Transcript Sam

Description: The sun shines through tree leaves. Sam is wheeling in his wheelchair on a worksite. A close up shot on his business logo embroidered on his shirt. It says ‘Roll-Out Contracting’ and has a stitch of Sam in a wheelchair, cracking a whip. An on-screen graphic appears; “Sam, Roll-Out Contracting.” The shot cuts to Sam sitting in his chair on the worksite, in an interview-style set up.

Sam O’Connor: My name is Sam O'Connor. My business is called Roll-Out Contracting, and we do fencing in Far North Queensland anywhere from rural to residential. My day-to-day basis is, you know, lining out digging the holes for fences, setting them all up and then start quoting and I sort of set the boys up on the job.

Description: Sam is working with his team onsite. They are filling fence post holes with concrete, and measuring the posts.

Sam O’Connor: Yeah broke my back riding bulls. I had a spinal cord injury, and I still had a few more years to go. So, I wasn’t really in the financial spot just to retire. Pretty tricky to get a job at the start, because a lot of people, sort of look at you in a wheelchair and just think, well, what can you do? Or you're a liability. I thought well, bugger it. I'll just start my own business and that'll prove a point, and it's my business. Well, you know, there should be no hesitancy. And you know, from there on in, it's just kept going and yeah, I haven't looked back since.

Description: A series of shots. A post-hole attachment for a digger, and Sam’s mechanical chair on an arm that is mounted to his ute. Sam is operating an orange digger, looking at the ground and manipulating the controls. He sits on the digger, talking to the rest of his team.

Sam O’Connor: It hasn't been the smoothest of roads for me, you know? So there's been roadblocks, after curveballs, and at the same time, you know, I've had a lot of good people back me a lot through it.

Description: Sam drives the digger over bumpy ground, pulling out fenceposts with a chain using the digger, with another team member working on the ground to then remove the posts from the chain.

Sam O’Connor: Through having a disability, you get a lot of things taken away from you straight away. To have something given back to you is a major thing. To be able to move on with life and you know, I accept where I am. I just don't let it step in the way.

Description: Sam is digging holes for the fence on the digger, using a special attachment.

Sam O’Connor: I can’t do a lot of the things that the boys do, but that's what they do. But I'll do the things that I can do by running around getting things sorted out.

Description: One of Sam’s team members is unwinding wire from around a fence post using a pair of pliers, and pulling it away from some tall grass that has grown up against the fence.

Sam O’Connor: A great saying that I've always sort of used is, it’s not the push from behind, it’s not the pull from in front, but the drive from within.

Description: Sam is wheeling down a pier at sunset, with one of his friends from the worksite walking alongside him. They laugh and joke with each other as they look out at the view. A Queensland Government logo graphic appears, with text and URL underneath it. This reads: For more information visit qld.gov.au/qld-disability-plan