Estimates Question on Notice

No. 1

Asked on 15 July 2025

The **State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee** asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (HON J BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:
With reference to the Crisafulli Government's delivery of the $2 billion Residential Activation Fund on SDS page 1, can the Deputy Premier advise how the Residential Activation Fund will support rural and remote communities in Far North Queensland?

ANSWER:
Round 1 of the $2 billion Residential Activation Fund (RAF) received 178 submissions – 64 from South East Queensland (SEQ) and 114 from regional, rural and remote Queensland.

RAF will deliver a place to call home for more Queenslanders and support one million new homes by 2044 with at least 50 per cent of the overall funding to be invested outside of SEQ, in regional, rural and remote communities.

The Crisafulli Government's 2025-26 Budget made available up to $1 billion to support approved projects under Round 1, doubled from the original $500 million, in response to the overwhelming support and availability of shovel-ready projects.

RAF is dedicated to delivering the construction of critical trunk and essential infrastructure such as water supply, sewerage, stormwater, roads and power needed to unlock new residential developments. Round 1 focusses on projects ready to proceed now.

Funding of $89 million has been approved to date for 16 local government projects in Far North Queensland which will unlock almost 3000 new homes across the region. Councils in Far North Queensland with approved projects are Aurukun Shire Council, Cook Shire Council, Mareeba Shire Council, Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council, Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council, Torres Shire Council, Cassowary Coast Regional Council and Tablelands Regional Council.

Future funding rounds will continue to support rural and remote communities like those in Far North Queensland, in line with the Government's commitment to invest at least 50 per cent of RAF funding across regional, rural and remote Queensland.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 2

Asked on 15 July 2025

The **State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee** asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (HON J BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:
With reference to the Crisafulli Government's commitment to refocusing Economic Development Queensland (EDQ) on page 18 of the SDS, can the Deputy Premier advise what actions is EDQ undertaking to boost housing supply in Cairns?

ANSWER:
The Crisafulli Government is delivering on its Securing our Housing Foundations Plan and this includes refocusing Economic Development Queensland to deliver more homes in Priority Development Areas (PDA) and scaling up housing approvals by 25 per cent over the next five years.

Cairns Regional Council has been strongly advocating for a PDA at Mount Peter in the Southern Growth Corridor of Cairns for several months.

The Cairns Local Government Area is growing rapidly and Mount Peter is the last greenfield residential development area for Cairns.

The Cairns Regional Council has requested EDQ's assistance to facilitate efficient, coordinated infrastructure delivery alongside housing.

EDQ is working closely with the Cairns Regional Council to facilitate housing opportunities in the Cairns region to give more Queenslanders a place to call home.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 3

Asked on 15 July 2025

The **State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee** asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (HON J BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:
With reference to SDS page 8 and the Crisafulli Government's delivery of new regional plans which cover every corner of the State, in conjunction with infrastructure plans, can the Deputy Premier advise the Committee of when each regional plan was last published and why this deliverable is needed to protect the lifestyles of Queensland communities like those in the Lockyer Valley?

ANSWER:
The Crisafulli Government is committed to delivering new regional plans across the state in this term of government to protect the lifestyle of our communities and appropriately cater for growth. This is a significant and ambitious program which will be delivered within this term of Government. This commitment is demonstrated through the significant $31.3 million funding package over the next four years, the largest ever boost, to ensure this program can be delivered and delivered with impact. As part of my commitment to review these regional plans, I have promised to work in close partnership with the Local Governments in each region to ensure implementation and workability and to ensure all regional plans are supported by infrastructure plans.

Significant policy and legislative changes have occurred to Queensland's planning framework since majority of regional plans were published. Only three regional plans have been updated since 2015, leaving 10 plans behind with no current coordination and planning guiding development in those regions.

