



QUEENSLAND'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

- ▶ Protecting our health
- ▶ Creating jobs
- ▶ Working together



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Find our report online

covid19.qld.gov.au

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MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER



The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP



This year we have faced a challenge like no other.

As Premier, I am proud of the way we have collectively responded to this crisis but there is a long road ahead.

We were the first to act with a package of measures now totalling over \$7 billion, focusing support where it is needed most.

From providing Queensland households with bill relief to payroll tax relief for businesses and accelerating projects to unlock development and increase construction activity, the breadth of our response is reflective of the scale of the challenge we face.

We have a lot to be proud of:

- health workers who are making huge sacrifices and putting others before themselves
- businesses constantly adapting and innovating
- teachers and workers in our schools providing a safe place for our children to learn
- every single Queenslander playing their role in stopping the spread of COVID-19.

There are so many more examples and I know in this unprecedented environment there are people in our state who are doing it incredibly tough.

As a government, it is our job to not only respond to the immediate challenges but work at every level and across every sector with an eye on the horizon.

This plan underlines our commitment to work in partnership on a long-term response.

I want to assure Queenslanders that we will not take our eye off the ball. We will stay the course and not only see this through but build back better.

We need to make more in Queensland.

We will continue to respond quickly in the short term but always have our eye on the long term.

We will continue to put Queensland first.

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER



The Honourable Cameron Dick MP



The COVID-19 pandemic has tested Queenslanders like never before.

Together, the Queensland Government has worked with communities across our state, with companies large and small, to protect Queensland jobs and support Queensland businesses.

Queensland is currently in a strong position thanks to the early actions taken to address the health and economic impacts of the pandemic.

Across Australia, governments are grappling with the serious fiscal and economic impact of COVID-19. In June 2020, a record 645,000 Australians lost their jobs.

While the Queensland Government's actions have cushioned the blow for many working families and businesses, the pandemic has driven a sharp rise in the state's unemployment rate, as well as the numbers of underemployed Queenslanders.

Behind every statistic there is a Queensland worker, family or business enduring the real impacts of COVID-19.

The sooner we can get more Queenslanders working again, the sooner our economy can recover.

We will continue to stimulate and support the economy now, while investing in the skills, infrastructure and industries to support growth and build back better than ever.

While we plan for the future, we also stand ready to act in the face of continued uncertainty. That's why our ongoing work with industry and the community, together with our continued investment in safeguarding Queenslanders' health is so critical to the economy.

I am confident we can unite and recover for the benefit of all Queenslanders now and into the future.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recovering from COVID-19 is a long-term challenge that requires a long-term response.

We are reminded daily that the world around us has changed. The threat posed by this pandemic will not ease soon. This is a plan for Queensland's long-term future.

The COVID-19 pandemic has ravaged economies and communities globally and our state is not immune from its effects. It has taken lives and livelihoods, created global and local economic challenges and compromised community wellbeing.

Our state economy will never be the same.

That is why this plan recognises the need to respond to and recover from COVID-19, but also that a long-term response is needed to the continuing changes the pandemic is creating.

Queensland has had a swift and sustained response to the crisis – from both health and economic perspectives.

Protecting community health and ensuring our economic wellbeing are inextricably linked and will continue to remain so as we navigate through this crisis.

Queensland's world-leading health response to the COVID-19 pandemic and strong economic foundation has put us in an advantageous position for recovery.

As we entered the pandemic this included:

- an economy growing faster than the nation at 2.4 per cent
- five years of budget surpluses
- a lower debt position than 2015
- over \$19 billion health budget
- the largest four-year infrastructure spend in nearly a decade.

This sound economic and fiscal position enabled the Queensland Government to be the first to act in Australia. To date, Queensland has responded with a package now totalling over \$7 billion to support businesses, workers and families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The immediate stimulus has been quickly targeted to where it is needed most – from boosting health capacity, such as expanding fever clinics, to targeted support for Queensland businesses and workers such as payroll tax relief, industry support, relief for workers and businesses who lost their income, concessional jobs support loans and bill relief on utilities and electricity.

The government has also invested in shovel-ready job-creating local and regional works initiatives supporting essential services, economic development and community well-being.

In addition to the immediate stimulus, investment in sustained and staged measures in recent months has underlined the government's commitment to work in partnership with industry to

keep the economy moving while also positioning the state for the 'new normal'. This approach has been about protecting Queenslanders now and focusing on the future:

- fast-tracking capital projects to immediately support construction jobs, while also investing in productive economic infrastructure to improve the economic resilience of our regions and position our state for future success
- providing timely support for our traditional sectors like tourism, while simultaneously exploring new opportunities for future jobs in emerging sectors such as hydrogen energy



- providing grants to impacted businesses, while also ensuring the workforce and our future job seekers gain the digital skills that will be needed as our economy changes
- assisting our major iconic private sector employers to survive the challenge of shutdown, while also using the state's purchasing power to buy local and strengthen our manufacturing capability and local supply chains.

As Queenslanders we should feel proud of what we have collectively achieved since COVID-19 first struck our shores. However, there is also a common understanding that complacency is not an option, and while the investment and effort in recent months has been unprecedented, maintaining the momentum is critical.

Focus on the future

There is no doubt that the challenge before us is immense. We must continue to rapidly respond to emerging threats, but also innovate to seize the opportunities to build a stronger future.

This plan outlines six key areas of focus over the next two to five years:

1

Safeguarding our health

Safeguarding our health and jobs by keeping Queensland pandemic ready.

2

Backing small business

Helping small business, the backbone of our economy, thrive in a changing environment.

3

Making it for Queensland

Growing manufacturing across traditional and new industries, making new products in new ways and creating new jobs.

4

Building Queensland

Driving investment in the infrastructure that supports our recovery, resilience and future prosperity.

5

Growing our regions

Helping Queensland's regions grow by attracting people, talent and investment, and driving sustainable economic prosperity.

6

Investing in skills

Ensuring Queenslanders have the skills they need to find meaningful jobs and set up pathways for the future.

These priorities have been identified following wide-ranging consultation. This has included the Premier's Queensland Industry Recovery Alliance, a partnership formed between the Queensland Government and 24 peak industry, union and community bodies with the single focus of creating and saving jobs across the state.

Industry-specific forums, together with consultation with regional leaders across the state, have provided invaluable insights into the unique challenges faced by Queensland industries and regions, and the actions needed to support workforces and businesses through COVID-19.

This plan allows for a staged, adaptable approach to economic recovery.

It builds on the immediate actions over the past months to get Queenslanders back to work and kick start our economy. It lays the foundations for our future success: creating jobs, investing in skills, restoring confidence, and establishing the right conditions for a diverse and resilient economy.

The strong focus on partnerships continues because we know that to not just recover but recover better requires collaboration at all levels. Collaboration between federal, state and local governments and with businesses, industry, our workforce and communities is vital.

The clear aim of this plan is to deliver on the vision – safeguarding community health, maintaining our focus on local jobs and working in partnership to get results.

It will be measured by the success of our economy benefitting all Queenslanders with access to job opportunities, health care, education, housing and infrastructure.

It will be measured by our regionally based industries of tourism, resources, manufacturing, construction and agriculture continuing to be the foundations of the state's economy while also opening up new opportunities through innovative thinking and emerging sectors.

It will be measured on our ability to not just secure the jobs of today but for emerging industries to thrive in our regions, with a skilled workforce equipped for the jobs of the future, providing a sense of confidence and optimism.



TOWARDS RECOVERY

With our ambition being to not just build back but build back better, the vision for recovery is three-fold.

Firstly, given the nature of the crisis – a global pandemic with a vaccine yet to be developed – we must continue to focus on protecting Queenslanders’ health. This is and will continue to be a foundation of our economic recovery.

Secondly, while Queensland entered the pandemic in a strong economic position, the global nature of the crisis has challenged industries and business, large and small, in ways that we have never experienced. Having an agile and adaptable approach to job creation which not only supports traditional sectors but capitalises on emerging opportunities is key to our future success.

Thirdly, partnerships will be paramount on the road to recovery. The magnitude of this crisis means that a collaborative approach across all levels of government and the private sector is vital.

Our vision:

- ▶ **Protecting our health**
- ▶ **Creating jobs**
- ▶ **Working together**



STRONG FOUNDATIONS

As we came together to flatten the curve and save lives, Queensland’s strong disaster management framework – borne of necessity from cyclones, floods and fires – meant we were well prepared to face the pandemic.

The Queensland Government has led Australian states in protecting its people and businesses.

Queensland was the first state in Australia to declare a health emergency and provide financial assistance.

Through our staged approach, we have provided over \$7 billion to support

Queensland businesses, workers and communities to respond to COVID-19.

The Queensland Government was only able to provide this support because we were in a strong budget position well ahead of the virus, with lower debt than in 2015 and five years of budget surpluses.

The Queensland economy is also built on strong foundations.

We have made record investments in health, education and training, and infrastructure.

Prior to the onset of COVID-19, the Queensland economy was growing faster than the national average.

The number of Queenslanders in a job increased by 250,000 since January 2015, and we recorded a population growth rate of 1.6 per cent in the 12 months to December 2019, above the national average of 1.4 per cent.

So, while COVID-19 has hit the Queensland economy hard, we know that if we can restore business confidence and get people back in jobs, the economic fundamentals are there to drive investment and growth as we come back stronger than before.

Starting from a strong position:

An economy growing faster than the nation at 2.4 per cent 


Population growing faster than the nation at 1.6 per cent 


250,000 new jobs since 2015 

\$84.2 billion goods exports in 2019, more than NSW, Victoria and Tasmania combined 

Retail trade up 4.7 per cent in 2019, strongest in the nation 

Lower debt position than 2015 

The largest 4 year infrastructure spend in nearly a decade at \$51.8 billion 

Over \$19 billion health budget 

A record \$14.9 billion education and training budget 

Queensland – a great place to invest and do business



The Queensland Government will continue to create an environment to attract and support business investment.

Maintaining our competitiveness and leveraging the State’s economic strengths and natural advantages will be critical to our future growth.

Queensland’s business environment is already highly competitive:

- Taxation per capita in Queensland is expected to be \$690 lower than the average of other states and territories in 2019-20 (based on the latest estimates published by other jurisdictions).
- Queensland has, on average, the lowest wholesale electricity prices on the eastern seaboard.
- Our relatively affordable property market and enviable lifestyle helps businesses attract skilled staff.

Our plan will drive Queensland’s competitiveness so that the state remains an attractive investment destination for global and domestic businesses.

The priorities in the plan will help to reduce red tape and minimise costs for businesses, provide reliable and affordable energy, encourage skills, foster exports and build the productivity-enhancing infrastructure needed to support business investment, economic growth and jobs across Queensland.

Agriculture and resources continuing to power our regions

While other sectors were under significant restrictions, our resources and agricultural sectors have helped Queensland’s economy to keep going.

Our agriculture and food industries continue to employ over 80,000 Queenslanders to produce high-quality products for domestic and international consumers. Our major commodities such as beef, sugar and bulk commodities have continued exporting through the pandemic, and were worth nearly \$10 billion to the Queensland economy in 2019-20.

Domestically, the sector has pivoted to maintain supply of goods to consumers. Fresh produce has been diverted from the accommodation and food service sector and export markets to meet increased retail demand. While the livestock and seafood industry has pursued frozen products, and the horticulture sector has transformed fresh products into value-added and long-life alternatives.

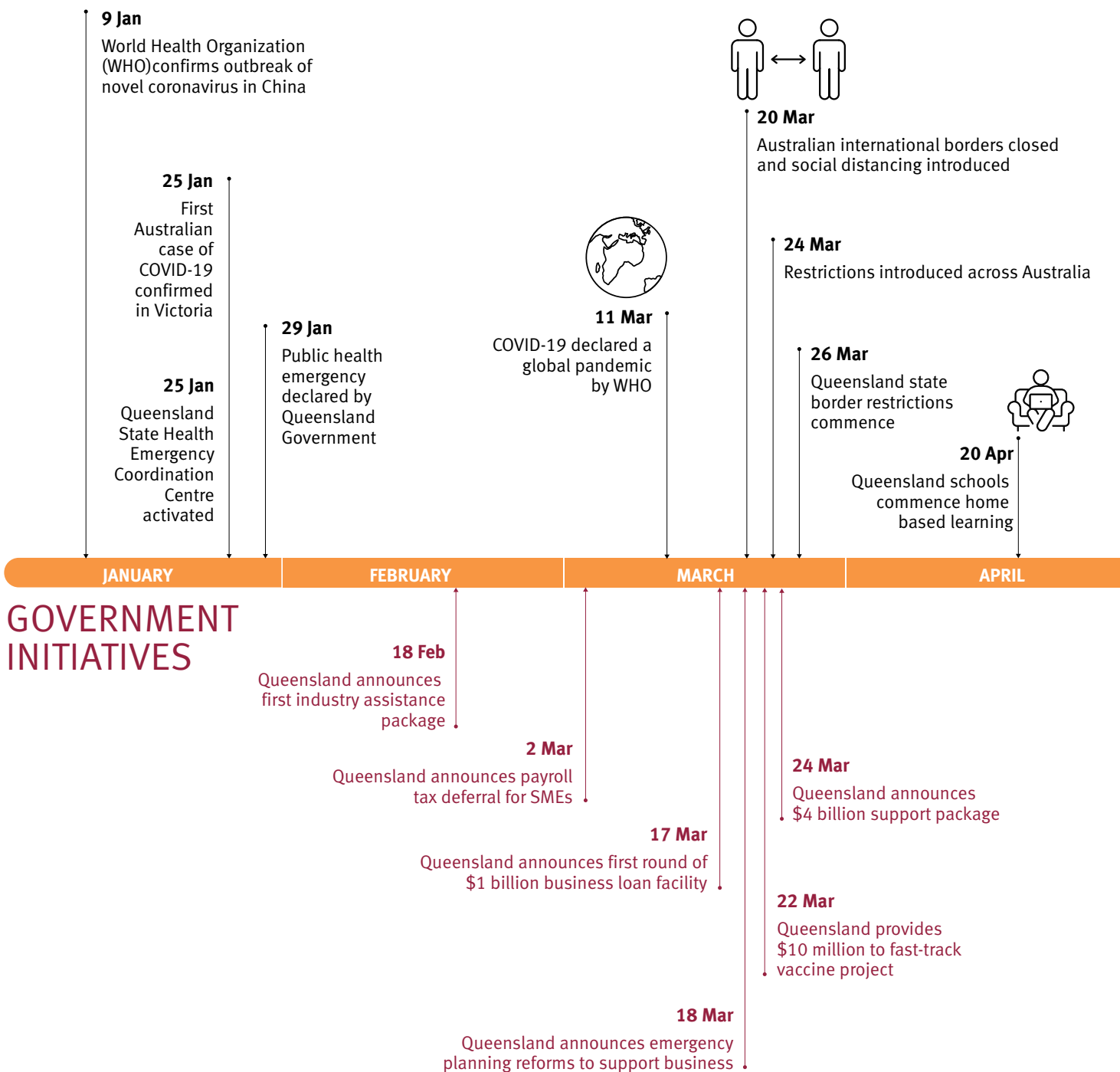
Also powering regional Queensland through COVID-19 is our traditional strength in resources. The resources industry employs around 65,000 Queenslanders and is the largest employer in the Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday region and the second largest employer in Outback Queensland.

