




Speech By
Hon. Jeff Seeneey

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Royalties for the Regions

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.40 am): Today I am pleased to announce some details of another successful round of our government's Royalties for the Regions program, an essential part of our strong plan to provide a brighter future for regional Queensland. For me, this program symbolises the vast difference in approach between our government and the former Labor administration when it comes to country towns and country people. Within months of our election we delivered on our promise to make it our priority to invest in critical infrastructure in Queensland's regions, and the vehicle we have used to do that is our Royalties for the Regions program. Regional Queensland is critically important in our government's determination to grow the four pillars of our economy, especially tourism, agriculture and the resources pillars.

Our LNP government has a strong plan to support the growth of our regions. We committed to spend \$495 million over four years in upgrading roads, bridges and airports, improving water and sewage infrastructure and community facilities. At the start of round 3, the Royalties for the Regions program had already delivered \$250 million in funding to more than 39 councils across Queensland supporting 235 kilometres of road upgrades, community infrastructure and flood mitigation projects.

By this weekend the Queensland government will have announced that 19 regional councils have additionally been successful in securing round 3 Royalties for the Regions funding for a further 23 projects. Yet again this round will help councils deliver a mix of infrastructure projects including road and airport upgrades and even a new natural history museum at Eromanga. In the past month I have thoroughly enjoyed travelling across country Queensland to announce successful round 3 funding applications in Carpentaria, Cloncurry, Flinders, Livingstone, Mount Isa and North Burnett councils, but the highlight was when I visited the tiny Gulf town of Karumba to tell the kids of Karumba that they were finally going to get a swimming pool. They do not have to swim with the crocodiles any longer. They were finally going to get a swimming pool, because the state government was able to provide a million dollars to match dollar for dollar the money the council had available to ensure that the kids of Karumba had a swimming pool like most other kids in Queensland. Other Queensland government ministers had announced a further six councils—Barcaldine, Blackall, Tambo, Boulia, Goondiwindi and Mackay—that have also shared in round 3 funding.

Today I would like to announce another six regional councils that have been successful in this round. Burdekin Shire Council will receive \$650,000 to extend the Burdekin community centre. Maranoa Regional Council will receive \$300,000 to upgrade Injune's sewage treatment plant. Diamantina Shire Council will receive \$432,000 to reseal the Birdsville Airport's runway. Quilpie Shire Council will receive \$500,000 to build stage 1 of the natural history museum at Eromanga. Tablelands Regional Council will receive \$440,000 for an important local road upgrade. In most cases we are

matching dollar for dollar investment by councils, while elsewhere resource companies are also contributing to delivering these vital infrastructure upgrades.

These new 22 infrastructure projects funded in round 3 of Royalties for the Regions will provide lasting benefits to our state's regional communities and deliver a welcome economic boost during construction. With interest in Royalties for the Regions running strong, I look forward to the continued success of this program that plays such an important part in creating a brighter future for country towns and country people.