State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to page 50 of the SDS Vol 1 which refers to "supporting the transformation of the Queensland economy by leading industry, state development, infrastructure and planning" -

Will the Minster advise – (a) the total amount allocated to the Cairns Aquarium under the state government's Industry Support Package (b) the total amount the Department has paid to the Cairns Aquarium; and c) the total estimated future payments to the Cairns Aquarium.

ANSWER:

In response to the three questions, I can confirm:

a) The maximum amount that would have been payable to Cairns Aquarium under the Industry Support Package agreement was $3.5 million
b) The total amount paid to Cairns Aquarium under the agreement is $1 million
c) On 26 November 2020, the Queensland Government gave Cairns Aquarium formal notice terminating the Industry Support Package agreement, effective 30 days after the date of service of the notice. No further payments under the Industry Support Package agreement are anticipated.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 2

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to page 50 of the SDS Vol 1 which refers to "supporting the transformation of the Queensland economy by leading industry, state development, infrastructure and planning, will the Minister advise and whether the Department or Ministerial office was aware of allegations regarding the misuse of funds of the Cairns Aquarium and the date the Department wrote to the aquarium's chief executive alerting him to the termination of all future payments under the agreement.

ANSWER:

On 26 November 2020, the Queensland Government gave Cairns Aquarium formal notice terminating the Industry Support Package agreement, effective 30 days after the date of service of the notice.

The Department has referred this matter to the Crime and Corruption Commission.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 3

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to page 51 of the SDS Vol 1 which refers to "maintaining Queensland's crucial momentum in the biofutures sector" –

Will the minister outline (a) the total estimated funding for the Waste to Biofutures Fund (W2B Fund) (b) the total amount of funding awarded to date, including the specific projects (reported separately by project) (c) the amount of funding allocated for future projects (d) whether there will be an increase in funding delivered to assist with Covid-19 economic recovery and in enhancing the development of waste-to-biofutures projects.

ANSWER:

(a) The Waste to Biofutures Fund (W2B Fund) was launched on 17 March 2019 with $5 million in grant funding for pilot and demonstration or commercially scalable projects in Queensland that convert waste to bioenergy, biofuels and high-value bioproducts.

(b) In total, 12 projects are under contract with total funding of $3.6 million committed. These 12 projects have the potential to create over 180 jobs and generate over $31 million in private sector capital investment if all projects are realised.

The following 10 projects have been previously announced:

1. BE Power Solutions – Waste to bioenergy system, Bromelton, $500,000
2. Accessway SPV/Energy 360 – Bioenergy for electric vehicles, Bundaberg, $363,000
3. Nilwaste – Demonstration pyrolysis plant, Redlands, $250,000
4. Pearl Global – Gas to energy from waste tyres, Stapylton, $250,000
5. University of Southern Queensland – Biosolids to fertiliser replacement, $50,000
6. Wildfire Energy – Syngas to renewable energy, hydrogen and chemicals, Redbank Plains, $500,000
7. Gevo – Waste to hydrocarbon, Brisbane/regional Queensland, $159,000
8. HQPlantations – Forestry biomass to bioenergy, Gympie, $50,000
9. Licella – Sugarcane waste research for biorefinery, Burdekin, $500,000
10. Bundaberg Macadamia – Waste macadamia shells to bioenergy, $361,000.

Today I can announce another Waste to Biofutures project:

Kilcoy Pastoral Company will receive $500,000 towards a $6.3 million project to produce biogas from the wastewater treatment system to generate its own electricity and hot water.

This project will reduce coal usage during the production of steam, and is a great example of the Government's plan for a more sustainable, low carbon economy by turning wastewater into energy.

Once fully operational, the biogas plant will supply 60 per cent of the company's power needs and all of its hot water.

Kilcoy Pastoral Company is one of the five largest beef producers in Australia, processing over 260,000 head of grain-fed cattle each year and distributing chilled and frozen premium beef products to supermarkets in Australia and export markets in Europe, the Middle East, United States, Japan and South East Asia.

The company provides employment for more than 750 workers and this project will see an extra 27 jobs from its construction and four extra permanent positions when complete.

A further project (with funding of $125,000) will be announced once commercial arrangements have been finalised.

(c) The amount of funding available to be allocated for future projects is $650,000.

(d) These Waste to Biofutures projects are assisting small to medium size companies to maintain and create employment opportunities around the State.