The date each regional plan was published is listed below:
- Gulf Development Plan – November 2000
- Far North Queensland Regional Plan – February 2009
- Maranoa-Balonne Regional Plan – February 2009
- South West Regional Plan – August 2009
- Central West Regional Plan – September 2009
- North West Regional Plan – August 2010
- Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday – February 2012
- Central Queensland Regional Plan – October 2013
- Darling Downs Regional Plan – October 2013
- Cape York Regional Plan – August 2014
- North Queensland Regional Plan – March 2020
- South East Queensland Regional Plan – December 2023
- Wide Bay Burnett Regional Plan – December 2023.

In conjunction with Regional Infrastructure Plans, new regional plans will aim to protect the lifestyle of Queensland communities, foster economic prosperity and facilitate more housing. This is something that is needed not just in larger cities and towns but across the state, including communities like those in the Lockyer Valley.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 4

Asked on 15 July 2025

The **State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee** asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (HON J BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:
With reference to the Crisafulli Government's deliverable of ending the CFMEU's cultural practice of bullying and intimidation seen on Queensland worksites against workers, contractors, employers and the independent public servants who protect workers safety on SDS page 2, can the Deputy Premier inform the Committee of previous examples of these cultural practices and what measures the Crisafulli Government is undertaking to end it?

ANSWER:
Since coming into Government, the Crisafulli Government has taken immediate action to address the CFMEU's misuse of powers and its improper conduct.

Recently, on 13 July 2025, the Crisafulli Government announced a landmark Commission of Inquiry into the coercive, bullying, intimidatory and illegal practice and conduct of the CFMEU Queensland branch.

The Commission of Inquiry follows the publication of the report 'Violence in the Queensland CFMEU' prepared by Senior Counsel Mr Geoffrey Watson (the Watson Report), on 9 July 2025. Concerningly, Mr Watson noted that possibly the worst aspect of the investigation was that the violence perpetrated by the CFMEU and the trauma experienced as a result has prevented people from sharing their stories or their stories have been shared but not included in the report for fear of retribution. This further supports the need for a Commission of Inquiry, which will ensure those who come forward and share their stories will be afforded the appropriate protections they deserve.

The Watson Report sets out heinous examples of the CFMEU's culture of bullying, violence, aggression and intimidation against workers, public servants, employers, the media, and women and children. These examples include:

- verbal abuse and online harassment of Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) inspectors, including posting inflammatory videos on social media; threats of violence, intimidation, misogyny and bullying aimed at representatives and members of the Australian Workers Union (AWU)
- targeting representatives of contractors, including with defamatory placards, and disrupting major projects
- non-union members being harassed and filmed
- threatening and grossly inappropriate conduct towards a female employee by protesting CFMEU members, which resulted in a lock-down of the building
- lock-down of State and Federal Government buildings in response to risk to property from protests.

The Watson Report highlights repeated examples of the lawless conduct of the CFMEU. The Watson Report notes that in August 2024 the Fair Work Commission detailed how, between 2003 and 2024, there were 213 separate court proceedings brought against the CFMEU, resulting in 2,600 convictions and the imposition of $28 million in fines. Further, the Watson Report cited that in the five-year period between 2019 and 2024, the CFMEU had been convicted of 1,163 breaches of industrial laws, resulting in more than $10 million in fines.

This information recounted in the Watson Report reflects experiences in Queensland with numerous CFMEU officials being fined for breaching legislation. Common issues include entry permit holders acting in an improper manner by refusing to comply with visitation or on-site requirements, refusing to produce their entry permits on request, or engaging in threatening or intimidating behaviour. In two notable cases relating to Queensland road upgrades, an individual CFMEU official was fined a total of $45,000 for 11 breaches of legislation.

The Watson Report validates actions immediately taken by the Crisafulli Government upon coming into office to address the violent, intimidating and menacing culture of the Queensland CFMEU, including:

- pausing the use of the Best Practice Industry Conditions for Industrial Relations on new government funded projects
- reinstating a 24-hour notice period for work health and safety entry permit holders seeking to enter a workplace to investigate a suspected contravention
- repealing amendments before they commenced that had been intended to expressly allow work health and safety entry permit holders to take photos and videos at workplaces
- re-establishing the Queensland Productivity Commission, with its first order of business being an inquiry into construction sector productivity and to consider opportunities for reform.

