

# The Queensland Plan Annual Progress Report 2020–21

## About the report

This report outlines the implementation of *The Queensland Plan* (the Plan) over the 2020–21 financial year.

It highlights a range of activities by Queensland governments (state and local), industry, community groups and not-for-profit organisations. These activities align with the 30-year vision developed by the citizens of Queensland.

The report is developed in accordance with the *Queensland Plan Act 2014* and is available online at [www.qld.gov.au/queenslandplan](http://www.qld.gov.au/queenslandplan).

## How to read the report

The report provides an overview of programs and activities across Queensland that are aligned to each of the Plan's nine foundation areas. The Plan recognised that the foundation areas were intrinsically interconnected. Where initiatives relate to a number of foundation areas, they have only been included once.

The report also provides examples of partnerships across sectors and local community collaboration that align with the vision of the Plan.

For more information about Queensland Government activities in 2020–21 visit: [www.qld.gov.au/about/staying-informed/reports-publications/annual-reports](http://www.qld.gov.au/about/staying-informed/reports-publications/annual-reports).

For information about local governments, refer to individual local government websites.

## Message from the Premier

I am pleased to table the 2020–2021 Queensland Plan Annual Progress Report on the Queensland Government's implementation of the commitments outlined in *The Queensland Plan*.

The Queensland Government's top priority has been to keep Queenslanders safe during the COVID-19 global pandemic. We have also developed a robust response to the impacts of COVID-19 to ensure our economy remains buoyant.

The amazing strength and resilience of Queenslanders, and the wonderful work of local governments across Queensland, have helped our state to recover with great effect.

Queensland has recovered all of the jobs lost during the early COVID-19 period. While other jurisdictions in Australia have struggled, Queensland's economy rebounded by 4.1 per cent in 2020–21. This is almost double the 2.1 per cent increase in the rest of Australia's domestic economy over the same period.

Our strong recovery has unlocked significant future potential for the state, and this will be underpinned by the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Games will drive economic growth and job creation over the next decade and beyond, by capitalising on global promotion, tourism and trade, supply chain opportunities, skills development, and improved sports and community infrastructure.

Hosting the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be a game-changer for our great state and across the nation. We estimate \$8.1 billion in economic and social benefits for Queensland, and \$17.61 billion for Australia. The Games will create 91,600 full-time equivalent (FTE) job years for Queensland, and 122,900 FTE job years for Australia. There'll be an uplift in international tourism and trade estimated at \$4.6 billion for Queensland and \$8.5 billion nationally. And we estimate social benefits of up to \$3.5 billion for Queensland and \$9.11 billion nationally. The Games will accelerate sustainable growth across Queensland to support our economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

My Government has already supported individuals and businesses to bounce back in many ways. To adapt to the changing environment, 20,000 businesses across the state received grants of up to \$10,000, as part of the Small Business COVID-19 Adaption grants.

Support continues to be tailored to impacted industries. The Pacific Labour Scheme, the Seasonal Worker Programme and the Work in Paradise initiative have assisted our regional areas. Important agriculture industries have remained operational.

The arts and culture sector has been significantly impacted by COVID-19. Since the onset, the Queensland Government has committed more than \$79 million in support measures.

My Government continues to support the workers of Queensland, today and into the future, with a range of training and up-skilling initiatives. These include free apprenticeships for under 25s, helping to fast-track our economic recovery by investing in young people.

Queensland's future industries provide great optimism for our economic prosperity. My Government is developing the valuable hydrogen industry through the *Queensland Hydrogen Industry Strategy 2019–2024*. This includes significant investment in regional areas across the

state, such as the Hydrogen Park project in Gladstone, the Hydrogen Training Centre of Excellence at Beenleigh, and the Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Training facility at the Bohle TAFE campus in Townsville.

I am pleased that the Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council remains committed to providing assistance in maximising economic and social outcomes to help all Queenslanders thrive now and into the future.

I would like to thank the members of the Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council for their support and valuable contributions throughout 2020–21: the Chair, the Honourable Tony McGrady AM; Ms Shelley Argent; Ms Patsy-Ann Fox; Professor Allan Dale; Ms Suzanne Cadigan; Mr Daniel Gschwind; Mr Taj Pabari; Ms Karen Tully; Ms Kate Tully; Mr Leon Yeatman; and Ms Elsa Larsen. Your expertise and passion help Queensland move forward towards a brighter future.

**ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP**

**PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND**

**MINISTER FOR THE OLYMPICS**

## Message from the Leader of the Opposition

Over the past year Queenslanders have faced great challenges. How our citizens have responded is to be commended and demonstrates a willingness to confront and overcome whatever is before us.

Few would have imagined twelve months ago we would be facing the same sort of difficulties we saw in 2020.

This demonstrates the importance of long-term planning, and the need to reject short term, temporary solutions. Keeping Queenslanders informed about exactly what is occurring has never been more vital.

When the Queensland Plan was launched seven years ago, it had its foundations firmly set in community consultation—taking the community into the government’s confidence to ensure that what was being done matched the expectations and aspirations of all Queenslanders.

