



Speech By  
**Cynthia Lui**


**MEMBER FOR COOK**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2021

## **MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

### **Cedric Davies Community Hub; Mareeba Animal Management Refuge**

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.43 pm): On 28 August this year Mareeba celebrated another significant milestone in the delivery of two local infrastructure projects. I had the absolute pleasure of representing the Deputy Premier and Minister for Local Government, Steven Miles, in Mareeba to officially open the Cedric Davies Community Hub and the animal management facility. I know how important these initiatives are to the local community after many council deputations and meetings with members of the community seeking support for new and improved facilities.

I first became involved with the Mareeba Animal Refuge in 2018 when I dropped in one day looking for a puppy. Not really knowing what to expect, I dropped in to the Mareeba Animal Refuge and met with Jennifer, the manager of the refuge. Jennifer is someone who I think deserves a gold medal or some sort of award for her love and strong advocacy for stray animals. Jennifer spoke passionately about providing a safe place for animals and giving them the necessary care they deserve, safe and away from harm. Of course, the ideal home for these animals would be their forever home. Ideally, Jennifer would love for that to happen and to see her furry loves being in a long-term home. Jennifer told me how there was an increased demand on the service and the existing facility was not able to cope. I could not help but notice how crowded, run down and tired the facility was. Although Jennifer and her team did a great job to maintain their working environment, I knew there was still room for improvement.

I am very proud of the role the Queensland government has played to improve the animal management facility not just for those managing the place but also for the animals themselves. Through the Queensland government's \$1 billion Works for Queensland program and the \$200 million COVID Works for Queensland program, Mareeba Shire Council has received \$1 million to deliver a new, upgraded pound for the community. In fact, through both of these funding programs, the council has been allocated \$17 million to deliver 58 community infrastructure projects, which have so far created or supported 510 local jobs. That is a great outcome for the people of Mareeba and a pretty good outcome for the animals of Mareeba and the tablelands.

The new Cedric Davies Hub now gives the community much needed space that will certainly cater for more people to drop in at any one time to take advantage of the extensive variety of materials to borrow including books, videos, DVDs, music CDs, magazines, audiobooks, newspapers and games. Locals can also access the internet, and computer, photocopying and children's activities are also available. The Hub is named after a local community champion, Cedric Davies, who gave great service to the Mareeba community. It is fitting that the facility, designed to be a place where that same community can come together, bears his name. It is certainly a place of learning, particularly for young minds, as well as a place of connecting, of celebrating and of promoting health and wellbeing. I would also like to think that Cedric Davies would be happy with the collaboration between the Mareeba Shire Council and the state, delivering benefits for the people of Mareeba.

Through funding programs such as the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program and COVID Works for Queensland, the Queensland government has contributed more than \$1.2 million towards this fantastic new facility. Through the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program, Works for Queensland and COVID Works for Queensland, Mareeba Shire Council has received almost \$20 million to help deliver 61 community infrastructure projects, while creating or supporting well over 530 local jobs, including 31 jobs right at the Cedric Davies Community Hub.

It is a terrific outcome for the Mareeba economy, Mareeba businesses, Mareeba tradies and, most importantly, Mareeba families. I would like to congratulate Mayor Angela Toppin and the entire Mareeba Shire Council for delivering these projects in the community. The Cedric Davies Hub and the Mareeba animal management facility are wonderful examples of the benefits that can be created when both levels of government work together.

While those opposite continue to complain, we on this side of the House are getting on with the job of investing in and delivering vital infrastructure projects and supporting local jobs in regional Queensland.