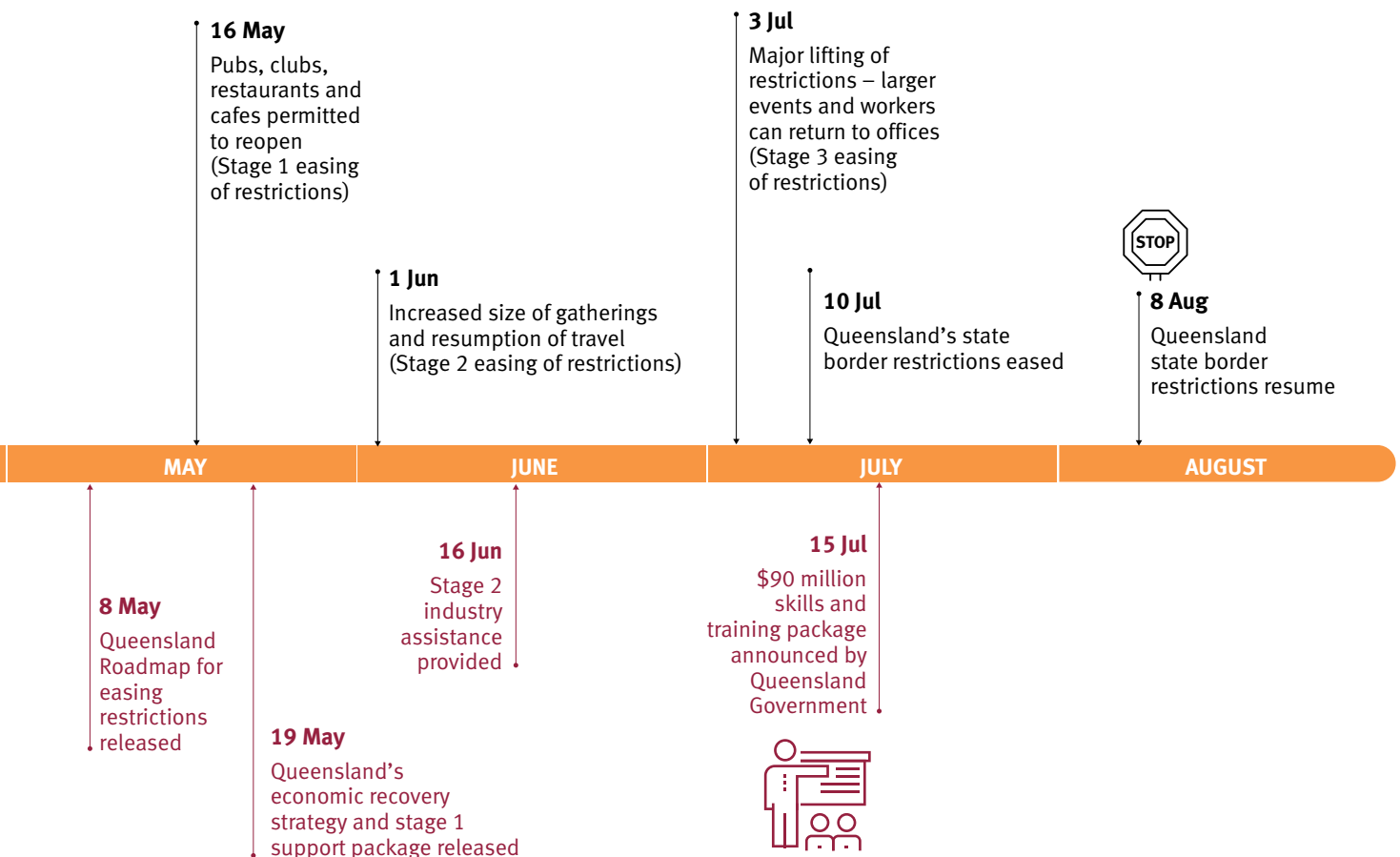
Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our mines have kept Queenslanders employed by exporting high-quality metallurgical and thermal coal, gas, aluminium, zinc and other mineral resource endowments. In 2019-20, export revenue for these commodities exceeded \$63 billion. The sector also continues to be an important source of royalties, with \$5.2 billion being contributed in 2018-19.

Into the future, Queensland’s resources sector will be the source of important raw materials for economic recovery, including metallurgical coal for steel used in infrastructure and new economy minerals for renewable energy products.



COVID-19 TIMELINE





HIGHLIGHTS

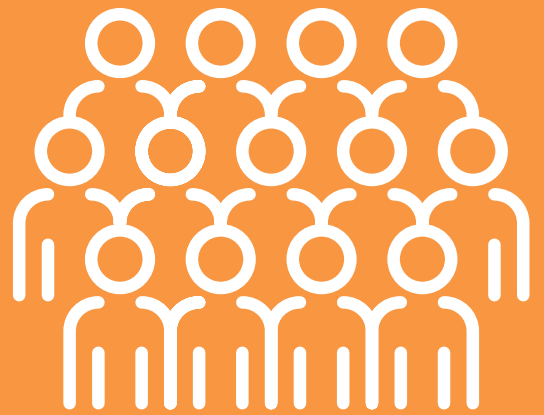
Through our staged assistance package, the Queensland Government has supported businesses, households and communities through the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Over
\$7 billion
in relief and support

Around

55,000



jobs supported

through capital works and other key initiatives



**Supporting businesses
to help keep 334,000
Queenslanders in jobs**



\$196 million

grants for up to 20,000 small businesses



\$950 million

payroll tax relief



\$400 million

land tax relief and deferrals

Almost

\$1 billion



job loans to 7,000 businesses

HIGHLIGHTS

2.1 million



households to receive utility rebates



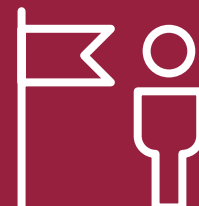
\$1.2 billion
health response



28,000
registered for the Care Army



123,000
completed COVID Work Safe Training



\$10 million
Seniors & Accessibility Assistance



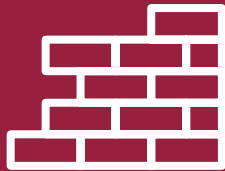
\$70 million extension
Back to Work

\$51.8 billion

Infrastructure guarantee



\$13.9 billion capital program in 2020-21



\$200 million

Building Acceleration Fund



\$250 million

to local councils for construction works



Over **1,200 jobs** from road stimulus



Around **\$220 million** for housing construction



\$50 million to fast track tourism projects and assist tourism icons



\$50 million Making it for Queensland

OUR PLAN FOR QUEENSLAND'S FUTURE

Queensland's recovery will be driven by actions to encourage growth, competitiveness and job creation across our state. We will learn from COVID-19, adapt and prosper in a changed world.

Our vision is three-fold: protecting Queenslanders' health, creating jobs and working together.

Our plan sets out the Queensland Government's approach to achieve our vision and put Queensland on a recovery pathway to build back better and create the conditions for future success.

As we adapt to new ways of working, and identify new solutions to old and emerging challenges, we will focus our attention on the opportunities that will improve Queensland's competitiveness, productivity and resilience.



OUR PLAN FOCUSES ON
six priority areas
TO ACHIEVE OUR VISION FOR QUEENSLAND'S FUTURE

1
Safeguarding our health

The most important part of our recovery to date has been Queensland's strong health response, together with a clear pathway to easing restrictions. That's why our number one priority continues to be safeguarding the health of all Queenslanders and building resilience by ensuring we are ready for future outbreaks and supporting the wellbeing of our diverse communities.

4
Building Queensland

Our infrastructure guarantee provides industry with the confidence needed to invest in Queensland, protecting and creating jobs within the construction industry and supply chains. To drive recovery and future prosperity, we will encourage investment in Queensland and support industry by streamlining planning approvals to unlock growth opportunities across the state.

2
Backing small business

Small businesses are the backbone of the Queensland economy and have been among the hardest hit by COVID-19. By prioritising the recovery of small businesses, we are prioritising Queensland's recovery as we shift to the 'new normal.'

5
Growing our Regions

Our plan will help Queensland's regions grow from a strong and stable base in agriculture and resource sectors to attract talent and investment and drive sustainable economic prosperity. We will provide more opportunities and connection by enhancing digital connectivity in our regions. We will continue to invest in clean energy and water which are critical resources for the competitiveness of our regions.

3
Making it for Queensland

We will build on our proud manufacturing tradition and diversify into new industries to create more jobs for Queenslanders. We will foster growth precincts across the state by bringing manufacturers, skilled workers and supply chains together to power regional development. We will work with industry to adopt innovative manufacturing techniques to enhance global competitiveness.

6
Investing in skills

Now is the time to equip Queenslanders with the skills needed in our future economy. We will build workforce resilience and adaptability through facilitating upskilling and lifelong learning to support job opportunities for Queenslanders.

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE OF OUR LIFETIME **WE ARE PREPARED**

The COVID-19 pandemic may be one of the greatest challenges we have ever faced. Queenslanders have told us about how it has changed how we live and work, where we can go, what we can do and our place in the world. While uncertain, further change may still lie ahead.

Throughout Queensland's history, we have been confronted by and rebuilt from many disasters. When a bridge floods, we rebuild it higher, so it won't flood next time. Our response to COVID-19 should be similar. This plan is about building back better.

The plan responds to the challenges of COVID-19 and seeks to create opportunities from it to best position Queensland in a world where COVID-19 remains a threat.



	Queenslanders have told us COVID-19 means	How we will respond and recover	Priority
Threats to our health	COVID-19 will be with us for years to come...and there may be other threats to our health in the future.	We will make protecting our health a centrepiece of our recovery, ensuring we maintain our preparedness .	Protect health
Social distance	Even though we have had to maintain social distance during the pandemic, we have relied on each other more than ever before. In some ways we have become closer.	We will focus on supporting our communities and capturing the spirit of the Care Army to ensure we support each other going forward.	Protect health
Isolation	Isolation and financial uncertainty have been tough on many people and coping can be hard.	We will increase support for mental health so people can get the help they need to be resilient in tough times.	Protect health
Change the rules	During COVID-19, we've been able to "change the rules" quickly to make things happen – how can we make this the "future normal".	We will work to streamline small business regulation , making it easier to do business in Queensland.	Back small business
Going online	More and more people are going online – for work, for study and, to keep in touch. Consumers are changing their behaviour – shopping online instead of instore.	We will prioritise building Queensland's digital connectivity in regional communities and providing Queenslanders with the digital skills they need for the future.	Back small business Grow regions
Local suppliers	Australia has long relied on getting many things we need from overseas, but that is harder now. For some things, like medical supplies, we can't afford not to be able to have local suppliers.	We will encourage making more in Queensland , reshoring manufacturing currently undertaken overseas and supporting local businesses to be globally competitive.	Making it for Queensland
Come together	Australians have come together like never before to fight the virus – leaving aside our differences for the common good. The impacts of COVID-19 are going to last a long time and we need to work and plan together.	We will partner with industry, businesses, unions, conservation groups, researchers and local government to unite and recover and provide long-term certainty around infrastructure.	Building Queensland
Queensland never looked better	Queensland has never looked better as a place to live and with more and more going online, you don't need to live in the capital city to do your work.	We will encourage people to consider moving to regional Queensland by driving regional growth opportunities, and connecting our regions digitally.	Grow regions
Queensland stands out	Around the world, so many countries have struggled to combat the virus – Australia and Queensland stand out for our success to date.	We will build on Queensland's reputation as a safe, clean and green location to attract new investment and promote our exports to the world.	Grow regions
Travel uncertain	The resumption of international travel is uncertain, making it difficult for industries like tourism and international education that rely on visitors to recover.	We are confident that in the future international travel will again become possible and visitors will again come to Queensland. We will work with impacted sectors to prepare for the future.	Grow regions Invest in skills Back small business
Jobs will change	Some jobs will change as a result of COVID-19, but we will still need people to do the skilled work that underpins our economy. People are uncertain about what the future holds. This particularly affects young people and we don't want them left behind.	We will help ensure Queenslanders have the skills they need to get a good job in this new world and to reskill if their job changes. And we will work to ensure young people are not left behind as we get out of COVID-19.	Invest in skills

Our plan for Queensland's future
Priority area 1

SAFEGUARDING OUR HEALTH

Our plan will safeguard your health – and your job – by keeping Queensland pandemic ready

The government responded quickly to the early impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. We committed \$1.2 billion to the health sector to expand fever clinics, emergency department capacity, acute care services and regional aeromedical services for remote communities.

