




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 10 May 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Cairns Marine Precinct

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure) (5.43 pm): The gateway to Queensland's Tropical North is also a premiere destination for the repair, maintenance and overhaul of naval, Border Force, commercial and superyacht vessels. At the heart of this local industry is the Cairns Marine Precinct, Northern Australia's home of maritime maintenance. Together with the Albanese government, we are delivering a significant upgrade to the Cairns Marine Precinct. Expanding the Cairns Marine Precinct by building a common-user facility will ensure Cairns' future as a world leader in maritime maintenance and overhaul. It will allow local service providers to pursue additional maintenance work from the Royal Australian Navy and Australian Border Force, as well as from the private sector. We have a significant opportunity, particularly in the lead-up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games to leverage the growth in the tourism vessel sector. Last night's federal budget cemented the Albanese government's commitment to the common-user facility and included an additional \$30 million, bringing our joint investment to \$330 million.

That is not all. We want to ensure local industry can meet growing demand for vessel maintenance work while this game-changing facility is being constructed. Yesterday the Premier announced our government is investing a further \$39 million to boost infrastructure at the marine precinct. We will invest \$27 million over two years to a road upgrade and bridge that will give local shipyards direct access to the precinct's common-user facility. The 1.2-kilometre road will have increased load capacity as well as a 30-metre bridge. We are committed to ensuring the common-user facility is viable and supports the local maritime industry to grow. That is why our commitment includes an additional \$12 million to work with local shipyards within the Cairns Marine Precinct on upgrade projects that will help to strengthen their businesses. Investment in enabling infrastructure and upgrades will help ensure local shipyards can capitalise on emerging maintenance work from the Royal Australian Navy, Border Force and the private sector.

Our commitment to the Cairns Marine Precinct will strengthen the Cairns marine sector and the 4,600 jobs it supports, ensuring economic benefits flow to the community, delivering good, secure, highly skilled jobs for locals. This is an investment in a strong economic future for Far North Queensland. We are on board to see Cairns continue to ride a wave of success as a global leader in maritime maintenance.