




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Record of Proceedings, 26 November 2019

MOTION

Federal Government, Infrastructure Funding

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (12.01 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion. Central Queensland is a big winner from the \$1.9 billion deal struck last week between our Premier and the Prime Minister which is as a result of and thanks to the pressure that the Palaszczuk Labor government brought to bear. Now that the federal government has finally listened, we have a better funding deal for Queensland and, in particular, for Central Queensland.

On the Rocky Ring Road, \$10 million in federal funding will be brought forward to make sure that we can keep the progress moving so that construction can start sooner. The Palaszczuk government has committed \$200 million to the Rocky Ring Road project and we have fast-tracked planning for the upgrade. We want to ensure that the federal government's funding is ready to go. Planning for the Rockhampton Ring Road is on track for completion next year, soon after the completion of the \$157 million Rockhampton northern access upgrade. The fact that we have been able to secure this deal with the federal government to bring forward the funds for the Rocky Ring Road means that local contractors, local tradespeople and local apprentices will work on the northern access upgrade and then move straight on to the Rocky Ring Road. As a result, we will have a consistent and ongoing works improvement program with respect to those road upgrades.

That follows the start of works on the \$75 million Capricorn Highway duplication and major progress on the \$157 million Rockhampton northern access upgrade. Both projects are major job creators in Central Queensland, with 400 jobs being sustained by the northern access project alone. The Palaszczuk government has done all of the heavy lifting, creating a strong pipeline of works to create jobs and the infrastructure that our growing state needs. In the past five years we have delivered four record Transport and Main Roads infrastructure budgets and this year's QTRIP will support over 13,500 regional jobs over four years. You have only to visit the northern access upgrade that is underway at the moment to see contractors, apprentices, trainees and tradespeople crawling all over that site, working really hard to deliver the project. Ultimately, this investment means jobs for our region.

The deal recognises that our economy needs a boost from Canberra. We said it, the Reserve Bank said it and the Business Council of Australia said it. The federal government needed to spend more on infrastructure to create jobs and get the national economy going. Time and time again in this place I have spoken about the importance of the federal government taking up some of the load, because the state government has been doing all of the heavy lifting with respect to the delivery of infrastructure in Queensland.

Rather than back our deal to keep creating jobs for Queenslanders, those opposite do little other than complain bitterly. During this debate, all we have heard from those opposite are complaints and whingeing, instead of getting on board and supporting this great deal that Queensland has been able to secure.