



Speech By  
**Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe**


**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2019

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Works for Queensland**

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.02 am): I never miss an opportunity to talk about the Palaszczuk government's signature regional local government program Works for Queensland. Tuesday's budget delivered by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer included the next \$50 million instalment of the hugely successful and popular \$600 million Works for Queensland program, which has already supported more than 14,000 regional jobs right across the state.

In a shining example of Works for Queensland delivering for regional communities, last week we saw the Murweh Shire Council taking out the Park of the Year award at the Park and Leisure Australia Regional Awards Queensland for Charleville's Graham Andrews Park, following a \$350,000 Works for Queensland investment in that new community facility. It was a great outcome for the Murweh Shire Council and the whole of the Charleville community. I want to congratulate Mayor Annie Liston and the whole council team—the councillors and all of the council staff—for the great work that they have done on that project. It is a great feather in their cap and it is indicative of the outcomes that Works for Queensland is delivering to communities right across regional Queensland.

In another welcome development on Tuesday, those opposite were also talking up the merits of Works for Queensland, with the shadow minister, the member for Burnett, quoted in the *Bundaberg NewsMail* saying how supportive he is of the government's Works for Queensland program. 'Our local government has made amazing results from that money,' he said—and so he should be supportive of the program with a total of \$33.51 million delivered to the Bundaberg Regional Council under the Works for Queensland program.

We also know that the Mayor of the Bundaberg Regional Council, Jack Dempsey, is a great supporter of the Palaszczuk government's Works for Queensland. As far back as 2017, Mayor Dempsey—Mayor Dempsey, as we know, was a former LNP minister in this House—wrote to the Palaszczuk government urging us 'to continue this type of program into the future to facilitate job creation projects to reduce unemployment levels within regional Queensland'. Every time I see the mayor he tells me that if ever I want someone to help spruik Works for Queensland he is my man.

With those opposite and local governments across our regions in support of this signature Palaszczuk government program, I must take this opportunity to call on the Leader of the Opposition to include a commitment to Works for Queensland in her budget reply speech today. It has sadly been something that the Liberal National Party has never supported and has used as a way to make savings ahead of any other program, so this is an opportunity to make a commitment to this vitally important program, which is very popular with regional councils across the state.