




Speech By
Cynthia Lui

MEMBER FOR COOK

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Cook Electorate, Premier's Visit

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.42 pm): I rise to speak about the Premier's recent visit to the Torres Strait in my electorate of Cook. This visit occurred over three days—from 31 July to 2 August—and included Thursday Island and the outer island community of Yam Island. As a first-term member of parliament and the first Torres Strait Islander elected to state parliament, it is a huge privilege to have a leader who supports not only me but also the people in the communities I serve. That is indeed significant to me and my valuable constituents.

The Cook electorate is unique in size and it has diverse issues affecting people living in rural and remote areas of Far North Queensland. The Premier's visit once again demonstrated the Palaszczuk government's commitment to consultation—listening and actively engaging with people in the communities of Far North Queensland. This was a great opportunity for my constituents to raise issues that were important to them directly with the Premier.

I can confirm to the House that this visit was unique. During the visit, the Premier engaged in discussions with local mayors and council representatives, attended community receptions and visited a range of key sites, including the Tagai school campus on both Yam Island and Thursday Island, and a vital water treatment plant on Thursday Island. Given some big announcements in the recent budget, the Premier's visit to my electorate could not have come at a better time.

Unlike the LNP, this government believes in providing the best services and infrastructure for people no matter where they live in Queensland. This government continues to invest in a diverse range of projects and initiatives across the region, including the redevelopment of Thursday Island Hospital and the upgrade of the Torres shire's water infrastructure. The Palaszczuk government has committed \$1 million over two years to upgrade the existing water treatment plant so that the people of Thursday, Horn and Hammond islands have access to clean water. The commitment to solving the Torres Strait inner islands' water-quality issues with the installation of a filtration system will also directly benefit the local economy through jobs in design and construction.

The Palaszczuk government has committed \$20 million to seawall and flood mitigation work on five islands in the Torres Strait. While on her visit the Premier had the opportunity to inspect firsthand the seawall site on Yam Island where homes were damaged in severe weather conditions earlier this year. The Palaszczuk government's funding is conditional on that funding being matched by the federal government. Clearly, the Palaszczuk government is working hard to achieve bipartisan support to address the impacts of climate change affecting island communities. However, just like the national partnership on remote housing, it is particularly disappointing to see the ignorance displayed by the Turnbull LNP government and the current member for Leichhardt, who continue to walk away from their responsibility to remote communities.

Lastly, can I say what an honour and privilege it was for me to take the Premier to my home of Yam Island in the Torres Strait and to share a part of my life with her. That is what makes the Premier great and unique. I had never had the pleasure of seeing or meeting the Premier of Queensland on my island. That is a reflection of a leader who is there for all Queenslanders. I am proud to represent a government who is there for all Queenslanders. On behalf of the people of Cook, I say thank you.