Since reinstating a 24-hour notice period and the CFMEU being placed into administration, there has been a marked decrease in right of entry matters. From 29 November 2024 to 30 June 2025, WHSQ assisted with only three right of entry matters relating to suspected contraventions. Union requests for assistance for other matters also declined significantly during this period, with only 39 recorded. This compares with eight right of entry matters relating to suspected contraventions between 1 July 2024 and 28 November 2024, and 107 union-initiated requests for assistance for other matters.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 5

Asked on 15 July 2025

The **State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee** asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (HON J BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:
With reference to the Crisafulli Government's delivery of work health and safety reforms on SDS page 5, can the Deputy Premier advise what reforms have been undertaken and why they have been necessary to protect Queensland workers?

ANSWER:
The Queensland Government is committed to supporting safe and productive workplaces and has delivered a number of changes to improve and streamline work health and safety (WHS) legislation.

Under the *Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024* (BOPGOLA Act), the Queensland Government removed the automatic right of entry for WHS permit holders except where there is a serious immediate or imminent risk to the health and safety of a worker. Reintroducing a 24-hour notice requirement ensures management, and their safety specialists, are available when WHS entry permit holders are on site to discuss work health and safety concerns.

Since this reinstatement of the 24-hour notice requirement on 29 November 2024, there has been a significant decline in right of entry (RoE) matters. The decrease also coincides with the CFMEU being placed into administration on 23 August 2024.

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) assisted with eight right of entry matters between 1 July 2024 and 28 November 2024 relating to suspected contraventions, all involving the CFMEU. During that same period, WHSQ recorded 107 union-initiated requests for assistance that did not relate to RoE.

In contrast, in the following six-month period, from 29 November 2024 to 30 June 2025 WHSQ assisted with only three right of entry matters relating to suspected contraventions, again all involving the CFMEU. During this later period, union requests for assistance unrelated to RoE matters also declined significantly, with only 39 recorded.

Under the BOPGOLA Act, the Queensland Government also repealed amendments before their commencement that were intended to allow WHS entry permit holders and health and safety representatives to take photographs, videos, measurements and conduct tests. This change supports the Queensland Government's zero-tolerance approach to bullying, fear, and intimidation, providing better conditions for productive discussions and problem solving about WHS matters. Removing the right to take videos and photographs was a necessary measure in response to CFMEU officials engaging in this practice as a means to intimidate and harass independent WHSQ Inspectors, workers and employers.

Changes were also made to streamline cease work provisions by clarifying that health and safety representatives can issue cease work notices to workers, and not to employers.

Together, these reforms support productive workplaces while maintaining safety standards and help to address some of the coercive and intimidatory behaviours experienced on Queensland construction sites as identified in the recent report titled ‘Violence in the Queensland CFMEU’ (the Watson Report).

The Queensland Government continues to monitor the WHS legislative framework to ensure it is operating as intended and to identify further opportunities to support productivity while maintaining strong work health and safety protections for Queensland workers.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 6

Asked on 15 July 2025

The **State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee** asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (HON J BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:
With reference to the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority (GIICA) on SDS page 26, can the Deputy Premier advise the Committee what consultation was undertaken by GIICA to inform the 100 Day Review and what groups of stakeholders made submissions to the review?

ANSWER:
After more than 1,340 days after Queensland won the Games bid but only 148 days since the Crisafulli Government was sworn in, the Government unveiled the 2032 Delivery Plan and delivered a clear roadmap towards the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and beyond.

To get the Games back on track, the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority (GIICA) conducted the 100 Day Review (the Review) of Games infrastructure and planning that prioritised key infrastructure, assessed connectivity, and ensured integration across venues, transport projects and athlete villages.

The Terms of Reference required GIICA to achieve the following seven objectives during the Review:
- assess infrastructure demand alignment
- assess connectivity and integration
- evaluate affordability
- evaluate deliverability
- identify priority projects
- maximise long-term benefits
- assess Games governance.

The Review's Terms of Reference ensured it evaluated demand, affordability, deliverability, and overall impact to maximise social, economic, and environmental outcomes, as well as providing an opportunity for Queenslanders to have their say on the Games.

