




Speech By
Cynthia Lui

MEMBER FOR COOK

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Cook Electorate

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.41 pm): Here we are at the end of yet another productive year. I take this opportunity to speak about some of our government's investments in the Cook electorate. I have never been more proud to represent a government that delivers for all people, no matter where they live. When I travel around the Cook electorate I am excited to see where funds are being spent to support our services and to protect our great lifestyle.

We have seen record investment poured into health over the years, with major upgrades to tired, old health facilities. Thursday Island Hospital received a massive injection of funds to upgrade the existing facilities. In September I was fortunate enough to visit the TI Hospital with the Premier and the health minister, Yvette D'Ath, to inspect some of the works taking place. It is certainly going to make a huge difference to health care in the Torres Strait, helping locals to have a pleasant experience when utilising the service.

The outer islands of the Torres Strait also benefited from major upgrades, with millions flowing into upgrading primary healthcare centres in Masig, Poruma, Ugar and Dauan to support the health needs of people living in the outer islands, potentially preventing hospitalisation. I was so impressed to see the newly refurbished primary healthcare centre on Masig Island when I visited in August. It is new, modern and another fine example of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to health in this state.

During my recent visit to the western cape I took the opportunity to visit the Weipa Integrated Health Service to inspect the newly built birthing suite. I thank the director of nursing, Kindee, who gave up her valuable time to show me around the hospital. When I visited the hospital in 2021 we had just made the announcement that we would bring birthing services to Weipa. I returned this year to see the birthing suite completed and set up with everything to facilitate a positive birth experience for an expectant mum. I am proud that women in Weipa and its surrounds will now be able to have babies closer to home with the love and support of family and loved ones.

While in Weipa I visited the Evans Landing boat ramp. If you have been to this boat ramp you will understand the fascination for boaties and their boat ramps. I have come to love boat ramps, because I know what they mean for local communities. Delivering this vital infrastructure means that boaties can continue to do what they love in a safe and measured way. I am proud to deliver the Evans Landing boat ramp, along with boat ramps at Newell Beach and, most recently, in the Bloomfield River. In Mossman I joined Minister Ryan to officially open the new Mossman Fire and Rescue Station. I give a shout-out to the hardworking fire and rescue personnel for the hard work they do to keep our community safe.

This government has never been shy when it comes to providing support to communities to unlock future opportunities. This government continues to invest in improving road conditions in Cape York and supporting local employment. The sealing of the Peninsula Developmental Road and the arterial roads connecting Cape York communities to the spine of the PDR shows how important state

and federal investment is to supporting job continuity in Cape York while making access to communities safer. We have committed funds to build a case study for the Mareeba bypass—something I know Mareeba Shire Council and local councillor Lenore Wyatt have been advocating for for so long in order to get heavy vehicles out of the town centre.

Clearly, our job is never done, and the one thing that sets the Palaszczuk government apart from those opposite is that we are about community. We constantly look to the future to see what more can be done. We are a government committed to creating opportunities for communities. In the arts, we have announced funding for a new arts centre in Coen. The Treasurer and I visited Coen earlier this year and heard from internationally renowned artist Naomi Hobson about her passion for art and using art as a vehicle to open up new social and economic opportunities for her community.

In tourism, we have committed vital funds to Pajinka in the Northern Peninsula Area—funds that will help traditional owners to build a solid tourist destination for the thousands of visitors who make the journey up the PDR every year to visit the beautiful Pajinka, the northernmost tip of Australia. An investment in the tourism hub on Thursday Island will enable communities to manage the influx of tourists visiting the region annually and will enable the community to plan to deliver tourism in a measured way. The two new splash parks in the Douglas shire and Mareeba shire will support young families in the region, and I cannot wait to see these splash parks delivered for my communities. It has been a busy and exciting year. I am proud of all of our achievements in Cook, and I look forward to 2023 and what it will bring.