As part of the implementation of the Biofutures 10-year Roadmap and Action Plan, the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning continues to facilitate major bio-projects with industry proponents, focusing particularly on projects which have potential to further support Queensland's economy and contribute to the State's Biofuels Mandates, fuel security, and climate change goals.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 4

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to page 50 of the SDS Vol 1 which refers to "supporting the transformation of the Queensland economy by leading industry, state development, infrastructure and planning" -

Will the Minister provide an update, since February 2020, on the 'Lumina' development within the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct including (a) how many commercial arrangements have been secured by quarter since its establishment post Commonwealth Games, and (b) the government's key performance indicators for the future development of Lumina and if they being reached thus far?

ANSWER:

Since the State's land 'Lumina' became available after the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games requirements were finalised in January 2019, nine of 16 development ready sites are earmarked for a range of health and knowledge uses.

Since February 2020, the Government has:

- negotiated exclusive commercial in confidence positions with three developers over three sites for health and knowledge uses;
- continued progress on the $80 million Proxima Children's Health and Education Centre with Evans Long's lodging a development application and a project that is commercial in confidence, both expected to commence construction within the next six months; and
- undertaken a second expansion of COHORT to cater for continuing demand which is due to open in January 2021. This follows the first expansion of COHORT which opened in April 2020 including new laboratories and further shared office and tenancy space. The expansion includes Cluster Biotechnology as the anchor occupant for the laboratories. COHORT is Lumina's successful coworking, innovation and laboratory space targeting health and technology small to medium enterprises.

'Lumina' is expected to take 10 to 15 years to be fully delivered and will contribute an extra 12,000 jobs and an additional $1.4 billion to the State's economy.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 5

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING –

QUESTION:

With reference to the page 50 of the SDS Vol 1 which refers to "supporting the transformation of the Queensland economy by leading industry, state development, infrastructure and planning" –

Will the Minister advise the total number and value of all fraudulent incidents by departments and agencies under the administration of the Minister for 2019/20 and 2020/21 to date (listed by individual department or agency?

ANSWER:

It is not appropriate to comment on investigations currently being undertaken by either the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning or the Crime and Corruption Commission.

The Public Service Commission meets its legislative requirement under section 88N of the *Public Service Act 2008* to publish annual conduct and performance data by 30 September each year.

A link to this report is below:

https://www.forgov.qld.gov.au/2019-20-conduct-and-performance-data

The Public Service Commission data does not include matters involving corrupt conduct.

Corrupt conduct matters fall under the jurisdiction of the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) and a corruption allegations data dashboard is published at Corruption allegations data dashboard | CCC - Crime and Corruption Commission Queensland

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 6

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1-50 Departmental SDS Service Areas, State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, **Queensland Reconstruction Authority**, South Bank Corporation, Building Queensland, Economic Development Queensland can the Minister report separately by each program

(a) the description of each project/initiative, the name of the recipient, level of funding provided in 19/20, and 20/21 and
(b) how many applications were rejected and what were the reasons for rejection of any funding?

ANSWER:

The detailed information requested would require an unreasonable diversion of resources to compile and be unnecessarily onerous on the department.

(a) A complete answer to this question is not able to be prepared in the time available. It is hoped that an answer can be tabled at the Estimates Hearing on 8 December 2020.

(b) This information is not held centrally. Provision of this information would require significant time and diversion of resources to complete.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 7

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING –

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS 1-55 Works for Queensland and COVID Works for Queensland programs and the SEQ Community Stimulus Package for each financial years 19/20 to 23/24 can the Minister provide for each individual program reported separately the total level of funds allocated for each of the financial years the date of program commencement the life of the program in financial years the amount of funding already expended in each program.

ANSWER:

The following table provides a breakdown by requested financial year for the Works for Queensland, COVID Works for Queensland and SEQ Community Stimulus Package.

Financial data provided includes:

- 2019-20 Financial Year, Budget and Actual expenditure.
- 2020-21 Financial Year, Annual budget and Actual expenditure to 30 November 2020.
- For the 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 financial years the projected budget figures are shown.

