




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 18 June 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Jobs, Labour Force Data; Min Min Lights Tourist Attraction

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (10.48 am): We got some fantastic news in the latest labour force data released yesterday. The unemployment rate in Queensland posted the largest fall in the nation, falling to 5.4 per cent. Last month in Queensland more than 1,000 jobs were created each and every day and at the same time the participation rate increased to 66.6 per cent, almost half a per cent above the national average. This data demonstrates how our economic recovery plan is working and creating jobs for Queenslanders.

We are lucky to live in a state that is home to some of the best tourist attractions in the world. From the Great Barrier Reef to Whitehaven Beach to Lake McKenzie, people have flocked from all over to experience what makes Queensland a great tourism destination. But there is another gem that lies deep within the state far from the coast. I am talking about the famed Min Min lights of Boulia. Over the years travellers have witnessed the mysterious lights, described as floating balls of colour glowing in the outback night. The government wants the rest of the nation and, when international travel opens up again, the world to experience this phenomenon. I am pleased to advise the House that the government will contribute \$477,000 from our Building Acceleration Fund to renovate the iconic Min Min Encounter building. Boulia Shire Council will also contribute the remaining \$52,000 to the total project cost of \$529,000.

The funding will allow renovations to the facade of the tourist attraction's heritage building, including essential disability access upgrades. Not only will the upgrades have a significant impact on the quality of Boulia's tourism offering and economic recovery and the region's tourism; they will also support 19 local jobs. Owned and operated by Boulia Shire Council since 2009, the encounter is a unique animatronics and theatrical experience based around the famed Min Min phenomenon. Preliminary works to upgrade the technology and facade are already underway. I look forward to updating the House further on how this government is creating jobs in regional Queensland as we unite and recover for Queensland jobs.