

A strong voice for our future

BRITTANY LAUGA MP

B Urb Dev (Urb&Reg Plan)(Hons), C.dec

**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL
AND ASSISTANT MINISTER
FOR EDUCATION**



MEDIA RELEASE

17 September 2020

'Tough' Central Queenslanders fighting back from COVID-19

Central Queenslanders have been praised in Parliament for their strength, resilience and compassion.

The Member for Keppel and Assistant Education Minister said Central Queenslanders had “banded together to contain the spread of COVID-19” and were helping each other, supporting the vulnerable and immune suppressed in the community and doing their best to support local businesses by buying locally.

“Central Queenslanders are tough. Whether it be floods, cyclones, bushfires or global pandemics, we know how to plan for, respond to and recover from disasters.”

Ms Lauga also thanked the Central Queensland Health and Hospital Service, including the CEO Steve Williamson, chairman of the board, Paul Bell, and members of the executive and board.

“Importantly, I also thank the nurses, assistant nurses, doctors, surgeons, allied health professionals, community and public health officers including the unsung heroes, our contact tracers, the cleaners, the wardies, pathology staff, cooks, laundry staff and everyone who has rolled up their sleeves and worked so hard together to contain the spread of this virus in our community.”

She praised the Palaszczuk Government’s “Unite & Recover: Queensland's economic recovery plan” as a great document that outlines all of the ways in

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which the Queensland Government is going to work together with Queenslanders to bounce back from this global pandemic.

"I love page 29 in particular which outlines how Dobinsons Spring & Suspension, a local North Rockhampton manufacturer, has been awarded over \$580,000 through a Made in Queensland round 2 grant towards a \$1.2 million project to introduce state-of-the-art cold coiling processing capabilities.

"The director, Glen Dobinson, said the grant has helped the company get through these trying times ...and they were able to put on three new full-time workers and expect to create a total of 12 new jobs in the region over the next five years.

"That is a perfect example of how we are supporting manufacturers in Queensland to bounce back from this global pandemic, create jobs and support our local economy."

Ms Lauga said Labor was supporting, protecting and creating jobs as its No. 1 priority, by investing in building and construction projects across our state, particularly in our regions.

"More than 1,500 jobs will be supported by a \$1.4 billion road-building boom in Central Queensland being delivered by the Palaszczuk Government.

"I speak of projects like the Rockhampton ring-road, the northern access upgrade and the Yeppoon and Rockhampton roads upgrade which are all part of that package.

"Importantly, there is also the \$14.3 million 42-bed detox and rehab centre, which is important for supporting people with drug and alcohol problems to get the treatment they need."

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Ms Lauga said she had visited dozens of small businesses in her electorate recently who have taken advantage of the Palaszczuk government's Small Business Adaptation Grant.

"Take Jacinta Perry at Boost Juice Rockhampton, who was awarded the grant to pay some rent.

"In the case of Daryl and Nat at Wilson's Farm Fresh Fruit & Veg, a digital business upgrade has been installed at their farm at Nankin as well as an upgrade to their ordering system.

"Loretta Simpson at Lyn-Jelle Crafts in Emu Park has used the grant to pay their electricity bill.

"Through this recovery plan we will buy more goods and materials locally and ensure that Queensland businesses, from small to large, play an even bigger role in our economic recovery," said Ms Lauga.

ENDS

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