



Speech By  
**Adrian Tantari**


**MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Hervey Bay Electorate**

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (2.27 pm): I inform the House that coming off its strong health response, the Palaszczuk Labor government's strong economic response was on full display recently for the people of the Hervey Bay electorate. Supporting Hervey Bay's regional economic recovery, early works have now begun on a \$39 million project that will result in a new 22-bed mental health acute inpatient unit in Hervey Bay. As well as completing the build of the \$44 million Hervey Bay Hospital emergency department on time, which has increased the capacity of the ED, the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services announced in Hervey Bay last week an immediate injection of financial support and recurrent funding year on year to the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service.

In addition to this, the refurbishment of the former Hervey Bay Hospital ED into a new 19-bed medical unit and the refurbishment of the previous education and training building to create a new nine-room outpatient clinic area at the Hervey Bay Hospital specifically for women's and children's appointments is an investment in health that shows this government's regional focus. This investment shows how the Palaszczuk Labor government is focused on the things that matter in the regions and they are services and jobs, and that is good for the people of the Hervey Bay electorate. It is not just talking about it, but actually doing it. Contrast this to the cut, sell and sack approach of those opposite. The people of the Hervey Bay electorate know who is looking out for them, keeping them safe and strong and always putting them first—it is this Palaszczuk Labor government.

The Works for Queensland program has so far delivered 418 jobs for people in our region through 65 projects including important upgrades to our beloved piers at Scarness and Torquay—but that is not all. The Deputy Premier recently announced a further round of Works for Queensland, injecting another \$200 million into the regions, supporting Queensland's regional economic recovery—and, in Hervey Bay and on the Fraser Coast, another \$16.4 million to support and to add more jobs to the local regional economy. This is wonderful news for our regional economy and for regional councils across Queensland who are thankful that the Palaszczuk government was re-elected so that they could keep the jobs and the projects pouring into their communities.

I am also very pleased to confirm that, under the Building our Regions program, stage 2 of a \$1.5 million project to improve parking at the River Heads boat ramp begins this month. This stage of the project will deliver a new 74-space car park by extending the old car park and providing additional spaces for more visitors. By upgrading and expanding this car park, we are ensuring the River Heads boat ramp is more accessible for locals and tourists alike, and that will be critical in supporting local growth in tourism and hospitality jobs.

These outcomes are just further proof that the Palaszczuk Labor government will continue to keep the Hervey Bay electorate safe and strong and will continue to support our regional economic recovery, showing that Hervey Bay and Queensland is good to go.