Funding Program	2019-20 Budget ($M)	2019-20 Actual ($M)	2020-21 Budget ($M)	2020-21 Actual ($M)	2021-22 Budget ($M)	2022-23 Budget ($M)	2023-24 Budget ($M)
Works for Queensland	50.0	49.626	33.995	21.872	148.0	70.0	30.0
COVID Works for Queensland	0.0	0.0	180.0	98.916	20.0	0.0	0.0
SEQ Community Stimulus Package	0.0	0.0	45.0	24.997	30.0	10.0	15.0
	50.00	49.626	258.995	145.785	198.0	80.0	45.0

In relation to program timing:

- The current round of Works for Queensland is the 2019-21 funding round, which commenced on 1 July 2019 with Councils required to complete their projects by 30 June 2021.
- For the 2020-21 COVID Works for Queensland, Councils were advised of approved projects on 8 July 2020 and commenced delivery from this date.
- For 2020-21 South East Queensland Community Stimulus Package program (which was released as the Unite and Recover Community Stimulus Package program) projects were approved on 23 July 2020 and Councils could commence from the time project funding schedules were executed.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 8

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING –

QUESTION:

With reference to the Office of the Independent Assessor page 1-56 can the Minister provide for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 years the following

(a) Number of FTEs
(b) The salary level of each FTE
(c) The total travel costs for the Office reported separately by financial year
(d) If the Office has sought independent legal advice over this period and the cost of that advice.

ANSWER:

Given the increased workload and importance of the Office of the Independent Assessor, the Office's resources are currently under consideration.

2019-20 financial year – reflecting November payroll reports

16.6 FTE

Title	Classification	Number	Status
Independent Assessor	CEO5	1	Contract
Deputy Independent Assessor	SO4	1	Permanent full-time
Director Media and Engagement	SO1	1	Permanent full-time
Senior Prosecutor	PO5	1.8	Permanent full-time
Principal Investigator	AO7	2	Permanent full-time
Principal Executive Officer	AO7	1	Permanent full-time
Senior Investigator	AO6	1.8	Permanent full-time
Executive Assistant/Complaints Officer	AO5	1	Permanent full-time
Senior Investigator	AO6	4	Temporary full-time
Graduate Legal Officer	PO2	1	Temporary full-time
Senior Assessment Officer	AO7	0	Full-time re-deployee, provided on a temporary basis at no cost to the OIA by the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs (DLGRMA)
Assessment Officer	AO5	1	Temporary full-time
TOTAL		16.6	

2020-21 financial year – budgeted FTE

Title	Classification	Number	Status
Independent Assessor	CEO5	1	Contract
Deputy Independent Assessor	SO4	1	Permanent full-time
Director Media and Engagement	SO1	1	Permanent full-time
Senior Prosecutor	PO5	2	Permanent full-time
Principal Investigator	AO7	2	Permanent full-time
Principal Executive Officer	AO7	1	Permanent full-time
Senior Investigator	AO6	2	Permanent full-time
Executive Assistant/Complaints Officer	AO5	1	Permanent full-time
Senior Investigator	AO6	4	Temporary full-time
Graduate Legal Officer	PO2	1	Temporary full-time
Senior Assessment Officer	AO7	0	Full-time re-deployee, provided on a temporary basis at no cost to the OIA by the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs (DLGRMA)
Assessment Officer	AO5	1	Temporary full-time
Senior Prosecutor	PO5	1	Temporary full-time – vacant
Senior Complaints Officer	AO6	1	Temporary full-time – vacant
TOTAL		19	

TRAVEL 2019-20

$12,939.00

TRAVEL 2020-21

$94.00

Independent legal advice 2019-20

$13,019.63

Independent Legal advice 2020-21

$10,175.00 - expenditure as at 31 October 2020.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 9

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING –

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 1-50, high quality and timely administration of the local government system can the Minister advise of the costs for legal advice to the Department following the changes to legislation to overturn laws which permitted runner ups to be appointed in both Rockhampton and Townsville and has the department had to obtain legal advice on other matters and what were the costs involved?

ANSWER:

The Department has not sought legal advice following assent of the COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 10

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 1 page 54, can the Deputy Premier explain how the Government's accelerated infrastructure pipeline will deliver Queensland jobs, and turbocharge Queensland's economic recovery?

ANSWER:

Building vital infrastructure has been a core focus of the Palaszczuk Government's approach to managing the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to be as we plan and execute our economic recovery.

Infrastructure investment is a key driver of economic growth and job creation. It supports our industries, regions and communities to improve productivity and underpins business-led growth.

Our Economic Recovery Plan has rightly placed a strong focus on infrastructure, because we know that infrastructure will drive our State's recovery, future prosperity and resilience.

We are delivering on our infrastructure guarantee. In this Budget, the value of the Palaszczuk Government's capital works and infrastructure program will increase to $56 billion over the next four years, which is a record spend over the past decade.

The capital program will directly support substantial employment and economic activity across all regions, with the $14.8 billion capital program in 2020-21 estimated to support 46,000 jobs.

