




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Works for Queensland

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.53 am): The Palaszczuk government's signature local government program Works for Queensland is delivering for North Queensland as well as the rest of our regions. By the end of the next financial year, the \$600 million Works for Queensland program will have supported or created more than 21,000 jobs. Already in the first two rounds of the program more than 16,500 jobs have been supported or created in regional Queensland. One of the great things about my job is that I get to travel and talk with local government authorities right across the state. Councils across regional Queensland love this program. It is providing economic security and stability for thousands of families across regional Queensland. In North Queensland alone, councils tell me that 2,324 jobs have been created across a range of projects since the program started in 2016.

At the TEL breakfast this week, the Premier talked about the importance of Works for Queensland in the wake of the collapse of Queensland Nickel. To that we can add the works that are ongoing in the wake of this year's flood events. All up, more than \$114 million has been invested in the North Queensland region since 2016. In the Townsville City Council area alone, there was \$21 million for dozens of job-creating projects including shade covers, fencing, car park works and streetscaping. We see the impact and results right across this beautiful city. This week I will officially open upgrades to Charles Maroney and Heatley parks right here in Townsville. I very much look forward to that and to joining the local members and Mayor Jenny Hill. There is a combined \$7.5 million from Works for Queensland and 60 jobs on these projects alone.

That is what the Palaszczuk government is about: jobs for regional Queensland. Works for Queensland's impact stretches across the 65 eligible local government areas from the Torres Strait to our southern border, including the former Allora Shire Hall, a piece of Southern Downs history restored and reopened thanks to \$695,000 from the Palaszczuk government. I could go on all day about the effects of Works for Queensland, but the message for everyone to take away is that Works for Queensland means jobs for regional Queensland.