



Committee Secretary  
Economics and Governance Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Email: [egc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:egc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Committee Secretary

**RE: Inquiry into the Queensland Government's economic response to COVID-19**

Please accept the Central Western Queensland Remote Area Planning and Development Board's (RAPAD) submission to the Economics and Governance Committee's Inquiry into the Queensland Government's economic response to COVID-19.

RAPAD is the peak regional economic development body for the region and the lead advocate for the seven member councils of Barcaldine, Barcoo, Blackall-Tambo, Boulia, Diamantina, Longreach and Winton.

More than 10,000 Queenslanders live in these local government areas across 396,000 square kilometres – almost twice the land area of the State of Victoria.

Regional Australia Institute modelling has projected the RAPAD region has the potential to deliver an annual output of \$1.5 billion in Gross Value Added by 2031 – the equivalent of almost \$150,000 for every man, woman and child currently living in the RAPAD region.


Like all Queenslanders, those living and working in central western Queensland have been impacted by COVID-19. The imposition of restrictions to slow its spread has prevented visitors to our region, disrupted the markets our industries supply and limited local residents' access to health, education and other key services.

While COVID-19's impacts are not unique to the RAPAD region, we believe the RAPAD region has a distinct role to play in Queensland's COVID-19 recovery.

RAPAD's role is consistent with the Government's Queensland Economic Recovery Strategy and its three objectives:

1. Building vital infrastructure
2. Strengthening Queensland's industries – traditional (agriculture, tourism and resources) and emerging (renewables)
3. Enabling future growth - skills, training and education, innovation and research, competitive regulatory environment, trade and investment

I have attached RAPAD's Post COVID-19 Central Western Queensland Recovery Plan that has been presented to the Government and its Queensland Industry Recovery Alliance, which I am a member as RAPAD's representative.

 (07) 4652 5600

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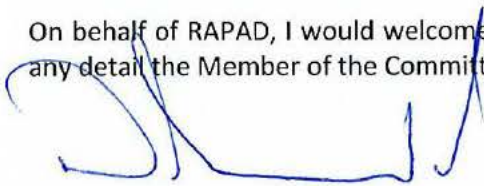
#RAPADCWQ

The RAPAD plan has multiple complementary objectives.

- getting our communities back to work;
- creating new and protecting existing jobs in our region;
- supporting our local businesses;
- reconnecting our communities;
- rebuilding our region based on our traditional and emerging strengths; and
- investing in vital local infrastructure.

I am pleased to say the Government has acknowledged key planks of our Plan and the Premier The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP and senior Members of Parliament from the Government and Opposition have met with RAPAD and visited the region in recent weeks.

On behalf of RAPAD, I would welcome the opportunity to appear before the Committee and provide any detail the Member of the Committee might have.



David Arnold  
Chief Executive Officer  
Central Western Queensland Remote Area Planning and Development Board



## POST COVID-19 CENTRAL WESTERN QUEENSLAND RECOVERY PLAN

### All of Central Western Queensland is Ready to Play Our Part in *Economic Recovery Opportunities for Queensland*

The Central Western Queensland Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD) stands ready to play its part in Queensland's COVID-19 *Unite and Recover Strategy* by delivering initiatives to create the economic foundations to make economies and communities in the RAPAD region even stronger by:

- getting our communities back to work;
- creating new and protecting existing jobs in our region;
- supporting our local businesses;
- reconnecting our communities;
- rebuilding our region based on our traditional and emerging strengths; and
- investing in vital local infrastructure.

The opportunities outlined below are part of RAPAD's *Post COVID-19 Central Western Queensland Recovery Plan* which will be released soon. This document clearly demonstrates how our plan aligns with the Queensland Government's agenda for a technology led, regionally targeted response that enables growth in both traditional and emerging industries to support creation of quality jobs across the State. They collectively give business the tools to be more competitive and to drive productivity and support the participation of all Queenslanders in meaningful work.

