

Queensland Parliament Hansard Green

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SUBJECT: Keppel Electorate

MEMBER: Mrs LAUGA

### Keppel Electorate

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.15 pm): I rise today with some fantastic news for Central Queensland. Central Queensland is set for a major jobs boost with hundreds of new jobs supporting Works for Queensland projects now funded. Some \$1.5 million is being funded by the Palaszczuk Labor government for the Yeppoon Aquatic Centre at Cooee Bay. I have been lobbying for upgrades to this centre for years. I met with Helen and John Auriac from the centre a couple of months ago.

The pool badly needs upgrading. This funding will go towards renewal of the pool to include eight lanes and a new access ramp, to raise water depth to competition standard and also the renewal of the wading pool, including the installation of small leisure features and simulated rock profiles, and a renewal of the filtration systems for both the pools. I spoke with Judy from the centre today. She was over the moon with respect to the \$1.5 million commitment that we are making through the Works for Queensland program.

I recently received correspondence from Jordan McCann, a champion swimmer from the Yeppoon Sharks Swimming Club, who was advocating for this upgrade. I am really pleased. I cannot wait to speak with Jordan personally and tell him the news.

Some \$800,000 has also been funded from the Works for Queensland program for the Emu Park community arts hub. Keppel Coast Arts met with me and Mayor Ludwig a couple of months ago advocating for this project. I was really pleased to be able to go and lobby on behalf of them for this funding. Leanne Smith from Keppel Coast Arts will be incredibly pleased.

The Rockhampton Heritage Village is also being funded \$300,000 to replace and upgrade lighting and electrical infrastructure. I know that the friends of the heritage village and the council will be so pleased to receive this funding, especially given that this month they are celebrating their 21st birthday. I am sure it will be a welcome birthday present for the Rockhampton Heritage Village.

Livingstone Shire Council Mayor Bill Ludwig and Rockhampton Regional Council Mayor Margaret Strelow have both hailed the Works for Queensland program saying that it has immediate and dramatic impacts on our local communities. I have seen firsthand a number of the projects, including the sealing of Svendsen Road to Coorooman Creek boat ramp. The local boaties I saw over Easter are incredibly pleased to see that that road is now sealed after years. The Palaszczuk Labor government came to the rescue by committing funding and that road is now fully sealed. The residents of Zilzie are pleased because they were putting up with all the dust from Svendsen Road.

This vital funding is about getting people into work. It is being used by our local councils for new parks, gardens, roads and other community facilities that are improving many regional towns and cities, including in Central Queensland. Councils estimate that the 494 new projects that are funded under the program in this round will create or support more than 4,500 jobs in regional Queensland.

The Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of delivering infrastructure, creating jobs and working with councils. We are delivering on our election commitment to continue the Works for Queensland program. I cannot wait to see work started on these projects.