




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Infrastructure

 **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) (9.52 am): The Palaszczuk government is backing Queensland's biggest decade of infrastructure delivery. Our Big Build is creating local jobs and delivering the key infrastructure Queenslanders need. This year's state budget included a \$20.3 billion infrastructure spend as part of an \$89 billion investment over four years. Almost two-thirds of Queensland's Big Build is being spent outside of greater Brisbane and 95 per cent of our Energy and Jobs Plan will be spent in regional Queensland. We are also helping councils deliver projects that create good jobs, support economic development and improve livability.

Last week when I visited the Rockhampton Zoo with the member for Rockhampton I saw firsthand how our one billion dollar Works for Queensland Program is helping make our regions even better places to live. The eagle has landed in Rocky. Thanks to a \$540,000 Works for Queensland grant, Rockhampton Regional Council has delivered a new enclosure—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members. Members on both sides of the House, please keep your conversations to a minimum.

Dr MILES: Thanks to a \$540,000 Works for Queensland grant, Rockhampton Regional Council has delivered a new enclosure for the zoo's resident wedge-tailed eagle Valkyrie. This new home for Valkyrie is just one of close to 2,200 community infrastructure projects supported so far through Works for Queensland. Facilities like this one play an important role in connecting people and creating a great local lifestyle, and the Palaszczuk Labor government is proud to be playing its part to help the zoo's future soar. Locals and visitors alike will see the benefits when they visit Valkyrie in her bigger, better home.

So far in Rockhampton alone about \$36.6 million has been allocated through Works for Queensland to help the council deliver 42 community infrastructure projects. In total, \$800 million has been allocated to councils outside South-East Queensland, creating or supporting almost 25,500 jobs where they are needed most. That is a great outcome for local economies, local businesses, local tradies and families. As the Premier always says, we work best when we work together, and none of this would have been possible without working together with local councils. I am proud to be part of a government that is backing our regions. I look forward to continuing to work with councils to benefit Queenslanders in communities across our state.

The Big Build is set to deliver big results for Queenslanders and deliver the infrastructure and essential services to support the state's growth, creating more good jobs, exciting new industries and better communities.