



Speech By  
**Jennifer Howard**


**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2020

**MOTION**

**Coronavirus, Economic Response**

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (3.10 pm): I stand firmly behind the motion supporting the Palaszczuk government's stage 2 of Queensland's Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan which will support more than 6,000 jobs over the next year. When we look at the impact of COVID-19 on the world—with global economic activity set to plummet by around six per cent this year and as we watch overseas countries like the US, Brazil and the UK botch their public health responses—I am fortunate to say that there is no better place to live in than Queensland at the moment under the Palaszczuk government.

All Queenslanders have united during this pandemic. Over the past few months, I have spoken to thousands of people in my electorate and we all have sacrificed a number of our personal freedoms to ensure the health and safety of all Queenslanders. We are putting all Queenslanders first, and now we look forward to our state reopening in a few weeks. Our response to the virus has been recognised as one of the best in the world, and because of this we can look forward to kickstarting the Queensland economy a lot sooner. Last month, the Palaszczuk government kicked off stage 1 of our state's economic recovery package, and now we are ready to kick off stage 2, providing support for more than 6,000 Queensland jobs over the next year and boosting investment and economic development as Queensland recovers from the global pandemic.

This plan is already seeing jobs created in Ipswich by bringing forward investment in futureproofing infrastructure such as the new social housing project I was speaking about earlier. It is being built in the Ipswich CBD. There will be 20 new social homes for residents and it will generate 270 local jobs in construction. Stage 2 of unite and recover will see even more social housing investment in Ipswich with the housing construction Works for Tradies program that will support 240 jobs across the state and deliver more affordable homes for Queenslanders.

Last month, with stage 1 announced, I was thrilled to hear that Ipswich would receive \$10 million for an upgrade to the Ipswich fiveways intersection which will support up to 15 jobs under the \$400 million accelerated works program. I was also pleased to hear of the Ipswich City Council receiving \$4.4 million to undertake works across Ipswich through the \$200 million Works for Queensland COVID recovery package. It is in addition to the construction work that is soon to commence on the East Ipswich station upgrade and on the Ipswich Hospital's new mental health unit.

This government is helping small business get through the COVID-19 crisis by providing another \$100 million for the COVID small business adaptation grants. Small businesses are one of the biggest employers. When I speak to my local president of the chamber of commerce—and they are really kicking goals locally with some of the grants they are getting—I know that they are doing it tough. I reach out to my small businesses regularly. They understand what is going on. They are really grateful for the support and assistance this government has been able to provide.