We built strong contact tracing and testing capability to underpin our immediate and ongoing response to the pandemic and mobilised resources from across the public sector to back our health effort.

As the pandemic impacts continued to unfold, the Queensland Government worked with local manufacturers to address gaps in the supply chain, encouraging Queensland firms able to support our health response by pivoting to produce essential personal protective equipment (PPE).

PANDEMIC READY

This pandemic has shown that our long-term economic success will depend on our ability to protect the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders. We will ensure Queensland is ready for any future outbreaks by further investing in our capacity to respond.

This means continuing to invest in preparedness planning and building our critical supply reserve of medicines and medical devices for future public health emergencies or natural disasters.

It also means developing our own capacity to fight the virus by harnessing Queensland medical research and producing more PPE and medical equipment locally.

BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Supporting the health, wellbeing and resilience of Queenslanders is a key priority of this government.

Demands for social services support have increased as a result of the pandemic. We recognise the impact the current situation has had on the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities.

Working in partnership with the community services sector, we will build on a range of existing programs to improve public health and help those in our communities who need support.

Investing in community infrastructure and critical services will lead to new opportunities and improved social and economic inclusion for many Queenslanders. We are already mandating planning requirements to support healthy and active Queensland communities, ensuring walkable residential neighbourhoods and access to local parks and open spaces.

SUPPORTING QUEENSLANDERS' MENTAL HEALTH

The pandemic has taken a toll on many Queenslanders and supporting mental health is a key part of the recovery process.

We know that we need to do more to support Queenslanders experiencing mental illness and mental health challenges due to the impacts of COVID-19.

To truly respond to mental health challenges requires a localised, community-led approach.

That is why, as a key part of this plan, the government has announced \$46.5 million for localised mental health community treatment and support services.

These local responses are designed to be flexible and will be stood up rapidly to meet the needs of individuals, families and communities.

This initiative will help to reduce the strain on our emergency departments and provide additional support across the state for those Queenslanders doing it tough.

It will also build on existing partnerships between the public, private and non-government sectors to help respond quickly and effectively to people in need.



CASE STUDY

Protecting our health workers in uncertain times

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted global stock shortages of PPE, supply chain challenges and the importance of having access to sufficient stock.

While Queensland has not experienced the critical stock shortages realised by other healthcare providers across the world, good planning and ongoing vigilance to protect our frontline workers is key.

Queensland's stockpiles of supplies of PPE will be increased by tens of millions of pieces, with a newly expanded bulk storage site at Inala in Brisbane.

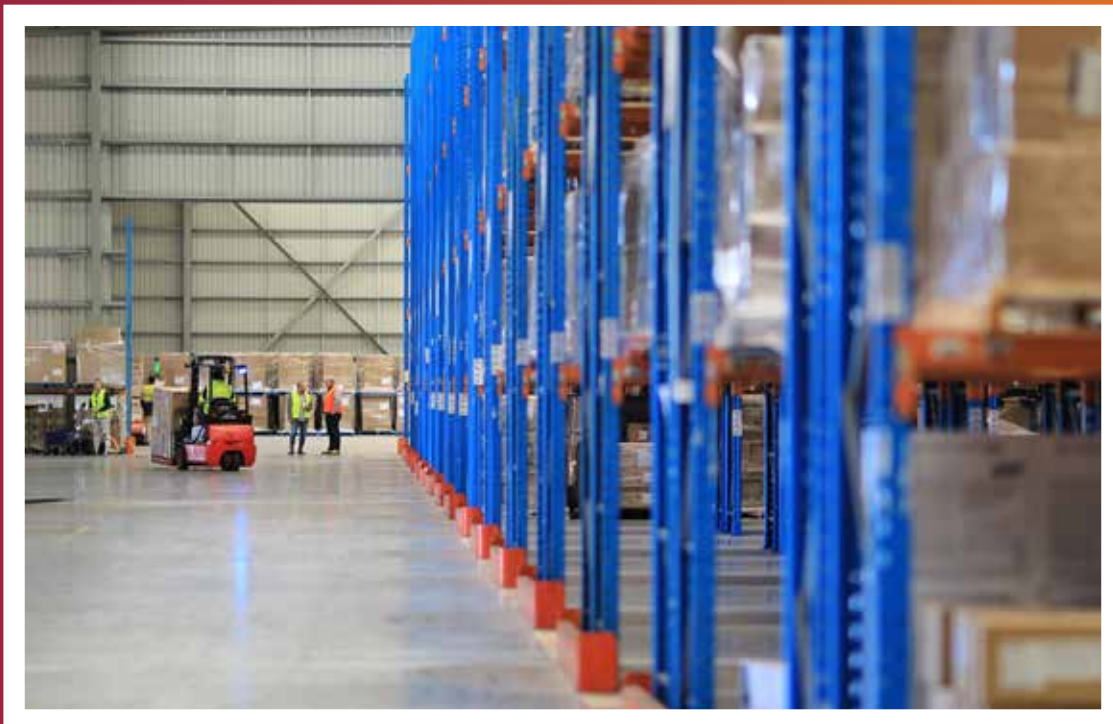
The Inala storage site facility will expand by 50 per cent and add to existing distribution centres and regional warehouses across the state.

This will ensure a steady supply of key PPE items if the need arises - including more than 900 days of surgical masks, more than 200 days of medical gowns, and close to 300 days of gloves.

The original site is currently holding approximately 120 million pieces of PPE across 9,500 pallet spaces, including those all-important items such as surgical masks, gloves and protective eyewear.

From early September the facility will span 15,500m² – adding an extra 4,500 pallet spaces – and based on current stock storage is set to increase to around 180 million pieces of PPE.

Having this expanded site ensures Queensland will continue to have enough critical supplies of PPE for our healthcare workers who play an essential role in keeping Queensland communities safe.



Our plan for Queensland's future
Priority area 1

SAFEGUARDING OUR HEALTH

STRONG HEALTH SYSTEM

Over the past three years, the Queensland Government has delivered record health budgets to enhance health services, facilities and health promotion programs to keep Queenslanders of all ages healthy and active.

With planned expenditure of over \$3 billion from 2020-21 to 2023-24, Queenslanders across the state will see expansions and upgrades to their local health infrastructure.

COVID-19 has strengthened the collaboration and cooperation between the primary care and hospital sectors. We will leverage our success in managing the pandemic to grow job opportunities, improve liveability, attract investment and maintain our local capacity to meet healthcare needs, including emerging mental health issues.

HIGHLIGHTED ACTION TO DATE

The Queensland Government has taken key actions as part of the *Queensland Health COVID-19 Response Plan*, including:

- expanding fever clinics, contact tracing, intensive care and emergency department capacity, and acute care services for remote communities
- fast-tracking the development of a COVID-19 vaccine by supporting University of Queensland researchers
- providing grants to 130 community-based health service groups – including community mental health groups – to ensure vital services can continue
- providing over \$21 million to combat the spread of COVID-19 amongst First Nations Queenslanders.

We also delivered a range of initiatives to ensure continued distribution of essential supplies, such as PPE and food and grocery products.

Critical to this work was the establishment of the Essential Goods Supply Committee in March 2020. The committee brought together a wide range of industry and government stakeholders to share important information, address supply blockages caused by unprecedented consumer demand for staple food and grocery products, and enable manufacturers and suppliers to connect directly to address emerging challenges.

This included changes to operating hours of loading docks and distribution centres to keep our supermarket shelves stocked and temporary use licences that have allowed a brewer to pivot to the production of hand sanitiser. Necessary changes to the planning framework were made in March 2020 to support business transition and innovation and ensure access to critical supplies.

BUILDING ON STRONG FOUNDATIONS

Boost your Healthy

In addition to the launch of an online resource hub, Queenslanders were encouraged to participate in a series of challenges, commencing with The Billion Steps Challenge. Achieved in just 32 days, residents from over 300 postcodes participated in the challenge, delivered in partnership with 10,000 Steps. With the help of our Principal Partner, Sport and Recreation Queensland, professional athletes also issued daily challenges to support Queenslanders to stay active while staying at home.

To support healthy home cooking The Queensland Country Women's Association (QCWA) Cook at Home Challenge was delivered with The QCWA Country Kitchens program and the *My Health for Life* Wellbeing Series empowered Queenslanders to make positive changes for their physical and mental wellbeing.

"The challenges were designed for people of all ages and abilities to take part," said Dr Robyn Littlewood, Chief Executive, Health and Wellbeing Queensland.

"We will continue to leverage Boost your Healthy to deliver innovative activities to support recovery."



Gretel Bueta and Jeff Horn at the Boost your Healthy launch

“During the current unprecedented health crisis, the constructive working relationship between AMA Queensland and the Queensland Government has enabled us to bring forth issues and collaboratively develop practical solutions quickly - in the best interests of our frontline health workers and the public.”

Jane Schmitt
CEO, Australian Medical Association Queensland



Our plan for Queensland's future
Priority area 2

BACKING SMALL BUSINESS

Our plan will help small business – the backbone of our economy – thrive in a changing environment

Small businesses are the backbone of the Queensland economy and have been among the hardest hit by COVID-19. They are in every community in every region. They represent over 97 per cent of businesses state wide and employ 42 per cent of all private sector workers.

Small businesses are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of extreme events and disruptions. While many small businesses have shown their adaptability, the immediate challenges of COVID-19 have been felt in every industry sector, from construction, agriculture, fishing and tourism, to retail, education and health care, and in every local community.

We want small business to come back better than before and will be providing further support for business to increase its capacity to innovate, grow and create more jobs for Queenslanders.

BUYING LOCAL

It's never been more important to buy local.

A key step to recovery will be encouraging customers to show their support for small businesses by shopping locally. By doing so, small businesses can grow their business, create local jobs and help their community.

The Queensland Government is also stepping up to support Queensland's small businesses. We are implementing new measures, like procurement targets and faster payment times, to support more small and medium enterprises to secure work from Queensland Government procurement.

INCREASING SKILLS AND CAPABILITY

COVID-19 has highlighted that business management capability and digital skills are critically important in connecting Queensland businesses to new opportunities in Australia and around the world.

While COVID-19 has accelerated many of the transitions already underway in relation to digital technologies, the capabilities and confidence of small businesses to capitalise on these technologies is mixed.

Small businesses will need to be ready to take advantage of opportunities as the economy evolves and successfully innovate and adapt to digital and technological change.

That's why the Queensland Government wants to see small business build their skills in areas such as financial literacy, cash flow management, marketing, leadership, management and digital.

The Small Business Digital Grants scheme has provided small businesses with access to digital technologies or services so they can work smarter and make the most of online business opportunities arising from digital technologies.

MAKING IT EASIER TO DO BUSINESS IN QUEENSLAND

Traditional ways of doing business have changed to adapt to COVID-19 restrictions. The Queensland Government moved swiftly and implemented regulatory reforms to respond to emerging issues and support innovative business practices, for example allowing licenced venues such as restaurants and cafes to sell takeaway alcohol.

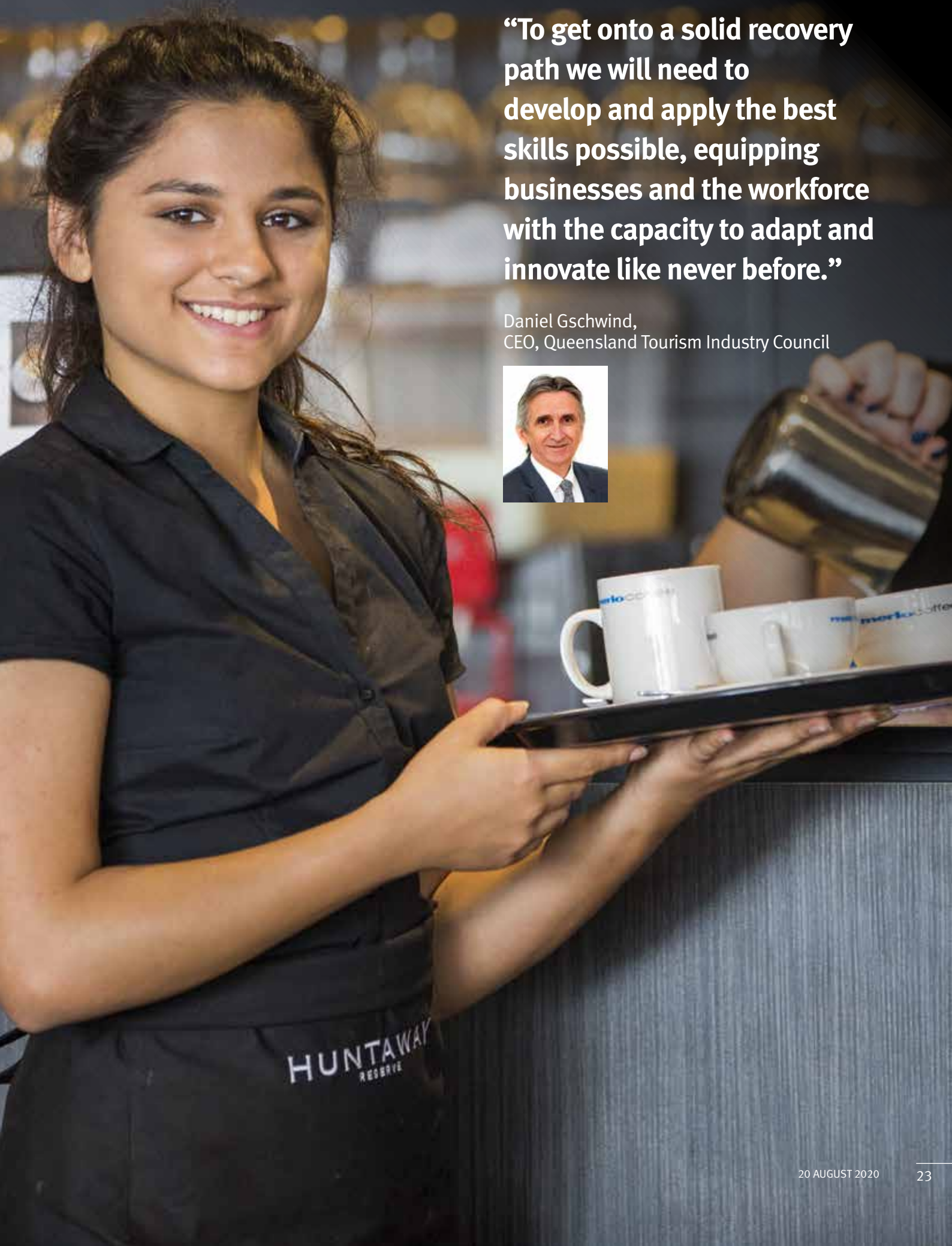
Making it easier to do business in Queensland will not only support our recovery now, but encourage businesses to be more innovative, adaptive and competitive in the longer term.

