



Speech By  
**Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe**


**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 July 2020

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Coronavirus, Local Government**

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.09 am): As Queenslanders unite and recover in the wake of the economic hit we have taken as a result of the pandemic, I wish to further update the House on how the Palaszczuk Labor government is partnering with councils in North Queensland to help boost jobs and enhance community infrastructure.

Two weeks ago I met with mayors and councillors in North Queensland to see projects they plan to undertake as part of our special COVID round of Works for Queensland. In Townsville, I met with Mayor Jenny Hill and her council, as well as the members for Townsville and Thuringowa, to inspect projects such as the upgrades to the irrigation system at the Townsville Palmetum, an aerator to improve water quality in the Ross dam, as well as visiting other projects, such as the Northern Beaches Leisure Centre pool in the electorate of Hinchinbrook. I am delighted to advise the House that all of the Townsville City Council's \$13.54 million of proposed projects have been approved and they can start creating and supporting almost 85 jobs straightaway.

In the Whitsunday region, Mayor Andrew Wilcox and the hardworking Labor candidate for Whitsunday, Tracey Cameron, showed me the successes Works for Queensland has already had in that beautiful part of the state. We also visited future Works for Queensland sites in Cannonvale, Proserpine and Airlie Beach—again, all of which have been approved. I know how keen the Whitsunday Regional Council are to start investing their \$2.72 million of COVID Works for Queensland allocation in supporting or creating 105 jobs in the area hard hit by the downturn in tourism.

I wrapped up my visit to North Queensland in Mackay where I joined the member for Mackay as well as Mayor Greg Williamson and Deputy Mayor Karen May in seeing the contribution previous rounds of Works for Queensland have made in the tranquil Queens Park. The extra COVID round of Works for Queensland will support or create almost 90 jobs in the region thanks to a \$6.93 million allocation. I am happy to report to the House that I have approved all of the Mackay Regional Council's proposed projects, including important works that we inspected at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre as well as upgrades to community spaces, parks and waterways.

North Queenslanders are a resilient bunch, as we know. I look forward to continuing to work with them and their local government representatives as we unite and recover from the pandemic.