Queensland Government Unite & Recover Strategy	Post COVID-19 Central Western Queensland Recovery Plan
<p><b>1. Increased workforce capability and capacity:</b> This will involve working with training and education providers and employers to rapidly build the skills capacity of the Queensland workforce, so that Queenslanders can retrain for new roles and respond to structural changes in the Queensland economy. This would also position Queensland to attract and take advantage of new opportunities, including in smart industry, clean technology and digital transformation. This includes mapping future skills needs, investing in management capabilities and business acumen, as well as attracting and retaining talent e.g. through high quality apprenticeships.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing support to create a regional centre of excellence and create new jobs by designing and delivering a new strategic direction and operating model for the former Longreach Pastoral College.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2019, the former Longreach Pastoral College closed its doors causing significant job losses and additional population decline. Education, training and skills development opportunities are vital for the region to remain competitive and connected in a post COVID-19 world.</li> <li>• RAPAD backed itself as the best placed entity to re-think and redesign a new future for the college. In February 2020 RAPAD signed an agreement to occupy the College's premises until November 2020.</li> <li>• RAPAD needs long-term certainty that the government will continue to work with and financially support it over the long-term to transform the College. Central West Queensland needs the government to back RAPAD to deliver a regional centre of excellence for training, education and research. This will grow jobs, attract new residents and make our region even stronger.</li> </ul>



