



Speech By  
**Kim Richards**


**MEMBER FOR REDLANDS**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2020

## ADJOURNMENT

### Redlands Electorate, Coronavirus Response

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (7.14 pm): COVID has had a dramatic impact across our communities. It has changed nearly every aspect of how we work, live and play, but one aspect that has not changed is the support of my government, the Palaszczuk government, which is continuing to deliver for my Redlands community. Our mayor for Redland City Council has expressed her appreciation for our Palaszczuk government's \$880 million Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan, which positions our communities to recover as we journey through to a post COVID-19 world.

For Redlands this continues to build on what our government is already delivering. We have seen the largest investment in the Redlands in infrastructure for over a decade. That is investment in roads, transport infrastructure, investment in health, investment in our schools; that is \$60 million for Cleveland Redland Bay Road, that is \$50 million in education, it is upgrades at the Redland Hospital and there is more on the way. Yesterday I also received a project update on our new \$34.1 million ferry terminals for our Southern Moreton Bay Islands in partnership with the Redland City Council. It looks fantastic and is very close to moving forward.

For the past two years I have been lobbying the government to look at classification of our islands with Minister Hinchliffe to provide access to grant funding for projects, so it was absolutely fantastic news yesterday with the announcement of the additional \$200 million boost to Works for Queensland on top of the \$600 million already there that our Redland City Council will now have access to. We are supporting businesses as they grapple with the challenges COVID-19 has thrown at us.

As I said, what has not changed throughout COVID-19 is the support for our Redlands community by our Palaszczuk government. From the get-go we have been on the front foot in response to the health crisis and the economic crisis. We have been working with our small businesses. Thanks to Minister Shannon Fentiman we have just done a Zoom hook-up via Facebook Live with our Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce. They are doing a fantastic job with our Palaszczuk government's funded Regional Jobs Committee. Thanks to Rebecca and the team. They are doing an amazing job.

In terms of small business, never has there been a more important time than now to be able to access mobile and wi-fi services. I note that it is really disappointing that our recently installed communications tower on Russell Island, where we are working really hard to improve economic prosperity, a tower that was funded by the federal government under its Black Spot Funding Program, currently only services Optus customers. The majority of customers, like those who are with Telstra and others, are still being left behind. What I would suggest to our federal member is that, rather than wasting his time on nasty and denigrating memes and questionable social media asking parents to call our hardworking principals and school communities, he get on with the job of doing what he is paid to do and sort out issues like this, particularly for our Southern Moreton Bay Islands community. They deserve better.