In doing so, it will be important to take a partnership approach as regulatory reform is a shared issue between state, federal and local governments.

The government is currently consulting on proposed amendments to the planning framework to better support low-risk, economic value-adding uses in appropriate zones. For example, a newsagent changing to a hairdresser, a new warehouse looking to establish in an industrial area, or a rural property owner looking to provide farm stay accommodation.

“To get onto a solid recovery path we will need to develop and apply the best skills possible, equipping businesses and the workforce with the capacity to adapt and innovate like never before.”

Daniel Gschwind,
CEO, Queensland Tourism Industry Council



CASE STUDY

Business is blooming

When COVID-19 restrictions meant Artisan Florals closed their doors, the team moved to increase their online presence and ensure their website could handle higher volumes of online sales and deliveries.

“We created and marketed home craft kits and a new ‘at home’ bunch with longer lasting florals for customers to enjoy,” Shannon Hawkes explains.

“We used the resources from the Business Queensland website to apply for the payroll tax relief refund, learn about the \$500 electricity rebate, and attend the Small Business Resilience webinars with TAFE Queensland to redevelop our business plan and the payroll tax relief was great for boosting our cash flow,” she says.

“We’ve just hired a new delivery driver with support from the Queensland Government’s Back to Work program and we’re hoping this will give us more control over our deliveries, reduce our external courier expenses and serve as great local advertising too.

“We have experienced an increase in daily flower sales that more than made up for the six months of postponed weddings,” Shannon says with a sigh of relief.



Our plan for Queensland's future
Priority area 2

BACKING SMALL BUSINESS

HIGHLIGHTED ACTION TO DATE

The Queensland Government moved swiftly to provide a range of financial, advisory and targeted assistance to small-to medium-sized businesses.

A dedicated small business hotline was established to assist small business navigate assistance and to direct small businesses to relevant support and information. This was supported by regional staff across Queensland and regular access to up-to-date information via the Business Queensland website.

We have provided immediate financial support through key programs:

- \$1 billion COVID-19 Jobs Support Loan scheme, which provides concessional loans of up to \$250,000 to eligible

businesses of which small businesses have been the main recipient (representing 87 per cent of successful applications)

- providing up to \$950 million in payroll tax relief including refunds, payment holidays and deferrals for eligible businesses as well as a tax exemption for JobKeeper payments
- \$196 million Small Business COVID-19 Adaption Grants program is expected to assist up to 20,000 small businesses. It provides eligible business owners and operators up to \$10,000 to adapt, pivot and sustain their business. By supporting these businesses, we are helping sustain the jobs of over 200,000 Queenslanders

- \$100 million in electricity bill rebates for eligible small-and medium-sized businesses.

The Queensland Government has also helped businesses build their capability through a range of skills and training programs, most notably:

- providing free online micro-credentials in areas including digital literacy, as well as free online skill sets in priority industry areas
- establishing the Queensland Small Business Skills Hub, which provides small businesses and their employees free access to a curated library of around 400 online courses in topics such as Leading a Successful Business, Digital Skills and Foundation Business Skills.

A note from Queensland's Small Business Commissioner

As the impact of the pandemic ramped up, the Queensland Government's small business hotline and Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland's (CCIQ) business support line received unprecedented levels of calls for assistance.

The Government acted swiftly in supporting the CCIQ to run a proactive outreach to small business and appointed a Queensland Small Business Commissioner (QSBC), Ms Maree Adshead, formerly Small Business Champion, until the end of 2020 under the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020*.

"It was important to me that we hit the ground running and delivered immediate support, the moment the regulation was enacted. In fact, we locked in two mediation conferences within just 24 hours.

"The first mediation conference we arranged was for a motel business situated in Townsville. Coincidentally, this was one of the many businesses I had assisted through the North Queensland monsoon flood event last year in my previous role of Small Business Champion.

"It was such a relief when the dispute was successfully resolved at mediation. The owners have since told me that, due to the swift action of my office, they were saved from eviction and can now finally see a way through the COVID-19 pandemic."



Our plan for Queensland's future
Priority area 3

MAKING IT FOR QUEENSLAND

Our plan will grow manufacturing across Queensland in traditional and new industries, making new products in new ways, creating new jobs

Queensland manufacturers are entrepreneurial, innovative, and globally recognised. Our well-established industries, highly developed supply chains and globally significant research and development capability make Queensland an attractive place to do business.

As an industry, manufacturing contributes more than \$20 billion a year to the Queensland economy and supports around 165,000 jobs. It reaches across different sectors, different regions and different markets.

From rail manufacturing, food processing, craft brewing, meat processing, aerospace and medicine—manufacturing is both an industry in its own right and a critical strength of Queensland's economy. Manufacturing is also an important part of the supply chain of many industries such as agriculture.

With almost a third of manufacturing taking place in regional Queensland, prioritising this sector will deliver widespread benefits across our state.

Increasingly, economies around the world are pursuing opportunities to harness research and innovation to generate new industries and new jobs. We want to see Queensland industry make and grow more products, add more value to existing products and compete in an increasingly complex world.

ATTRACTING MANUFACTURERS TO QUEENSLAND

Through the pandemic Queensland's manufacturers stepped up and adapted to meet the challenges of the health crisis, quickly retooling to fill gaps in global supply chains for PPE and other essential products for our front-line workers.

We want to maintain that momentum—encouraging Australian companies to bring back manufacturing done overseas and invest in Queensland.

To do this, we will continue to support the adoption of leading-edge technologies and practices. We'll also work with manufacturers to place a greater focus on local supply to reduce inputs from overseas and shorten supply chains.

Attracting new businesses to Queensland will continue to strengthen our regional manufacturing base—particularly in agriculture and food processing—creating new and diverse job opportunities across the state.

It also builds Queensland's supply of high value goods and services, strengthening our ability to respond to future pandemics.

POWERING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Queensland Government wants to lift productivity and build the international competitiveness of the manufacturing sector and emerging industries by developing growth precincts to attract private investment, streamline approvals and drive growth.

We will foster growth precincts across the state where businesses, workers and technology can come together to build skills and innovate, access new market opportunities, build on the individual strengths of our regions and create jobs. This includes partnering with industry to create dedicated precincts to embrace emerging opportunities, as well as developing next generation regional plans that can support economic growth.

This builds on our existing \$13.5 million Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program to grow advanced manufacturing capability in the Cairns, Townsville and Rockhampton regions.

ADOPTING LEADING-EDGE TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES

The manufacturing industry operates in a rapidly changing environment. Embracing new and emerging technologies is vital to improve productivity and competitiveness.

“Queensland manufacturers are diverse, resilient and vitally important to the state’s economy and our communities. We have a great opportunity to re-imagine the future for both traditional and emerging businesses, across all regions, as we look to grow the sector and employ more Queenslanders.”

Rebecca Andrews
Head, Ai Group Queensland



Our plan for Queensland's future
Priority area 3

MAKING IT FOR QUEENSLAND

By combining leading technologies and practices with our competitive strengths, we will create high-skill employment opportunities and world leading businesses.

We are already working with industry to increase adoption of leading-edge technologies, develop a highly skilled workforce and improve access to domestic and global markets.

The Queensland Government will build on this work by encouraging our key industries to innovate and adopt new technology and practices that makes us globally competitive.

Much of this new technology and innovation can be sourced from local start-ups, entrepreneurs and researchers. Through the Advance Queensland initiative a strong network of innovation has been built across the state.

HIGHLIGHTED ACTION TO DATE

Throughout the pandemic, the Queensland Government has continued to partner with industry to address critical supply issues.

The Queensland Government has worked closely with local suppliers and manufacturers to ensure Queensland can readily scale-up to bolster supplies of PPE when required.

On 19 May 2020, the Queensland Government announced up to \$50 million would be redirected to help Queensland manufacturers make essential goods such as PPE, health consumables and devices.

This builds on strong foundations. Together with industry, we are already implementing the *Advanced*

Manufacturing 10-year Roadmap and Action Plan to support businesses in adapting to Industry 4.0.

Through the Queensland Government's existing \$755 million Advance Queensland program, we have identified several priority and emerging industries and have developed a series of roadmaps for each industry. Each roadmap will build our competitive strengths, diversify our economy and create the knowledge-based jobs of the future.

For example, the Agtech and Logistics Hub in Toowoomba will focus on the growth of the agricultural industry through the development and adoption of innovation and technology. The Hub will provide a central place for agribusiness, start-ups, small businesses, training providers, researchers and the supply chain to collaborate on solutions to industry challenges.

BUILDING ON STRONG FOUNDATIONS

Creating new defence manufacturing capability in Ipswich

In a landmark deal for Queensland, we secured the \$5.2 billion LAND 400 Phase 2 project with Rheinmetall Defence Australia to deliver new Boxer Combat Reconnaissance Vehicles for the Australian Army.

Rheinmetall's new \$170 million Australia-New Zealand Headquarters and Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence at Redbank, Ipswich provides a foundation to realise opportunities far beyond this project by positioning the region as a gateway to the growth markets of the Asia Pacific.

The facility will be a regional hub with an expected program of continuous design, build and support for up to 5000 military vehicles in Australia and the Asia Pacific.

Rheinmetall expects that over 450 jobs will be created for Queenslanders and \$1 billion will be contributed to the Queensland economy in the first 10 years.



CASE STUDY

Made in Queensland - Dobinsons Spring and Suspension

North Rockhampton manufacturer Dobinsons Spring and Suspension is positioned to step up and address supply chain disruptions after a grant from the Queensland Government helped them acquire world-leading equipment.

In October 2019, the company received over \$581,000 through a Made in Queensland Round 2 grant towards a \$1.2 million project to introduce state-of-the-art cold coiling processing capability.

This leading-edge equipment enabled the move to agile manufacturing, supporting product diversification that allowed Dobinsons to quickly and effectively

respond to changing customer needs and rise to supply chain challenges resulting from COVID-19.

Dobinsons Spring and Suspension Director Mr Glen Dobinson said the grant has helped the company get through these trying economic times and become more cost effective while expanding their product range.

“We were also able to put on three new full-time workers and expect to create a total of 12 new jobs in the region over the next five years,” he said.



Our plan for Queensland's future
Priority area 4

BUILDING QUEENSLAND

Our plan will drive investment in the infrastructure that supports our recovery, resilience and future prosperity

Infrastructure investment is a key driver of economic growth and job creation—powering the state's economic recovery, future prosperity and resilience.

It supports our industries, regions and communities to improve productivity and encourage private sector investment.

We've heard the clear message from industry: government has an important role in creating an environment of business confidence – with greater certainty, simplified processes, and more collaborative arrangements.

That's why we released the *Capital Program 2020 Update*, which provides industry with a clear view of the government capital program over the coming year.

“Ultimately infrastructure is for people and this plan provides a clear pathway to a brighter future for Queenslanders. IAQ is proud to be working in partnership with the public sector to deliver enabling infrastructure that will strengthen business confidence, attract private investment, and support and create jobs.”

Priscilla Radice
CEO, Infrastructure Association of Queensland Inc (IAQ)



INFRASTRUCTURE GUARANTEE

The \$51.8 billion Queensland Government Infrastructure guarantee provides industry with confidence to invest and sustain jobs across Queensland.

Our four-year infrastructure investment program is the largest in nearly a decade and will sustain activity in the state's construction sector. In 2020-21, this will mean a \$13.9 billion investment, directly supporting around 44,000 jobs.

As part of our infrastructure guarantee, the Queensland Government is committed to fast-tracking vital infrastructure projects to stimulate economic recovery and sustain construction sector activity across Queensland.

We have already started this, with significant investments in new schools and upgrading existing school infrastructure this year and into the future.

PARTNERING WITH INDUSTRY

The Queensland Government will partner with industry to encourage private sector investment, make better decisions on infrastructure and make it easier to deliver projects.

One such example is the \$200 million Building Acceleration Fund through which the Queensland Government will partner with councils, developers and industry to deliver catalytic infrastructure that unlocks development and enables further private sector investment helping to reinvigorate our economy and creating resilient, secure and sustainable jobs for Queenslanders.

Queensland’s planning framework is set up to support quicker, more transparent and acceptable development assessment outcomes. This provides certainty for industry and the community, while attracting the necessary investment to deliver growth across the state. This framework has enabled the government to support the construction and building industries during COVID-19 and will be key in driving future growth and prosperity in these sectors.

As the state recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, the planning framework will continue to be reviewed, improved and aligned to support economic recovery initiatives to ensure the right development occurs in the right location.

SUPPORTING INTERCONNECTED REGIONS

The transport sector supports the growth of Queensland businesses by providing efficient and accessible connections to consumer markets.

The Queensland Government is continuing to improve network access to local, national and overseas markets by improving port connections and intermodal efficiency.



