




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Mackay Electorate, Queens Park Redevelopment

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.34 pm): The Palaszczuk government's unite and recover economic plan has given an infrastructure investment guarantee of \$51.8 million over four years so that we will continue to build and employ, grow our economy and continue to ensure that the great state of Queensland continues to thrive. Whether a cyclone, flood or bushfire or health emergency, as the world is currently navigating, building infrastructure is central to our economic fightback as we unite and recover for Queensland jobs.

Mackay's Queens Park will be officially opened tomorrow following the completion of \$8.8 million worth of state funded revitalisation works. This project has proven to be an employment boost to Mackay, with more than 50 locals supported during the redevelopment. These jobs have been especially valuable over the past few months as we have battled the economic fallout from COVID-19. The revitalisation of the park shows a high quality of artisan skill in the design and the finishings, such as the intricate handmade metal orchids on the Orchid House gate. Brian Archer and his team from BWA Engineering told me that his trades team had put all of their skills together to hand make these orchids and that they were really pleased to make something with their welding skills other than working on large mining equipment. Nowhere in our state has been immune from the challenges that we are seeing in Queensland and around the world, and projects like this have been critical for businesses, workers and their families.

Tourism is also a central part of recovery, and the beautiful Queens Park is another reminder that Mackay is a good place for people to visit or come for a holiday. The project was fully funded by the Palaszczuk government to help Mackay recover from 2017's severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. The people of Mackay can remember when those opposite ridiculed the list of projects put forward by local councils after Cyclone Debbie, especially the member for Whitsunday, who said that there is nothing wrong with the park. We believe that, where possible, repairs and restoring to the same standard after destruction are not always the best way to go; make it better and make it more resilient is the way to go, and that is what we have done with Queens Park.

Only the Labor Palaszczuk government backs the regions. In total, our government invested \$110 million to help Queensland communities get back on their feet following Cyclone Debbie. Our government is focused now on continuing to deliver our COVID economic recovery plan to get Queensland working again. It is only Labor that looks after the regions.