	<p><b>Extend the Queensland Government Regional Skills investment strategy for another 2 years in the RAPAD region at a cost of \$175 000 per annum.</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Competitive business environment:</b> A commitment to providing a competitive regulatory environment and continuous improvement of government services will reduce costs across the economy, make Queensland a competitive destination for investment and enable capital and labour to be more flexible and respond to emerging challenges and opportunities. Key areas of focus include transactional, time and energy costs; occupational licensing requirements, business planning and financial literacy; and technology and innovation.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Increase funding to each Remote Area Board to \$200 000 per annum ongoing for approved project related activities that support collaboration and economic development outcomes across the region.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As the Remote Area Board for Central Western Queensland, RAPAD receives annual funding from the State Government to undertake economic development projects in the region – some of which are highlighted in this Recovery Plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Support collaborative arrangements such as the Outback Regional Roads and Transport Group (ORRTG) and RAPAD Water and Sewerage Alliance by ensuring funding for the Roads and Transport Alliance State-wide Capability Development Fund and the Queensland Water Regional Alliance Program (QWRAP) remain, at a minimum, at current levels to help build workforce capability, promote joint purchasing and resource sharing and innovation in project delivery.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likewise, RAPAD's activities are supported by a number of long-term, collaborative alliances, including the ORRTG and the Outback Regional Water Alliance.</li> <li>• Each of these groups is essential to the success of RAPAD. However, more than that, given their membership includes relevant State Government departments they also offer a valuable regionally based framework to pursue various State Government objectives.</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.rapad.com.au/programs-and-projects/regional-local-government-alliances/">https://www.rapad.com.au/programs-and-projects/regional-local-government-alliances/</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Targeted small business mentoring, advisory and trade roles, in region; and continuation of the State funded Small Business Financial Counselling program currently supporting drought, monsoon trough and COVID affected areas –</b></p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.rfcsnq.com.au/about/small-businesses-and-individuals-financial-counsellor/">https://www.rfcsnq.com.au/about/small-businesses-and-individuals-financial-counsellor/</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Thriving innovation ecosystems:</b> Sustained and high rates of research and development and innovative activity in Queensland will drive economic growth in our traditional and emerging industries. Mass collaboration and active connectivity across all stakeholders – as well as globally – could support emerging industries; as well as underpin the success of other transformational opportunities. In doing so, regional strengths can be built upon within localised innovation systems to create high value jobs.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Continue the Advancing Regional Innovation Program (or similar) and increase each region's funding allocation by a minimum of \$200 000 per annum to facilitate 'smart' regional outcomes.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Often the innovation agenda focuses just on 'smart cities'. Our goal is to develop Australia's first 'smart region' which seeks to have 'globally connected ecosystems and provision of hard and soft infrastructure to foster innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship across the RAPAD region'.</li> <li>• To better understand how this could be achieved, with support from the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation, RAPAD developed the Smart Central Western Queensland: A Community Enabled Digital Plan – a first in regional Australia.</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.rapad.com.au/assets/Uploads/RAPAD-Digital-Engagement-Report.pdf">https://www.rapad.com.au/assets/Uploads/RAPAD-Digital-Engagement-Report.pdf</a></li> </ul> <p><b>\$180 000 per annum over four years for RAPAD to engage a region-wide Chief Digital Officer to progress the creation of data-led communities across the central west as part of our virtual communities smart region vision.</b></p> <p>RAPAD is the lead agent for Outback Queensland's Advancing Regional Innovation Program funded by Advance Queensland. This program has assisted RAPAD deliver a range of outcomes across the region including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outbackhubs – a network of physical and virtual co-working sites with state-of-the-art video conferencing facilities connecting our region to the world and facilitating skills uplift, retraining and supporting active virtual communities.</li> <li>• Outback Aerodrone Symposia – hosting and connecting local, national and international individuals and organisations with the latest technology and operational uses for drones and UAV's with a focus on partnering with leading Asia Pacific companies to facilitate international investment into the region.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.rapad.com.au/assets/Uploads/Outbackhubs-report-2019-LR-1.pdf">https://www.rapad.com.au/assets/Uploads/Outbackhubs-report-2019-LR-1.pdf</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.rapad.com.au/assets/Uploads/RAPAD-OAS-report-2019-proof2.pdf">https://www.rapad.com.au/assets/Uploads/RAPAD-OAS-report-2019-proof2.pdf</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Ongoing support to create a regional centre of excellence and create new jobs by designing and delivering a new strategic direction and operating model for the former Longreach Pastoral College.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2019, the former Longreach Pastoral College closed its doors causing significant job losses and additional population decline. Education, training and skills development opportunities are vital for the region to remain competitive and connected in a post COVID-19 world.</li> <li>• RAPAD backed itself as the best placed entity to re-think and redesign a new future for the college. In February 2020 RAPAD signed an agreement to occupy the College's premises until November 2020.</li> <li>• RAPAD needs long-term certainty that the government will continue to work with and financially support it over the long-term to transform the College. Central West Queensland needs the government to back RAPAD to deliver a regional centre of excellence for training, education and research. This will grow jobs, attract new residents and make our region even stronger.</li> </ul> <p><b>Extend the Queensland Government Regional Skills investment strategy for another 2 years in the RAPAD region at a cost of \$175 000 per annum.</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Digital transformation:</b> Digital connectivity and literacy are fundamental enablers for maximising market opportunities and improving productivity in regional areas (thereby supporting job growth), as well as facilitating economic and social inclusion. Coordinating and expanding Queensland's digital infrastructure is vital for post COVID-19 recovery across the state's regional communities, businesses and industry.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Continue the Advancing Regional Innovation Program (or similar) and increase each region's funding allocation by a minimum of \$200 000 per annum to facilitate 'smart' regional outcomes.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Often the innovation agenda focuses just on 'smart cities'. Our goal is to develop Australia's first 'smart region' which seeks to have 'globally connected ecosystems and provision of hard and soft infrastructure to foster innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship across the RAPAD region'.</li> <li>• To better understand how this could be achieved, with support from the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation, RAPAD</li> </ul>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Smart industries:</b> The shared competencies, skills and tools of advanced technologies can be applied broadly across Queensland's traditional and emerging industries to improve productivity, drive competitiveness, and encourage high-value job creation. In addition, positioning Queensland as a leader in advanced technology adoption can also be enhanced through investment in mineral extraction for use in smart technologies and devices.</li> </ul>	<p><b>\$2.25M over four years to grow a new manufacturing centre and industries built on RAPAD's world class renewable energy resources.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The RAPAD region has a once in a generation opportunity to create a new manufacturing sector based on the region's globally competitive renewable energy. This opportunity extends beyond building wind and solar farms, instead it's about using our wind and solar to manufacture energy intensive "green" products here in Central West Queensland.</li> <li>• Through extensive community consultation RAPAD developed its Realising RAPAD's Big Vision – Community Consultation Report 2019<sup>1</sup>, which identified that the RAPAD community:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has a strong appetite for significant change;</li> <li>• has embraced the idea of self-sufficiency;</li> <li>• is eager to action it;</li> <li>• is ready to progress a significant economic transformation; and</li> <li>• recognises and supports RAPAD as the appropriate body to lead an economic transformation across the central west community.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In partnership with renewable energy leader Professor Ross Garnaut AC, as well as other commercial partners, RAPAD is backing itself to make this vision a reality by developing the Barcaldine Renewable Energy Hub which will:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• create a minimum 200 new long-term full-time jobs;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase the local population by 38%;</li> <li>• deliver a regional economic benefit of \$41M per annum and an annual wage increase in the region of \$16.2M; and</li> <li>• generate a robust segment of the local economy which is immune to drought conditions.</li> <li>• What RAPAD needs now is courageous leadership and ongoing investment from the State Government to back this regional initiative.</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.rapad.com.au/assets/Uploads/Consultation-Report-WOW-Final-Realising-the-RAPAD-Big-Vision.pdf">https://www.rapad.com.au/assets/Uploads/Consultation-Report-WOW-Final-Realising-the-RAPAD-Big-Vision.pdf</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.rapad.com.au/news/blog/outback-regional-energy-hub-brought-to-life/">https://www.rapad.com.au/news/blog/outback-regional-energy-hub-brought-to-life/</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cleaner energy, industries and markets:</b> There is an opportunity to capitalise on Queensland's natural endowments and facilitate growth in clean technology including renewable energy, hydrogen, waste recovery and repurposing, and environmental markets. This presents significant long-term economic and job growth opportunities for Queensland, especially when clean technologies can be integrated with traditional industries to develop new products (eg hydrogen and green Artificial Intelligence) and when emerging markets for environmental commodities, such as carbon, can be developed.</li> </ul>	<p><b>\$2.25M over four years to grow a new manufacturing centre and industries built on RAPAD's world class renewable energy resources.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The RAPAD region has a once in a generation opportunity to create a new manufacturing sector based on the region's globally competitive renewable energy. This opportunity extends beyond building wind and solar farms, instead it's about using our wind and solar to manufacture energy intensive "green" products here in Central West Queensland.</li> <li>• Through extensive community consultation RAPAD developed its Realising RAPAD's Big Vision – Community Consultation Report 20191, which identified that the RAPAD community:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has a strong appetite for significant change;</li> <li>• has embraced the idea of self-sufficiency;</li> <li>• is eager to action it;</li> <li>• is ready to progress a significant economic transformation; and</li> <li>• recognises and supports RAPAD as the appropriate body to lead an economic transformation across the central west community.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In partnership with renewable energy leader Professor Ross Garnaut AC, as well as other commercial partners, RAPAD is backing itself to make this vision a reality by developing the Barcaldine Renewable Energy Hub which will:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• create a minimum 200 new long-term full-time jobs;</li> <li>• increase the local population by 38%;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Smart infrastructure coupled with targeted, complementary investments:</b> Queensland has built an expansive economic and social infrastructure asset base across its regions which, through continued maintenance and upgrade works, can continue to meet contemporary needs. There is an opportunity to better utilise the existing infrastructure assets through demand and total asset lifecycle management practices, including policy reform and latency reduction measures. This can be complemented by targeted infrastructure investment to leverage previous investments and enable further economic development by opening opportunities (e.g. for new renewable connections and agricultural sector expansion). Where</li> </ul>	<p><b>\$25M additional funding for the Outback Tourism Infrastructure Fund over five years to enhance tourism product and support operators across the region.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism remains a key pillar of RAPAD's smart region vision. The tourism sector in Outback Queensland is vital to the Queensland economy as well as our own region. RAPAD has gathered essential data which shows why we back outback tourism and you should too.</li> <li>• The Central West Queensland Data Collection and Analysis Report found the sector injects \$527.4M in visitor spend alone into the central west region each year. It also supports 4600 jobs. In 2019, the region hosted more than</li> </ul>



