

Question on Notice

No. 2144

Asked on 10 November 2016

MRS LAUGA asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment (HON J TRAD) –

QUESTION:

Will the Deputy Premier provide an update on the Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program and how this program is growing jobs in Central Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Keppel for the question.

On 13 March 2016, the Palaszczuk Government released Queensland's first State Infrastructure Plan (SIP) in more than four years.

I am pleased to advise that we also established the new State Infrastructure Fund, with an initial injection of \$500 million. This was to build the infrastructure needed to grow the economy and support more than 1,000 jobs now for Queenslanders. The State Infrastructure Fund (SIF) was increased in June 2016 by a further \$1.5 billion over four years.

In 2016/17 the Palaszczuk Government will spend more than \$10 billion on capital works across Queensland, supporting more than 31,000 jobs.

Under the SIF, the \$180 million Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program (SRIPP) supports 89 projects. It was designed to deliver regionally significant social and economic infrastructure projects in key regional centres. At its peak this program will support at least 280 jobs.

I am delighted to announce that there has been good progress under the SRIPP, with six projects complete, fifteen projects under construction, and all SRIPP projects currently on track to have commenced construction by June 2017.

Central Queensland has been well-recognised in the SRIPP with projects located in the Banana, Barcaldine, Boulia, Central Highlands, Gladstone and Rockhampton local government areas. These projects will support approximately 100 jobs at the peak of delivery.

Over a quarter of the school infrastructure improvement projects receiving funding under the SRIPP are located in Central Queensland. Five projects: Alpha State School, Capricornia School of Distance Education; Emerald North State School; Glenmore State School; and Glenmore State High School are under construction.

Construction works are being procured for another four projects: Berserker Street State School; Rosella Park School; Tannum Sands State School; and Taroom State School.

Projects at Mount Morgan State High School, Rockhampton Special School and Rockhampton State High School are in the design phase, while Clinton State School, Frenchville State School, Gladstone State High School and Kin Kora State School have projects that are in pre-construction. These school projects are due to be in construction by mid-2017 and all are forecast to be complete in March 2018.

Other SRIPP projects in Central Queensland include the \$2 million Boulia Community Hospital refurbishment which is now in its design phase.

The design work for the Gladstone Step Up/Step down mental health units is being procured. This \$4 million investment will assist Queenslanders transitioning back into the community after an acute mental health episode.

A multi-unit project valued at \$2.3 million in Berserker will provide eight one-bedroom units of accommodation to vulnerable Queenslanders most in need of housing. Construction is expected to commence in December 2016, with completion in August 2017.

The much needed \$2.2 million extension of the Rockhampton Fire Station is also in its design phase, with construction forecast to commence in March next year.

In early 2017, we are also looking to launch a \$5.5 million pilot program to provide energy consumers in regional areas, particularly vulnerable customers, priority access to digital meters and related customer support programs to help them manage their energy costs and bills.

Through the SIP, we now have an infrastructure blueprint that will meet the future demands of our population and deliver economic growth and jobs for Queenslanders year after year through better infrastructure planning and better decision-making.