Of critical importance is the Bruce Highway which is Queensland’s longest road that millions of Queenslanders depend on. It connects locals to growing regional centres, moving freight between our ports and regional communities and from paddocks and pits to export markets.

The Bruce Highway Upgrade Program is the largest road infrastructure program Queensland has ever seen. It is aimed at improving safety, flood resilience,

and capacity along the length and breadth of the highway between Brisbane and Cairns.

There’s currently \$12.6 billion in joint funding locked-in for the Bruce Highway to help to bust congestion and is estimated to support an average of 2,500 jobs over the life of the program.

BUILDING ON STRONG FOUNDATIONS

Cross River Rail

In May 2020, tunnelling began for Queensland’s largest job-creating infrastructure project – Cross River Rail – with a focus on boosting employment and busting congestion.

The new 10.2km rail line will run from Dutton Park to Bowen Hills and will include twin 5.9km tunnels under the Brisbane River and CBD. Cross River Rail will increase network capacity, allowing more trains to run more often and enabling a turn-up-and-go public transport network.

Four new underground, high-capacity stations will generate unique opportunities for urban renewal, economic development, revitalisation and employment – triggering decades of further economic investment that will benefit the entire state.

The project will support an average of 1,500 jobs each year over the construction period, and up to 3,000 jobs in the most intensive year. It will generate 450 new apprentice and traineeship opportunities for aspiring builders, electricians, welders and specialists.



Our plan for Queensland's future
Priority area 4

BUILDING QUEENSLAND

HIGHLIGHTED ACTION TO DATE

Building vital infrastructure has been a core focus throughout our staged and adaptable approach to recovery. We have invested in roads, schools, hospitals, as well as small scale works delivered by local councils.

Highlights of our COVID-19 infrastructure program include:

- \$400 million towards the Accelerated Works Program for new road improvements, supporting 430 direct jobs over the life of the program
- \$200 million COVID Works for Queensland program, which provided funding to all 77 local governments for 520 projects to build productive infrastructure
- \$100 million housing construction, Works for Tradies, program to build new social housing to be built across Queensland
- \$50 million Unite and Recover Community Stimulus Package – further funding to eligible South East Queensland local governments to fast-track investment in new infrastructure and community assets that create jobs and deliver economic stimulus to local communities.

BUILDING QUEENSLAND SPOTLIGHT ON OUR INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION

Building new school infrastructure and maintaining existing facilities not only ensures Queensland state school students have world-class learning environments, but it also supports thousands of local jobs.

Investment in new school infrastructure is being facilitated through the Queensland Government's Building Future Schools Fund, which saw eight new schools opened in 2020. In July 2020, the program was expanded with the announcement of an additional \$346 million package, creating 870 new jobs. The Building Future School Fund is delivering:

- five new state schools to open in 2021 including the Inner City South State Secondary College, the Baringa State Secondary College (in Caloundra South), a new primary and a new special school at Palmview and the Gainsborough State School (in Pimpama)
- three new state schools to open in 2022, including two new primary schools at Caloundra South and North Maclean and a new special school in Coomera
- a new state primary school in Brisbane's inner west to open in 2023
- the expansion of West End State School.

In August 2020, a further \$220 million was announced for maintenance and improvement works for state schools. This investment will support more than 720 jobs throughout Queensland as schools engage with local businesses to get works done as quickly as possible.

The continued rollout of the \$477 million Cooler Cleaner Schools Program will see air conditioning in every classroom, staffroom and library in Queensland state schools by June 2022. The installation of 180,000 solar panels on school rooftops will help offset those costs and ensure the pipeline of work continues to flow throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.



CASE STUDY

Partnering with industry to unlock development

The \$200 million Building Acceleration Fund is a Queensland Government initiative to accelerate economic recovery through investing in infrastructure that unlocks development, generates construction activity and creates long-term employment.

The fund will provide co-investment funds through an interest-free loan for up to 15 years, so that construction can start now. The funds will be available to eligible developers, councils and industry for infrastructure projects that generate private sector investment and stimulate post-COVID19 economic recovery.

A similar program in 2017, the Catalyst Infrastructure Program, delivered hundreds of jobs and \$3 of private sector investment for every \$1 from the Government.

Queensland Executive Director of the Property Council of Australia, Chris Mountford, said infrastructure delivery is often costly and may present a significant barrier to new development.

“Many worthwhile projects can get delayed or scrapped as supplying the initial infrastructure is too expensive, making projects unviable.”



James Cook University's Douglas Campus received \$5 million through the Catalyst Infrastructure Program towards the Central Plaza development which will help unlock \$280 million of private sector investment in the University's Discovery Rise development.

Our plan for Queensland's future
Priority area 5

GROWING OUR REGIONS

Our plan will help Queensland's regions grow: attracting people, talent and investment, and driving sustainable economic prosperity

Queensland is home to around 5.18 million people, with approximately half the state living outside of Brisbane.

The diversity of Queensland's regions is one of our core strengths.

For example, more than half of tourism businesses are located in regional areas and, in some regions like the Whitsundays, tourism accounts for up to one in three jobs.

Around 40 per cent of Queensland exporters are also based in regional Queensland. Despite the disruptions of COVID-19 to traditional supply chains, there is a rising demand for Queensland's clean, green food and agricultural products, our resources, skills and services.

We will continue to work in partnership with regional communities to build economic resilience and complement locally led efforts.

Through local partnerships, we will focus our efforts on key projects that support regional business and industry, including in tourism, agriculture, resources and energy. This will help improve regional competitiveness and productivity.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Queensland's regional economies will be stronger and more resilient by building on their strengths, diversifying, and enhancing their capabilities.

We will continue to work with regions on projects and programs to support economic resilience and growth.

This includes co-investing with industry and private capital to support longer-term growth.

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Connecting our regions to better broadband will improve business, lifestyle and government services by providing more digital opportunities.

Consumer behaviour has changed, and e-commerce and online retailing are here to stay. Queensland industries must embrace digital transformation to be globally competitive.

We are supporting new investment and jobs with the extension of the government owned QCN Fibre to provide Queenslanders with faster, more reliable internet by using 10,000km of state-owned optical fibre along the east coast of Queensland.

In doing so, the Queensland Government is improving the quality of internet for homes and businesses, which will in turn support broader economic and social benefits for regional Queensland.



CASE STUDY

UK investor backs Queensland solar farm

Jobs and other economic benefits will flow from a new solar farm to be established south of Gladstone with backing from overseas investors.

The 300MW Rodds Bay Solar Farm will be one of Australia’s largest renewables projects, capable of powering around 88,000 homes.

The \$350 million project has the backing of UK investor United Green, which has agreed to acquire a majority stake from current owners, Renew Estate.

Rodds Bay will be United Green’s first entry into the Australian energy market, adding to their impressive portfolio of renewables developments in Europe, Asia and the Middle East. The investment demonstrates international confidence in Queensland’s renewables sector.

About 50km from Gladstone, the project will connect to Queensland’s transmission network between Bororen and

Rodds Bay and has the potential to create more than 300 construction jobs and ongoing operational roles.

Renew Estate is a joint venture between Australia’s innovative energy accelerator Energy Estate and Beast Solutions and global solar operator WIRSOL Energy—the Australian arm of Germany’s WIRCON Group, which owns Queensland’s Whitsunday, Hamilton and Clermont solar farms.



BUILDING ON STRONG FOUNDATIONS

Working Together: Partnerships for growth with industry

The Queensland Government has a strong record of partnering with industry to drive growth, create jobs and deliver new economic opportunities.

Industry roadmaps are being developed and implemented in emerging and priority sectors with global growth potential. Through Advance Queensland, the Government has collaborated with industry, research organisations, unions and other levels to develop these roadmaps.

The roadmaps have drawn together key drivers of growth including innovation, skills, infrastructure and export development to build our competitive strengths, and diversify our economy.

As part of recovery, we will build on these partnerships and work together to encourage industry recovery.

Growth precincts are an opportunity to build on these partnerships at a regional and local level. Many of the initiatives that have and will be undertaken as part of our recovery will benefit multiple industries.

Individual departments are closely engaged with industry around their priorities and how to best navigate an uncertain economic environment.

We will all have to maintain flexibility to respond to developments and best position our key industries in the light of events.

Where our approach needs to change to accommodate COVID-19 then we will work in partnership to do that.

Priority sectors, and their roadmaps, include:

- Tourism
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Biofutures
- Biomedical
- Defence
- Mining, equipment technology and services (METS)
- Aerospace
- Agriculture and food
- International Education
- Screen
- Hydrogen

Our plan for Queensland's future
Priority area 5

GROWING OUR REGIONS

DELIVERING NEW ENERGY

In 2015, the Queensland Government started a renewable energy boom in Queensland.

Since then, 39 large scale renewable energy projects have become operational or are under construction, representing \$6.6 billion in investment and around 5,700 construction jobs.

By the end of 2020, renewables are expected to supply 20 per cent of Queensland's electricity, putting the state on track to achieve our 50 per cent renewable energy target.

We will continue to build Queensland's hydrogen industry, encourage renewable energy investment across the state, and develop a renewable export industry.

Access to reliable renewable energy will help grow and power our industries of the future. By pairing investment in renewable energy generation with high energy consumption industrial activity the Queensland Government will drive green, future-focused economic development.

INVESTING IN WATER

Queensland's water resources and infrastructure are a key foundation of economic growth and regional development.

Since 2017, the Queensland Government has committed more than \$1.2 billion in water infrastructure for Queensland, supporting around 2,300 jobs. We will build on this work by actively assessing further investments.

By continuing to invest in agriculture, industrial and urban water security, the Queensland Government is bringing down barriers to investment and supporting new regional economic activity.

TAKING OUR REGIONS TO THE WORLD

Amid the uncertainty of COVID-19, international buyers and investors continue to look for trusted allies and suppliers with strong environmental credentials.

Our industries are known worldwide for delivering products that are high-quality and have a reputation for using world's best-practice solutions. Queensland's success in dealing with COVID-19 while keeping industry operating presents an opportunity to promote our credentials as sustainable, reliable suppliers of natural resources, our traditional export strengths.

We recognise that tourism is the life blood of many regional communities and a vital export earner and job creator. We are committed to supporting tourism now and building resilience for the longer term.

In addition to targeted industry support, our small business assistance is also helping the great majority of tourism businesses.

HIGHLIGHTED ACTION TO DATE

Regional economies have benefited from targeted industry support manufacturing in the areas of tourism, resources, agriculture, and construction. Many regional businesses have accessed loans and financial supports.

We are also building and supporting vital infrastructure development in regional Queensland.

We are investing in projects that will catalyse growth in our regions:

- \$10 million additional funding to upscale the Collaborative Exploration Initiative and support exploration activity for new economy minerals for emerging technologies and products
- \$14.8 million additional funding to support the potential development of CopperString 2.0, a high voltage transmission line to potentially provide cheaper power to the North West Minerals Province
- targeted supports to encourage regional tourists, including 'Queensland – You're Good to Go' domestic marketing campaign, which is expected to generate \$1 billion in overnight visitor expenditure and \$15 million airline route support which is expected to support the return of 4,500 jobs as the industry recovers
- \$17.5 million funding for the agricultural sector to build business and digital capability and explore diversification opportunities
- \$10 million Reef Assist Program to deliver priority environmental projects and create up to 200 employment opportunities in the Great Barrier Reef catchments
- delivering the final round of the \$10 million Rural Economic Development Grants: stimulating investment, adding value to the agribusiness and food sector, and creating regional jobs.

“The Queensland Government’s quick response to developing and supporting regional Queensland in the COVID-19 crisis – including through Works for Queensland projects – has been instrumental to allow businesses to quickly recover, access grants or continue trading.”

Tony Rayner
Mayor, Longreach Regional Council



Our plan for Queensland's future
Priority area 5

GROWING OUR REGIONS

SPOTLIGHT ON TRANSPORT

Queensland's transport sector is as diverse as the state it connects. Stretching from tropical North Queensland to the Gold Coast, the sector plays an important role in supporting local economies and jobs.

As Queensland's economy continues to recover, industries like tourism, resources and construction that are traditionally based in regional areas will need support to get moving again. The transport sector is also well positioned to boost emerging industries like agribusiness and hydrogen by building infrastructure to connect them with new markets.

Building and maintaining infrastructure can also generate employment beyond of the jobs required to deliver projects. Local construction has a multiplier effect, supporting regional supply chains that provide materials, expertise and other goods and services required to deliver transport and roads projects. From hardware stores, service stations to traffic management and control – delivering infrastructure supports more than just the transport sector.

