




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Building our Regions

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.37 am): I am pleased to inform the House that the state government's Building our Regions program is on track, with 97.8 of our recent round 5 projects already underway in regional Queensland. It is a proud achievement for regional councils during such a challenging year. We have worked closely with our regional councils to fast-track these vital community projects where possible to stimulate local economies, empower our industries and deliver jobs.

Of 41 construction projects, 24 have commenced construction with boots on the ground at sites from Beaudesert to Coen, and 17 are at the design tender stage. Of the seven planning projects, six have already commenced, which means councils will soon be able to make informed investment decisions about future projects for their communities.

Our councils have always had to deal with the unique challenges of regional Queensland projects, including distance, contractor availability and severe weather events, such as bushfires, cyclones and floods. This year, councils have risen to these challenges with great success. With a funding commitment of almost \$365 million, the Building our Regions program supports local government infrastructure projects that stimulate the local economy and create jobs.

Under rounds 1 to 5 of the program, funding has been allocated to 271 projects across 67 local government areas in regional Queensland, supporting an estimated 2,767 jobs. These projects have attracted additional investment of over \$538 million from local government and other organisations. That is thousands of locals building much needed local projects to grow our regional Queensland communities.

Every single one of the projects we fund are expected to make a marked difference in the long term for the communities we are building in. Whether it is enabling future industry, improving recreational and tourism facilities or facilitating high-speed internet and telecommunications, the positive impacts will be felt for generations, long after construction has been completed. I look forward to keeping the House updated on the progress of our Building our Regions projects as they progress towards full completion.