Throughout the pandemic, the Palaszczuk Government has continued to invest in roads, and in 2020-21, the Government will deliver a $6.3 billion investment in transformative transport infrastructure. Highlights include $1.5 billion to continue construction of Cross River Rail, and substantial ongoing investment to fund major upgrades to the M1 Pacific Motorway and Bruce Highway.

All over the State, we have invested in roads, schools and hospitals, as well as small scale works delivered by local councils. In 2020-21 around 58 per cent of the capital program – together with 27,000 jobs – will be supported outside the Greater Brisbane area.

We will continue our strong advocacy in seeking joint Australian Government funding for productivity enhancing investments, including building on our excellent track record in having Queensland projects and initiatives listed on the Infrastructure Priority List.

We remain committed to fast-tracking vital infrastructure projects to further support the economic recovery and construction sector activity across Queensland.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 11

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 1 page 51, will the Deputy Premier detail how the Palaszczuk Government's investment in the Wellcamp precinct will help Toowoomba and the greater Darling Downs region economies recover from COVID-19?

ANSWER:

This $175 million project would be Queensland's largest entertainment precinct and establish the first 'Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) Centre of Excellence' in motorsports facility in the Southern Hemisphere. Known as the Wellcamp Entertainment Precinct (WEP), it would incorporate world class motorsport, driver training and major event precincts designed to attract and stage major events across the performing arts, business, tourism, sport and events sectors. These facilities and events will be a wonderful drawcard for not only the region, but for Queensland.

For the motoring enthusiast the precinct will have dedicated facilities that specifically cater for most sports including V8 Super Cars and other models, Motocross, Supercross, Drag Racing, Karting and specialist 4WD tracks.

The WEP plans to capitalise on its location, adjacent to the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing and other major road networks, the Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport and future rail connections. It is well located to strike the right balance between managing amenity impacts and providing convenient access. In an exciting State like Queensland, with its ideal weather, the WEP provides a completely unique opportunity to attract visitors and participants from not only Australia but also the Asia/Pacific region. This is not simply a local project – it will set a national and international standard that will create new unique commercial and tourism opportunities.

Because of the location and size of the site, the project creates and unlocks significant economic, social and cultural opportunities, in addition to the core motorsport and event activities that are proposed. The related opportunities identified and contemplated in the initial appraisal and concept design include:

- road safety training and driver education facilities for all levels of drivers and vehicle types supported by an FIA Global Centre of Excellence

- research and innovation partnerships with local universities and industry partners, including international automotive manufacturers
- road safety and driver training facilities
- vocational training facilities
- music festivals and major events
- local and touring performance artists
- sporting facilities and venues (professional and amateur)
- business tourism, conference and event facilities
- on-site accommodation
- the opportunity to develop, trial and operate autonomous vehicles within the Precinct.

It is proposed the WEP will leverage both private sector and Australian Government investments and is expected to attract significant additional visitation and investment to Queensland.

Figures provided to date by the Wagner Corporation indicate the WEP would contribute significant economic and employment opportunities to the region. Due to the nature of the scale, design and complexity of the project, a detailed business case is in the process of being developed to provide guidance on the elements of the project.

Once the detailed business case has been prepared, a more in-depth understanding of the economic benefits for the region will be known.

Forecasted data provided by the Wagner Corporation includes seven key events of varying size forecasted on an annual basis. These include:

- three motorsport events estimated to generate approximately $16.7 million gross value add (GVA) to the economy per annum.
- three locally focused festivals estimated to generate an additional $1.8 million GVA to the economy each year.
- one major national festival held over several days. This type of event generally spans over multiple days and can attract strong visitation to the region, with the potential to generate approximately $2.4 million GVA per annum.

Another comparable project, the Phillip Island Circuit in Victoria, found events held in 2010-11 contributed nearly $130 million to the local economy. This circuit closely replicates the intentions for the WEP.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 12

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 1 page 51, how will the Palaszczuk Government's commitment to deliver infrastructure investment in the Cairns Marine Precinct (CMP) capitalise on and revitalise important industries, such as defence, marine industries and shipbuilding?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government recognises the strategic and economic importance of the marine industry in Cairns. It is committed to ensuring that the State maintains a robust marine capability and Cairns capitalises on emerging regional opportunities and affirms its position as the leading maritime maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) destination in Northern Australia.

On 18 September 2020, the Palaszczuk Government announced $30 million for initiatives within the Cairns Marine Precinct as part of its Economic Recovery Plan.

Improved infrastructure and upgrades to the Port of Cairns are particularly important in the current context of an increasing focus on the geo-political environment in the Indo-Pacific region.

