



Speech By  
**Jennifer Howard**


**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH**

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**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Governing from the Regions**

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.11 pm): I rise today to speak about the Governing from the Regions initiative which was held in Ipswich last week. Firstly, on behalf of my community I would like to thank Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk and all the ministers for coming to Ipswich and listening. It was a welcome opportunity for me and I am sure for all of my Ipswich parliamentary colleagues. I want to acknowledge the huge logistical feat it must have been. I sincerely thank all of those people who worked behind the scenes to make it such a successful event.

The Palaszczuk government works hard and fights hard for all Queenslanders. At the 2017 election Anastacia Palaszczuk and Labor promised to put Queenslanders first by delivering initiatives that will help grow jobs in our regions and provide vital funding for health, education and infrastructure. These are the things that the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP will never deliver for Queensland's regions. The Queensland LNP supported the cuts and asset sales of the Newman government and they support Malcolm Turnbull's cuts to Queensland health and education and reducing Queensland's share of GST.

Last week was a very exciting week for Ipswich. I want to mention just a few of those highlights. It began with the Minister for Sport, the Hon. Mick de Brenni, officially opening our state-of-the-art Ipswich Cycle Park. I can report that this facility, a bit over a week old, has already been embraced by thousands of Ipswich people, young and old.

We then welcomed the Premier and the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Steven Miles, to Ipswich Hospital to meet our nurse navigators and interns and to deliver on our election commitment to provide \$124.4 million for the Ipswich Hospital redevelopment. West Moreton health represents the fastest growing hospital and health region in the state. Without vital funds for redevelopment, the Ipswich Hospital will struggle to cope with our rapidly growing population. Stage 1 of the West Moreton hospital and health master plan includes a new 50-bed mental health facility, an MRI for Ipswich Hospital, an integrated community healthcare centre and outpatient facility and a new car park.

The other big winners last week were Queensland schools. Some 827 state schools, including 10 in my electorate, will now go solar and reap energy savings with the \$97 million Advancing Clean Energy Schools program, announced last week by the Premier and the Minister for Education, Grace Grace, at Bremer State High School. This initiative will help state schools across Queensland save 20 per cent on power bills, reduce their carbon footprint and help Queensland reach our target of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030.

Announced the same day at Bremer State High School was the launch of the Creating Queensland's Future coding competition for 2018. I had the pleasure of meeting Bremer's winning team from last year. It was wonderful and encouraging to see this team of young women have so much enthusiasm and talent for coding.

Another huge win for Ipswich and Queensland last week was the announcement of Rheinmetall's successful tender for the Land 400 contract. While we hear from opposition leader Deb Frecklington and the LNP team that it was 'Team Queensland' that secured Rheinmetall for Queensland, we know that the \$5 billion project would never have come to Queensland without the long and hard campaigning done by our Premier and our current state development minister, Cameron Dick, and the former state development minister, Dr Anthony Lynham. They fought hard for Queensland to get this project. The benefits to the state and to my community will be enormous.

The project will create 450 jobs in advanced manufacturing and engineering and will spur high-tech innovation and growth in Queensland's advanced manufacturing and defence industries.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): One moment, member for Ipswich. Members, there is far too much conversation, particularly coming from my left. If you wish to continue your conversations take them outside the chamber. We need to listen to the member with the respect that she deserves.

**Ms HOWARD:** Rheinmetall will also base its Australia-New Zealand headquarters and Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence in the Ipswich suburb of Redbank. This greatly expands job opportunities for skilled professionals in Ipswich and provides supply chain opportunities for local businesses. For a town that struggled for many years battling higher than average unemployment and trying to stem the brain drain of young professionals leaving Ipswich for jobs elsewhere, the skilled jobs boost that the Rheinmetall contract provides will be very welcome.

Today's announcement that the Palaszczuk government is committed to introducing a waste recovery management strategy, underpinned by the reintroduction of a waste levy in Queensland, is yet another example of how this government listens and consults. We in this parliament should never forget the enormous privilege it is to be here representing our communities. I want to thank all of the stakeholders in Ipswich, including principals and other community leaders, for embracing the fantastic opportunity provided by having the Premier and her ministers in our community and for participating in some genuine and productive discussions about the future of Ipswich.