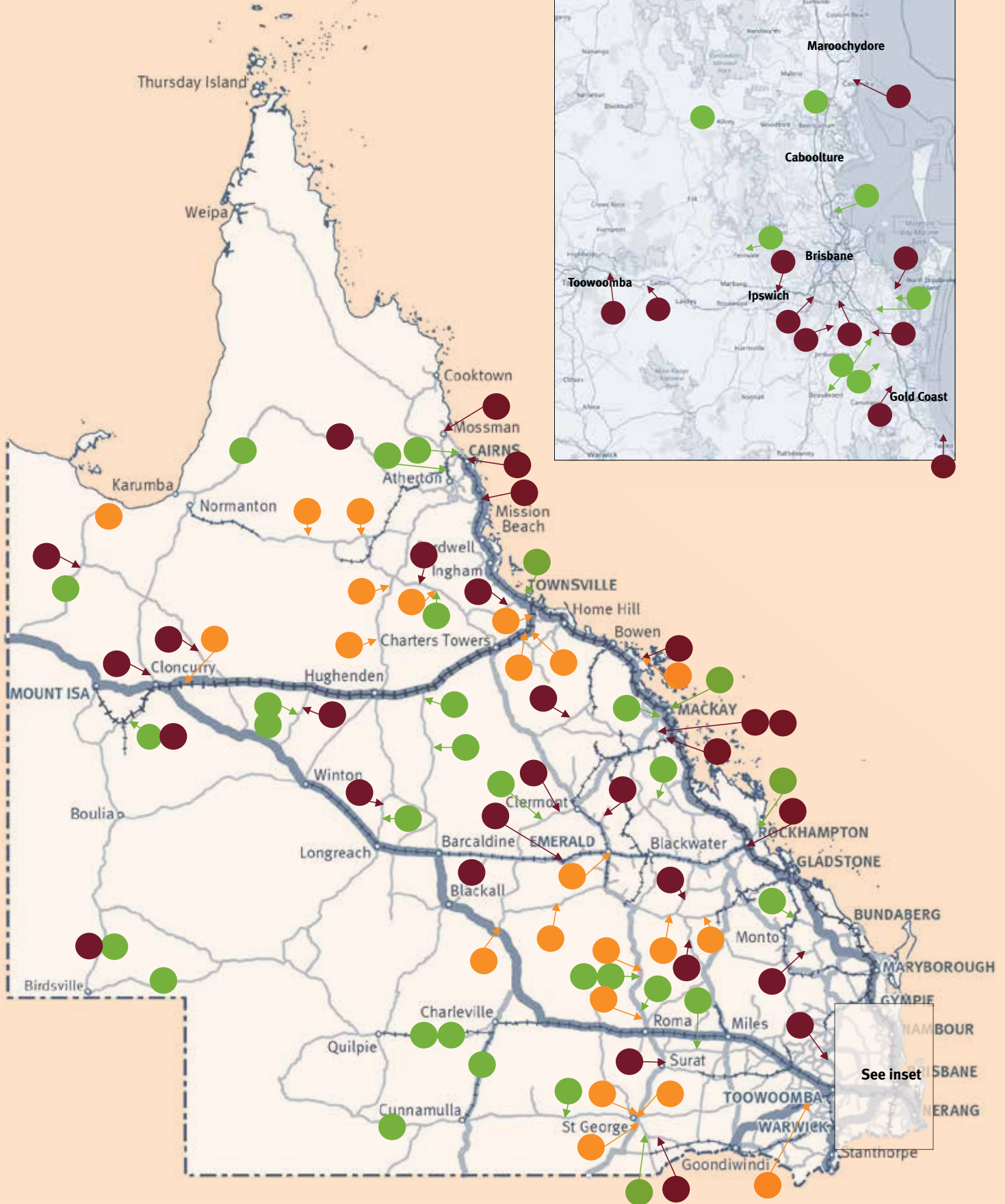
We are already investing in Queensland's regional transport. Throughout the pandemic, the Queensland Government has continued to invest in roads, delivering new projects as part of our record \$23 billion pipeline of transport and road upgrades over four years. This investment will support an estimated 21,500 jobs, including approximately 13,500 jobs outside of the Brisbane, Ipswich and Redlands local government areas.

We have recently announced three major road infrastructure packages, in partnership with the Australian Government:

- **\$185 million Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) early works package, supporting 180 direct jobs in regional Queensland**
- **\$400 million for a package of new road network improvements, supporting 430 direct jobs over the life of the program**
- **\$415 million for new shovel-ready network improvements and targeted safety upgrades, supporting 670 direct jobs over the life of the program**



ROAD NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE STIMULUS PROJECTS ACROSS QUEENSLAND



NEW BOWEN BASIN PIPELINE STUDY

Gas is a critical energy source for Queensland's manufacturing sector and new gas infrastructure will ensure a continued and more affordable supply to the domestic market. This will support ongoing jobs across our supply chain and industries.

As we transition to higher levels of renewable energy and a lower carbon future, gas will also be a key player in ensuring affordable, reliable and sustainable energy.

The Bowen Basin has potential to bring more gas to Queensland's domestic and export markets by opening up areas for new gas production, as well as capturing under-utilised gas from underground mines.

The Queensland Government is committing \$5 million to a Bowen Basin Gas Pipeline concept study, to investigate the feasibility and options for a new transmission pipeline to connect the Bowen Basin's gas reserves to the east coast of Queensland.

Increasing gas supply to the east coast will help grow Queensland's gas market and stabilise prices, meaning cheaper gas for domestic customers and more competitive trade with export markets.

It may also provide an opportunity to reduce fugitive emissions from the resources industry, contributing towards Queensland's transition to a low carbon economy.

The study will first analyse gas prospectivity and sources of fugitive mining emissions in the area and identify opportunities for industry involvement in the development of the pipeline, before determining the best pathway for the infrastructure.

If the study finds the project to be feasible, it could create more than 1000 jobs during construction and many more jobs from greater gas production.



POWERING OUR FUTURE

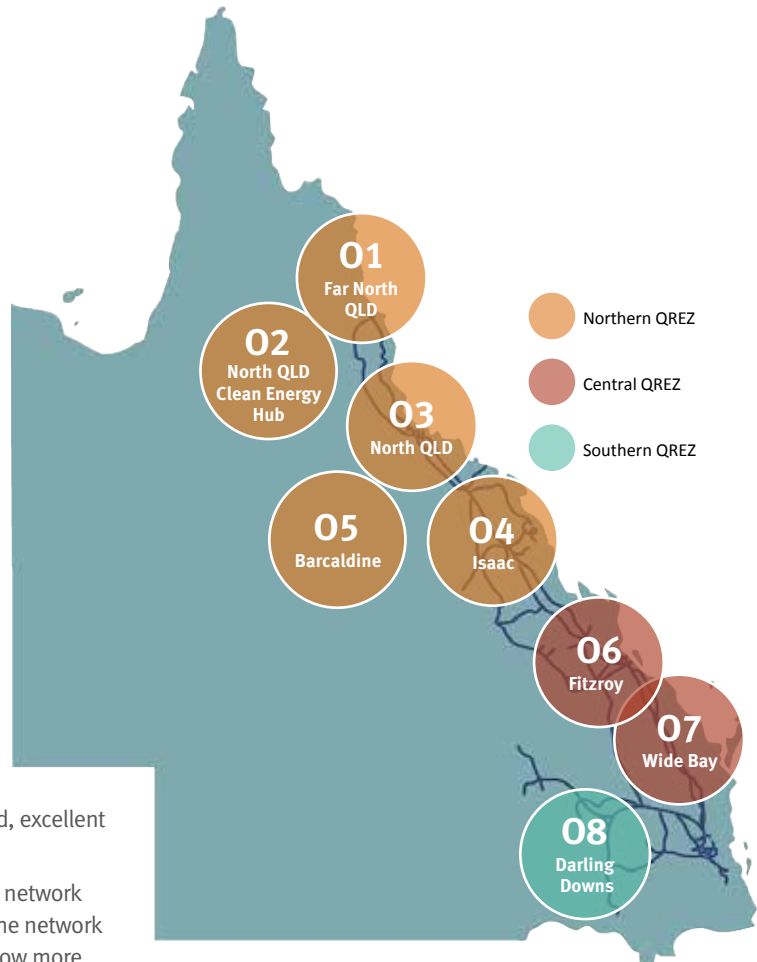
Queensland is an energy powerhouse and a leader in renewable energy.

To continue this momentum, attract investment and create new jobs, the Queensland Government is investing \$145 million to establish three Queensland renewable energy zones (QREZ) across Queensland – the southern, central and northern QREZ. In these areas, we will undertake strategic network investments, streamline the development of new renewable energy projects and work to match industrial energy demand with our cheap, clean renewable energy.

Queensland already has a proven track record in energy. We have, on average, the lowest electricity wholesale prices on the eastern seaboard, excellent renewable resources and endless potential.

Our \$145 million QREZ package will make strategic network investments to support our QREZs and help build the network of the future – helping to unlock congestion and allow more renewable energy projects to connect.

We will also support the deployment of new energy storage in Queensland to power our industry and our state over the long-term.

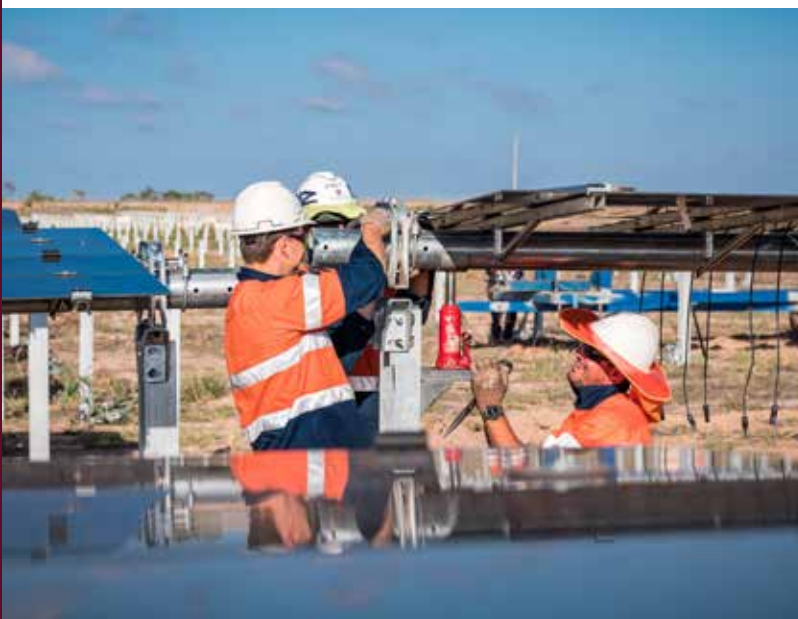


We will also attract new industries to these areas and support re-investment in Queensland’s existing heavy industry. This will not only grow demand for our world-class renewable energy, but also support Queensland’s COVID-19 economic recovery, with new investment and jobs.

Our \$145 million investment will position Queensland to build the industries of the future, such as green hydrogen and green aluminium. We have the opportunity to establish these industries right here in Queensland, and export our renewable resources to the world.

QREZs will help make this vision a reality.

The development of three QREZs will create jobs, drive investment and support a clean energy recovery from COVID-19. It will also give our industries of today and tomorrow access to cheap, reliable renewable energy.



Photograph: GENEX

Our plan for Queensland's future
Priority area 6

INVESTING IN SKILLS

Our plan will ensure Queenslanders have the skills they need to find meaningful jobs and set up pathways for the future

Queensland's future economic prosperity depends on having a skilled workforce.

The availability of skilled labour will be one of the key factors in attracting investment and creating jobs during Queensland's economic recovery.

That is why the Queensland Government is making critical investments to ensure small businesses, workers and jobseekers can continue to access the skills and training they need to recover and prosper in the future.

This investment is the key to ensuring that Queensland has a highly skilled and adaptable workforce. One that can meet the needs of employers, compete for jobs and be ready for emerging opportunities across all regions and industries.

In August 2019, we released the *Queensland Skills Strategy, Skills for Queensland: Great training for quality jobs* following extensive consultation with stakeholders.

This plan builds on the foundations of the Queensland Skills Strategy – as well as the Queensland Government's \$978 million investment to support skills and training - to help businesses, industry, the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector and individuals respond to disruption and drive our future economic prosperity.

ENCOURAGING APPRENTICESHIPS

Our trade businesses play an important role in developing the next generation of skilled workers. Through apprenticeships and traineeships, businesses help secure Queensland's future workforce, support a strong future of their industries, and rebuild local economies.

Given the challenges of the current environment, the Queensland Government has been working with employers to help retain existing apprentices and trainees and employ the future apprentices and trainees who will contribute to Queensland's economic recovery.

Fostering lifelong learning through higher level apprenticeships and micro credentials in emerging industries will also embed resilience and adaptability into our workforce over the long term.

DIGITAL LEARNING AND SKILLS

Enhanced digital skills and capabilities are essential for our workforce and businesses to adapt to a restructured, recovered economy and to keep our industries at the forefront.

Along with free COVID-Safe training to get businesses back up and running as our restrictions ease, we have also provided a wide range of free online training through TAFE Queensland and Central Queensland University including free online digital literacy and data security.

As digital skills become increasingly important for meaningful workforce participation, supporting Queenslanders to access ICT and digital skilling opportunities will be crucial as we prepare for new ways of working.

CREATING PATHWAYS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

We want every young Queenslander to succeed at school and to transition to further study or work. Each young person deserves access to a quality and meaningful education. This is a foundation of success for individuals, their families and the Queensland economy.

We will continue to build upon our commitments to give young Queenslanders access to the skills they need to secure meaningful jobs and grow the Queensland economy.

RESKILLING FOR QUEENSLANDERS

We will extend reskilling opportunities in priority industries for all Queenslanders.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of support for those in the community most vulnerable to reduced employment opportunities. The Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative provides help to eligible Queenslanders to gain the skills, qualifications and experience needed to enter and stay in the workforce.

“The Queensland Government has supported Community Services industry with free skill sets, micro credentials and targeted business assistance. These measures will support jobs growth in our industry through the recovery and beyond.”

Belinda Drew,
CEO, Community
Services Industry
Alliance



Our plan for Queensland's future
Priority area 6

INVESTING IN SKILLS



HIGHLIGHTED ACTION TO DATE

The Queensland Government has been responsive in supporting a broad cohort of workers, small businesses, apprentices and trainees, government-subsidised registered training organisations and jobseekers impacted by the pandemic.

We have invested in skills for the future through new apprenticeship and training centres in hydrogen and renewable energy. We are providing targeted support to education and training providers, including through a \$150 million loan facility for Queensland universities to support cash flow and protect jobs.

Most importantly, the Queensland Government is helping train and support jobseekers get back into work through:

- \$70 million extension to the successful Back to Work program to encourage employers to hire eligible unemployed Queenslanders, including a new Apprentice and Trainee Boost of up to \$20,000
- \$10 million extension to the successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, which provides training and employment support to disadvantaged Queenslanders
- \$10 million Reef Assist Program to deliver priority environmental projects and create up to 200 jobs in the Great Barrier Reef catchments.