5,862 submissions were received by GIICA during a public submission process that ran from Tuesday 10 December 2024 to Friday 10 January 2025. From these 5,862 submissions, 5,469 were made by individuals, with the majority of these submissions made by Queenslanders. The remaining 393 were made on behalf of an organisation.

GIICA heard from a diverse range of sectors and specialist bodies including:
- sporting bodies
- grassroots club and regional sporting organisations
- professional sporting clubs
- industry bodies
- government departments, agencies, authorities, bodies and local councils
- professional bodies
- design and architecture firms
- planning and specialist infrastructure consulting firms
- community advocacy groups
- environmental groups
- non-profit organisations
- educational institutions
- governing bodies
- construction contractors.

In addition to the public consultation process, GIICA conducted targeted consultation and sought relevant advice from more than 150 stakeholders including, among others:
- First Nations representatives
- sporting bodies
- venue users
- architecture and design representatives
- Games Delivery Partners
- community groups
- environmental groups.

GIICA adopted an evidence-based, data-driven approach, which also considered detailed analysis of thousands of pages of technical inputs and leveraged the significant body of work already undertaken, including already-completed project plans, cost assessments, business cases and Project Validation Reports.

The GIICA Board provided its Final Report to Government on 8 March 2025, and the Government announced its reply on 25 March 2025 through release of the 2032 Delivery Plan.

The Government's focus on maximising the legacy benefits and delivering generational infrastructure across all of Queensland is underpinned by a strong partnership with local governments and rural and regional communities.

GIICA's 100 Day Review Report made 86 recommendations designed to deliver legacy benefits across Queensland for decades to come. The Crisafulli Government accepted more than 90 per cent of GIICA's recommendations at the core of its 2032 Delivery Plan, which GIICA is now getting on with the job of delivering.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 7

Asked on 15 July 2025

The **State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee** asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (HON J BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:
With reference to the refocusing of Economic Development Queensland on SDS page 18, can the Deputy Premier advise the Committee on what measures have been introduced by EDQ to support the Crisafulli Government's objectives across housing, commercial and industrial development?

ANSWER:
Economic Development Queensland (EDQ), as the Queensland Government's land development agency is well positioned to support the Crisafulli Government's objectives for housing, commercial and industrial development.

EDQ's 2025-2029 Strategic Plan (the Plan) aligns with the Government's commitment to refocus EDQ to assist industry to unlock housing and deliver industrial and commercial development opportunities at scale and pace across Queensland. The Plan outlines EDQ's strategic priorities of:

- Housing Supply – facilitate and deliver land for housing supply at scale and pace across the State
- Economic Prosperity – champion and secure investment for industry-led economic growth and job creation
- Liveable Places – plan, develop and invest in infrastructure to facilitate growth

EDQ will also focus on delivering a new development assessment operating model that is consistent, customer-centric and supports excellence in service delivery. To improve transparency, EDQ will release monthly data on performance against Key Performance Indicators for development assessment. Performance data will be released monthly with the July 2025 data released in mid-August 2025.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 8

Asked on 15 July 2025

The **State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee** asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (HON J BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:
With reference to SDS page 2 key deliverable to empower regional communities through the new renewables planning pathway, can the Deputy Premier advise the Committee how this new planning pathway provides long lasting, tangible benefits to regional Queenslanders in comparison to the regulatory framework that was previously in place?

ANSWER:
During the 2024 State election, the Crisafulli Government committed to amending laws requiring all renewable energy projects to be impact assessable and subject to the same rigorous approval processes as other resource projects.

The Crisafulli Government has delivered on its election commitment, with the new impact assessment level applying to wind farms from 3 February 2025 and large scale solar farms from 18 July 2025.

Up until the October 2024 election, the level of assessment for wind farms in Queensland was code-assessable. This didn’t require public notification, nor did it afford residents third party appeal rights. Solar farms were assessed by local governments under individual planning schemes which determined the level of assessment, resulting in inconsistent approval processes across the state.

