

Interim Government Response

The development of *The Queensland Plan* was facilitated by the former government as a guide to navigating major global changes.

The former government's response to the Plan was underpinned by their Strong Choices Program. The Palaszczuk Government has prepared this interim response to outline the key services, programs and partnerships that will help improve our way of life today and proactively position Queensland for the future.

A better way for Queensland

The world is changing at a rapid pace and forces are redefining the global economy and intensifying pressures on local communities. New technology is transforming how we connect, work and live; and population changes are requiring us to think differently about growth, workforce participation and the needs of older Queenslanders.

More than ever, we need to share our ideas about how we continue to grow and prosper, and how to balance the varied interests of our diverse communities. The current Queensland Government is committed to listening to Queenslanders in charting a better way for our state, with integrity and accountability at the heart of everything we do.

While we recognise the importance of a strong economic framework in driving future prosperity, we also believe in building an inclusive society where everyone is able to maximise their potential regardless of where they live or their life circumstances.

Our government will continue to work with Queenslanders to bring about the changes necessary to remain globally competitive and socially resilient. Community engagement will shape and drive government action, and we will encourage active participation by the community, business and industry in achieving Queenslanders' vision.

Last updated 1 July 2015

Priorities

The Queensland Government has identified four [community objectives](#) for the next three years and these objectives set the priorities for our agenda.

Creating jobs and a diverse economy

Our focus

Queensland's future success and competitive advantage will come from harnessing the intellect and creativity of Queenslanders through jobs, productivity gains, innovation and new industries.

The Queensland Government is focused on creating jobs for Queenslanders by building employment pathways for today as well as for the jobs of the future. Investment in education, skills development and infrastructure will foster workforce capability and help grow the economy.

Queensland has a range of industries and companies that are major players in global markets. We also have a rich mix of entrepreneurs and small businesses ready to power emerging markets. However the rise of Asian economies, the impact of globalisation and disruptive technologies, and the growth of personalised service delivery all signal our need to innovate.

Our government will reinvigorate support for innovation in Queensland. We will help people gain the skills they need to thrive in a knowledge economy, improve collaboration between industry and our research base, and support the commercialisation of bright ideas to bring new wealth and jobs.

If business and industry are to flourish, we need to provide certainty and ensure Queensland is an attractive location to build and grow an enterprise. This means providing a leading business environment and unlocking public and private investment in infrastructure. National and international investments will encourage entrepreneurialism and enable small-to-medium-sized businesses to grow and prosper.

Queensland's competitive advantage also lies in our capacity to value-add and access key markets in the Asia Pacific. Our government has adopted a value-supply-chain approach to economic development, with a focus on identifying new and emerging opportunities and developing high-value, niche markets. This approach will help build a more diversified economy that supports a broad range of industries.

We will work towards our vision for economic prosperity by:

- Increasing workforce participation
- Ensuring safe, productive and fair workplaces
- Stimulating economic growth and innovation
- Delivering new infrastructure and investment

Key initiatives

- Delivering the [Skilling Queenslanders for Work](#) program
- Establishing Jobs Queensland as an independent statutory authority
- Assisting young people into the workforce by getting them ready for work
- Introducing [Advance Queensland](#) to reinvigorate research, innovation and entrepreneurship to create knowledge-based jobs of the future
- Establishing the Business Development Fund
- Delivering the Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow program
- Holding regular forums with the [Premier’s Business Advisory Council](#)
- Setting up the Red Tape Reduction Panel
- Implementing a Locals First program
- Establishing Building Queensland
- Releasing the [Better Planning for Queensland Directions Paper](#) that outlines the Government’s proposed approach to land use planning and development assessment
- Delivering the [Gold Coast Commonwealth Games](#) on time and on budget and generating up to 30,000 jobs
- Delivering a State Infrastructure Plan within 12 months of coming to office

Target alignment

The following table highlights how our focus on creating jobs and a diverse economy will contribute to achieving targets outlined in The Queensland Plan.

TARGETS	JOBES AND ECONOMY	FRONTLINE SERVICES	ENVIRONMENT	COMMUNITIES
T1 Literacy & numeracy 100% of Queensland children have basic literacy and numeracy in primary school.		●		
T2 Skills for life All Queenslanders enter adulthood with life skills and broad knowledge.	●	●		●
T3 Valuing of education Education is highly valued by all Queenslanders.		●		●
T4 Household prosperity Increase the wealth of all Queenslanders while achieving Australia’s narrowest gap between the wealthy and the poor.	●			
T5 Opportunity for all Anyone who makes Queensland their home has meaningful employment opportunities and participates in their community.	●			●
T6 Community connection Queensland has the highest rates of volunteering and community participation in Australia.				●
T7 Liveable regions All Queenslanders are highly satisfied with the liveability of their region.	●		●	●
T8 Growing regions Double the regional population outside South East Queensland.	●	●		●

