




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Works for Queensland; March 4 Justice

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.46 am): Last sitting I announced the latest allocations from the Works for Queensland program—a \$200 million commitment to help regional councils create jobs and deliver community infrastructure. This week, the Palaszczuk government is also stepping up for the 12 councils in our most populated area through the new South-East Queensland community stimulus program. We made a pledge during the election to create and sustain jobs by helping these councils fast-track investment in new infrastructure and community assets. We committed to \$200 million over six years through this program, and we are now rolling out the first \$100 million for the next three years for the communities of the south-east.

The program has a focus on encouraging councils to submit projects that provide for economic investment in outer-urban areas or lower socio-economic areas—areas where this funding can make the most difference to people’s lives. This program builds on the funding these 12 councils and their communities received in 2020, specifically aimed to help them unite and recover from the impacts of the pandemic.

Through the COVID Works for Queensland program and the Unite and Recover Community Stimulus Package, the south-east councils received \$100 million to help deliver 151 projects, which the councils estimate will support or create more than 2,500 jobs. That is a fantastic result for local tradies, apprentices, businesses and families. I expect the allocations being announced this week will reap similar rewards, delivering important community infrastructure, creating jobs and improving liveability across the south-east. Of the \$100 million over the next three years, \$74 million is being allocated, while the remaining \$26 million will be distributed on a competitive application basis, designed to ensure the greatest positive impact for the communities. I look forward to announcing the successful projects to be funded through the South-East Queensland community stimulus program later in the year and continuing our commitment to create jobs in all corners of the state.

It was very moving to join many members at the March 4 Justice rally last week. We have heard so many stories of shocking assaults and harassment, including from our colleagues. I hope hearing these stories brings about real and ongoing change in our community.