



Speech By  
**Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe**


**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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Record of Proceedings, 8 March 2018

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Programs**

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.57 am): The Palaszczuk government is working closely with Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils to deliver better infrastructure in those communities.

The first funding from our \$120 million Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program is already flowing to nine councils. Almost \$20 million in critical infrastructure funding is being rolled out to kickstart the first projects. The projects funded by this program aim to improve the health and safety of Indigenous communities by delivering better vital water, wastewater and solid waste facilities. It is about ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in discrete communities have infrastructure to suit their specific needs and the training to support the infrastructure over the long term. The end result will be safer, healthier drinking water and an environment with every community receiving critical infrastructure to provide for a sustainable future.

Projects being funded through the program include: \$3.75 million to upgrade a wastewater treatment plant on Saibai Island for the Torres Strait Island Regional Council; \$862,500 for 10 more Torres Strait communities to share in infrastructure upgrades to improve water quality; more than \$1.8 million for Aurukun Shire Council to refurbish its solid waste facility—all in the member for Cook's electorate—and \$2.76 million for Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council—in the Leader of the Opposition's electorate—to upgrade its water treatment plant, wastewater and solid waste facilities. As Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor Arnold Murray said—

These projects will directly benefit the community's health and wellbeing. They will build on other projects in Cherbourg to improve the surrounding environment and help make the town a better place to live.

That is what this is all about—improving the health and wellbeing of Indigenous Queenslanders living in discrete communities. I will continue to work with Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils—and indeed all local councils—to make their communities better places to live, which is all part of modernising Queensland.