




Speech By
Barry O'Rourke

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Rockhampton Art Gallery

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (2.03 pm): Previously I have put on the record my thanks to the Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, and the Minister for the Arts, Leeanne Enoch, for their support in funding \$8 million towards our new art gallery in Rockhampton, in addition to the \$2 million already committed. I have been a strong advocate for this funding. I also put on the record my thanks to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, Cameron Dick, for the \$5 million in funding from Building Our Regions funds to build the art gallery in Rockhampton. That will make a total commitment of \$15 million from the Palaszczuk government for a \$31.5 million project that I have been passionate to secure for the people of Rockhampton and Central Queensland. The funding will enable a new art gallery to be built that will be seven times the size of the existing space. The project will support 104 construction jobs. The project will deliver significant community and economic benefits to Rockhampton and the wider Central Queensland region.

The current Rockhampton Art Gallery, which was opened in 1979, lacks the space to house and display the gallery's nationally significant collection. The new gallery will feature two large flexible gallery spaces, three educational spaces, permanent collection storage, a restaurant and a retail shop, with a total floor area increasing from 650 square metres to 4,711 square metres. The new gallery will lead to local economic growth and jobs creation by attracting more cultural events to the region and it will support ongoing work in Rockhampton's arts and recreational services sector.

This is about unlocking employment and investment opportunities for our city, with the development contributing to the revitalisation of the CBD. The gallery will prove a huge drawcard for locals and visitors, and it will bring people back into the Rockhampton CBD, from art enthusiasts to young children, school groups and families. Everyone who lives in or comes to Rockhampton will be attracted to that fantastic new gallery. The gallery will be a boon for small businesses and it will revitalise our city centre. We have a vibrant and diverse region from our resources and agriculture, through to tourism, culture, sports and arts. This investment shows that the Palaszczuk government supports and understands what a great place Rocky is.