



Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**


**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

---

Record of Proceedings, 2 December 2020

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Budget, Job Creation**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.38 am): I congratulate the Treasurer on the budget he delivered yesterday. It is a budget that continues to drive Queensland's economic recovery plan, creating development opportunities and jobs across Queensland. The global COVID-19 pandemic has put immense pressure on our regional economies, but this budget will support and promote job creation.

We are investing more than \$62 million to continue the Building Our Regions program for 2020-21 as part of the overall \$332 million program to deliver infrastructure grants to local councils. We are investing \$42.5 million to help build the East Bundaberg flood levee to protect the people of Bundaberg who have suffered through devastating floods in the past.

We will also continue to fund new infrastructure that creates jobs. We will deliver \$200 million over two years for the COVID Works for Queensland program, which has provided funding to 77 local governments for 520 projects to build productive infrastructure. We will deliver \$100 million over four years for the SEQ Community Stimulus Package to fast track investment in new infrastructure and community assets. That is in addition to \$34 million this financial year for the government's signature Works for Queensland program, which is delivering infrastructure and creating jobs across regional Queensland. These programs are supporting jobs and providing economic stimulus to local economies right across the state.

This government is committed to supporting local councils after a difficult year through COVID-19. We are delivering on our election commitments, including more than \$3 million for the Douglas Shire and Mareeba splash parks and \$50,000 for one of the far north's premier gathering places, the Cairns Showgrounds, to assist its planning efforts.

We are also providing funding to improve water supply and security in regional councils. This year we are investing \$7.5 million towards the Haughton pipeline stage 2 now being delivered with an overall four-year budget allocation of \$195 million. That project will see the existing pipeline extended from the Haughton River to the Burdekin River and will include the construction of a pump station, high-voltage power supply infrastructure and includes proof-of-performance testing of the combined pipeline stages to create a complete water transfer system. Additional funding of \$10 million has been provided to the Burdekin Shire Council to improve air water supply by building new infrastructure and more than \$4 million for the construction of new drinking water storage reservoirs for the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council.

We look forward to continuing to work with councils to jointly play our part in keeping the Queensland economy moving, especially in our regions. This is a budget very much focused on our recovery from COVID-19.