




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Works for Queensland Regional Infrastructure Program

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.10 am): On this International Workers Day, there is no better example of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to jobs than our \$600 million Works for Queensland Regional Infrastructure Program. Throughout regional Queensland, this exceptionally successful program is supporting thousands of jobs, boosting local economies and delivering important new infrastructure.

To date, outside of the south-east, 65 eligible councils have reported that more than 14,041 jobs have been created or supported across 1,361 projects thanks to Works for Queensland. That includes roadworks, town beautification projects, and park and playground upgrades throughout regional Queensland. My department is now finalising the list of successful projects for the next \$200 million funding round, and those will be announced in coming weeks.

I have seen firsthand the great results that Works for Queensland is already delivering in regional areas. You see the signs everywhere. There is a new world-class hockey facility being built in Rockhampton with \$2.5 million in Works for Queensland funding. Recently, I had a great chance to inspect those works with the member for Rockhampton. That new centre of excellence at Kalka Shades will build on Rockhampton's rich hockey tradition. It is also great news for the local economy, with the project supporting 38 jobs.

Works for Queensland is delivering \$27.2 million to the Rockhampton Regional Council for infrastructure projects that have created or sustained more than 560 jobs. The program is also delivering great results in the Wide Bay-Burnett area, with almost \$2 million going towards the new Fraser Coast Sports and Recreation Precinct, helping to support more than 3,800 jobs across the whole region via a broad array of Works for Queensland projects.

There is \$2.75 million in Works for Queensland funding for the Goondiwindi region for an upgrade to the Goondiwindi cultural centre in Texas, a refurbishment of the town pool and improved parking facilities at the Texas State School. It was great to visit those projects. There is \$500,000 for major water infrastructure projects in Roma and lighting for the local netball courts, \$1.34 million for local road improvements in Cloncurry, \$50,000 for a children's swimming pool revamp in Richmond and the list literally goes on and on. More jobs, more economic activity, and great new infrastructure: that is what Works for Queensland is delivering.