



Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**


**MEMBER FOR BANCROFT**

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**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Infrastructure**

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.11 pm): Today I want to talk about the infrastructure rollout that is happening in Queensland delivering jobs and economic confidence for Queensland businesses. The latest state budget outlined a four-year total of \$45.8 billion in infrastructure, which is an increase of \$3 billion from last year. I want to congratulate the Minister for State Development on his great work in guiding our infrastructure rollout through initiatives such as the State Infrastructure Plan, the SIP, which outlines Queensland infrastructure priorities to support economic growth and jobs. Through the SIP we are ensuring the right infrastructure is delivered at the right time and in the right place for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

The SIP has two parts: part A is the strategy and part B is the program. The 2018 update to part B shows how we will deliver certainty for jobs and businesses over the next four years. The update outlines the Queensland government's \$11.6 billion infrastructure investment in 2018-19, which will support up to 38,000 jobs. The SIP is tied closely to the work of Building Queensland, which is the independent authority that provides independent expert advice to Queensland government agencies on infrastructure. The SIP part B update incorporates Building Queensland's seven new priority proposals, with the Queensland government committing funds for a further nine projects. These include upgrades to the Gold Coast Light Rail and Centenary Motorway along with the Gold Coast Light Rail extension to Burleigh Heads.

Supporting the State Infrastructure Plan and Building Queensland is the \$2.2 billion State Infrastructure Fund. Allocations under this fund include: the delivery of Cross River Rail; upgrading the Pacific Motorway between Mudgeeraba and Varsity Lakes; and future-proofing the Bruce Highway. One part of the fund is the Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline Program, which is \$30 million to enable projects to be matured from ideas into solid proposals. This fund has also contributed to the \$600 million Works for Queensland program. Under this program we have delivered 1,350 vital infrastructure projects led by regional councils, and I can tell members that local governments love the Works for Queensland program. It supports local governments to undertake job-creating maintenance and minor infrastructure projects.

Across the first two rounds of Works for Queensland councils estimate that the works will support, sustain or create more than 12,000 jobs in Queensland. It gets even better, because this fund has also allocated funds to the \$180 million Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program. This program delivers essential infrastructure in key regional centres, provides economic opportunities and supports 600 jobs. The infrastructure rollout keeps coming under the Palaszczuk government. Our government is also delivering the Building Better Hospitals program, which will inject \$679 million into hospitals. It includes upgrades at Logan, Caboolture and Ipswich along with regional hospitals in Atherton, Blackall and Cairns.

Other infrastructure is also being rolled out; for example, Economic Development Queensland undertook \$54.7 million in capital works. They are also preparing for the delivery of the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct and Griffith University's Advanced Design and Prototype Technologies Institute within the precinct. The list goes on, and I would certainly encourage the opposition to listen carefully because this is happening in their areas as well. I would also remind them that EDQ is also driving the further development of Queensland's largest waterfront urban renewal project at Northshore Hamilton and completed significant road and civil works at the Yeerongpilly Green development.

To those Queensland businesses and jobs that rely on the rollout of infrastructure, I tell them that the scope of work coming up in Queensland is enormous. We have the population growth to drive economic growth. Queensland's population passed five million in May and is on target to grow to more than seven million by 2040, but we are not simply relying on population growth to deliver jobs. We are a government with the foresight, determination and plans to build the infrastructure and economic growth we need. We have a government that is delivering infrastructure work and construction, and this all delivers confidence in Queensland. That is something that the LNP could never do in their last term in government. They undermined confidence in the Queensland economy. Confidence is crucial to our economy and the 2.2 million Queensland jobs that are—

*(Time expired)*