




Speech By
Barry O'Rourke

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Budget, Rockhampton Electorate

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (2.40 pm): I recently took the opportunity to reflect on the many achievements of the Palaszczuk government since taking office in 2015. As the local member I have spent every day fighting for jobs and dollars for my region. We have so many fantastic projects on the go. Now we have another great jobs budget. Our government has created more than 199,000 jobs—more than 7,100 new jobs in Central Queensland in the past year alone. Our Local Buy policy has ensured that local industries are the beneficiaries of jobs, for example, the Capricornia Correctional Centre expansion or the courthouse precinct upgrade—over \$255 million with more than 200 construction jobs.

The Palaszczuk government's Works for Queensland program has supported the Rockhampton Regional Council with in excess of \$30 million for projects like Kershaw Gardens, the Cedric Archer water play area, various footpath programs, the North Rockhampton swimming pool, the Mount Morgan streetscape, and on and on. These would not have happened without Labor funding. In fact, for the last 30 years Labor has delivered all of the major infrastructure projects in Rockhampton. Work is about to commence on the art gallery with an investment of \$15 million from the Palaszczuk government which I have fought hard for. It will create 104 construction jobs. More than 800 Rockhampton locals have secured jobs under the Back to Work program, which gives employers the confidence to take on new employees through financial incentives. The \$200 million commitment to the Rockhampton Ring Road will support 780 new jobs.

The Palaszczuk government has invested hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars in the South Rockhampton flood levee, Rookwood Weir, the rail manufacturing hub and hospitals and schools—the list goes on—creating jobs, jobs and more jobs. Since the Palaszczuk government took office we have facilitated the investment of more than \$20 billion in resource projects, supporting several thousand jobs. In the last month or so we have seen announcements about the \$1 billion Olive Downs coalmine project, which will create 500 jobs in construction and 1,000 operational jobs, and the \$1 billion Winchester South project, which will create another 950 jobs. This is on top of the more than 30,000 existing jobs in the Bowen Basin. I will always fight for the best deal for the people of Rocky and CQ, and I will not settle for anything less than our fair share.