




Speech By
Jennifer Howard

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2020

MOTION

Coronavirus, Economic Response

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (4.13 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion to support Queensland's Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan. COVID-19 has delivered a hard economic blow to this state, the likes of which we have not seen in decades, particularly in Ipswich where unemployment rates are higher than average and further loss of jobs and livelihoods would be catastrophic to us. I welcome Queensland's Unite and Recover plan, in particular the \$400 million accelerated works package announced this week that includes a \$10 million commitment to upgrade the five-ways intersection in my electorate connecting Brisbane Road with Chermside and Glebe roads.

The five-ways upgrade is estimated to directly provide 15 jobs over two years. Anyone who has driven through the five-ways at peak hour knows that this is one of the most congested intersections in Ipswich. As more people move to Ipswich to set up home, our roads are becoming increasingly choked with traffic.

I also welcome the unite and recover plan to deliver a \$200 million COVID-19 Works for Queensland package to support local jobs and local governments with funding for building vital infrastructure. Newly elected mayor Teresa Harding has put a lot of work into Ipswich City Council's project proposals, including for parks and sporting infrastructure, community based infrastructure and a business case for a second Bremer River crossing. I welcome Ipswich City Council's support for the COVID-19 Works for Queensland program.

I also look forward to seeing local businesses in Ipswich access the \$50 million Making it for Queensland fund to grow our state's advanced manufacturing capacity, particularly in PPE, biomedical and health sectors. COVID-19 has highlighted to global manufacturing and medical supply companies that too many of their factories are in one location. This provides an opportunity for Queensland to show that there is no more secure a place to invest than in our state, particularly in the Ipswich manufacturing corridor.

Many small businesses in Ipswich have told me that they are doing it tough at the moment. I am pleased to see our government invest \$100 million in small business adaptation grants, offering up to \$10,000 to small businesses so they can get through the challenging months ahead. Many small businesses in my electorate will be relieved to access this financial help so that they can keep their doors open.

Many jobseekers in Ipswich, particularly young people and women who have borne the brunt of job losses, will welcome an additional \$20 million in funding to provide additional online training to help them get back into work.

I am proud to be part of a Labor government that understands that governments are elected to support their constituents during tough economic times by providing much needed economic stimulus to turbocharge the economy. Unite and recover is a plan to invest in Queensland infrastructure and create jobs now while unlocking future growth for our economy. I call on all members of this parliament to join other Queenslanders and support our plan to unite and recover for Queensland jobs.