



Speech By  
**Barry O'Rourke**


**MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2020

**MOTION**

**Coronavirus, Economic Response**

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (3.28 pm): I rise to speak in support of this motion. This \$477 million stage 2 of Queensland's Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan will support more than 6,000 jobs over the next year. This plan delivers for our agriculture and resource sectors, which are so important for the Rockhampton economy. It also includes a \$12.5 million investment in our agricultural sector that will benefit producers around Rockhampton, including \$5.5 million to support agribusiness to improve food supply chains including traceability and biosecurity which will make our agricultural business more competitive on the export market.

There is another \$5 million to promote trade relationships including e-commerce platforms and \$2 million for agribusiness diversification assistance including agritourism. Our agriculture sector, particularly our beef sector, has been a great stabiliser for the Queensland economy, with beef exports at more than \$6.7 billion over the year to April 2020 compared to \$5.7 billion over the year ending April 2019.

Another great stabiliser for Queensland's economy is our resources sector. This package includes \$10 million for exploration grants for new economy minerals and another \$650,000 to help small businesses benefit from our growing mining equipment, technology and services sector that currently employs around 20,000 people across the state. That means more exploration across Queensland and I will be advocating for investment in Central Queensland.

The regional home building boost of \$5,000 will support people in Rockhampton to build a new home valued at up to \$750,000. This will provide an invaluable boost to the construction sector and tradie jobs in Rockhampton. For eligible buyers it means up to \$20,000 will be available from the Palaszczuk government for newly built homes. The additional \$10 million to support seniors and people with a disability to upgrade their homes will support further jobs. We cannot forget the LNP tried to cut home assist funding when it was in government. The \$15 million for airline route development will support 4,500 jobs over the next year and help our tourism industry get back on its feet. I call on the LNP to unite with us and other Queenslanders to support this \$477 million package that will support over 6,000 jobs.