



Speech By  
**Cynthia Lui**


**MEMBER FOR COOK**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2020

## MOTION

### Coronavirus, Economic Response

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (4.31 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion and Queensland's Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan. The Palaszczuk government wasted no time when it came to putting the health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders first. Since the onset of COVID-19 we have seen exactly that. It has been quite enlightening to see that we have had a very low number of confirmed cases of coronavirus in Far North Queensland. In the most vulnerable communities in my electorate—Cape York and Torres Strait—we have seen zero cases. If there is one government that is going to stand up for communities in my electorate, it is the Palaszczuk Labor government.

The \$880 million Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan highlights this government's commitment to the economic recovery in this state, no matter where people live. These are unprecedented times, and right now Queenslanders need certainty. Queenslanders need a plan that will support our economic growth as we work through the impact of COVID-19.

The Economic Recovery Strategy allows for a staged, adaptable approach, with the first stage being a set of immediate initiatives to get Queenslanders back to work and kickstart our economy. It is a plan that delivers for my electorate of Cook, with new Building our Regions round 5 projects including the Aurukun fuel facility upgrade; the Coen airport facilities upgrade; the Lockhart River airport cabins; the Chillagoe critical water infrastructure project; the Northern Peninsula Area airport amenities upgrade; the Hope Vale township community and cultural park; the Horn Island airport upgrade business case; the Horn Island affordable housing project; the Saibai Island fuel infrastructure upgrade; and the Port Douglas sugar wharf upgrade.

In a vast electorate such as the Cook electorate, these projects are critical and are welcomed by all of the communities in my electorate. I stand by this government to support all of the great work that we are doing to help our state economy recover from the impact of COVID-19.

I certainly look forward to seeing further investment through the \$200 million COVID Works for Queensland program and the \$400 million accelerated works package for roads announced yesterday. I also welcome the additional \$11.25 million for the Household Resilience Program to provide grants so that homeowners on the cape can improve the resilience of their homes from cyclones. This will support local jobs and lower insurance premiums.

The \$100 million in small business adaptation grants of up to \$10,000 will help small businesses, including tourism operators in the Far North, to get to the other side. There is additional online training with \$20 million to assist young people. I call on all members of this parliament to join other Queenslanders and support our plan to unite and recover for Queensland jobs.