<p>infrastructure is built, the use of Building Information Modelling (BIM) will be implemented in accordance with government's existing policy.</p>	<p>one million visitors confirming the latest research highlighting visitors are looking for real Australian adventures that embrace the nation's heritage and rich indigenous culture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By backing Central West Queensland and the outback we will deliver beyond expectations.</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.rapad.com.au/assets/Uploads/CWQ-Tourism-Data-Collection-and-Analysis-Public-Version-v1-1.pdf">https://www.rapad.com.au/assets/Uploads/CWQ-Tourism-Data-Collection-and-Analysis-Public-Version-v1-1.pdf</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Regionally led economic governance models to drive locally tailored solutions:</b> Existing frameworks and partnerships (e.g. regional organisations of councils, regional planning committees, local and regional disaster management committees) could be strengthened and expanded to enable different levels of government, the private sector and local communities to develop and implement targeted economic, infrastructure and workforce solutions for their region. These arrangements could extend beyond recovery to provide an ongoing approach to strategy and collaboration.</li> </ul>	<p><b>RAPAD Strategic Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.rapad.com.au/assets/Uploads/RAPAD-Strategic-Plan-2018-20-print.pdf">https://www.rapad.com.au/assets/Uploads/RAPAD-Strategic-Plan-2018-20-print.pdf</a></li> </ul> <p><b>\$9.2M additional Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) funding over four years for priority road upgrades as well as dedicated funding for immediate upgrades to other critical road links such as the Donohue Highway and Winton/Richmond Road.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our roads and air services provide vital economic and social connections for individuals, families, businesses, industries and government services.</li> <li>• RAPAD's focus on roads is supported by the Outback Regional Roads and Transport Group (ORRTG), which identifies the priority routes and focus of investment to ensure vital road connections are maintained and grown across the region.</li> <li>• By backing its community and continuously investing in the region's road network, RAPAD is delivering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• better employment outcomes;</li> <li>• improved supply chain connectivity;</li> <li>• increased flood immunity;</li> <li>• tourism revenue; and</li> <li>• improved safety outcomes, particularly to essential health care services.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <a href="https://www.rapad.com.au/assets/Uploads/Western-Queensland-Alliance-of-Councils-2020-State-Budget-Submission-1.pdf">https://www.rapad.com.au/assets/Uploads/Western-Queensland-Alliance-of-Councils-2020-State-Budget-Submission-1.pdf</a></li> </ul>