The Plan’s key areas—education, regions, community, economy, health and wellbeing, the environment, people, infrastructure and governance—are exactly those areas which require our full attention as we seek to carve a path out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is important during this time that the people of Queensland are confident they are part of the solution to these problems—not simply the people required to bear the burden that COVID-19 has imposed.

Those who helped craft the initial Plan believed that the broadest possible level of public involvement was the best way to devise a plan which would maximise the possibility of resolving differences, matching solutions with problems and preparing a path towards a more optimistic, more sustainable future.

This message is as important today as it was then.

What people seek and how people interpret any difficulties before them will change over time.

The fundamentals will not change.

As we battle whatever COVID-19 delivers, we need to remember that our fellow citizens are our greatest strength. Putting them at the centre of this response is vital to our success.

The Plan presents a broad backdrop against which we can make decisions about our state’s future.

By harnessing the commitment and determination of Queenslanders we can help develop a better Queensland—one in which we all have a part to play and one in which all views can be heard.

**DAVID CRISAFULLI MP**

**LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**

**SHADOW MINISTER FOR TOURISM**

## Message from the Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council

Established in 2014 under the *Queensland Plan Act 2014*, the Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council (Ambassadors Council) was founded on the principle that the Queensland community should be actively engaged in developing Queensland now, and into the future. The Ambassadors Council is made up of dedicated and passionate community members with professional and life experiences across many disciplines throughout Queensland.

Together we serve as champions of *The Queensland Plan* (the Plan) and promote, advocate and increase the visibility of the Plan's vision and goals for Queensland to community members, businesses and industry leaders. As part of their role, the Ambassadors Council are tasked with providing advice to the Premier about the implementation of the Plan.

Overcoming the challenges of COVID-19, the Ambassadors Council embraced virtual meeting technology, holding the first meeting of this period with several Ambassadors participating via Microsoft Teams. During this meeting, Ambassadors heard from representatives from peak bodies, non-government organisations and the public sector on issues under the umbrella of inclusion. The Ambassadors had robust discussions with panel members on the challenges and experiences of people across Queensland in relation to inclusion, and it was agreed that Queensland would benefit from a better understanding of the challenges faced by all sectors of the Queensland community around inclusion.

Upon learning of discriminatory behaviour towards one of the panel members, the Ambassadors Council was proactive in raising its concern directly, via official correspondence with the Honourable Craig Crawford MP, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. This correspondence called out the behaviour and requested the incident inform the Queensland Government's continued efforts to build a more inclusive Queensland.

Ambassadors have also welcomed an insightful presentation on the CopperString 2.0 project, which will unlock development and economic growth in North Queensland. Recognising the importance of the resource sector, both generally and in relation to positive social outcomes, the Ambassadors are keen to increase their understanding of this sector going forwards, and the role it will play in Queensland's continued economic recovery from COVID-19.

In April 2021, the Ambassadors Council met in Roma, as part of a commitment to engage with regional communities across Queensland. Developing on the ongoing work focused on the priority *Building an inclusive society*, this meeting emphasised *Regional innovation*, with Ambassadors meeting with local business and community leaders in Roma to learn more about regional innovation and the challenges faced in the regions.

Ambassadors met with local small businesses and regional training representatives to better understand regional innovation and the challenges and opportunities regional businesses face. Organisations engaged with included Roma Commerce and Tourism, Golden West Training, and the Maranoa Innovation Network.

Connecting the regional lens with the ongoing focus on the issue on inclusion, the Ambassadors heard from Mr Ben Bjarnesen, the founder and Managing Director of the LGBTQ Domestic

Violence Awareness Foundation and an operational Police Officer previously stationed in Roma, who spoke on the experiences of LGBTQ people in regional and remote areas. Discussions centred on the detrimental impact that isolation, loneliness and a lack of awareness in the general community can have on regional and rural LGBTQ community members, as well challenges to accessing health and support services, particularly relating to mental health and sexual health.

This emphasis on inclusion resulted in a commitment from Ambassadors to develop a recommendation to the Premier, as part of their responsibilities as Ambassadors, for an overarching inclusion strategy. This strategy will bring together all the positive and impactful work already happening across Queensland.

Looking ahead, in 2021–22 the Ambassadors Council looks forward to continuing promoting the Plan across Queensland, with a renewed focus in regional and remote Queensland. The Ambassadors embrace the opportunity to develop strategies to encourage inclusion. In this space, the Ambassadors Council is proud to welcome Mr Bjarnesen as the newest Ambassador for 2021–22. The Ambassadors are looking forward to working alongside Mr Bjarnesen in their promotion and advocacy of the vision and goals of the Plan, and how this helps with the social and economic development of Queensland.