T9 Growing prosperity Queensland has the highest income, trade and employment growth in Australia.	●			
T10 Bright ideas Our brightest ideas have real social and economic benefits.	●	●		●
T11 Life expectancy Regional and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders have the same life expectancy as other Queenslanders.		●		●
T12 Disease and injury prevention Queensland has the lowest incidence of preventable disease and injury in Australia.		●		●
T13 Mental health Queensland leads Australia in improving mental health and wellbeing.		●		●
T14 Environmental guardian Queensland is recognised as a world leader in environmental management and protection.			●	
T15 Environmental balance Queensland has the best balance of environmental protection and economic development in Australia.	●		●	
T16 Inclusive participation Queensland leads Australia in meaningful community and workforce participation especially for seniors and people with a disability.	●			●
T17 Indigenous opportunity Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders have the same opportunities and rates of employment as non-Indigenous Queenslanders.	●			●
T18 Liveability Queensland is the best place to live in Australia	●	●	●	●
T19 Tailored and timely infrastructure The right infrastructure is delivered in a timely way to support economic growth and social needs.	●	●		●
T20 Community governance Queenslanders are highly satisfied with the ways governments deliver for their communities.	●	●	●	●

Delivering quality frontline services

Our focus

Queenslanders seek quality services that are responsive to their needs and the Queensland Government is working to restore and improve these frontline services across the state.

Our government recognises the fundamental importance of investing in our best natural asset: Queenslanders. While early childhood development and schooling provide critical foundations, education and training must be a lifelong endeavour, particularly in helping to keep pace with technology advancements.

The Queensland Government believes that early and school-based education is one of the most critical functions of government. So we are focused on building an education system renowned for high achievement and excellence that provides opportunities for everyone regardless of ability, income, gender, regional location or background.

Our government will ensure that students are equipped with higher-order critical thinking skills to help them prosper in the knowledge-based industries of the future. We will also encourage students to participate in science, technology, engineering and mathematics to propel local innovation and ingenuity.

Teachers are a priority for our government. We are providing new teaching positions, excellence standards and support services designed to help students achieve their full potential. We are also working to restore TAFE Queensland as the premier provider of vocational education and training in the state. This will support our aim of raising the average level of education obtained by Queenslanders and putting people on the path to employment.

As Queensland's population continues to grow and age, so too will the demand for health services. That is why our focus will be on preventative health programs, health promotion, and research and innovation to drive positive health outcomes, ease pressure on the entire health system, and improve the quality of life for all Queenslanders.

We support a universal health system that helps Queenslanders achieve and maintain good physical and mental health and wellbeing. A comprehensive whole-of-government and whole-of-community approach is essential to ensure that healthy choices are always easy choices and that services are readily accessible and affordable by all sectors of society.

Our government is working to improve nursing capacity across the public health system, with a specific focus on improving patient safety and people's experience of the health system.

Nearly half of all Australians will experience a mental health disorder at some stage in their lives so it is important that laws keep pace with modern best practice and community expectations. We will overhaul Queensland's mental health legislation to increase protections for mental health patients and the broader public.

We will work towards our vision by:

- Achieving better education and training outcomes
- Strengthening our public health system
- Providing responsive and integrated government services
- Supporting disadvantaged Queenslanders

Key initiatives

- Creating jobs for 875 new teachers in state schools (in addition to 1600 already planned positions)
- Introducing a full-time guidance officer for schools with more than 500 high school students
- Implementing the Letting Teachers Teach initiative
- Introducing new [teaching excellence standards](#)
- Introducing the [Refresh Nursing](#) program to employ 1000 graduate nurses in public hospitals for 12 month each over a four year period
- Employing 400 new nurses to ensure safer patient-to-nurse ratios
- Rebuilding intensive [mental healthcare for young people](#)
- Delivering the Health for Life initiative to tackle diabetes

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Protecting the environment

Our focus

The Queensland Government has re-engaged with the vital issue of environmental protection and we acknowledge our role as stewards of Queensland's unique natural assets. Stakeholder consultation will inform our actions and we will continue to advocate Queensland's priorities to the Commonwealth Government and internationally. Nowhere is this more apparent than our actions to protect and safeguard the Great Barrier Reef.

Queensland's economic future depends on our environment being healthy and robust. Economic growth should complement our environment and seek to rebuild its sustainability, not degrade it.

Our government is committed to sustainable development based on sound science. We will work with stakeholders to address the long-term threat that climate change presents to Queensland's economy, communities and ecosystems.

Queensland has the greatest levels of biodiversity in Australia. We will work with scientists and other stakeholders to protect our plant and animal species, and manage habitat by minimising our waste and enforcing environmental standards for air, land and waterway pollution.

We will also promote the conservation of fauna, flora, ecosystems and genetic diversity through a comprehensive national park and protected area estate, world heritage listing, and conservation agreements on private land.

