



Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**


**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Beef Industry**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.45 am): As we have just heard from the Premier, the entire cabinet visited Longreach for the community cabinet last week. Many of us went on to Rockhampton to support the beef industry in Central Queensland and beyond. The Palaszczuk government is committed to strengthening Queensland's \$6.7 billion beef export industry, which is predicted to increase by two per cent to 25.2 million head this year.

Construction will begin soon on a major redevelopment of the historic Longreach Saleyards. Given Queensland's size and the scale of the industry, regional saleyards are vital to beef exports throughout the state. AAM Investment Group managing director Garry Edwards says that the project to transform the yards will enable the throughput of 100,000 head of cattle each year by 2026. That could never have been imagined 12 or 18 months ago. The saleyards will be redeveloped to become the investment group's Western Queensland Livestock Exchange.

The Palaszczuk government is supporting the new \$3.2 million development with a multimillion dollar contribution that will provide for new cattle lane infrastructure and drafting facilities and create seven jobs during construction. This important project is backed by the Palaszczuk government, the Longreach Regional Council and AAM. Funding has also been delivered to upgrade and install new infrastructure at saleyards in Cloncurry, Emerald, Roma, Dalby, Blackall, Laidley, Richmond, Gympie, Dalrymple, Winton, Warwick and Kingaroy, providing flow-on economic benefits for the surrounding agricultural industry, agriculture supply chains, local businesses and transport networks.

We are also supporting western councils through our Works for Queensland and COVID Works for Queensland programs. Longreach and Barcaldine have received more than \$9.2 million across both programs, helping the councils deliver 59 projects. Importantly, these projects have already created or supported 571 local jobs, which is a terrific result for local businesses, local tradies and local families. On top of improving tourist attractions, both councils have used Works for Queensland funding to improve livability by improving water infrastructure, libraries, footpaths and parks. Longreach and Barcaldine were recently allocated a further \$2.24 million through the fourth round of Works for Queensland. I look forward to seeing the projects they will deliver through this latest funding from the Palaszczuk government.