## **THE QUEENSLAND PLAN AMBASSADORS COUNCIL**

## Table of contents

About the report.....	1
How to read the report.....	1
Message from the Premier .....	2
Message from the Leader of the Opposition .....	4
Message from the Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council .....	5
Government initiatives .....	8
Education .....	8
Community .....	15
Regions .....	19
Economy .....	28
Health and wellbeing .....	35
Environment .....	42
People .....	46
Infrastructure .....	50
Governance.....	54
Local Government Association of Queensland .....	59
Message from Local Government Association of Queensland President .....	59
Local government activities .....	60

## Government initiatives

### Education

#### **Department of Employment Small Business and Training – Gateway to Industry Schools Program**

Central Queensland's Eden Oldham is one of the thousands of secondary students who have benefitted from the Queensland Government's Gateway to Industry Schools Program.

Eden graduated Year 12 from St Ursula's College in Yeppoon in 2020 and participated in the Food, Wine and Tourism Gateway to Industry Schools Program while at school.

She completed a Responsible Service of Alcohol Certificate and barista training as well as receiving a work experience scholarship for three days' work placement at the RACV Royal Pines Hotel on the Gold Coast.

Eden graduated Year 12 with qualifications and references that helped her gain paid work in the tourism industry straight after school.

She also won a scholarship through the Queensland Tourism Industry Council's Salute to Excellence program, allowing her to complete a Diploma of Tourism and Travel Management online.

Eden has accepted an offer at Griffith University to study a dual degree in business and tourism which she will commence after completing her diploma.

The Gateway to Industry Schools Program has been a huge success, growing from just 42 schools 15 years ago, to 264 Queensland schools involved through more than 400 projects across 10 priority industries, as at 30 June 2021.

A \$1.62 million expansion of the program has seen the addition of the four new priority industry areas of screen and media, information and communication technology, health, and community services. The program provides students with the opportunity to engage in industry-related activities, to help them make career choices.

[Goals: G2, G4]





*Photo caption: Eden won a QTIC Salute to Excellence scholarship to undertake online study in tourism and travel management.*

## **Department of Employment Small Business and Training – Free Apprenticeships for Under 25s**

Gold Coast carpentry apprentice Sarah Bowdler is one of the first female apprentices with ADCO, the builders of the new training centre at TAFE Queensland's Ashmore campus. Sarah is a TAFE Queensland ambassador for female tradies and will complete her Certificate III in Carpentry in the building she helped construct.

“I will be able to look around and know what went into each part, the individual steps, how it all came together and everything that went on,” Sarah said.

Sarah is benefitting from the Free Apprenticeships for Under 25s initiative and says she feels blessed to have a carpentry apprenticeship.

After graduating from university with a Bachelor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, 22-year-old Sarah decided a career in building and construction was what she really wanted.

The government’s free training programs are helping young Queenslanders, like Sarah, to follow their dreams and train for free. The long-term commitment to backing apprenticeships is paying off.

In the year to June 2021, there were more than 45,700 new apprentices and trainees. Remarkably, that’s an increase of more than 56 per cent on the previous year. Queensland is also the national leader for completions, with more than 25 per cent of the national total, or more than 19,100 out of 75,800 (source: NCVET).

[Goals: G4]



*Photo caption: Sarah has benefitted from the Government’s free training programs and is now a TAFE Queensland ambassador for female tradies.*

## Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) – PCYC Queensland Emergency Services Cadets

QFES continued to support the Emergency Services Cadets Program aimed at building community resilience through the fostering of the next generation of emergency services personnel. At 30 June 2021, the program has 470 young Queenslanders (aged 12-17 years) supported by 171 adult leaders and 100 active emergency services personnel in 22 cadet units.

During the 2020–21 reporting period:

- new cadet units were established at Gin, Highfields and Somerset (Brisbane Valley), with new units in the process of launching in Emerald, Beaudesert and North Brisbane. In addition, the Hervey Bay unit was relaunched at Torquay Fire and Rescue Station following a period of closure.
- the Torres Shire Emergency Services Cadet Unit on Thursday Island was awarded the Partnership category in the Closing the Gap Award. The award is an Australian Government initiative to reduce Indigenous disadvantage in health, education, employment and social justice. The unit, with 30 members, was nominated for its outstanding work in building opportunities for young Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Torres Strait.
- twenty cadets completed the Certificate II in Public Safety (State Emergency Service) via a combination of online, virtual interactive and face-to-face learning experiences over 12 months.

In addition, a new three-year Service Agreement between QFES and PCYC Queensland was announced on 29 June 2021 to continue delivery of the program. Funding totalling in excess of \$2 million for the term of the agreement is the largest single investment in the program since its establishment in 2014.

[Goals: G2]



*Photo caption: Torres Shire Emergency Services Cadets Unit on Thursday Island.*

## **Department of Education (DoE) – Implementation of the Queensland Virtual STEM Academy (QVSA)**

The key outcome of the program is to develop strong and enduring connections with students in the key “future shaping” years, to create aspirations and grow the proportion of students who stay in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) through upper secondary and tertiary study. The resulting outcome will be to expand the talent pool from which future STEM high achievers, leaders and researchers will be drawn.

The QVSA also:

- increases access to specialist science experiences and learning enrichment for highly capable students from Years 4 to 9
- increases STEM participation of target groups – girls, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, and rural and remote students
- collaborates with universities, industry and organisations in the development and delivery of real-world current learning contexts
- supports teachers to expand their STEM knowledge and digital pedagogy.