Under the new $30 million investment, $28 million is allocated for new infrastructure upgrades, which will be undertaken by Ports North and will expand the capacity to support increased in-water sustainment of vessels used by the Australian Defence Force and Australian Border Force, delivering 150 new jobs during construction.

A further $2 million investment has been fast tracked to complete a business case to determine the Cairns Marine Precinct infrastructure requirements, including enhancements accessible by all shipyards and potential expansion of the Cairns Marine Precinct.

The business case development, which will be managed by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, is a crucial step towards leveraging ongoing maintenance maritime work for the Royal Australian Navy, Australian Border Force, and privately owned superyachts.

The final business case is expected to be completed at the end of 2021. This timing will allow investment decisions to be made in time for operators within the Cairns Marine Precinct to successfully bid for future naval sustainment, maintenance and overhaul work.

Queensland Treasury Corporation is also undertaking an analysis of bringing back shipbuilding to the Cairns Marine Precinct.

The Cairns Reshoring Shipbuilding opportunity assessment will investigate the manufacture of commercial vessels required for servicing the region and in doing so, bring new jobs to Cairns.

Shipbuilding could expand and develop our region’s highly skilled marine workforce with complementary benefits to our existing training and maintenance, repair and overhaul operations.

The Palaszczuk Government has also contributed funding to assist TAFE Queensland’s Great Barrier Reef International Marine College bid for the Pacific Maritime Training Services program for Cairns.

If successful, TAFE Queensland will use facilities in Cairns to train Guardian Patrol Boats crews from Pacific Islands and Timor Leste before they deliver the Pacific Maritime Surveillance Program. This will create 15 jobs in the education sector and at least two more jobs in related industries.

This support strategically aligns with the Queensland Defence Industries 10-year Roadmap and Action Plan to increase revenue contribution to the Queensland economy from the frontline defence industry to $7 billion and to create a 10,000 strong workforce by 2028.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 13

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 1 page 51, can the Deputy Premier outline how the Mackay Future Foods BioHub will place North Queensland at the forefront of the food markets of the future?

ANSWER:

The Mackay Future Foods BioHub aims to draw on the existing agricultural strengths of the Mackay Isaac Whitsunday region to create new foods and enter new export markets.

As global population increases and diets change, there is an emerging shift in the way we produce and consume our foods. Future foods such as non-dairy milk, proteins, vegan meat alternatives, and animal replacements are identified as essential to global food security and already a choice of preference for some consumers.

Importantly, these opportunities in future foods can grow and complement our incredibly strong food sector in Queensland, underpinned by our agriculture and beef industries.

Using synthetic biology technology, the rapid pace of scientific advancement in this sector is combining with a global focus on sustainability to create a boom in international demand for quality produce, such as non-animal protein-based foods and value-added ingredients and products.

Commercial manufacturing of these products is starting to occur around the world, as lab-based pilot demonstrations move to scale-up and establish commercial operations.

Recognising this opportunity, the Palaszczuk Government has allocated $1 million to support the development of a business case for a Future Foods BioHub in Mackay.

Led by industry, the Mackay BioHub aims to use advanced biomanufacturing technologies to create plant-based protein alternatives and feed ingredients that are healthy, sustainable and generate local employment for the region. The global alternative protein market alone is expected to reach $17.9 billion by 2025.

Mackay and the broader North Queensland region is the ideal location to capitalise on these opportunities, with its access to industrial land, port facilities, feedstock and proximity to Asian markets.

The Mackay BioHub has the potential to position regional cropping industries at the forefront of this food and agribusiness revolution. The BioHub could include facilities that help grow and diversify regional economies by creating new jobs and income streams for farmers.

The Palaszczuk Government has invited future foods companies from around the world to develop their biomanufacturing capabilities in Mackay, and we will work with investors, industry and landowners to accelerate development opportunities. Initial market sounding with industry has already commenced and a business case will be developed in the next phase of work.

The Mackay Future Foods BioHub contributes to the Palaszczuk Government's Biofutures vision to build a $1 billion industrial biotechnology and bioproducts sector by 2026, attracting significant international investment and creating regional jobs.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 14

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 1 page 54, will the Deputy Premier explain how the Palaszczuk Government's investment in disaster preparation infrastructure will safeguard Queenslanders from future environmental challenges?

ANSWER:

Queensland is the most disaster affected State in Australia, having been hit by more than 80 significant natural disaster events in the past decade.

As our climate changes, it is essential that we anticipate, respond and adapt to these changing circumstances and continue to cultivate strong levels of community connectedness, trust and cooperation.

