

## **The Hon Jason Clare MP**

### **Parliamentary Secretary for Employment**

12 October, 2009

## **Media release**

# **Caboolture-Sunshine Coast Local Employment Co-ordinator appointed to drive jobs**

The Rudd Government has appointed a Local Employment Co-ordinator to help create and support local jobs in the Sunshine Coast region.

Parliamentary Secretary for Employment, Jason Clare, made the announcement while hosting a Keep Australia Working forum today.

Mr Clare said this was one of 20 Keep Australia Working forums being held around the country to start work on local jobs plans for the regions hardest hit by the global economic recession.

“The Rudd Government is doing everything it can to keep Australia working,” Mr Clare said.

“The global recession has hit Caboolture and the Sunshine Coast hard. In places this region we need to go the extra mile to support local jobs.

“We have appointed Steve Hogan as the Local Employment Co-ordinator to look for new job opportunities and work with business and the community to develop a local jobs plan for the future.

“Steve lives on the Sunshine Coast and has worked in the region for more than 15 years having previously been the Chief Executive of the local Area Consultative Committee.

“Most recently he has been the General Manager of a private company with interests in various industries across Queensland – so he has a strong understanding of what business is looking for an how to work with employers to get people into jobs.”

Mr Clare said the region had suffered as a result of the global downturn and this was part of the Government’s plan to support jobs.

“The region’s unemployment rate has doubled over the past year—now standing above the national average at six per cent,” Mr Clare said.

“That’s why we organised this forum, to discuss how to maximise the employment impact of the stimulus package to support jobs and industry in this region.

“Across the region more than \$329 million has been invested in projects to stimulate the economy.

“The Government will keep working in partnership with local businesses and the community to create and support jobs in Caboolture and on the Sunshine Coast.”

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