The QVSA network delivers from five sites across Queensland including a targeted Solid Pathways STEM program for Indigenous students.

Learning content, developed and co-delivered with a broad range of industry and university partners, is authentic, relevant and reflective of and responsive to emerging sciences and current world grand challenges.

For the period January 2020 to June 2021, the QVSA delivered the program to 6327 students using an innovative and accessible video conferencing platform – *iSee*.

Students have access to *iSee* via their home or school computer and participate in virtual lessons and communities of like-minded peers with other students from across Queensland.

[Goals: G1, G4]

## **Department of Education – STEM Girl Power Initiative**

The STEM Girl Power Initiative began in 2016 with a camp for 22 Year 10 students and has grown into a year-long program for up to 60 students and 10 teachers. Its goal is to engage more girls into science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects and pathways.

In 2020, the STEM Girl Power Camp adapted to the COVID-19 health pandemic by providing a statewide online program together with local activities during the year. At the end of the year, students attended a virtual summit to share their experiences and join the alumni program.

In May 2021, 55 Year 10 students and 10 teachers visited Brisbane for a week-long STEM Girl Power Camp. During the week, students undertook laboratory activities and workshops with universities, and were inspired by a range of positive female STEM role models.

The program leverages STEM industry partnerships to provide opportunities for students and teachers to engage with cutting edge technology and glimpse emerging careers. The students



then return to their regions and plan/deliver a range of activities in their school or community during National Science Week (14–22 August 2021).

The legacy of STEM Girl Power is growing. Two of the 2022 workshop instructors are camp alumni students from 2016 and 2017, now attending universities in Brisbane and acting as STEM ambassadors and role models.

What began as a camp has now become an ongoing program of activities for students and teachers and has established a thriving community of inspired, connected and skilled STEM ambassadors across Queensland.

[Goals: G2, G4, G6]

### **Department of Education – Local Community Engagement through Co-design (LCETC)**

The LCETC model is currently being piloted in 13 Queensland state schools.

This model enacts national, state and departmental objectives, including Closing the Gap, Local Thriving Communities, Every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Succeeding strategy, and Engaging Communities: Empowering Futures, by co-designing place-based strategies with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The LCETC model fosters systemic reform through positioning Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as actively influencing school's core business.

It recognises, respects and is informed by the local cultural context and protocols to deliver education services to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students, specific to the local school community.

Local Community Education Bodies (LCEB), formed as part of the LCETC model, will advise on matters relating to Indigenous education locally, identify community education priorities and project plan in partnership with schools.

At the time of writing, two LCEBs have been established and their terms of reference co-authored in partnership with schools.

[Goals: G1, G2, T17, G26, T20, G33, G35]

### **Department of Education – Rural and Remote Centres for Learning and Wellbeing**

Centres for Learning and Wellbeing (the Centres) have been established to provide valuable professional learning and capability development for rural and remote teachers and school leaders at all stages of their careers. The Centres also support the wellbeing of staff and assist in the facilitation of inter-agency wellbeing support for students and their families.

With an investment of \$31.1 million over four years, the Centres are located in Mount Isa, Roma, Emerald and Atherton. Satellites operate from the Centres to ensure service delivery reaches the region's small rural schools, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and those schools in a range of very remote locations.

The key functions of the Centres are:

- leadership capability development
- mentoring and coaching for beginning teachers
- coaching for mid and experienced teachers
- resilience building for staff new to rural and remote settings
- inter-agency wellbeing support for staff and students.

In the 2020 school year, the Centres delivered more than 42,000 hours of professional learning to more than 9000 teachers and school leaders (participants may have attended multiple sessions). Face-to-face delivery remained the core method of delivery, with Centres pivoting to virtual delivery and support when COVID-19 travel restrictions were in place. More than 40 per cent of the professional learning focused on building leadership capability and 28 per cent focused on coaching mid-career and experienced teachers.

[Goals: G3, G4]

### **Department of Communities Housing and Digital Economy – The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traineeship Program**

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traineeship Program is an initiative of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan 2019–2023*, supporting career and education aspirations for young First Nations people of Queensland.

The program will place up to 64 full-time or school-based trainees within the department by 2023, offering mentoring, work experience and nationally accredited certificate qualifications in business administration, community services, and information, digital media and technology. The program also offers young people with culturally appropriate access to social-emotional wellbeing support.

Past participants in previous program rounds have been successful in retaining employment with the department. Engagement in education and employment is an outcome under the refreshed Closing the Gap Agreement and the program links into relevant educational offerings to ensure young people are job ready.

In the previous round, Business Administration was the only qualification offered, however the program has shifted to allow for more of a human services/customer focus, with qualifications in Community Services and Information, Digital Media and Technology now also being offered.

Australian Training Works Group Limited, a First Nations Group Training Organisation, has been engaged since July 2020 to recruit trainees and deliver the program.

Trainees are encouraged to participate in a variety of programs including leadership and cultural agility programs to gain maximum exposure to meaningful work experience opportunities and roles.