Since its establishment in 2011, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) has managed a joint State/Commonwealth funded $16.4 billion program of Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) reconstruction and recovery works.

QRA is also the state's lead agency for disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy.

The Palaszczuk Government's record of upfront investment in stronger infrastructure and more resilient communities saves money for all levels of Government in the long-term.

This investment is evidenced through QRA programs such as:

- $240 million for Betterment projects to upgrade the State's roads, bridges and floodways approved since 2013, increasing their resilience to disasters and saving more than $145 million in avoided reconstruction costs.

- $13.75 million approved for improvements to the State's Flood Warning Infrastructure Network, keeping our remote and regional communities safer.

- $36.8 million to support communities impacted by last year's devastating bushfires with the delivery of long-term sustainable growth through the Local Economic Recovery Fund.

- $66.5 million in joint Commonwealth and State funding from 2019-20 to 2023-24 through the Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund to help local communities better prepare for future disasters.

- $2 million in annual Get Ready Queensland funding to raise awareness and help communities throughout the State prepare for disaster season.

All these investments have been identified by local communities to best meet their local needs.

This locally led, regionally coordinated and State-facilitated approach is supporting resilience projects that can be aligned to future funding opportunities.

QRA has refined the data and learnings from each of the more than 80 disasters to hit Queensland in the past decade to develop better strategies to deal with future natural disaster events and make Queensland the most disaster resilient State in the nation.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 15

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 1 page 55, can the Deputy Premier explain how the Palaszczuk Government's Works for Queensland program is delivering job-creating infrastructure for regional Queenslanders?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government's Works for Queensland program has already invested $600 million that is creating, supporting and sustaining jobs across 65 regional and rural Councils outside South East Queensland.

Works for Queensland is an important driver of job creation and economic activity across regional Queensland and a great example of what can be achieved when two levels of Government work together to support local communities.

By the end of the current 2019-21 funding round it is expected that Councils will have delivered more than 1,800 local projects that have created or supported more than 21,000 jobs.

As part of the Palaszczuk Government's $11 billion plan for economic recovery from COVID-19, we announced an additional $400 million over six years to support future rounds of Works for Queensland.

These funds will support the kick-start of council projects from Weipa to Goondiwindi, from Calliope to Camooweal to deliver community infrastructure such as footpaths, kerb and channel works, roads, shade structures, playgrounds, community and sport facilities, halls, swimming pools and waterplay areas.

Through natural disasters and even the COVID-19 pandemic, we have stood shoulder to shoulder with local government to create jobs right across the state and we're not going to stop now.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 16

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 1 page 55, will the Deputy Premier outline how the Community Stimulus Grants program is helping South East Queensland recover from the pandemic?

ANSWER:

South East Queensland has shared in the Palaszczuk Government's stimulus measures to support economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the Palaszczuk Government's $11 billion plan for economic recovery from COVID-19, we have committed an additional $200 million to the SEQ Community Stimulus Package which will provide two rounds of funding to each of the 12 SEQ councils and is expected to support up to 6000 jobs.

A further $50 million was allocated to South East Queensland councils from the Palaszczuk Government's $200 million COVID-19 Works for Queensland program, which is providing for maintenance and minor infrastructure projects.

South East Queensland Councils are also benefitting from $50 million under the Unite and Recover Community Stimulus Package program, which is designed to fast-track investment in new infrastructure and community assets that creates jobs and delivers economic stimulus. Under the program 12 South East Queensland councils are delivering 63 projects that are estimated to create or support more than 1500 jobs in our most impacted areas.

State-wide initiatives supporting South East Queensland businesses and residents during the initial pandemic response phase included $950 million in payroll tax relief; $500 million in electricity and water bill relief for households and small businesses; $90 million for a jobs and skills package; and $400 million in land tax relief for property owners to be passed onto tenants in the form of rent relief.

South East Queensland businesses also accessed the $1 billion Jobs Support Loan facility to support them to keep Queenslanders in work and benefited from Small Business Adaption Grants of up to $10,000, to assist them to adapt and sustain their operations.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 17

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 1 page 51, will the Deputy Premier outline how the Palaszczuk Government is using Priority Development Areas (PDAs) to create jobs and further Queensland's economic recovery?

ANSWER:

Economic Development Queensland (EDQ) renews and repurposes surplus and underutilised State land and facilitates development in Priority Development Areas (PDAs) to create jobs, drive private sector investment and deliver community outcomes.

This includes fast-tracking the delivery of capital works across a number of EDQ's projects to enable private sector investment and support jobs, contributing to Queensland's economic recovery.

