




Speech By
Cynthia Lui

MEMBER FOR COOK

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Cook Electorate, Palaszczuk Labor Government

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.30 pm): The Palaszczuk government will continue to stand with the people of Queensland no matter where they live. This government believes in providing the best services and infrastructure for all people. Based on our track record, communities are better off with the support of this government to deliver vital projects and initiatives. In the Cook electorate we have the track record to prove this because we are a government that believes in taking action. We make things happen. Not much can be said about the current member for Leichardt, Warren Entsch, and the Morrison LNP government because they are taking no action. In fact, they are stopping action being taken for all the wrong reasons.

This government makes no apology when it comes to supporting communities. In December 2018 the Palaszczuk government announced a \$25 million support package to Far Northern Milling in Mossman in the Douglas shire. This is an industry that was at risk of closing its doors for good, and the impact on this small community would have been devastating. The Mossman Mill supports local jobs, businesses and services in the region, and saving an industry meant saving a community for future generations to come.

I want to put on the record that this government made every effort to work closely with industry and key stakeholders to ensure a strong business case was put forward to support their bid for funding. I note that the federal government's commitment of \$20 million was conditional on a strong business case. Unlike Warren Entsch and the Morrison LNP government, we did not sit back to wait for the business case to be developed; rather, we worked in partnership with all key stakeholders to achieve a positive outcome.

The Palaszczuk government believes in economic growth and development to support communities into the future. That is why just last month the Palaszczuk government announced a \$5.7 million funding package to commence construction of the first seven kilometres of the 94-kilometre Wangetti Trail in the north Mowbray section of the Douglas shire. The Palaszczuk government will not sit around and wait for the Morrison LNP government to get their act together. We on this side of the House understand how important this project is for the future of the region, and we are getting on with the first stage of this wonderful project. This section of the trail will create 30 jobs, 11,000 additional visitors and \$6.1 million in overnight tourism expenditure.

Wangetti Trail is worth a total of \$25 million. Once completed, we will see \$300 million injected into the local economy, 150 jobs created and 43,000 additional visitors to the region. One can only hope that the current member for Leichardt is as enthusiastic as I am about this project. I call on Warren Entsch and the Morrison LNP government to put their money where their mouth is and get behind this important project to support their community and future growth in the region.

The Palaszczuk government wants to see local businesses thrive. Mareeba manufacturer Homefab is set to make its mark in Far North Queensland and create more jobs. I had the pleasure of visiting Homefab recently with Minister Crawford and was impressed with the calibre of their work. Homefab is an award winning manufacturer of steel framed building components. It is tested to cyclonic wind loadings, it is termite and borer proof, and it is not combustible. Thanks to a \$425,211 grant from the Palaszczuk government's Made in Queensland program, Homefab will now be able to introduce new machinery and improve the company's productivity and competitiveness.

The Palaszczuk government is doing outstandingly in delivering for Queenslanders in my electorate—from committing funds to building a new primary healthcare centre on Mer Island in the Torres Strait, to building a new airport terminal in Lockhart River, to funding Aurukun's brand-new Ngoyngk Min seniors units, which is a complex of six two-bedroom apartments that I recently had the privilege of officially opening. I make no apology when it comes to advocating for the needs of my communities. I call on Warren Entsch to do the same—no more cuts and stop walking away from your responsibility. Communities in the Cook electorate deserve their fair share of funds. It is about time Warren Entsch and Scott Morrison awake from their slumberous, inactive state and actually deliver for their community.