



Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**


**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 3 December 2020

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Coronavirus, Local Government**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.40 am): Last night I was pleased to host mayors from across Queensland here at Parliament House. I conveyed to them the thanks of the government for their support and assistance throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and underlined the importance of us working together to deliver jobs and Queensland's economic recovery. This week's budget included \$180 million for the COVID Works for Queensland program and \$45 million for the Unite and Recover Community Stimulus Package program in the 2020-21 financial year. A total of \$200 million for COVID Works for Queensland and \$50 million for the Unite and Recover Community Stimulus Package is being rolled out to councils which is supporting councils to continue to drive Queensland's economic recovery.

These programs are building on the success of the Works for Queensland program. Over the first three rounds of this \$600 million initiative, 1,862 local projects are underway or completed. These are projects that improve communities outside of the south-east corner of the state. Most importantly, councils are reporting that these projects have created or supported more than 20,600 local jobs so far. From Mount Isa to Moranbah, from Thursday Island to Thargomindah, that is a fantastic result. By working with our councils we are seeing terrific outcomes such as the improvements to projects like the sports precinct in Hervey Bay, the hockey facility in Rockhampton, the red and yellow arrow walking trails in Cairns as well as swimming pools, bike paths, netball courts and tennis court upgrades for communities right across the state.

The success of the Works for Queensland program for our councils has been complemented during the COVID-19 pandemic by both additional programs. The COVID Works for Queensland program was allocated to all 77 councils, including those in the south-east. It was designed to have an immediate impact to help councils get their communities back on their feet fast. Additionally, the Unite and Recover Community Stimulus Package was aimed at assisting the 12 councils in the south-east cope with the impact of the pandemic. The Palaszczuk government is standing shoulder to shoulder with our local governments to ensure the best possible outcomes for all Queenslanders.