

Question on Notice

No. 428

Asked on 28 March 2019

MR D BATT ASKED DEPUTY PREMIER, TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PARTNERSHIPS (HON J TRAD)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Jobs and Regional Growth Fund—

Will the Treasurer outline (a) actual expenditure for 2016-17 to 2017-18, (b) the finalised budget for 2018-19, (c) the specific projects funded in 2016-17 and 2017-18 and (d) the number of jobs created per completed project (reported separately by financial year and project)?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government launched the Jobs and Regional Growth Fund on the first of February 2017.

Since then, this government has supported regional projects that will deliver long term benefits. These are often large-scale projects that will realise sustained employment beyond construction.

As of 26 April, the government has executed and announced \$38.110 million in financial assistance for 16 projects underpinning \$286 million in private capital expenditure.

More than \$39 million from the Fund has been committed to deliver nine vital projects for regional Queensland and fulfil the government's election commitments, including \$15 million for the Sunshine Coast International Submarine Cable project, and \$10 million to deliver a Regional Export Distribution Centre.

As part of specific project agreements, the government's support is conditional on projects achieving certain milestones, such as construction milestones or job figures – this makes sure support goes to projects that are delivering real investment and employment benefits.

Given the Fund was only announced on 1 February 2017, there was no actual expenditure in 2016-17. In 2017-18, actual expenditure exceeded \$700,000, and in 2018-19 actual expenditure is expected to exceed \$4.5 million. This information is published in the annual report of the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. It should also be noted that an individual project commitment is likely to have milestone payments that extend over many years.

The government made commitments to Cape York Timber and Bio Processing Australia in 2016-17 which, at completion, will have generated 50 ongoing operational jobs and 70 construction jobs.

In 2017-18, commitments were made to the following projects:

- Swickers in Kingaroy;
- Hawker Pacific in Cairns;
- JBS Australia in Ipswich;
- Dugalunji Aboriginal Corporation in Camooweal; and
- Aquaworks in Babinda.

Together, these projects at completion will create more than 600 ongoing operational jobs and 200 construction jobs.

To date in 2018-19, commitments have been made to projects which will generate a further 316 ongoing operational jobs including

- Australian Chocolate in Mission Beach;
- Mort and Co in Grassdale;
- Hyne Timber in Maryborough;
- Mercurius in Gladstone,
- Mungalli Creek Dairy in Millaa Millaa;
- NIOA in Maryborough;
- Jimbour Beef and Bacon in Jimbour; and
- Laminex in Gympie, saving 42 jobs previously at Carter Holt Harvey.

Specific details of jobs and the economic impact of projects are available from www.dsdmip.qld.gov.au. In cases of commercial agreements, the assistance measures remain confidential as per the terms of the assistance agreements with the relevant companies.