	<p><b>Increase the region's competitiveness, liveability and tourism by committing to a Queensland Productivity Commission review of air route supply, regulated routes and airfare subsidies, including the feasibility of east-west flights between Rockhampton and Longreach.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From a Central Western Queensland perspective, there is a need to better connect communities, and support tourism and business opportunities between Longreach and Rockhampton with direct flights.</li> <li>• The recent Airline Business Case for East-West Flights Connecting Western Queensland to the East Coast via Rockhampton, revealed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct access from Longreach and surrounding towns to Rockhampton would complement the existing airline network.</li> <li>• Enough demand exists for point to point flights where approximately 17 000 seats could be filled on an east-west route.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The economic and social impacts of air route supply and airfare pricing was a key focus for the Australian Senate's Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Reference Committee Inquiry Into the Operation, Regulation and Funding of Air Route Service Delivery to Rural, Regional and Remote Communities.</li> <li>• The Australian Government's response to recommendation number one of the Inquiry was that: "state's are constitutionally responsible for intra-state aviation," and that the Australian Government considers: "...state government agencies such as the Queensland Productivity Commission better placed to examine the issues identified from the Inquiry".</li> <li>• By backing RAPAD and investing in road and air services, the government will be providing the certainty and confidence councils and communities so desperately need to forward plan, especially as the region recovers from the impacts of COVID-19.</li> </ul> <p><b>\$5M over two years for strategic cluster fencing for the RAPAD region. This will create 55 jobs, deliver 1351km of fencing, grow the population by more than 100 new residents and boost regional income by \$17M.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The State Government backed RAPAD to manage three rounds of the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative to:</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• create jobs through the immediate construction of fences; and</li> <li>• generate long-term benefits of improved lambing rates, increased wool production, job creation and stemming a declining population in the central west.</li> <li>• The State Government's investment of \$9.85M into the local agriculture sector has increased the productivity of more than 1.9M hectares through cluster fencing. This funding has encouraged local landholders to invest a further \$24.7M which has been directly re-invested back into the economy through local businesses.</li> <li>• So far, this program has been a massive success. It has created 150 new jobs and \$6M in direct wages per year circulating back into our region. Prior to this program, and before the added impact of COVID-19 on the region, 715 jobs were lost and 3624 people left the region - a 27% reduction in the local population, from 2001 to 2016.</li> <li>• Independent economic analysis commissioned by RAPAD outlines that an additional \$5M investment by the State Government would deliver: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 55 new jobs</li> <li>• \$12M leveraged local spending</li> <li>• Clusters of up to 50 landholders fencing 1351km and protecting 1M hectares</li> <li>• 135 local population increase</li> <li>• \$15M increase to property income</li> <li>• \$17.5M increase in regional income.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <a href="http://www.notjustafence.org">www.notjustafence.org</a></li> </ul> <p><b>\$9.2M over four years for Desert Channels Queensland to increase productivity and protect jobs in the vital agricultural industry by delivering ongoing sustainable pest animal and plant control projects.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to the cluster fencing program, \$9.2M over four years is requested for Desert Channels Queensland (DCQ). This will enable DCQ and its project partners across the region to continue to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• deliver sustainable pest animal and plant control projects</li> <li>• grow agricultural productivity</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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- support jobs in the vital agricultural industries in the region
- contribute to the region's ecological and social sustainability maintain workforce capacity.

