




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Works for Queensland

 **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) (9.42 am): Queensland is a big state and the Palaszczuk government is investing in infrastructure in every community. Along with the Premier and much of the government, I was pleased to be in Gladstone last week for the LGAQ annual conference. We spoke with mayors, councillors and CEOs from all across Queensland and we heard directly from them how beneficial our government's flagship Works for Queensland program is for their communities. Regional councils want to keep delivering local projects that further enhance livability and create good local Queensland jobs in their communities, and so do we.

That is why the Premier announced a 50 per cent increase for the next round of Works for Queensland. Queensland's 65 regional councils will gain a massive funding boost from our signature local stimulus program. There will now be \$300 million available to support regional projects like water and sewerage infrastructure, housing and economic development. This is the biggest ever round of Works for Queensland—an extra \$100 million, up from \$200 million to \$300 million. It will support critical local projects like water infrastructure, waste and energy projects, airport and road upgrades, community revitalisation projects and regional economic development, all of which enhance the livability of our Queensland communities, boost local economies and attract tourism to the regions.

The Works for Queensland program has already seen regional councils deliver more essential infrastructure. This includes road improvements in Bundaberg; water, sewerage and waste upgrades in Mackay; and showground improvements in Gympie. Projects currently being delivered under the 2021-2024 round of Works for Queensland include upgrading the North Rockhampton Sewage Treatment Plant, enhancing roads throughout the Mackay region, replacing the 50-metre pool at the Northern Beaches Leisure Centre in Townsville and upgrading of critical electrical systems across Cook shire's water and wastewater plants.

This program is just another example of the two levels of government working together to deliver critical infrastructure for Queenslanders in the regions. The Palaszczuk government's total investment through Works for Queensland will now be \$1.1 billion over five rounds since 2016. By the end of the current 2021-2024 funding round, it is estimated Works for Queensland will have created and supported more than 26,000 jobs in the regions, and that figure will keep growing thanks to the bigger, better \$300 million round 5. We are also continuing the other council funding programs, including the South-East Queensland Community Stimulus Program and the Indigenous Councils Funding Program. We know how important it is to deliver more of the infrastructure regional communities need, and that is why we are working together with councils to make it happen.