Impact assessment means that the public must be notified of the proposed wind or large-scale solar farm development, and submitter appeal rights apply. These changes ensure local communities are informed and have an opportunity to be heard.

On 18 July 2025, a new community benefit system commenced under the *Planning Act 2016* applying to wind and large-scale solar farm development across Queensland. Under the new community benefit system, proponents will undertake a social impact assessment and enter into a community benefit agreement prior to lodging a development application, ensuring that social licence is built with communities.

These reforms empower local governments, on behalf of their communities, to consider social impacts and negotiate community benefits, recognising that renewable energy development often impacts regional communities with limited community infrastructure and accommodation. These reforms recognise that building social licence is best practice for renewable energy projects in Queensland.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 9

Asked on 15 July 2025

The **State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee** asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (HON J BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:
With reference to SDS page 3 budget highlight of delivering immediate actions to address impacts of the erosion and breakthrough events at Bribie Island, will the Deputy Premier advise what work had been undertaken to address these impacts prior to this budget measure?

ANSWER:
Before October 2024, the former Department of Environment, Science and Innovation undertook water quality monitoring and commissioned a study in 2023, however did nothing to remediate the breakthrough.

Following severe weather caused by Tropical Cyclone Alfred in March 2025, the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning commissioned a report from independent coastal engineering experts RPS AAP Consulting Pty Ltd (RPS) in partnership with International Coastal Management (ICM). This review was tasked to investigate immediate and long-term options to mitigate the impacts caused by years of erosion.

A first round of consultation to inform the review received almost 1200 submissions from local community members, businesses and other organisations. An information session will be held on 31 July 2025 to provide an update on planning for immediate works to occur in the second half of 2025 and allow the community to have input into potential long-term options.

The first and second stages of the review report included desktop analysis and recommendations for immediate actions and are available online.

The 2025-26 Budget allocated $20 million of funding for the rapid deployment of immediate and urgent works focused on restoring the impacts of erosion and breakthrough events on the island as recommended by the expert review. The $20 million will be used to close recent breakthroughs, buffer the island and create a temporary channel, including dredging work and sand nourishment around the island and passage to mitigate the impacts of erosion. The Government is undertaking a fast-tracked procurement process to appoint a dredging contractor to design and undertake the dredging works prior to the next storm season in November 2025.

The experts' reviewers are now focusing on long-term actions for future years to protect the coastline, which will inform future government consideration and planning for potential long-term actions.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 10

Asked on 15 July 2025

The **State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee** asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (HON J BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:
With reference to the Crisafulli Government's key deliverables on SDS page 2, will the Deputy Premier advise the Committee what actions are being undertaken to promote capability and attract new business opportunities across Queensland in the defence, biomedical and biofuel industries?

ANSWER:
The Crisafulli Government has made a deliberate choice to simplify the approach to industry development, after the former government's inconsistent and ineffective focus on industries like hydrogen. The Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (the Department) will now focus on the priority industries of defence, biomedical and biofuels.

The Department is delivering the Crisafulli Government's commitments in these strategic industries, by building sovereign capability, drawing on the State's traditional strengths and growing regional communities.

Stakeholder engagement and participation in industry roundtables have been beneficial in the development of the Crisafulli Government's new Sovereign Industry Development Fund. The $180.55 million Sovereign Industry Development Fund will focus on accelerating the growth of these priority industries, seeking strategy and catalytic investment partnerships with industry.

Work is already underway to promote Queensland's industry capabilities and attract investment and opportunities. For instance, while visiting the United States of America in June, I reaffirmed our relationship with Boeing and met with Lockheed Martin, highlighting Queensland's focus on the defence sector and our interest in increasing inbound investment into Queensland.

During that visit, I also led 114 Queensland delegates to the BIO International Convention in Boston to encourage new partnerships in our biomedical sector. Early reporting from delegates indicates an estimated $63.5 million in potential contracts, with contracts worth more than $7 million already signed.

In biofuels, the department is working with a small pipeline of industry proponents to facilitate viable biorefinery projects and identify opportunities to increase the availability of feedstocks.

