that it is good news for the region and that developing a business case for the Beaudesert library is about looking at what the community wants to happen, how they might make it happen and how it stacks up.

As Local Government Association of Queensland Chief Executive Greg Hallam said, the Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline Program helps get these vital local projects moving. Importantly, the Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline Program complements existing grant programs and will assist councils in determining their infrastructure priorities to deliver regional projects across our state.