$84.7 million of accelerated capital works are now being fast-tracked with work either underway, or due to start in the next four months, in the following projects:

- Carseldine Village
- Oxley
- Yeronga
- Northshore Hamilton
- Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct
- Roma Hospital Student Accommodation.

The flow-on effect of this program is the creation of over $330 million in private sector investment, 1,000 construction jobs and 700 ongoing jobs.

PDA declaration and development assessment also help stimulate investment by reducing holding costs to developers by releasing land more quickly to market and providing certainty for long-term investment through coordinated State interests and streamlined planning and development assessment.

EDQ is currently assessing over 100 development applications across a number of PDAs which will help enable $520 million in investment, supporting up to 1,170 jobs.

In addition, infrastructure investment by EDQ within the greenfield PDAs is opening up these areas to enable the delivery of a significant portion of new housing needed over the coming decades to accommodate expected population growth in South East Queensland.

To date EDQ has invested nearly $110 million in catalyst infrastructure in the Ripley Valley and Greater Flagstone PDAs. This includes $7.14 million for the construction of Binnies Road West at Ripley Valley which is currently underway, which will help enable the delivery of up to 3,000 new homes, generating private sector investment and supporting jobs.

PDAs are also being utilised for the delivery of the Cross River Rail project with four Cross River Rail PDAs declared, the most recent being the Boggo Road Cross River Rail PDA which was declared on 2 October 2020.

These PDAs will provide unique opportunities for urban development, economic stimulation and job creation, including planning for integrated recreation and entertainment facilities.

PDAs are also assisting Local Governments to achieve economic development and employment growth in their regions. The Mackay Waterfront PDA, requested by Mackay Regional Council (Council), will lead to the revitalisation of the city centre. In June the Council sought expressions of interest regarding the development potential of six Council-owned freehold sites considered to be catalyst locations within the PDA.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 18

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 1 page 51, can the Deputy Premier explain how the Palaszczuk Government's record-breaking LAND 400 investment will deliver jobs for Queenslanders over the next 30 years?

ANSWER:

LAND 400 is the biggest and most expensive capability acquisition project in the history of the Australian Army with Phase 2 worth $5.2 billion and Phase 3 worth up to $27 billion.

Rheinmetall Defence Australia (RDA) was awarded the Commonwealth's LAND 400 Phase 2 project to manufacture 211 Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicles (CRVs) for the Australian Army.

Under a long-term partnership with the Queensland Government, RDA established its Australia-New Zealand Headquarters and Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence (MILVEHCOE) in Redbank, Ipswich, from which it will manufacture the Boxer CRVs.

Construction of the MILVEHCOE supported an average of 300 jobs over two years.

RDA expects the MILVEHCOE will support up to 450 jobs for Queenslanders at the facility and through the local supply chain, and the facility will contribute more than $1 billion to Queensland's economy over the life of the project.

RDA has been shortlisted for LAND 400 Phase 3 estimated to be worth up to $27 billion, and should it be successful, will manufacture up to 450 infantry fighting vehicles at the MILVEHCOE.

Jobs at the MILVEHCOE span a wide range of functions, trades, technologies and advanced manufacturing tasks.

The partnership with RDA and the delivery of the LAND 400 Phase 2 project is creating the high skilled, knowledge-based jobs of the future right through the supply chain.

The delivery of LAND 400 Phase 2 and RDA's other projects firmly positions Queensland as Australia's home of land defence industrial capability and enhances our existing ecosystem of high-tech expertise that is supporting some of the world's leading-edge military platforms.

The MILVEHCOE and the expertise of the Australian workforce are now an integral source of technology and product development for Rheinmetall's global customer base.

The Queensland Government, through Defence Jobs Queensland, is working closely with RDA and Queensland companies to improve industry capability and to maximise local supply chain opportunities.

RDA has announced a number of Queensland supply-chain partners to date including Big Wheels at Rocklea, ABI Coating Specialists at Staplyton, Rockpress at Acacia Ridge, Hilton Manufacturing at Wacol and Queensland Gaskets at Salisbury.

The Queensland Government is investing in education and training to address a national shortage in some defence-specific skillsets and to ensure the State's future workforce needs are met.

The Queensland Government has improved access to training and certification including:

- purchase of 15 augmented reality welding simulators to accelerate TAFE training to ISO 9606 standards
- delivery of a welding capability development program in partnership with DMTC Limited (formerly known as the Defence Materials Technology Centre)
- launching an up to $1.5 million industry development fund to assist SMEs to acquire certifications.

