

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE



BARRY O'ROURKE MP

Member for Rockhampton



BRITTANY LAUGA MP

Member for Keppel
Assistant Minister for Education

5 June 2020

Central Queensland jobs boost through COVID Works for Queensland

Central Queensland communities stand to benefit from increased employment opportunities and new assets such as libraries, bikeways and footpaths, caravan parks, sport and recreation facilities and critical water sewer and waste management infrastructure through \$12.13 million from the Palaszczuk Government's \$200 million COVID Works for Queensland program.

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk said the funding would have an enormous impact on the region.

"While Queenslanders are resilient, it has certainly been a difficult time for everyone and this program will provide a huge lift for employment opportunities, local economies, and most importantly community spirit," she said.

"The allocation of \$12.13 million to councils across Central Queensland will see projects delivered that will have long term economic benefits and increase liveability in our communities."

Member for Rockhampton Barry O'Rourke said COVID Works for Queensland was designed to help councils get their communities back on their feet.

"In the past three years, we have seen how incredibly successful the Works for Queensland program has been throughout regional Queensland, delivering more than 19,000 jobs and counting, and now every council will be given a boost to deliver job-creating infrastructure and maintenance projects," he said.

Member for Keppel and Assistant Minister for Education Brittany Lauga said Queenslanders had never had to deal with anything like the repercussions from this pandemic.

"That is why the Palaszczuk Government has put together the \$6 billion economic recovery strategy *Unite and recover for Queensland Jobs*, of which COVID Works for Queensland is an integral part for our councils and their communities," she said.

Local Government Minister Stirling Hinchliffe said the program was targeting shovel-ready projects, which meant work should get underway shortly after approvals had been given.

"Because these projects must be completed within the 2020-21 financial year, we'll quickly see the social, employment and economic benefits," he said

"Across the State, it's estimated the COVID program will create or support up to 8000 jobs."

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Rockhampton Regional Council Mayor Margaret Strelow praised the Queensland Government for their continued investment in the program during these extraordinary times.

“The Works for Queensland program already makes a huge difference to our community in ordinary times, so we are thrilled to receive \$6.44 million during COVID,” Mayor Strelow said.

“The flow on effects from this investment will have a very real and positive impact on our community.”

Livingstone Shire Council Mayor Andrew Ireland welcomed the Queensland Government support.

“It’s great to see a \$200 million boost to councils through COVID Works for Queensland,” Mayor Ireland said.

“This will help the region maintain it’s essential infrastructure and keep local people employed during these tough times.”

Central Queensland councils will receive COVID Works for Queensland funding of:

- Livingstone Shire Council - \$2.58 million
- Rockhampton Regional Council - \$6.44 million
- Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council - \$1.08 million
- Central Highlands Regional Council - \$2.03 million

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

Already, across the three rounds of Works for Queensland, Central Queensland councils have received more than \$48.6 million, which has created or supported about 1740 jobs.

Projects include the Rockhampton Hockey Club facilities, McIndoe Park Sportsground lighting upgrades in Emerald, and the refurbishment of the Cooee Bay pool in Yeppoon.

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