[Goals: G2, G4]

## Community

### Department of Employment, Small Business and Training – Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW)

Logan East Community Neighbourhood Association (LECNA) was awarded \$122,400 to deliver the Building Better Lives Community Work Skills project to assist 34 predominately mature-aged women and underutilised or underemployed workers, to undertake practical work experience at a local domestic violence shelter.

Participants completed a Certificate II in Food Processing, plus Barista and Responsible Service of Alcohol training, to develop the skills required to gain employment within the food processing and hospitality sectors.

The project has achieved some great outcomes.

Helen is a 60-year-old, who had been unemployed for more than four years and now has a part-time job thanks to the SQW project. Helen had previously volunteered for not-for-profit organisations that helped feed homeless people and was very experienced in the kitchen and dealing with those in need. With no qualifications, Helen knew that participation in the SQW project would provide her with the necessary skills and improve her job prospects. With a strong focus on confidence and competence, Helen received support with language, literacy and numeracy, and employability training. Helen is now employed part-time as a kitchenhand at Mandalay Retreat Nursing Home in Cleveland. This is exactly what Helen was hoping to achieve and she is still studying to complete the Certificate II in Food Processing.

[Goals: G5, G6]



*Photo caption: Helen says, "There's lots of learning after years of being unemployed, I am loving my work."*

## **Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs – Welcoming and Inclusive Communities**

In South West Queensland, we are supporting people to build on the many things they're already doing to make their communities stronger as they strive to attract new residents and grow local opportunity.

Through the Regional Partnerships Projects and guided by expertise from key partner Welcoming Cities, Bulloo, Paroo and Balonne Shire Councils have developed plans to advance priorities for welcoming and inclusive communities.

These efforts have enabled whole-of-community action to support newcomers in the region:

- Council is growing career pathways in local government for overseas qualified engineering professionals, bringing new technical skills to local employees.
- a local school has established an English-as-a-Second Language volunteer program providing social connection and support to newcomers with limited language skills, and cultural education to children.
- Businesses are connecting new employees with appropriate housing and culturally significant food products such as halal meats, as a part of recruitment processes.
- Health services have developed quick reference guides to accessing interpreting services, with community learning to use translation apps on their phones.
- Council asset mapping has been undertaken to support regional growth, and community driven housing solutions for newcomers are being identified.
- New migrants have started small businesses, are sharing their talents at work and within community groups and participating in local social events.
- There is growing connection with service providers supporting migrant and refugee communities to assist sustainable regional resettlement.

These acts of inclusion demonstrate that when we all connect and contribute, we all help strengthen regional Queensland.

[Goals: G5, G6]

## **Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy – First Nations First Program**

To improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders, Queensland State Archives (QSA) has embarked on its First Nations First Program to use the state's archival collection to foster truth telling and healing, build cultural capacity and its cultural safety, and work with partners for greater impact.

The top three outcomes for this program are:

- a contribution to the Path to Treaty, particularly to truth telling and healing and increasing Queenslanders' awareness and understanding about the history of colonisation and its ongoing effect on First Nations peoples.
- re-imagining QSA by making changes to culture and service delivery to improve the experience of First Nations people in their interactions with the archives.



- identification and implementation of changes to adopt more inclusive practices to welcome and include First Nations peoples' worldviews and become a more comprehensive and inclusive record of the people of Queensland.

QSA is identifying significant records in its collection about First Nations people and connecting with the Treaty Advancement Committee to highlight the role the archives can play in healing.

QSA's First Nations First Program includes the identification, digitisation and assessment of records relating to wars. Before making these records publicly available as an aggregated subcollection, QSA intends to engage with individuals and communities to develop a considered, sensitive strategy for how they might be made accessible. While these records may be painful, they provide evidence of our past and may help Queenslanders understand our history and move towards healing and reconciliation.

[Goals: G6]

### **Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport – Deadly Innovation Strategy**

Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander small business sector has received a digital and financial management boost with the launch of the Deadly Digits program in March 2021. As part of the Deadly Innovation Strategy, the Queensland Government partnered with leading technology company, Reckon, to deliver a cloud accounting solution with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-first approach. The online accounting hub provides Indigenous businesses with access to sophisticated tools to help digitise operations, bolster productivity and fuel growth. Features of the online hub include real-time monitoring of day-to-day cash flow, online invoicing, bank data feeds, payroll and Single Touch Payroll reporting for an unlimited number of employees, and employee expense management capabilities.

Advance Queensland is supporting 1000 Indigenous businesses with a Deadly Digits Essentials licence, giving them free access to the online training and support services for three months.

[Goals: G5, G6]

### **Department of State Development Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning – Yarrabilba Community Hub and Precinct – South East Queensland**

Innovation, collaboration and smart solutions are addressing the state's infrastructure challenge. These often require a coordinated response from the state, other levels of government and the private sector.

The Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP) is assisting social infrastructure agencies to adopt innovative approaches, make better use of existing infrastructure and leverage new investments to deliver broader social and economic outcomes.

