

## Jeff Seeney MP eNewsletter 2017 - edition 1

Welcome to the first edition of my eNewsletter for 2017. I hope you will find the information provided of interest to you.

Topics covered in this issue include; LNP to bring back Royalties for Regions Program, feedback sought on Right to Information and Information Privacy Laws, additional \$20 payment to taxis for wheelchair customers and funding opportunities.

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### *Palaszczuk pretends to bring forward stalled Building our Regions program*

The Palaszczuk Government is pretending to bring forward funding through a program that stalled in its first year, leaving a huge gap in the pipeline of infrastructure projects delivered in rural and regional communities across the Wide Bay-Burnett region.

The announcement that \$70 million would be made available for Round 3 of Labor's disastrous *Building our Regions* program can be met with skepticism by local councils.

Despite claiming they 'topped up' the *Building our Regions* program in last year's state budget, it still falls a huge \$120 million dollars short of the former LNP Government's landmark \$495 million *Royalties for Regions* program.

The Palaszczuk Government's program is an insignificant and cheap replacement for the LNP's hugely successful *Royalties for Regions* program and it has failed dismally to deliver much needed infrastructure projects and jobs in the bush.

Labor's smaller, shorter and narrower program stalled in its first year, with the Palaszczuk Government's own 2016-17 budget papers revealing the *Building our Regions* program had a 99 per cent underspend in its first year - it was a flop.

Annastacia Palaszczuk can't turn around now and say she is bringing forward Round 3 when Round 1 never really happened and no-one knows where Round 2 is up to - Labor is tripping over the paperwork, but can't deliver any projects.

Labor's *Building our Regions* program has been a disaster for local communities and councils.

The LNP has committed to reinstating its effective *Royalties for Regions* program if it is returned to office at the next state election.

### **Projects delivered to the Callide Electorate through the LNP's Royalties for Regions program:**

- Gayndah, Monto and Mundubbera Aerodrome upgrades - \$13.2 million
- Splinter Creek Bridge Replacement - \$1.5 million
- Monto-Mount Perry Road project - \$15.8 million
- Theodore Sewage Treatment Plant - \$2 million
- Eidsvold Theodore Road upgrade - \$12 million
- Baralaba Water Treatment Plant - \$4.5 million
- Banana Reservoir and Town Pump - \$1.7 million
- Kingaroy Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade - \$10 million
- Bears Lagoon Road Moura - \$275,260

- Clark & Swendson Road Intersection, Kingaroy - \$1.5 million
- South Burnett Rail Trail - \$2 million
- Injune Taroom Road upgrade - \$7 million

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### ***Community views sought on Right to Information and Information Privacy Laws***

A consultation paper has been released inviting public submissions on the review of Queensland's *Right to Information Act 2009* (RTI Act) and *Information Privacy Act 2009* (IP Act).

The purpose of reviewing these Acts has been to determine whether the primary objects of the Acts remained valid and whether they were meeting their primary objects, and to investigate any specific issues.

The next step towards completing these important legislative reviews is to seek comment from the public about these laws.

The consultation paper invites feedback from interested individuals and organisations on key issues raised by the Acts, including whether their primary objectives remain valid and how existing provisions might be improved to better meet those primary functions.

The consultation paper is available at:

[http://www.justice.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/498233/consultation-paper-review-of-the-rti-act-and-ip-act.pdf](http://www.justice.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/498233/consultation-paper-review-of-the-rti-act-and-ip-act.pdf)

Comments and submissions can be made via:

- <https://www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au/gi/>
- Email: [FeedbackRTIandprivacy@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:FeedbackRTIandprivacy@justice.qld.gov.au)
- Post: RTI and Privacy Review

Department of Justice and Attorney-General  
GPO Box 149  
Brisbane QLD 4001  
Submissions close February 3, 2017.

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### ***Lift Payment: Priority Taxi Bookings for Wheelchair Users***

Taxi Subsidy Scheme (TSS) wheelchair users can now have their cab bookings prioritised through government incentive payments to the drivers of wheelchair accessible taxis (WATs).

\$20 Lift Payments are designed to improve taxi waiting times for Queenslanders who rely on a wheelchair for their mobility.

The \$20 Lift Payment is expected to provide an incentive for the drivers of wheelchair accessible taxis (WATs) to prioritise bookings from wheelchair-dependent TSS members.

It also recognises the additional time needed by drivers to assist wheelchair users with boarding.

By ensuring the \$20 Lift Payment is made directly by the government to the driver or operator of the wheelchair accessible taxi it means there is no increase in fare costs for TSS passengers.

The Lift Payment applies to each eligible wheelchair accessible taxi (WAT) trip involving the transportation of a Taxi Subsidy Scheme (TSS) member travelling in a wheelchair.

Queenslanders meeting the Taxi Subsidy Scheme's (TSS) eligibility criteria receive a 50 percent subsidy for taxi travel up to a maximum of \$25 per trip.

For more information on the Lift Payment, visit <http://personalisedtransport.tmr.qld.gov.au/>

For more information on the Taxi Subsidy Scheme, visit <https://translink.com.au/tickets-and-fares/ticket-types/disability/taxi-subsidy-scheme>

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Applications for the **2017 Indigenous Digital Excellence (IDX) Flint program** are now open. Communities across Northern Qld can apply to receive up to \$25,000 to support and inspire the next generation of digital makers through the IDX initiative.

IDX Flint is a program that sparks the interest, ideas and talent of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in making digital technology. IDX Flint provides \$25,000(AUD) worth of in-kind support from the IDX Initiative for regional communities through hands on workshops for young people, skills development for local facilitators as well as equipment and educational resources.

**Applications close on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017.**

The IDX initiative is a partnership between National Centre for Indigenous Excellence and the Telstra Foundation.

<http://idx.org.au/get-involved#-/get-involved/digital-making/flint>

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Applications for the **General Fund 2017 Grants Program** are now open – **closing date 8 March 2017.**

The 2017 grant round will focus on organisations servicing vulnerable populations needing to adapt their business model and systems to enable them to provide an improved and competitive service in the changing operating environment.

The QCF Capacity Building Grants assist charities develop their structures, systems, people and skills in order to deliver improved outcomes.

Typically, capacity building focuses on education and training, recruiting, maintaining or recognising volunteers, information technology support systems, training, and planning and governance which may include strategic plans, constitution reviews or board appraisals.

For more information contact Bronwynn van Baalen, Executive Officer, Queensland Community Foundation on 3360 3854, or alternatively email [enquiries@qcf.org.au](mailto:enquiries@qcf.org.au).

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