




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Regional Queensland, Remote Area Boards

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.42 am): Queensland is truly fortunate: our world-class health response not only kept us safe when COVID-19 first arrived in our country, it kept us safe when the delta strain was moving around our community. Given Queenslanders have been so proactive at following the health advice, we are now able to continue with our focus on economic recovery and creating sustainable jobs for our state.

People will have noticed a common theme—the push to invest in our regions. Our regions have a diverse range of skills and resources that are vital to our economy and we know that tapping into regional opportunities is key to our recovery. That is why I am pleased to announce today funding of \$1.5 million over two years for the Remote Area Boards program. There are currently five Remote Area Boards representing 60 per cent of Queensland. From the south-west region, right up to the Torres Strait and the cape, these boards play an important role in supporting their communities. They provide a single voice on strategic issues and economic priorities for the region. They also focus funding on delivering much needed projects that might not otherwise attract financial support.

Each of the Remote Area Boards will have access to \$150,000 each year for approved projects that increase economic diversity and create jobs in remote Queensland communities. Nine projects were successful in our last round of funding and we are now seeing those projects come to completion. Projects such as the North Queensland Cotton Gin Assessment and Feasibility Study is helping attract potential investors by outlining the economic benefits that a facility could bring to the region. The Central West Queensland Tourism Data Model Implementation project is supporting investment and helping maximise the industry's ability to recover from the impacts of COVID-19 through specific tourism data on the region. Each of the boards are now preparing diverse and exciting project concepts for funding and we look forward to announcing them in the coming months.