We will achieve our vision for strong environmental protection by:

- Protecting the Great Barrier Reef
- Conserving nature and heritage
- Ensuring sustainable management of natural resources
- Enabling responsible development

Key initiatives

- Establishing the first Minister for the Great Barrier Reef, supported by a dedicated [Office of the Great Barrier Reef and the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce](#)
- Moving to ban the sea dumping of capital dredge spoil in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
- Funding water quality initiatives, scientific research and better environmental practices
- Reintroducing tree clearing laws to reduce carbon emissions
- Reinstating coastal planning requirements through the Better Planning for Queensland Directions Paper and the State Planning Policy
- Releasing a [discussion paper](#) on bio-fuels and bio-manufacturing

- Investigating [options to reduce packaging waste](#)
- Introducing the [Sustainable Ports Development Bill 2015](#)

Target alignment

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Building safe, caring and connected communities

Our focus

Queenslanders seek a united, harmonious and inclusive community that is free from discrimination, violence, poverty and prejudice. The Queensland Government is working side by side with community groups to address the diverse needs of Queenslanders.

Our government will take the lead in addressing domestic violence and identify how improved support can help families and individuals. We will also work to provide laws that balance the protection of Queenslanders from organised criminal activity with the rights and freedoms of law-abiding citizens.

We believe a society’s quality can be measured by how it treats its most vulnerable people. Our government will encourage strong and cohesive communities and support those Queenslanders who may need help to achieve their potential. We will actively assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people with a disability and people from different cultural backgrounds to participate in the social, economic and cultural fabric of our community.

We need to build capacity and strength in our families and communities across Queensland, through high quality universal education, health and social services. Our policies must not only address inequality but also be vehicles for individual and community empowerment.

The Queensland Government will work to ensure older Queenslanders are able to lead healthy and productive lives, whether in work, volunteering or retirement. We will work to ensure access to a range of lifestyle opportunities as well as care and support appropriate to their needs.

As the most decentralised state in Australia, we recognise both the strength of our regional cities and towns, and the challenges they face. Our government is committed to tackling infrastructure constraints and delivering projects that will be catalysts for economic growth and jobs.

We will achieve our vision for liveable communities by:

- Ensuring an accessible and effective justice system
- Providing an integrated and reliable transport network
- Encouraging safer and inclusive communities
- Building our regions

Key initiatives

- Examining recommendations from the [Not now, not ever: Putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland](#)
- Toughening laws to deliver harsher penalties for the perpetrators of domestic violence
- Conducting a [Commission of Inquiry](#) into organised crime in Queensland
- Participating in the [National Disability Insurance Scheme](#)
- Enabling [Disability Services Queensland](#) to continue to provide high quality accommodation support and respite services
- Convening the [Safer Roads, Safer Queensland](#) Forum to discuss ways to reduce the road death toll
- Introducing a Multicultural Queensland Charter and establishing a [Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council](#)
- Creating a one-stop-shop for older Queenslanders to access information about services essential for seniors
- Introducing the [Know Your Community](#) program to provide statistical data for Queensland's Indigenous communities
- Expanding the [Building Our Regions](#) infrastructure fund
- Hosting the [Regional Queensland showcase](#)

Target alignment

The following table highlights how our focus on building safe, caring and connected communities will contribute to achieving targets outlined in The Queensland Plan.

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Partnering for the future

Queenslanders’ vision sets a clear path over the next 30 years: to make our economy more productive, our communities and regions more liveable and our environment more sustainable.

While government has key responsibilities in providing quality frontline services and helping to drive productivity, jobs growth and social wellbeing, all Queenslanders have a role to play in achieving our community’s goals.

Consultation

The Queensland Government will consult with the community, business and industry to listen to local concerns before taking action. By working together we will achieve the best outcomes as collaboration enables better information sharing and more informed decision-making.

All Queenslanders will be encouraged to participate in community engagement activities whether through Community Cabinets, local meetings or specific consultation events.

Partnerships

Partnerships offer an effective mechanism to harness Queensland talent and resources more effectively. Our government will prioritise partnership projects that include funding commitments from local and Commonwealth government, business and community groups.

Intergovernmental relations

We will work closely with all levels of government to pursue and advocate for local and state interests.

The Partners in Government Agreement, with the Local Government Association of Queensland on behalf of local governments, will help enable effective coordination and consultation in delivering services to improve Queenslanders' quality of life.

The Queensland Government will continue to work collaboratively with the Commonwealth Government and other states and territories on federation and tax reform.

We will also be a powerful voice in the Council of Australian Governments, standing up for a fair and sustainable model for distribution of national resources and recognition of individual state competitive advantages.

Business and industry

The Queensland Government is committed to driving positive business sentiment, growing workforce participation and supporting public and private efforts to grow the economy. This growth can only be achieved through strong partnerships between governments and business and industry.

The government will continue to offer clear direction about what our communities seek for our state in the future. Aligning with their vision will harness our collective wisdom and resources to overcome challenges and seize opportunities.

Individuals and community

The Queensland Government supports people taking an active role in their community and encourages participation in discussions about how Queensland prepares for the future.