

Question on Notice
No. 173
Asked on 26 February 2019

Mr A Perrett asked Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. A Palaszczuk)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the news that 140 jobs will be lost to the Gympie Region with the closure of the Gympie Private Hospital at the end of February (80 jobs) and of timber manufacturers Carter Holt Harvey (60 jobs) in April—

Will the Premier advise what specific programs the government will deliver to support local business to generate real long term employment opportunities in the Gympie region?

ANSWER:

My Government's job creation programs are supporting the development of industry and small business in the Gympie region and creating jobs for local workers. This includes:

- \$369 million Back to Work employment program – \$4.6 million provided to 237 local Gympie businesses, supporting 487 jobseekers into work.
- \$420 million Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative – \$2.3 million invested in the Gympie area, assisting 419 jobseekers into training, 153 who went on to employment.
- \$600 million Works for Queensland program – \$18.2 million provided to Gympie Regional Council, supporting 73 jobs across 14 regional projects undertaken to date.
- \$445 million Building Our Regions infrastructure program – \$3.5 million allocated to Gympie Regional Council to support four key projects and an estimated 21 jobs.

Further, nine Gympie based businesses have received \$25,000 through the Queensland Government's Small Business programs, supporting around 20 jobs in the local area.

My Government has also allocated \$15.4 million in 2018–19 for six capital works projects in the Gympie region, part of a statewide program expected to support an average of 38,000 jobs each year from 2018–19 to 2020–21, including an estimated 25,000 jobs supported each year outside the Greater Brisbane area.

On 14 March this year, locally-based Queensland Government agencies hosted an employment session for workers affected by the Gympie Private Hospital closure, including accessing new job opportunities, such as through the National Disabilities Insurance Scheme.

In the event of a significant business closure such as Carter Holt Harvey, TAFEQ participates in workplace briefings and applies the Government's \$10 million Regional Skills Adjustment Strategy to support workers in transitioning into new jobs. Further, Trade and Investment Queensland regularly supports local businesses with advice on business development, market intelligence, investment attraction and export assistance.

My Government remains committed to driving the State's economy, with a focus on delivering for local businesses and supporting workers in regional communities such as Gympie, with a net 184,900 jobs created in Queensland since January 2015.