



Speech By  
**Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe**


**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2019

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Works for Queensland**

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.58 am): I have good news for regional Queensland! We have another \$200 million now available for local councils through the Works for Queensland program. Half of that, \$100 million, has been fast-tracked for the first half of 2019. This is money that can be used to build new parks and gardens, better roads and other important community facilities, and it will help boost local economies. It will also add to the fantastic employment record of the hugely successful Works for Queensland initiative. This exceptional program is another sign of the Palaszczuk government's leadership on jobs. It is a massive hit with regional councils and supports more than 13,000 jobs, with even more on the way.

**Mr Stewart:** We love it in Townsville!

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I take that interjection from the member Townsville. Whether it is Townsville's Heatley Park upgrade, improvements to the Maryborough CBD or the restoration of the reception room in Rockhampton City Hall, Works for Queensland is delivering terrific results. We fast-tracked \$100 million in Works for Queensland funding because we want to see more job-generating projects underway even sooner. The total Works for Queensland funding now tops \$600 million across the three funding rounds. I say to eligible regional councils, 'Get your bids in for a slice of this new Works for Queensland funding.' The guidelines for funding are now available to all 65 eligible councils, with applications open until March. Eligible projects range from roadworks, town beautification, tourism projects, parks and playground upgrades, as well as renewable energy initiatives. I urge regional councils to partner with the Palaszczuk government to create the infrastructure and jobs that our local communities need.