DSDILGP delivers outcomes under the Queensland Government's Strategy for Social Infrastructure, which guides the planning and delivery of vital social infrastructure through place-specific collaborative investment.

DSDILGP, through the Community Hubs and Partnerships program, has partnered on a range of projects and initiatives in Yarrabilba to demonstrate the benefit of innovative approaches to social infrastructure, particularly in a high-growth community.

In January 2020, DSDILGP delivered the Yarrabilba community hub collaborative investment business case between the Queensland Government, Logan City Council, Brisbane Catholic Education and Lendlease, to deliver shared facilities and integrated services and support.

Due to open in 2022, these shared facilities are strategically located between the first state and non-state secondary schools. The Yarrabilba community hub, located in an education, recreation and community precinct, will support improved community outcomes for young people and adults to connect, learn, earn and innovate.

[Goals: G5, G6, G7]

### **Department of Justice and Attorney-General – Funding for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Services**

The Queensland Government continues to implement significant reforms in response to domestic, family and sexual violence in Queensland. In 2020–21, the Queensland Government, through the Department of Justice and Attorney-General invested:

- \$48.5 million to 50 organisations to deliver 71 services to respond to domestic and family violence, including counselling and crisis responses to ensure women’s and children’s safety, court-based support to victims and perpetrators, service system coordination and specialist responses for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.
- \$34.3 million invested in women’s shelters, mobile and centre-based support services. There are 322 places of accommodation per night available through 53 shelters funded through 42 organisations.
- \$11.8 million allocated to 33 specialist sexual violence services to provide trauma informed support and counselling to people who have experienced sexual violence and \$8.4 million allocated to 21 Women’s Health and Wellbeing Services to provide trauma informed support and counselling to women to achieve better health and wellbeing.
- In 2020, the Queensland Government provided \$7.5 million to a wide range of support services to help address increase in demand. These funds were used for the following:
  - \$1.5 million to boost capacity of 24-hour statewide crisis service DFV connect, including Womensline, Mensline, and online support
  - \$1.7 million for crisis accommodation, including transiting women to alternative accommodation to keep shelters available
  - \$3.8 million to enhance specialist domestic, family and sexual violence services
  - \$500,000 to support a new awareness campaign.

[Goals: G5]

## Regions

### **Department of Employment, Small Business and Training – Digital Disaster Hub and App, Small Business COVID-19 Adaption Grants, Small Business Recovery Centre Assistance**

A new digital small business disaster hub and app were launched in Townsville in May 2021 to help small businesses throughout the state manage future disasters. The online resource is the first of its kind in Australia designed to help small businesses to better prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from different types of crises ranging from natural disasters to workplace emergencies and IT threats.

Townsville's Umbrella Studio Contemporary Art Gallery Director, Kate O'Hara welcomed the new app that will simplify the road to recovery for businesses like the gallery, which was impacted by the 2019 monsoon event and then COVID-19. "Having all the relevant information within a few clicks on the one site will make preparation and recovery so much simpler," Ms O'Hara said.

The resources include checklists, communication messaging, how-to video animations, small business resilience case studies and links to key information and financial assistance. The free small business disaster hub app will send alerts when disaster assistance is open.

The small business disaster hub can be accessed on the Business Queensland website, via the free app on Apple and Android, and has downloadable resources. It was developed through the Small Business Recovery Advisory Council in consultation with small businesses, industry, government, the Small Business Recovery Centre and local councils. The initiative was jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

[Goals: G8]



*Photo caption: Martina Ah Sam with artworks from her exhibition Kwatye at Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts, 2021.*



*Photo caption: Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts Director Kate O'Hara with artist Neil Binnie and his exhibition Urban Construct.*

### **Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs – National Early Years Conference**

The National Early Years Conference started as a small regional conference for early childhood and childcare professionals in the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs Far North Queensland Region. In 2013, the target audience was broadened, and partner organisations now include:

- Queensland Health
- Department of Education
- Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs
- Act for Kids
- The Benevolent Society
- Mission Australia
- The Cairns Institute, James Cook University.

A digital symposium was held on 20–21 May 2021 and the next face to face conference will be held on 5–6 May 2022 at the Cairns Convention Centre. The conference now attracts more than 500 delegates from across Australia including early childhood educators, healthcare professionals, child protection professionals, family support workers, child and family counsellors, community workers and program managers.

This collaborative approach for children from birth to 12 years demonstrates how working across industries and sectors can deliver better outcomes in the Far North Queensland region.

[Goals: G10]

## **Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water – Great Artesian Basin Rehabilitation Program**

The Great Artesian Basin Rehabilitation Program helps landholders and the agricultural sector save water across the Great Artesian Basin (GAB). Underlying approximately 65 per cent of Queensland, the GAB is an economic, cultural and social powerhouse for regional Queensland.

Since 1989, the Queensland Government has invested \$81 million in programs that have helped rehabilitate 727 bores, decommission 14,731 kilometres of bore drains and save an estimated 214,000 megalitres of water across the Queensland section of the GAB each year.

In 2020–21, the program saw nine projects completed through rehabilitating ten uncontrolled leaking bores and decommissioning 113 kilometres of bore drains. This work will save more than 1,800 megalitres of water for the GAB every year.