The Queensland government has made a significant increased investment in skills so that more Queenslanders have access to free, or low cost, training places in areas of identified skills needs and continues to work with the Australian Government in relation to matched funding from a new \$1 billion national JobTrainer fund.

CASE STUDY

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

Tivoli Social Enterprises plays an important role in Ipswich supporting the disadvantaged and preparing local job seekers for work in the hospitality industry through its Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW) project.

When the second intake of 12 SQW trainees commenced in March 2020, the project quickly adapted to respond to increased demands for their services.

The trainees, who are completing a Certificate I in Hospitality while working at the Tivoli Drive-in Kitchen/ Café, have been hands on preparing meals for people required to isolate or experiencing financial hardship.

“Under the guidance of their Project Manager, Chef Sarah Carter, our trainees have found the experience very positive. They help prepare and deliver an average of 2,500 pre-cooked and frozen meals each week,” says Executive Pastor Fred Muys.

“The experience has taught them about preparing meals for distribution and how to operate in a kitchen under COVID-19 conditions.”



BUILDING ON STRONG FOUNDATIONS

Our skills strategy

The Queensland Skills Strategy, *Skills for Queensland – Great training for quality jobs* continues to provide a strong foundation for the Government’s investments in skills and training.

The strategy was developed following extensive consultation with stakeholders, including the Premier’s Future of Work – Skills and Industry Summit held in November 2018.

The six focus areas of the strategy will continue to guide our investments in skills as we plan for Queensland’s economic recovery.



IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

It is only because of our strong and effective health response that we have capacity to support the Queensland economy through the recovery phase and assist those most severely affected by the employment and economic impacts of the pandemic: young people, working families, business and industry, and communities.





PROTECTING QUEENSLANDERS' HEALTH AND WELLBEING

A \$1.2 billion health funding package was announced to enable the expansion of fever clinics, emergency departments, acute care services and regional aeromedical facilities in remote areas. In this package we were able to:

- provide more paramedics and ambulance services
- deploy new infrastructure and better utilise existing hospitals
- expand community screening, contact tracing and 13 HEALTH services
- resource backfilling of staff who are unwell
- reduce backlogs by providing additional funding for non-urgent surgery and appointments
- support continued non-urgent elective surgery in the private sector
- support and protect the health and wellbeing of First Nations Queenslanders
- provide more support for regional health services.

As the pandemic response unfolded, the Queensland Government focused immediately on maintaining the efficient distribution of essential supplies, such as PPE and food and grocery products, to all Queensland communities, and avoiding major disruption to supply chains.

In March 2020, we provided \$10 million to fast-track the development of a vaccine, which will be crucial to defeating COVID-19. Queensland now boasts one of the most promising vaccine candidates on the planet. Human trials of the University of Queensland's COVID-19 vaccine began in July 2020, with hopes that a vaccine will be available in early 2021.

Queensland's Roadmap to easing COVID-19 restrictions has provided individuals and businesses with clarity and confidence in how the Queensland Government is managing the pandemic.

The Roadmap outlines a staged approach to giving Queenslanders more freedom to travel, participate in more activities and hold more gatherings.

Queensland's success in managing the COVID-19 pandemic has seen COVID Safe Plans developed for 15 professional sporting codes, with a number of codes relocating teams and/or games to Queensland because the risk of COVID-19 transmission to players, officials and spectators is lower. These Plans have also enabled stadiums to re-open to spectators.

The Queensland Government is also providing a \$1,500 Hardship Payment for eligible Queensland workers who test positive for COVID-19 and have no access to paid sick leave. This is about keeping Queenslanders safe and healthy – ensuring workers are supported to stay home when required and keep their customers and work colleagues safe and healthy.

CASE STUDY

Queensland researchers leading the world in race for COVID-19 vaccine

In March 2020, Advance Queensland provided \$10 million to fund a world-leading Queensland COVID-19 vaccine.

This funding enabled the University of Queensland (UQ) and its research partners, The Doherty Institute and CSIRO, to fast-track the development and manufacturing of the vaccine.

Phase 1 clinical trials commenced on 13 July 2020 to test the vaccine's safety and efficacy in humans. If successful, a vaccine may be available in early 2021.

UQ is one of two Australian organisations and one of only nine globally, to be tasked by the Oslo-based Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) to develop a COVID-19 vaccine. CEPI and one of Australia's largest pharmaceutical companies CSL have partnered to manufacture the vaccine – indicating their confidence in its viability.

Innovation isn't new in Queensland and now we're a world leader in developing a potential vaccine for COVID-19 that can bring hope to millions of people around the world.





YOUNG PEOPLE, SKILLS AND ENGAGEMENT

COVID-19 has impacted many younger people who have been forced from workplaces, schools and universities, or who face uncertainty as they plan for their futures.

Recognising the importance of giving young Queenslanders the opportunity to fulfil their ambitions, the Queensland Government will continue to invest in schools, skills and training.

We are building new schools where they are needed, making training more accessible for apprentices and trainees, and, by retraining and engaging young people in industries of the future, lifting the productive potential of Queensland.

Key measures to create jobs and support jobseekers include:

- a \$10 million boost to the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program

- extending our successful Back to Work program with \$70 million to provide much needed support to businesses to June 30, 2021. This program has supported more than 22,600 new jobs since 2016
- creating up to 200 nature-based jobs for unemployed and underemployed Queenslanders in the Great Barrier Reef catchments through the \$10 million Reef Assist Program.

We are also increasing our investment in building vital education and training infrastructure:

- supporting up to 870 jobs in construction through an additional \$346 million investment in the Building Future Schools Fund. This includes construction of four new state schools, with three to be opened by 2022 and the other by 2023, as well as for planning for future schools

- allocating \$220 million for maintenance and improvement works for state schools, which will support 720 jobs throughout Queensland. Supporting two new training centres - Queensland Apprenticeship Centre in renewable hydrogen at Beenleigh and a new renewable energy training facility in Brisbane
- upgrading regional TAFE campuses to enable more people to access apprenticeships and traineeships.

The Queensland government has made a significant increased investment in skills so that more Queenslanders have access to free, or low cost, training places in areas of identified skills needs and continues to work with the Australian Government in relation to matched funding from a new \$1 billion national JobTrainer fund.



SENIORS AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE

We are helping seniors and people with a disability upgrade their homes or undertake essential repairs and maintenance through a \$10 million boost to the Seniors and Accessibility Assistance Initiative. This will not only provide work for local tradies and handymen; it will help to keep our seniors safe and secure in their own homes.

Further support is being provided through the Care Army which has been set up to care for all Queenslanders, especially those most at risk.

The Queensland Government has assisted with emergency short-term accommodation for more than 3,200 individuals and families, including those experiencing domestic and family violence. This assistance is allowing people to keep local jobs despite experiencing difficult circumstances.

The government has invested \$24.7 million in a housing and homelessness plan to ensure that vulnerable Queenslanders get the services they need during this public health emergency. This includes enhancing the Home Assist Secure program to provide support for older Queenslanders and people with a disability who need

essential supplies and services and safe accommodation for vulnerable and homeless Queenslanders needing to self-isolate.





ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

Sport and recreation activities help to build strong communities and social connection. That's why we are helping community sport, recreation and fitness organisations with a range of funding and grants.

The Queensland Government has committed \$51.3 million for a COVID-19 Safe restart for sport, recreation and fitness organisations. As part of this package, the Queensland Government is providing:

- COVID SAFE Active Clubs Kickstart assisting clubs with hygiene supplies, equipment and operational costs for COVID Safe clubs to return to sport
- FairPlay vouchers providing \$150 for young participants to participate in local sporting activities and support families experiencing hardship as a result of COVID-19
- The Active Restart Infrastructure Recovery Fund for minor upgrades, repair and maintenance or to purchase equipment and tools that will support clubs in their Return to Play
- The Active Industry Fund supporting 77 state level sporting organisations and peak bodies through the bring forward of payment to secure the future of community sport and support the easing of restrictions.

Getting Queenslanders active is a key priority of the Government and restarting activities in stages will ensure we keep everyone safe, healthy and moving.

CASE STUDY

New training room assists Cairns Olympic dreams

Far North Queensland's talented young swimmers have plunged back into training with a new multipurpose training room fitted out with high-tech video analysis, a kitchen and homework stations.

Cairns Stingrays Swimming Club President Jason Salecich said the room will help the club, coach and kids chase a dream of producing another Olympic swimmer.

"The video analysis technology is state-of-the-art," said Mr Salecich.

"We now have every chance of keeping our elite athletes in Cairns as this facility would be the envy of many clubs in Brisbane."

New head coach Sander Ganzevles is excited by the training room at his disposal.

"We will use the room for video feedback to improve the technique of our swimmers and to improve nutrition and recovery," said Mr Ganzevles.



The training room can also be used for stretching and floor exercises, in addition to CPR training courses and meetings. The Queensland Government invested \$120,000 towards the project, which saw Cairns builders Boscon Constructions employing 25 tradespeople.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

We know that the key to recovery is keeping Queensland businesses going and Queenslanders in jobs.

Immediate assistance has been provided to help businesses open and protect jobs. Further initiatives have been launched for Queensland businesses to build resilience and capitalise on opportunities as the global and domestic economy recovers.

The \$1 billion COVID-19 Jobs Support Loan scheme has helped over 6,900 established Queensland businesses maintain their operations, helping support over 86,000 jobs. Through this scheme, loans of up to \$250,000 have been approved to pay wages, service existing equipment finance payments, pay rents and rates or to buy goods for services and operations.

Electricity rebates have been provided to more than 165,000 Queensland businesses, alongside a wide range of other fee, registration and permit cost waivers.

Over 16,000 businesses across the state have benefitted from a \$950 million payroll tax relief package that includes refunds, payment holidays and deferrals for eligible businesses as well as a tax exemption for JobKeeper payments. \$400 million in support has been provided for retail and commercial tenants, delivered as land tax relief and payment deferrals.

The Queensland Government has worked with industry to identify opportunities to reduce red tape and increase flexibility for businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. This has included allowing licenced venues such as restaurants and cafes to sell takeaway alcohol, extending hours on construction sites, and enabling supermarkets to restock 24 hours per day, seven days a week to ensure supply of essential food and groceries. Introduction of temporary use licences has supported innovation by allowing businesses to pivot in response to the emerging crisis.

Further targeted assistance has been provided for small businesses, which are the backbone of local communities in Queensland.

The \$196 million Small Business COVID-19 Adaption Grants program has been well received. Through this program, small businesses can access up to \$10,000 in funding for professional advice, marketing, specialised equipment or to go towards utilities. The program is expected to assist up to 20,000 small business, with approximately 14,500 grants approved to date. Small businesses have reported that more than 243,500 jobs have been sustained and a further 38,000 jobs created.

To set small businesses up for future success and resilience, the Small Business Skills Hub provides 400 free online courses for businesses and their employee.

WORKING FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS

The economic fallout from the pandemic has severely affected many families and household budgets. Employment loss and reduced working hours have exposed Queenslanders to levels of financial stress they may not have experienced before. To provide some relief and look after those in need, the Queensland Government has acted to provide immediate financial and other assistance to families and households.

Our COVID-19 relief is making a difference in the lives of families through cost of living relief measures.

Through the \$200 provided under the Utility Rebate and the Asset Ownership Dividend, the Queensland Government will provide more than \$400 million to

help an estimated 2.1 million Queensland households with their power and water. The Queensland Government is also providing two further \$50 payments in 2020-21 and 2021-22 at a cost of \$200 million, with the first of these being brought forward to September 2020.

Queensland's COVID-19 utilities rebate has helped Brisbane power prices fall by 14.8 per cent in the June quarter compared to the March quarter. Regional Queensland household power bills fell for the third year in a row from 1 July, taking savings for households to about \$600 over three years.

We have also reduced the government indexation rate, which means that Queenslanders will save on several government fees and charges,

including \$750,000 in land titling fees, \$550,000 in traffic improvement fees, \$380,000 in public transport fares and more than \$350,000 in driver licence fees.

We have reaffirmed our \$106 million commitment to the \$15,000 First Homeowner Grants program – as well as rolling out a new Regional Home Building Boost package designed to improve housing affordability, promote investment and stimulate construction sector jobs in regional Queensland during the COVID-19 recovery.

First homeowners who are eligible for both the Regional Home Building Boost and the \$15,000 Queensland First Homeowners' Grant will receive \$20,000 towards their new home. This will give first time home buyers that extra bit of help to get into the market.

CASE STUDY

Easing household bills

To ease cost of living pressures for an estimated 2.1 million Queensland households during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Queensland Government will deliver \$400 million in household relief. This relief package included \$200 rebates on utility bills for Queensland households. A further \$100 million was also allocated to provide a \$500 rebate to small-to medium-sized businesses and sole traders.

Brisbane home-owner Douglas Pye said the \$200 rebate had eased his family’s increased cost-of-living pressures during the pandemic and had allowed them to prepare for the months to come.

“It’s very difficult at the moment, bills continue to roll in and there’s a degree of uncertainty as to what could eventuate in coming months, so to have \$200 knocked off our power bill was fantastic,” Mr Pye said.

“We’re a young family and every bit of savings is going to make a difference for us.”

“I didn’t have a cent to pay on my last bill, and that’s piece of mind.”

There’s more relief on the way too. From 1 September, households will see another \$50 credit appear on their utility bills.



TARGETED INDUSTRY SUPPORT

Queensland is a diversified economy and traditional industries such as tourism, resources, agriculture construction and manufacturing will continue to be the foundations of the State’s economy well into the future.

While some, like the tourism, hospitality and retail sectors, have been among the hardest hit by COVID-19 and will need support through what will be a long and difficult recovery; others, like agriculture and resources are positioned to take advantage of new opportunities.

