




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 25 February 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Regional Queensland, Economic Recovery

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (10.18 am): Queensland's economic recovery is well and truly underway. Thanks to our strong health response we have been able to keep the economy open without having to sacrifice the health of vulnerable Queenslanders. Recently I saw firsthand how the Palaszczuk government's investment in Rockhampton's economic recovery is creating jobs for locals and driving economic growth. I thank the members for Rockhampton and Keppel for hosting me. They are strong community advocates who know that Queensland's plan for economic recovery is working in their region.

Construction work is happening across Central Queensland, creating more jobs for locals. Many Rockhampton locals have jobs now thanks to Works for Queensland and COVID Works for Queensland. In the Rockhampton regional council area alone, Works for Queensland has delivered more than 800 jobs through 38 individual projects for the region.

COVID Works for Queensland has delivered \$6.4 million to help build new passenger lounges and a new mezzanine floor at Rockhampton Airport. The construction phase is delivering 50 local jobs including for Brandon, Samuel and Brady, the very enthusiastic apprentices I met there on the ground. They told me the difference Works for Queensland was making in their lives.

From the airport we went to Rockhampton's world-class zoo, where the Palaszczuk government has partnered with Rockhampton Regional Council to upgrade enclosures. Although I was there to see the new \$320,000 parentie enclosure, the star of the show was chimpanzee Gandali, who celebrated his first birthday.

In Rockhampton we also met with the team at Beef Australia to hear about plans for the upcoming Beef Week. I would like to thank Chairman Bryce Camm, vice-chairs Grant Cassidy and Russell Hughes, CEO Ian Mill and the whole Beef Week team for their time and for my Beef 2021 tie. It is, indeed, the must-have fashion accessory of 2021! Like everything else, Beef Week will be a bit different this year. It will be COVID-safe and there will not be any international visitors. However, it will still be a fantastic chance to showcase and celebrate Queensland beef. To all the steak lovers out there and in here, now is the time to plan your Beef Week activities.

Rockhampton's economic recovery is well and truly underway thanks to the Palaszczuk government's commitment to regional Queensland.