

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE



BARRY O'ROURKE MP

Member for Rockhampton



BRITTANY LAUGA MP

Member for Keppel
Assistant Education Minister

9 July 2020

COVID Works for Queensland jobs announced

An upgraded terminal at Rockhampton Airport, improvements at Keppel Sands Caravan Park, irrigation and landscaping at Springsure Cemetery and a new Community Gymnasium in Woorabinda are just some of the projects that will create jobs for Central Queensland as part of the state's economic recovery plan.

Member for Keppel Brittany Lauga said the COVID Works for Queensland program would deliver 32 projects across the region, creating or supporting 170 local jobs.

"As Queensland emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Palaszczuk Government is laying a strong foundation for economic recovery," Ms Lauga said.

"That means we're supporting local businesses and local jobs wherever we can.

"I'm a great advocate for the Works for Queensland program because I know it's not only creating local jobs, but helping Council deliver projects that genuinely benefit the community.

"Upgrades to Keppel Sands and Coorooman Creek are much-needed and welcomed, particularly as we invite tourists and visitors back to the Capricorn Coast."

Plus, she said, there are plans for a \$75,000 spend on Great Keppel Island for Big Belly bins, shelters, picnic tables, chairs and shade.

"There's also \$120,000 to be spent on repairs to the Emu Park Anzac Memorial which is a focal point of the town."

Member for Rockhampton Barry O'Rourke said the Rockhampton Airport terminal will receive a \$6.4 million facelift, with dedicated passenger lounges to be installed.

"There's no better time to be investing in our airport, not only with Queensland securing Virgin Airlines, but also as we open our borders and welcome tourists back to the Beef Capital," Mr O'Rourke said.

"Along with an additional mezzanine floor for passenger facilities and airport operations, the revamped terminal will serve our community and local tourism for years to come.

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“There’s no doubt our people are resilient, but I know these projects, and the jobs they create, will be extremely welcome during this tough time.”

In announcing the projects, Local Government Minister Stirling Hinchliffe said the positive impacts would be felt almost immediately.

“This program is specifically designed to help councils get their communities back on their feet as quickly as possible and minimise any long-term effects of the global coronavirus pandemic which is impacting economies around the world,” Mr Hinchliffe said.

“We’re continuing to manage the health response and that means we have started delivering Queensland’s plan for economic recovery.

“In total, 520 projects are being funded, which the councils tell us will support or create more than 4,600 jobs.

“It’s a fantastic outcome and will go a long way to helping Queensland unite and recover.”

Rockhampton Regional and Livingstone Shire Councils will share in more than \$9 million of Works for Queensland funds.

Rockhampton Mayor Margaret Strelow thanked the Queensland Government for its support through the program.

“This has certainly been a difficult period and these works will have an enormous effect on local families by creating employment opportunities and making our region an even better place to live,” Mayor Strelow said.

Projects for Central Queensland communities include:

- Livingstone Shire Council – upgrades at the Keppel Sands Caravan Park, new Welcome signs at the shire’s main entry points and upgrades to the Coorooman Creek amenities
- Rockhampton Regional Council – upgrading the Rockhampton Airport Terminal with dedicated passenger lounges and an additional mezzanine floor for passengers and airport operations
- Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council – the construction of a new Community Gymnasium and six new cabins
- Central Highlands Regional Council – improving the regional radio network with new repeater stations, upgrades at Springsure Lawn Cemetery and a new softfall area at Rotary Park

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The program is part of the Queensland Government's \$6 billion economic recovery strategy *Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs*.

Projects are required to be completed by June 2021.

For more information visit: www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au/covid-w4q

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