The Crisafulli Government is open for business and will continue to consult with industry stakeholders on the challenges and opportunities they face, so Queensland once more becomes the natural home to do business.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 11

Asked on 15 July 2025

The **State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee** asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (HON J BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:
With respect to expenditure outlined in the SDS, will the Deputy Premier advise, since November 2024 the number of:

a. contractors employed by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning;
b. contractors and consultants engaged by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning to deliver services on behalf of the department; and
c. contracts entered into with the Big 4 consulting firms (i.e. Deloitte, EY, KPMG, and PwC)?

ANSWER:

a. The Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (the Department) does not employ contractors as they are outside the *Public Sector Act 2022*.
b. Since November 2024 until June 2025, 89 contractors were engaged to deliver services on behalf of the Department at a cost of $4.4 million.
c. Since November 2024 until June 2025, three contracts were entered into with the Big 4 firms at a cost of $1.273 million, a reduction from the 2023-24 expenditure of $7.7 million.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 12

Asked on 15 July 2025

The **State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee** asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (HON J BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:
With respect of page 18 of the SDS and employees of Economic Development Queensland, can the Deputy Premier advise, since 1 November 2024:

a. the number of employees who have departed Economic Development Queensland;
b. the individual position titles of the departed staff of Economic Development Queensland;
c. the classification levels of each of the departed employees of Economic Development Queensland; and
d. any associated costs with the departure of the employees, in particular termination costs?

ANSWER:
The Crisafulli Government has committed to refocus Economic Development Queensland (EDQ) to deliver homes in Priority Development Areas to increase housing supply, including scaling up housing approvals by 25 per cent over the next five years.

As a result of this commitment, budgeted FTE levels for EDQ have increased from 150 in the 2024-25 Budget to 198 in the 2025-26 Budget.

Since November 2024 until 18 July 2025, 22 employees left through resignation, contract completion or mutual agreement. One staff member departed due to a failure to meet immigration requirements, and four senior executive service employees had contracts ended following strategic realignment, approved by the independent board.

Any associated employee costs will be reported on within EDQ's Annual Report 2024-25, as appropriate.

The positions titles of these staff are:

- Business Support Officer
- Chief Executive Officer
- Development Manager
- Executive Director
- Infrastructure Planner
- Junior Engineer
- Planner
- Principal Governance and Board Officer
- Principal Planner
- Project Director
- Property Officer
- Senior Development Manager

- Senior Engagement Officer
- Senior Executive Officer
- Senior Planner
- Senior Procurement Officer
- Senior Project Officer.

The classification levels of the staff that have left are:

- 18 AO banded officers
- 8 Senior and SES Officers
- 1 CEO level officer.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 13

Asked on 15 July 2025

The **State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee** asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (HON J BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:
With reference to the SDS, including page 2, will the Deputy Premier provide a delivery update on the previously announced $7.4 million in funding over four years for the Office of the Coordinator-General for an enhanced role in facilitating key energy projects, including a breakdown of funding?

ANSWER:
The Coordinator-General has received $7.4 million funding to supplement staff with eight additional full-time employees for a four year period for an enhanced role in facilitating key energy projects.

These staff are enhancing the Coordinator-General's role in advancing key energy projects that include, complex pumped hydro energy storage (PHES) projects, energy transmission projects and energy generation projects.

The Coordinator-General has declared four PHES projects as 'Coordinated Projects' for which an Environmental Impact Statement is required, where the Coordinator-General is leading a whole of Government coordination, evaluation, assessment and facilitation of the Borumba exploratory works, Mt Rawdon, Capricornia and Big T PHES projects. These are complex projects that are undergoing assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* via the bilateral agreement between the State and Commonwealth Governments. In addition, the Coordinator-General is currently assessing a request from a proponent for another Coordinated Project declaration of a new PHES project.

The Coordinator-General is also facilitating the delivery of the CopperString project via its prescribed project declaration, including construction of workforce accommodation at Hughenden, the commencement of on-the-ground works for the $225 million Hughenden Hub, site accommodation across the Eastern Link, the development of Social Impact Management Plans, and ensuring community legacy opportunities are achieved in regions where the project impacts.

