



Speech By  
**Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe**


**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 July 2020

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **COVID Works for Queensland Program**

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.02 am): I am pleased to provide the House with an update on the COVID Works for Queensland project round, first announced in the House by the Premier on 19 May. The Palaszczuk government's signature Works for Queensland program has a strong track record of delivering jobs in regional Queensland and this round is an important part of the Queensland government's \$6 billion economic recovery strategy, Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs. In order to see projects up and running and shovels in the ground, we have set some guidelines to ensure a quick turnaround to get money out the door. I want to thank all local governments across the state for their cooperation and, indeed, eagerness to deliver for their communities. The projects funded through this new initiative will help local economies and generate local jobs, not only in regional communities but also in this round throughout the south-east.

I am pleased to advise the House that last Thursday, 9 July, we were able to announce that 520 projects right across the state have been approved. Those 520 projects are expected to support more than 4,600 jobs right across Queensland. There are airport upgrades in Rockhampton, Proserpine, Cooktown, Aurukun, Charleville and Thangool. There are projects that will improve the tourism experience in Birdsville, Lake Moogerah, St George, Barcaldine and many others. There are water and sewerage projects in Thargomindah, Gladstone, Longreach, Ayr, Julia Creek and more. There are community infrastructure works to parks and sporting fields up and down the coast and through the interior—so many that it would be hard to enumerate them all.

Each and every one of the 520 projects will be able to be delivered in full by June 2021. That means an immediate injection of money and jobs into local communities that are doing it tough. It means tradies buying pies at the local bakery. It means local contractors and suppliers being utilised. It means local shops getting money through the till. We know that Works for Queensland delivers for Queensland, and we know that the COVID Works for Queensland program will play its role in Queensland's economic recovery.