Under the program, landholders can apply for grants covering up to 90 per cent of costs for projects to cap and pipe bores. Together with private investors and the Australian Government, the total investment is more than \$226 million, which has also benefitted water pressures in the GAB. This work has also been linked to the re-emergence of natural artesian springs.

The program contributes to the sustainable management of the GAB water resource which underpins a regional economy worth around \$7.7 billion per year (2016 Frontier Economics Report on the GAB) and supplies water to approximately 80 regional and remote communities.

*“We have seen so many good things come out of this initiative; not only the water savings in the basin, but better weed and feral animal control, less erosion, and a boost to local and regional businesses.” Anonymous Landholder within the GAB.*

[Goals: G8, G11]

## **Department of Regional Development Manufacturing and Water – Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program**

The Queensland Government has made available \$13.5 million through the Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program to assist eligible regional manufacturing businesses. Up to \$4.5 million each is available from the Cairns, Gladstone, Rockhampton and Townsville manufacturing hubs for local manufacturers to build their region’s advanced manufacturing capability.

The Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program gives manufacturers the opportunity to become more productive and create the jobs of the future through technology adoption, skills and training, business development, and advanced robotic manufacturing hub services.

Cairns-based steel fabrication company, CSF Industries has used the assistance of the Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program to adopt advanced manufacturing techniques and leading technology that have assisted it to attract new business.

CSF Industries has been working with the Cairns Manufacturing Hub to get support with their ideas for advanced manufacturing and get advice on skills and technology requirements. Through the Queensland Government’s Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program, CSF Industries has been

awarded \$425,000 to introduce new robotic technology which, in turn, has improved its fabrication productivity and enhanced workplace health and safety.

The business is the first in Australia to use a Zeman scanning and plate cleat sorting robotic system, which significantly reduces the cost and time in the fabrication process. CSF Industries expects that through these savings it will be able to further expand and put on up to ten additional employees and increase the skills of its existing workers as it continues to grow. CSF Industries is one of many success stories of the Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program.

[Goals: G8, G9, G10, G11]



*Photo caption: Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program*

### **Department of Environment and Science– Reef Assist**

The \$10 million Reef Assist Program (the Program) was announced in September 2020 and is delivering 11 projects and creating more than 145 jobs, including 75 jobs for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples and 64 for youth.

The Program forms part of the Queensland Government's COVID-19 economic recovery plan, creating much needed employment and training opportunities in regions that have been impacted by the pandemic, while delivering environmental benefits for both local catchments and the Great Barrier Reef. Local businesses and contractors also benefit from this investment.

Through the Program, regional natural resource management bodies, local governments and Indigenous organisations are delivering projects across the Wet Tropics, Burdekin, and Mackay-Whitsunday regions.

The on-ground works include vital streambank remediation, wetland restoration, gully remediation and weed eradication in key locations such as the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

First Nations peoples are contributing to 10 of these projects, creating positive social, cultural and economic outcomes for their communities. More than half of the jobs generated through the Program are providing employment and training for First Nations peoples to work on country, sustaining their enduring connection and custodianship of land and sea.

Many people employed through this Program were previously unemployed or underemployed, and their participation has had an immense positive impact on their lives and their communities. Many have spoken with pride and passion of their involvement in the Program, where both young



people and elders have been employed and have gained practical skills and certified training, and importantly for First Nations employees, given them opportunities to work on country.

[Goals: G8]

### **Department of Transport and Main Roads – Rollingstock Expansion Project**

The Rollingstock Expansion Project (REP) was established to meet the increasing demand on the rail network in South East Queensland over the next decade and beyond. The REP includes the delivery of up to 65 six-car passenger trains and a purpose-built manufacturing facility in the Maryborough area.

As part of the Queensland Government's Making it for Queensland economic recovery priority area, the Department of Transport and Main Roads has committed to ordering an initial fleet of 20 new trains with \$600 million pledged to add more modern and efficient services to the South East Queensland network. The delivery of the 20 trains will support the service uplift enabled by Cross River Rail.

The investment in rail manufacturing in Maryborough heralds a new era for Queensland's rail history and a new generation of trains which will support the growth of supply chains in regional centres across the state.

Maryborough is also benefiting from the \$335.7 million New Generation Rollingstock accessibility upgrade program, which is delivering the most accessible rail fleet Queensland has ever seen. The fleet upgrade is providing an important jobs boost for the region where the upgrades will sustain existing jobs and create new positions, with up to 100 people working on the upgrades at their peak. In full production mode, up to eight trains at a time will be upgraded at the facility.

[Goals: G8, G9, G11]



*Photo caption: New Generation Rollingstock*

## **Arts Queensland – Creative Business Champions – Regional Art Service Network (RASN)**

Regional Arts Service Network (RASN) is a key Queensland Government initiative supporting the growth of regional arts across the state. The initiative is delivered by eight RASN providers in partnership with local councils, artists and arts organisations, and communities. The four-year initiative is enhancing cultural vitality, growing opportunities for artists and organisations, and advancing regional and social priorities.

