



Speech By  
**Charis Mullen**


**MEMBER FOR JORDAN**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 November 2019

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Springfield, Regional Jobs Committee**

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.22 pm): I was so pleased to hear the recent news from the Minister for Training and Skills Development that Springfield is one of the regions that has been selected for a new regional jobs committee. This new committee is being created to support Springfield's job market and to grow the local industries and skilled workforce our region needs now and into the future. This is my greatest priority and a priority of our government. As a recognised principal regional activity centre under the SEQ Regional Plan 2017, our government recognises that the possibilities for Springfield are strong, with education, health and technology identified as the priority industries to help support the city's predicted population growth of 115,000 over the next two decades.

Skills are also needed for Greater Springfield's existing major industries including retail, manufacturing, construction, administration and transport logistics. We also know that small business is our state's biggest employer, with the new regional jobs committee firmly focused on how we create a strong employment base for these thriving businesses. The Palaszczuk government is committed to more jobs in more industries and we are doing just that, with 226,800 jobs created for Queenslanders since this government came to office in 2015.

With funding support from the Queensland government, the new Springfield jobs committee will engage with government, local schools as well as local industry and training organisations to ensure we plan for jobs and skills suited to the strengths of our region. We know that our largest challenge will not be jobs but ensuring we have a local workforce ready and trained with the skills to attract and fill employment opportunities.

The committee will benefit from research and industry engagement from Jobs Queensland, collaborate with the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, and advocate for our region's unique workforce training and investment needs. I am pleased that the committee will utilise the existing framework established by the Springfield Skills Alliance project. I was fortunate to receive an early briefing on this proposal when I was still a candidate and I was strongly supportive of its intent. I was also pleased to recently meet with representatives from Regional Development Australia Ipswich & West Moreton to discuss the Springfield Skills Alliance proposal in more detail and to offer my support as the local state member.

The regional jobs committee will have a strong focus that includes ensuring training resources are aligned with the future skilling and employment needs of Springfield and surrounds, and undertaking an assessment of the Springfield labour market and emerging skills requirement. The need for a focus on future workforce skills and growth leading to real-world solutions will require continued attention on innovation, improvements in productivity, training and the need for industry to collaborate with the community and training providers.

We live in a world where change is constant. Economic shifts and global trends are leading the demand for new skills and different employment opportunities in our state. Through its work, the Springfield regional jobs committee will support our region to be better prepared for the broader forces driving change in the region's labour market and create an innovative and entrepreneurial, self-sustaining Springfield economy.