The LAND 400 project and RDA's other defence projects are supporting the State's effort to unite and recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and are helping to drive Queensland's economic recovery.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 19

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 1 page 51, can the Deputy Premier outline how the Palaszczuk Government is creating jobs and diversifying Queensland's regional economy through facilitating continued resource sector development in the North West Minerals Province?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to further developing the abundant potential of the North West Minerals Province. While the resources sector is the backbone of the province's economy, our Government also recognises the importance of supporting the growth of other sectors to create jobs.

The Palaszczuk Government's $39 million Strategic Blueprint for Queensland's North West Minerals Province (the Blueprint) has established partnerships across all levels of government, industry and the community to drive a strong and sustainable future for the State's North West. Opportunities identified by the Blueprint's Common User Infrastructure Study and North West Queensland Agricultural Strategy are diversifying the economy, helping grow expertise in dry land cropping, and supporting primary producers to look to a new horizon that complements the region's high-quality beef production.

Through the Blueprint and the $33.3 million North West Queensland Economic Diversification Strategy we have delivered:

- $14.1 million to define New Economy Mineral opportunities including a Prospectus for Trade and Investment Queensland to attract investors
- the Geological Survey of Queensland Open Data Portal, providing a world-leading geoscientific data repository to help explorers in finding the next generation of large mineral deposits
- greater knowledge and certainty to industry through deeper geological surveys that gives industry the greatest chance of exploration success
- the Low-Grade Minerals Processing Report assisting miners to pursue re-processing of mine tailings

- support for 24 projects through the Collaborative Exploration Initiative, one of which resulted in the discovery of a globally significant copper cobalt deposit at Walford Creek, north of Mount Isa
- streamlined land access agreements and cultural heritage approvals reducing barriers to investment
- approximately 100 high tech jobs through our investment of $14.5 million in the Queensland Flight Test Range drone test facility at Cloncurry
- $1.77 million that builds on the digital visitor survey providing support for key tourism projects that attract families and short-stay visitors
- $1.28 million in trials that demonstrate the viability of high value cash and fodder crops leading to new industry investment
- $1.65 million to drive economic development planning, business competitiveness and stronger communities
- the Youth Employment Program assisting 50 Indigenous candidates to secure work
- support for the development of the Jemena Northern Gas Pipeline by facilitating local supply chain opportunities and Indigenous apprenticeships.

We will continue to facilitate:

- a pipeline of new investment building on the region's expertise in mining and mineral processing, outback and Indigenous tourism and high-value agriculture totalling over $1.1 billion in a pipeline of private sector projects with potential to support 600 construction jobs and 650 jobs ongoing
- deeper geological surveys and data modernisation initiatives
- the collaborative exploration initiative leading to new mineral discoveries and industry investment in the North West Minerals Province
- mining and manufacturing opportunities to capitalise on our world-class Mining Equipment, Technology and Services sector ensuring that Queensland's resource companies and communities are at the forefront of global supply of valuable minerals needed for advanced electronics and renewable technologies
- $16 million investment in the CopperString 2.0 project which has the potential to unlock a wider economic benefit modelled at over 3,500 jobs and $79 billion economic uplift over 30 years
- investment of approximately $500 million over five years to boost mineral freight exports on the Mount Isa rail line, through ongoing maintenance and track improvements, discounted freight charges and support for a new container terminal at the Port of Townsville.

The evidence of success in supporting the resources industry and promoting the province's prospectivity is shown in the record numbers of drill rigs seen on the ground in the Blueprint's first two years of implementation. During this period the number of exploration licences almost doubled and there was a significant increase in the number of new mining leases granted. In total, seven new mines commenced operation in the region between 2017 and 2019, creating approximately 1,330 construction jobs and 1,105 operational jobs.

We have secured 1,100 jobs associated with the Mount Isa Mines copper smelter. The agreement with Glencore supports indirect employment for many hundreds more in the region who supply goods and services to the smelter and refinery.

The North West Minerals Province has an important role in the State's economic recovery. As implementation continues on the Blueprint and diversification strategy, the region will be even better placed to capitalise on new opportunities that arise as part of Queensland's economic recovery.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 20

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to the Minister's and his government's support for progressing the Hell's Gates Dam (Bradfield irrigation scheme) prior to the 2020 State Election; Can the Minister advise how many times since first commissioned in September the expert panel, chaired by Professor Ross Garnaut, has met and if the panel will achieve a six-month reporting date as requested by various North Queensland-based stakeholders?

ANSWER:

As this response falls within the responsibilities of the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water, a response has been tabled with the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water's Questions on Notice.