**A note on the Lake Eyre Basin:**

- RAPAD recognises the uniqueness and importance of the Lake Eyre Basin (LEB). RAPAD has played an important role in previous Wild Rivers and Western Rivers community consultations. The current discussions regarding amendments to the Regional Planning Interest Act 2014 are important to all LEB stakeholders.
- RAPAD stands ready to once again facilitate discussions and work in partnership with all levels of government to ensure the best possible outcomes for all stakeholders.
- <https://www.rapad.com.au/assets/Uploads/CWQ-RAPAD-RPIA-proposed-amendments-submission-200214.pdf>

**Increase funding to each Remote Area Board to \$200 000 per annum ongoing for approved project related activities that support collaboration and economic development outcomes across the region.**

- As the Remote Area Board for Central Western Queensland, RAPAD receives annual funding from the State Government to undertake economic development projects in the region – some of which are highlighted in this Recovery Plan.
- This has funded innovative projects like our Entrepreneur in residence - <https://www.rapad.com.au/assets/Uploads/RAPAD-EIR-Report-2018.pdf>

**Support collaborative arrangements such as the Outback Regional Roads and Transport Group (ORRTG) and RAPAD Water and Sewerage Alliance by ensuring funding for the Roads and Transport Alliance State-wide Capability Development Fund and the Queensland Water Regional Alliance Program (QWRAP) remain, at a minimum, at current levels to help build workforce capability, promote joint purchasing and resource sharing and innovation in project delivery.**





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Likewise, RAPAD's activities are supported by a number of long-term, collaborative alliances, including the ORRTG and the Outback Regional Water Alliance.</li> <li>Each of these groups is essential to the success of RAPAD. However, more than that, given their membership includes relevant State Government departments they also offer a valuable regionally based framework to pursue various State Government objectives.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Global market access:</b> Success in accessing global markets is critical for Queensland's recovery and for long term economic success. Our success in managing the pandemic reinforces our image for healthy, clean and green products, which creates an opportunity for Queensland. We also need to reinforce key existing markets, and look for opportunities to diversify, which will take time. The global trading, travel and education environment creates challenges for Queensland which requires us to differentiate ourselves, build our brand and use new channels to market.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ongoing support to create a regional centre of excellence and create new jobs by designing and delivering a new strategic direction and operating model for the former Longreach Pastoral College.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2019, the former Longreach Pastoral College closed its doors causing significant job losses and additional population decline. Education, training and skills development opportunities are vital for the region to remain competitive and connected in a post COVID-19 world.</li> <li>RAPAD backed itself as the best placed entity to re-think and redesign a new future for the college. In February 2020 RAPAD signed an agreement to occupy the College's premises until November 2020.</li> <li>RAPAD needs long-term certainty that the government will continue to work with and financially support it over the long-term to transform the College. Central West Queensland needs the government to back RAPAD to deliver a regional centre of excellence for training, education and research. This will grow jobs, attract new residents and make our region even stronger.</li> </ul> <p><b>\$2.25M over four years to grow a new manufacturing centre and industries built on RAPAD's world class renewable energy resources.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The RAPAD region has a once in a generation opportunity to create a new manufacturing sector based on the region's globally competitive renewable energy. This opportunity extends beyond building wind and solar farms, instead it's about using our wind and solar to manufacture energy intensive "green" products here in Central West Queensland.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through extensive community consultation RAPAD developed its Realising RAPAD's Big Vision – Community Consultation Report 2019<sup>1</sup>, which identified that the RAPAD community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has a strong appetite for significant change;</li> <li>• has embraced the idea of self-sufficiency;</li> <li>• is eager to action it;</li> <li>• is ready to progress a significant economic transformation; and</li> <li>• recognises and supports RAPAD as the appropriate body to lead an economic transformation across the central west community.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In partnership with renewable energy leader Professor Ross Garnaut AC, as well as other commercial partners, RAPAD is backing itself to make this vision a reality by developing the Barcaldine Renewable Energy Hub which will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• create a minimum 200 new long-term full-time jobs;</li> <li>• increase the local population by 38%;</li> <li>• deliver a regional economic benefit of \$41M per annum and an annual wage increase in the region of \$16.2M; and</li> <li>• generate a robust segment of the local economy which is immune to drought conditions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What RAPAD needs now is courageous leadership and ongoing investment from the State Government to back this regional initiative.</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.rapad.com.au/assets/Uploads/Consultation-Report-WOW-Final-Realising-the-RAPAD-Big-Vision.pdf">https://www.rapad.com.au/assets/Uploads/Consultation-Report-WOW-Final-Realising-the-RAPAD-Big-Vision.pdf</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.rapad.com.au/news/blog/outback-regional-energy-hub-brought-to-life/">https://www.rapad.com.au/news/blog/outback-regional-energy-hub-brought-to-life/</a></li> </ul>
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