In addition to the significant broad-based supports provided to businesses across Queensland, we have also provided targeted assistance to a range of industries.

BOOSTING CONSTRUCTION

We are targeting social and affordable housing investment and regulatory strategies to sustain jobs and recognise hardship in residential construction:

- **a further \$100 million housing construction, Works for Tradies,** program – with new social housing to be built across Queensland
- **\$106 million support for home building** to stimulate the building market for new homes valued at less than \$750,000:
 - First Homeowners Grant – re-affirm our commitment to the \$15,000 First Homeowner Grant program for

any Queensland first home buyers purchasing a new home.

- Regional Home Building Boost – to provide a \$5,000 grant for buyers of a new home (as principal place of residence) in a regional location (in addition to the \$15,000 for first homeowners).
- **\$11.25 million regional Household Resilience Program** – supporting local industry by improving the resilience of North and Central Queensland homes against natural disasters
- **progressing the Build to Rent Pilot,** which will partner with industry to deliver affordable rental housing to more Queenslanders

We are also supporting the construction sector more broadly through:

- **\$200 million COVID Works for Queensland** – grants for local governments to deliver job creating new infrastructure, maintenance or minor works projects
- **\$50 million Unite and Recover Community Stimulus package** – further funding to eligible SEQ local governments to fast-track investment in new infrastructure and community assets that creates jobs and deliver economic stimulus
- **fast tracking government payments** to suppliers in the construction sector, providing an estimated impact of almost \$320 million.

SUPPORTING EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES

- **\$1 million Go Global export grants program** to help Queensland exporters take on the world, delivered by Trade and Investment Queensland helping Queensland businesses launch their products in global markets
- **\$100,000 Queensland New Zealand export program** – to establish Trade and Investment pathways and opportunities for new and existing exporters between Queensland and New Zealand.

KEEPING TRANSPORT MOVING

The transport sector has been particularly impacted by the pandemic. Support includes:

- **investing in Virgin Australia** – through a mix of equity and economic incentives – to ensure that Queensland remains the home of aviation in Australia. By ensuring that Virgin’s headquarters remain in Brisbane, we are helping retain thousands of direct and indirect jobs. A second national airline is critical for Australia, for jobs, for tourism, domestic travel and freight
- **\$23.16 million Taxi Support Package** is providing one-off and upfront payments to operators, licence holders and booking entities
- **\$54.5 million to support transport industry** – including funding for regional aviation to maintain vital air links with regional towns and support for regional buses and ferries to continue operating.

BACKING ARTS AND CULTURE

We are assisting our galleries, museums and performance venues along with artists, arts workers and musicians to support our cultural and tourism recovery.

- **\$11.3 million** to offset revenue losses in our music and performing arts venues and organisations
- **\$4.2 million** to provide a pipeline of performing arts and live music to support our cultural and tourism recovery
- **\$2.9 million** in partnership with local councils, venues, artists, festivals and organisations to continue employment and provide unique experiences
- **\$4.15 million** to support temporary outdoor infrastructure, capital grant funding and to fund a virtual venue for performances and the development of an online Indigenous arts and crafts sales platform.



REVITALISED TOURISM

The Government has provided immediate and ongoing assistance to the tourism sector by strengthening tourism assets. This will help ensure the sector is ready to respond when the economy is back on its feet:

- **‘Queensland – You’re Good to Go’** domestic marketing campaign, which is expected to support \$1 billion in overnight visitor expenditure
- **\$25 million Queensland Tourism Icons Program** – to support tourism enterprises and experiences that generate demand, motivate travel decisions, and make Queensland a compelling destination to visit
- **\$25 million Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund** will fast-track the development of new and enhanced

tourism infrastructure projects that will strengthen Queensland’s tourism industry

- **\$15 million airline route support** – to support and encourage domestic tourism spend across Queensland. This is expected to support the return of 4,500 jobs as the industry recovers
- **\$8.93 million national parks works and jobs boost** – to provide visitor infrastructure upgrades and enhancements to reenergise nature-based tourism
- **fee waiver for tourism operators** in Queensland, who are normally required to pay daily site fees based on visitor numbers when a tour is conducted in national parks, recreational and protected areas and State Forests under a commercial activity permit

- **\$7 million in international tourism promotion**, provided before international travel was restricted
- **\$4.8 million targeted campaign support for the Tropical Far North and Gold Coast regions** – to increase the length of stay in the regions and maximise economic returns for the local industry
- **\$3.5 million grant to Cairns Aquarium** – to help local tourism sustain and recover.

More than nine in 10 tourism businesses across the state are considered small businesses and have been able to access support like grants, payroll tax relief, electricity bill relief, jobs support loans and commercial rent payment deferrals.

CASE STUDY

Investment in Queensland’s aviation sector

The Queensland Government has invested \$15 million for key regional airports and Brisbane Airport to work in partnership with Tourism and Events Queensland to secure aviation routes both within Queensland, and from other states and markets into Queensland.

This funding has also allowed for negotiations to occur with airlines to establish new routes and reopen pre-COVID-19 services into regional Queensland and Brisbane.

Since the package was released, 61,463 seats on 11 additional return services a week have commenced.

This increase in services is estimated to support the return of 205 jobs and \$23.9 million in overnight visitor expenditure—with airports still in the process of negotiating many more routes.

New flights direct from Brisbane to the Whitsundays, and from the Sunshine Coast to Cairns have also been supported to boost Queensland’s intrastate travel options.





SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

In 2019, there were close to 60,000 international Queensland university student enrolments, injecting close to \$3 billion into the local economy. When it is safe for overseas students to return here, international education will play a vital role as part of Queensland's economic recovery.

- **\$150 million loan facility for Queensland universities** to support cash flow and protect jobs. Queensland universities will be able to access loan funds so they can continue to employ staff, maintain vital on-going research projects and to keep educating local students
- **\$10 million package** to support international students and safeguard Queensland's global education brand. This includes grants to provide support to 20,000 international students based in Queensland facing hardship.



INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE

The Queensland Government has a strong track record of investing in vital infrastructure to keep Queensland growing.

The **\$51.8 billion infrastructure guarantee** provides certainty and confidence in Queensland's infrastructure pipeline to the building and construction sector.

That's why we released the **Capital Program 2020 Update**, with infrastructure investment for 2020-21 of \$13.9 billion supporting around 44,000 jobs.

Through COVID-19 we are continuing to invest now in the infrastructure we need for the future. This will keep Queenslanders in jobs and attract industry investment to create new jobs.

- **\$200 million Building Acceleration Fund** – working in partnership with councils, property developers and industry to accelerate projects that unlock development, increase construction activity and support long-term jobs
- **\$400 million towards the Accelerated Works Package**, supporting 430 direct jobs over the life of the program, to boost roadworks and create jobs for planners, designers, road crews and local suppliers
- **\$185 million to commence jointly-funded Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) Early Works projects** sooner – investment in key inland freight corridors to boost road construction jobs for regional Queensland, supporting 180 direct jobs across the state
- **\$415 million for shovel ready infrastructure and urgent roads upgrades** – this joint investment with the Australian Government will support an estimated 670 infrastructure construction jobs across Queensland.



GROWING RESOURCES

We are supporting the continued growth of Queensland's resources sector, which creates more than 66,000 jobs across our state. We are positioning Queensland to take advantage of export opportunities – like providing essential inputs to steel making and electronics – as industrial activity ramps up around the world.

- **\$100 million Resources Community Infrastructure Fund** over three years towards projects targeted at improving economic and social infrastructure across Queensland's resources communities
- **An additional \$10 million for the new economy minerals initiative** – to upscale the Collaborative Exploration Initiative and support exploration activity to meet domestic and international demand for new economy minerals for emerging technologies and products
- **\$650,000 Mining Equipment, Technology and Services (METS) sector** – provided through the Regional Accelerator Program and Queensland METS Accelerator Program to support small-to medium-sized businesses by enhancing business capabilities
- **\$14.8 million additional funding to support the continued development of CopperString 2.0**, a high voltage transmission line to potentially provide cheaper power to the North West Minerals Province.

CASE STUDY

Grant to macadamia exporter supports jobs and economic recovery

A leading Sunshine Coast exporter of macadamia products is rebounding from the COVID-19 pandemic with a \$50,000 Market Diversification and Resilience grant as part of Queensland's plan for economic recovery.

The \$50,000 project grant will help Yandina-based Nutworks, which employed more than 50 people before COVID-19, to introduce a new macadamia product to reduce exposure to market fluctuations.

The grant will be used for new equipment, e-commerce website development and trade show attendance, allowing the business to diversify and meet growing consumer demand for high-end macadamia products in the United Kingdom and Australia.

Company spokesperson and CEO Kylie Watson said the Queensland Government funding will ensure the impact of COVID-19 does not halt plans to enter new markets.

"Project activities will provide job security for our staff in the recovery from COVID-19 and create 35 new jobs within our South East Queensland business, in areas such as research and development, production and marketing, and along the supply chain," said Ms Watson.

(taken from Media Statement of 23/7 from Minister Furner)




TRANSFORMING AGRIBUSINESS AND FOOD

The Queensland Government is supporting digital transformation in the agribusiness and food industry, reinvigorating trade relationships and diversification in a post COVID-19 environment:

- **\$5.5 million digital transformation in agribusiness** will invest in new technologies to promote consumer confidence and create a resilient agribusiness and food sector to help build Queensland's reputation as a trusted, quality supplier to global markets
- **\$5 million reinvigorated agricultural trade relationships** to support e-commerce and virtual trade facilitation in key markets and assist

coordination of demand for additional regular air freighter services

- **\$2 million agribusiness diversification assistance** to build capability and explore potential diversification opportunities in agricultural businesses, including for tourism
- **\$5 million investment in fighting food waste** – to support the reduction and transformation of surplus or waste agricultural produce.

The Queensland Government has also announced an additional \$5 million in grants for cluster fencing in Western Queensland as part of its COVID-19 Unite and Recover Queensland Jobs plan.

Queensland farmers are also receiving relief from state fees and land rents. Nearly 15,000 drought affected Queensland farmers will save up to \$2.2 million in annual water licence fees over two years. More than 8500 Queensland farmers and businesses will

have an extra year before having to pay their state land rent, and half could also receive a discount.

The Agricultural Coordination Officer network across Queensland is working with industry to support agribusiness through the COVID-19 pandemic, including the One Stop Service, to navigate requirements and case manage development.

This is in addition to immediate assistance, announced in February, to support premium seafood exporters:

- market Diversification and Resilience Grants of up to \$50,000 to Queensland agribusiness exporters who were directly affected by the outbreak of COVID-19 to build resilience by diversifying into new markets.
- a fee waiver for rock lobster and coral trout quota
- rebates for marina and jetty fees.

PREPARED IN PARTNERSHIP

This plan has been developed in consultation with businesses, industry, unions, local government, the not-for-profit sector and the community.

The impacts of COVID-19 have been wide ranging. That's why it has taken a collaborative effort from across the entire state to bring this plan together.

We have listened and learned.

We have worked closely with industry through the Premier's Queensland Industry Recovery Alliance, a partnership formed between the Queensland Government and 24 peak industry, union and community bodies with the single focus of creating and saving jobs across the state. Industry-specific forums have also provided invaluable insights into the unique challenges faced by their respective industries – and the actions needed to support workforces and businesses through COVID-19.

Through intensive online consultation and workshops, as well as targeted discussions, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) has worked closely with regional leaders across the state to coordinate COVID-19 strategies for each of Queensland's designated recovery regions.

We have heard from business, individuals and communities who have taken the time to write and speak with Ministers, Members of Parliament and Government officials to tell us how they have been impacted by COVID-19 and the support they need both during and after this pandemic.

Your contributions have helped shape this plan.

But our work is not done. We will continue to work with local government, industry and communities to understand how COVID-19 is affecting them and to identify relevant and timely responses to ensure Queensland returns to a position of growth as soon as possible.

We will continue to work with the Australian Government – through the National Cabinet – to advocate for Queensland's best interests and ensure that Queensland workers and businesses are provided the support they need.

Just as we all have a role to play to fight the spread of COVID-19, economic recovery will also require coordinated and collective effort.

Acknowledgements

The Queensland Government acknowledges the work of businesses, unions, individuals, local councils and community and industry leaders in contributing to Queensland's recovery efforts and informing this plan.

While it is not possible to list everyone individually, their contributions are acknowledged and appreciated.

We would particularly like to thank the members of the Queensland Industry Recovery Alliance for their participation and valued contribution:

AgForce

Ai Group

Australian Medical Association Queensland

Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association

Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland

Civil Contractors Federation Queensland

Clubs Queensland

Housing Industry Association

Infrastructure Association of Queensland

Local Government Association of Queensland

Master Builders Queensland

National Retail Association

Property Council of Australia

Queensland Conservation Council

Queensland Council of Unions

Queensland Council of Social Services

Queensland Farmers' Federation

Queensland Hotels Association

Queensland Resources Council

Queensland Tourism Industry Council

Real Estate Institute of Queensland

Remote Area Planning and Development Board

Royal Automobile Club of Queensland

Smart Energy Council

Economic Recovery Consultation

The Queensland Government has engaged and worked in partnership with Queensland's industries and regions to inform and prepare this economic recovery plan, with consultation encompassing:



29

industry groups, roundtables, committees, ministerial councils



Approximately
350

industry peak bodies, businesses and not-for-profits



7

virtual community forums, with



233

participants including Ministers, Members of Parliament, and representatives from across government and Queensland's communities



11

regional consultation workshops held across our recovery framework, with



346

workshop participants representing



46

organisations - State agencies, councils, industry peak bodies



30

hours of workshop video conversation recorded



434

online survey responses



2,000+

suggestions applied to the Workshop Mural (virtual whiteboard)

For more information about the Queensland Government's COVID-19 Response, please visit [covid19.qld.gov.au](https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au)



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