




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Maritime Jobs Taskforce

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.02 am): The COVID-19 crisis has devastated the global economy. Queensland's economy has not escaped the impacts of shutdowns and restrictions, and as we manage the health crisis supporting new jobs is critical to Queensland's recovery. Queensland is blessed with an astonishingly beautiful coastline and local waterways that millions of Queenslanders live beside and enjoy regularly. These waterways are also where thousands of Queenslanders go to work every day.

About 2,600 maritime workers, or 22 per cent of all maritime workers in the nation, are employed in Queensland. This government knows there are opportunities to support more maritime jobs, and that is why the Palaszczuk Labor government has established a Maritime Jobs Taskforce. The task force will investigate ways to create new maritime jobs and training opportunities in Queensland's shipping industry. It will also look at new job opportunities in the tourism, fishing and resource sectors.

Chaired by Patrick Quirk, the respected former head of Maritime Safety Queensland, the task force will report its findings to the government in September. Mr Quirk is supported by Pacific Tug CEO, Captain Chris Peters, and Jason Miners of the Maritime Union of Australia. Pacific Tug is a Brisbane based and family owned company with 50 years in the marine services industry. Work will start in the coming months on Pacific Tug's \$35 million marine based investment at the Port of Bundaberg which will support 100 jobs once completed.

Our successful War on Wrecks program, chaired by the member for Redlands, has also created more Queensland jobs. This Palaszczuk Labor government program, launched two years ago, has seen more than 600 sunken or abandoned vessels removed from Queensland waters or made seaworthy. Small marine contracting businesses up and down the coast throughout regional Queensland have been enlisted to haul these wrecks out of the water. Each job has supported crews of local contractors to help clean up our coastline, removing hazards from our pristine environment. They in turn use local suppliers to hire equipment while local scrap yards benefit from dismantling the vessels and boats.

In the coming months we will hold a new round of community forums in Cairns, in Noosa, in Wynnum and in Gladstone. The feedback received during the first round of forums was valuable in helping us identify vessels for removal. Now we want to hear ideas from Queenslanders on what changes could be made to encourage more responsible boat ownership. Every job counts as we navigate the uncharted waters ahead. Our economic plan will give Queenslanders a chance to work and develop new skills so they are prepared for what lies ahead.