




Speech By
Hon. Jeff Seeney

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Regional Queensland

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.36 am): Our government is committed to ensuring towns in resource regions share the economic benefits delivered by the resources sector. Queensland regions were ignored by the former Labor government, which is why from our first day in government we set out to develop the \$495 million Royalties for the Regions program. It is why we also established the Regional and Resource Towns Action Plan program, which focuses on providing infrastructure upgrades and state land to boost economic growth and create opportunity in resource towns. Ours is a government that cares about regional Queensland and we are determined to bring an end to Labor's shameful neglect of regional communities that are located outside the south-east corner but that are incredibly important to the resources industry that benefits everyone in Queensland.

I can announce today that towns in those resource regions have received over \$10 million in funding for catalyst infrastructure and state land for homes and industry through this important program. In just one year, we have delivered 40 per cent of the 136 actions identified in our Regional and Resource Towns Action Plan. Where Labor's poor planning failed to address land shortages and housing affordability, we are taking action. The state government is working with councils to deliver better planning and better infrastructure to deliver more affordable housing for residents and improved infrastructure to make these regional resource towns attractive places to live.

The Regional and Resource Towns Action Plan was developed by my department after holding 11 workshops with relevant regional councils to listen to their planning challenges and the assistance they needed to develop their communities to attract more resource industry workers. For me, the standout success story of this plan so far has been Roma, and I want to congratulate Mayor Rob Loughnan and his council for the way they have worked with us as a state government to ensure that Roma is well on its way to being a major regional community.

The government has fast-tracked the development of the Clearview Rise residential development, improving the supply of residential land in Roma. In addition, \$2.1 million has been provided to undertake sewerage augmentation, \$1.1 million has been made available to upgrade the sewerage trunk servicing Clearview Rise and \$2.3 million has been made available to improve stormwater infrastructure within Roma. The state government has also transferred a 112-hectare parcel of land to the Maranoa Regional Council to complement an adjacent 500-hectare parcel of land the council already owned. These are the sorts of catalytic infrastructure investments that will make Roma an attractive place to live for generations of resource industry workers.

Another great example of the Regional and Resource Towns Action Plan in action can be seen in the Whitsunday region, where my department is investigating opportunities to develop land at the Whitsunday Coast Airport. The resource sector plays a massive role in the economy of the Whitsundays and the neighbouring local government areas of Mackay and Isaac. I am also delighted

to see the Whitsundays, Cloncurry and the Banana region recently added to this plan, a plan which over time will help these regions to better reap the benefits and meet the challenges resulting from the resource sector.

Regional and resource towns are the lifeblood of the state economy. Those who live in those resource towns are proud of the contribution they make to the state economy and aware of the challenge that the Treasurer faces in paying off Labor debt. We will continue with that task and give these regions and these communities the support that they deserve from a state government.