




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Building Our Regions

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.51 am): It is day 2 of the dud federal budget and it is clearer than ever where the federal coalition government's priorities lie. There was \$3 billion for the north-south road corridor in Adelaide—described by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as one of Australia's slowest growing capital cities—and slow roads for Queensland, particularly regional Queensland. This demonstrates once again that the only government Queenslanders can rely on to improve our regions is the Palaszczuk Labor government.

That is why I am pleased to update the House on the progress of our Building our Regions program. Our government has now invested \$295 million to make regional Queensland even better. We have been joining councils across regional Queensland to announce their success in securing round 4 funding with a renewed focus on economic infrastructure. These are projects which will boost local economies and support local jobs.

Two weeks ago I was in Cairns with the member for Cairns and visited Munro Martin Parklands to announce a \$1.3 million redevelopment of its back-of-house facilities thanks to \$650,000 from the Palaszczuk Labor government. The redevelopment will unlock the potential to attract more performances to the venue, as well as boosting attendance and tourist numbers which will generate further economic activity and employment. In Townsville, the member for Townsville, Scott Stewart, joined Mayor Jenny Hill to announce the \$10.2 million Townsville Waterfront Promenade project. This project is receiving a \$5 million Building our Regions injection. Importantly, these projects support jobs, with an estimated 34 construction jobs for this Townsville project alone.

I know the member for Warrego will welcome our \$1 million commitment to upgrade airside services at the St George industrial estate. This will deliver five new lots for hangar development, a new hardstand area, an all-weather taxiway link and secure airside access for new tenants. I am sure the member for Warrego would also be very thankful to see that we have invested \$250,000 to help the Bulloo shire build a new boardwalk for the iconic Burke and Wills Dig Tree, protecting that iconic tourist destination for many years to come.

For the member for Gregory, \$1.5 million is going into his electorate—with \$500,000 to extend the rail siding at the Longreach Saleyards and almost \$1 million to fully fund Boulia's first industrial estate. In Maryborough, I was pleased to join the member for Maryborough and Fraser Coast Mayor George Seymour two weeks ago to commit almost \$1 million towards the Maryborough CBD makeover. This project will bring more jobs and dollars to that great regional city. These are jobs for Queenslanders wherever they live and whoever they vote for.

Taken together, Building our Regions has created nearly 2,500 jobs while delivering the vital infrastructure that regional Queensland needs. It is a powerful example of while Scott Morrison governs for New South Wales and Victoria only the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering for regional Queensland.