



Speech By
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ADJOURNMENT

North Stradbroke Island

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (6.06 pm): What is clear from the last two weeks is that the workers and residents of North Stradbroke Island are suffering and this Labor government is fiddling while Rome burns. The economic transition strategy is clearly failing. Only two of 23 projects have been completed in two years from 2016 to 2018. Minister Dick has been replaced by Minister Jones in light of this slow progress, but that is jumping out of the frying pan into the fire as far as the people are concerned because Minister Jones has tried and failed before as the lead minister.

The Premier in question time on Tuesday said that the government is working with the Quandamooka people on one project, but the government's own documents show that they are working with the Quandamooka people through QYAC on many projects, so the Premier is out of touch and does not even know her own plan. The government is responsible for 22 of the 23 projects. The Redland City Council is responsible for one of them, so the Premier needs to take responsibility and take control.

The Premier also revealed under questioning that only five island workers of 121 sacked workers have been transitioned to a new job under the government's rescue package to date. This is not only a very slow and expensive lack of progress, but it is a broken promise. Minister Jones assured island residents that all would be okay when she promised, together with then premier Bligh, 400 ecotourism jobs for island workers to transition to, but they never eventuated. Deputy Premier Trad told everyone that it would be okay too and promised hundreds of construction jobs from Toondah Harbour, but that never happened either. What an absolute mess by an incompetent government.

Where to from here? If I could offer some advice as the local member: firstly, start supporting the locals. I have faith in the resilience and capacity of North Stradbroke Island residents, workers and businesses, but the community is running out of patience with this Labor government. Secondly, Minister Jones 2.0 needs to keep the promises she makes this time to restore trust and credibility.

Thirdly, invest more dollars into long-term, job-creating legacy projects like the Dunwich Harbour redevelopment, which could take somewhere around \$30 million to really do it properly. Toondah Harbour and Dunwich Harbour are the gateways to tourism and the future for North Stradbroke Island. Fourthly, fast-track the remaining 21 projects. Fifthly, fast-track the master planning of Dunwich—which should have happened a long time ago—so that the harbour and other projects can go ahead.

Sixthly, incentivise private investment by completing all outstanding planning. The land management plan from the ILUA is still not complete, so investors do not know where they stand. They come to me with finances ready to invest but say that there is still too much uncertainty. If the Premier loves the island then she has a strange way of showing it. Damaging the lifestyle of Indigenous and non-Indigenous island residents is no way to show that you love them.