Additionally, the Coordinator-General is also facilitating energy opportunities with proponents of new gas transmission, gas peaking power station developments, and other industrial electrification projects identifying approval pathways and mapping the best way forward for these projects to support timely assessment and delivery.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 14

Asked on 15 July 2025

The **State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee** asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (HON J BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:
In July 2024, the former Labor government announced $76.4 million in funding for 59 projects under the Regional Transformation Strategies, as part of the $200 million Regional Economic Futures Fund (REFF) to support communities impacted by Queensland's shift away from coal-fired power generation. In respect of page 1 of the SDS and the department's deliverables, can the Deputy Premier advise:

a. whether the $76.4 million in funding committed to the 59 announced projects is still being delivered in full;
b. for each of the 59 projects, outline the current status of each project (e.g. completed, in progress, paused, delayed or not proceeding);
c. what portion of the $200 million Regional Economic Futures Fund remains unallocated or has been redirected under the current government?

ANSWER:
The Regional Economic Futures Fund is the responsibility of Queensland Treasury.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 15

Asked on 15 July 2025

The **State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee** asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (HON J BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:
With reference to page 1 of the SDS and the delivery of 13 new Regional Plans for Queensland over the next four years, and noting that in June 2025 the statutory minimum consultation periods for draft regional plans was reduced (from 60 to 30 business days for new plans, and from 30 to 20 business days for amended plans)-
Will the Deputy Premier provide for each of the forthcoming 13 Regional Plans:

a. the local government areas included in each regional plan;
b. the scheduled month and year for the commencement of public consultation and for finalisation (making) of the plan; and
c. the planned duration of each public consultation period, including whether the Government will apply only the reduced statutory minimum, or a longer consultation period consistent with previous practice?

ANSWER:
The Queensland Government is committed to reviewing all 13 regional plans which cover every corner of the State, in conjunction with infrastructure plans that protect the lifestyle of our communities and appropriately cater for growth. With some plans over 20 years old, regional plans are required to be updated to address the lack of work done over the last ten years.

a. The local government areas included in each regional plan are publicly available at https://www.planning.qld.gov.au/planning-framework/plan-making/regional-planning.

b. To deliver on the Queensland Government's commitment, regional planning processes are required to be tailored to each region and to work in genuine partnership with local stakeholders. Timing for public consultation of each regional plan will be dependent on the priorities and outcomes from early consultation with these stakeholders.

c. The changes to regional plan statutory consultation timeframes passed with the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 are part of a new approach to deliver on the Queensland Government's commitment. The Bill was not opposed by the Labor Opposition on the third reading.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 16

Asked on 15 July 2025

The **State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee** asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (HON J BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:
With reference to the SDS, including pages 1 and 7, and the Queensland New-Industry Development Strategy (2023) and the associated Regional Transformation Strategies for North West Queensland, Greater Whitsunday, Central Queensland, and the Darling Downs, South West and South Burnett, will the Deputy Premier advise:

a. The current status of each of the four Regional Transformation Strategies, including whether they are still being implemented;
b. What actions under each Strategy have been progressed or completed since November 2024, and what actions remain outstanding;
c. What investment has been allocated by the government to deliver the priorities identified in each Strategy;
d. If any of the Strategies are no longer being progressed, what strategies, plans or programs have replaced or will replace them, and in what month and year those replacement initiatives are or will be delivered?

ANSWER:
There are no references to a Queensland New-Industry Development Strategy or Regional Transformation Strategies in the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning's Service Delivery Statement.

All funding agreements that were previously executed are being honoured.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 17

Asked on 15 July 2025

The **State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee** asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (HON J BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:
With reference to the SDS including pages 1 and 7, will the Deputy Premier advise, for each Regional Infrastructure Plan to be delivered over the next four years:

a. how many Regional Infrastructure Plans will be delivered;
b. the region each Regional Infrastructure Plans will cover;
c. the local government areas included in each Regional Infrastructure Plan; and
d. the scheduled month and year for the commencement of public consultation and for finalisation of each Regional Infrastructure Plan?

