



Speech By  
**Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe**


**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 May 2018

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Regional Investment, Barcaldine and Jericho**

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.02 am): Barcaldine has a special place in Queensland and Australian history. The site of the great shearers' strike camp and the birthplace of the Australian Labor Party in 1891, this iconic outback town has helped shape this nation. Earlier this month, I visited Barcaldine and I am pleased to inform the House that the town is still making history. Barcaldine is now home to the first turf racetrack in Western Queensland, which I was proud to officially open at the Tree of Knowledge Cup meeting on 5 May. This new turf track, replacing a previous sand track, is a massive step forward for the race club—enriching its already proud history which started in 1892. The new turf track at Barcaldine will be a game-changer for racing in Western Queensland, giving owners and trainers the chance to compete on turf without travelling vast distances towards the coast to race.

Racing Queensland has agreed in principle to support an application from the club to access infrastructure funding for a contribution for this near \$600,000 project. This contribution will be made through our four-year, \$70 million country racing package, which will help secure the future of country racing for years to come. This initiative in racing has been more popular than any other in the history of the state, I believe. During my visit, I also attended the Tree of Knowledge Festival, which brought together locals and holiday-makers—including some of those travelling on the roads that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads was referring to earlier—to enjoy everything from good music to the traditional goat races.

During my visit to the Barcaldine region, I also officially opened the Jericho swimming pool complex, representing almost \$1.8 million in new investment. The Palaszczuk government partly funded this great new outback oasis with a \$780,000 contribution in yet another sign of our commitment to regional Queensland. Make no mistake, this is a government that delivers for all Queenslanders. We understand that small towns like Barcaldine and Jericho rely on state investment to support local jobs, infrastructure and economic development. As local government minister, I will continue to work with the state's councils to drive local economies, generate jobs and make towns like Barcaldine and Jericho better places to live.