ANSWER:
The Queensland Government is committed to reviewing all 13 regional plans which cover every corner of the State, in conjunction with Regional Infrastructure Plans (RIPs) that protect the lifestyle of our communities and appropriately cater for growth.

a. The number of RIPs is publicly available at https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/infrastructure/infrastructure-planning/regional-infrastructure-plans

b. The region each RIP will cover is publicly available at https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/infrastructure/infrastructure-planning/regional-infrastructure-plans

c. The local government areas included in each RIP are publicly available at https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/infrastructure/infrastructure-planning/regional-infrastructure-plans

d. To deliver on the Queensland Government's commitment, regional infrastructure planning processes are required to be tailored to each region and to work in genuine partnership with local stakeholders. Timing for public consultation of each RIP will be dependent on the priorities and outcomes from early consultation with these stakeholders.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 18

Asked on 15 July 2025

The **State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee** asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (HON J BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:
With reference to page 1 of the SDS and the prescribed amounts set out in Schedule 16 of the Planning Regulation 2017, which cap the maximum adopted charges that a local government may levy for trunk infrastructure, will the Minister advise whether the Crisafulli Government intends to review or update the maximum adopted charge rates under Schedule 16 within the next four years, and if so, what the scope and indicative timing of that review will be?

ANSWER:
In recognition of the importance of infrastructure planning and funding, round one of the Crisafulli Government's landmark $2 billion Residential Activation Fund is delivering up to $1 billion for the construction of critical trunk infrastructure. This has been doubled from the original $500 million, in response to the overwhelming support and availability of shovel-ready projects. The Residential Activation Fund is supporting the delivery of trunk infrastructure across Queensland.

The maximum adopted charge is updated annually in line with indexation, being the 3-yearly moving average quarterly percentage increase in the Producer Price Index.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 19

Asked on 15 July 2025

The **State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee** asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (HON J BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:
With reference to page 1 of the SDS and the $1 billion Round 1 of the Residential Activation Fund (RAF), which received 178 applications. Will the Minister provide in table format, for each application received under this round of the RAF:
a. The project name and a brief description of the proposed works,
b. The local government area or nominating entity,
c. Whether the application was successful or unsuccessful,
d. The total funding amount sought and, if applicable, the amount approved,
e. The number of dwellings expected to be unlocked or supported by the proposed infrastructure,
f. The estimated construction start date and completion date for the infrastructure project,
g. Any co-contributions or other funding sources identified in the application,
h. The land status (e.g. government-owned, privately owned, mix) the infrastructure is intended to support,
i. Whether the land has appropriate zoning and planning approvals in place, and
j. If unsuccessful, the reason(s) for non-selection, including any assessment criteria not met?

ANSWER:
The Queensland Government's $2 billion Residential Activation Fund (RAF) will accelerate the delivery of critical trunk and essential infrastructure, such as water supply, sewerage, stormwater, power, telecommunications and transport (e.g. roads), which is fundamental to activating new residential developments.

Further information on RAF applications will be publicly released following the completion of the Round 1 assessment process.

Estimates Question on Notice

No. 20

Asked on 15 July 2025

The **State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee** asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (HON J BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:
With reference to page 5 of the SDS, will the Deputy Premier advise the status of the implementation for each recommendation made under the '2023 Review of the operation of the Queensland workers' compensation scheme', detailing each recommendation, its status and date of implementation?

ANSWER:
I am advised that the following recommendations of the *2023 Review of the operation of the Queensland workers' compensation scheme* (2023 Review) have been fully implemented:

- recommendations 4(a), 6, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27(a), 29, 31(b), 32, 34, 35, 37, 38, 42, 43 and 53.

The following recommendations have been partially implemented:

- recommendations 9, 12, 17, 33, 45(a) and 52.

As part of the Crisafulli Government's commitment to ensuring Queensland workers have adequate protections and are safe at their workplace, all other recommendations remain under consideration, as was the case under the former Government.