RASN providers are delivering the Creative Business Champions online hub which is a key initiative of the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training, and Arts Queensland.

Supported by \$1 million of funding through the Queensland Government's Workers Assistance Package for the arts, there are 12 Creative Business Champions employed by RASN providers delivering statewide online mentoring and guidance services to support growth in arts business and career resilience.

Since 1 April 2021, the Creative Business Champions have provided expertise and guidance through free, personalised, one-on-one online consultations to more than 320 artists and arts workers across Queensland in a range of areas, including:

- arts and cultural tourism
- arts and marketing and digital competency
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander s cultural competency
- driving social outcomes through the arts
- grant writing and fundraising
- business and leadership.

The Creative Business Hub will be available until December 2021.

[Goals: G8, G9]

## **Department of Agriculture and Fisheries – Fish Aggregating Devices – Strengthening Queensland's World-class Recreational Fishing**

Fisheries Queensland has been working closely with the charter and recreational fishing industries to deploy 44 Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs), helping to make pelagic fish species more accessible to Queensland fishers.

In 2019–20, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) designed and deployed 25 surface FADs in South-East Queensland. In 2020–21, four surface FADs were deployed off Weipa, three surface FADs near Fraser Island and 12 subsurface FADs offshore from South East Queensland. These subsurface FADs are deployed in deeper water and are designed to sit up to 40 metres below the surface, providing an even wider range of alternative fishing opportunities.

A further four all-water FADs are being planned for deployment off Bundaberg. They attract fish throughout the entire water column and will attract more baitfish species and demersal fish species.

The response from recreational fishers and charter fishers was instantly positive. Charter fishing logbooks demonstrated a high use of the FADs, with dolphinfish caught regularly.



The locations of these FADs have been negotiated with the commercial fishing industry to minimise impacts on access to commercial fishing grounds. This investment has strengthened Queensland's world-class recreational fishing, while providing an opportunity for snapper and pearl perch stocks to rebuild.

By encouraging recreational fishers to target species other than snapper and pearl perch, we ensure future generations enjoy fishing for these iconic Queensland species into the future. The FADs are also playing an important role in helping some charter fishing businesses rebuild from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Goals: G9]

### **Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport – Smart Precinct NQ**

Smart Precinct NQ is a not-for-profit organisation that offers a range of resources and networking opportunities to support local businesses to be nationally and globally competitive.

Advance Queensland, along with an investment by the Townsville City Council, is backing Smart Precinct NQ located in Townsville, to support high growth business in North Queensland. This precinct will play an important role in supporting entrepreneurship and innovation within the region and will encourage economic growth as we recover from COVID-19.

Smart Precinct NQ will nurture innovators in the region as it builds on their ideas and collaborates with like-minded people while encouraging new businesses and industries to settle in Townsville.

Since its launch in September 2020, Smart Precinct NQ has been delivering events and support to help startups and small businesses in the North Queensland region to commercialise and grow.

Smart Precinct NQ has been developing collaborations with partners across the region, and recently completed a co-design workshop with the department to identify other initiatives and collaborative opportunities to strengthen the innovation ecosystem in the year ahead.

[Goals: G8, G9]

### **Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning – \$39 million Strategic Blueprint for Queensland's North West Minerals Province**

Through the \$39 million *A Strategic Blueprint for Queensland's North West Minerals Province* (the blueprint), the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning is facilitating continued resource sector development, diversifying the regional economy, creating jobs and delivering integrated services to businesses and communities in this important region.

Through the blueprint released in late 2019, DSDILGP has delivered the \$33.3 million North West Queensland Economic Diversification Strategy. Initiatives are leveraging blueprint outcomes to establish the foundation for a diversified, resilient economy.

Through this strategy, \$14.5 million has been invested in a drone test facility at Cloncurry; \$14.1 million to define and market New Economy Mineral opportunities; \$1.77 million to progress key tourism projects and attract families and short-stay visitors; \$1.28 million to test the viability of

high value cash and fodder crops; and \$1.65 million to drive economic development planning, business competitiveness and stronger communities.

In addition, the department is facilitating resource sector development by undertaking deeper geological surveys and data modernisation initiatives. Partnerships with industry are driving a highly successful collaborative drilling program that is leading to new mineral discoveries and industry investment in the North West Minerals Province. This program led to the discovery of a globally significant copper cobalt deposit at Walford Creek, north of Mount Isa

[Goals: G8, G9, G10, G11]

### **Queensland Treasury – Queensland’s Regions Given a Building Boost**

From Wide Bay to Far North Queensland and everywhere between, the Government is helping regional homeowners get into their new home sooner with the Regional Home Building Boost Grant.

This grant was introduced in 2020 as a response to COVID-19 and provides regional homeowners with \$5000 after the purchase or construction of a brand-new dwelling valued at less than \$750,000.

The Office of State Revenue administers the grant which is providing support to homeowners and stimulating the residential construction industry in our regions.

By 30 June 2021, OSR had received more than 3000 expressions of interest in the grant and paid more than \$6.3 million to regional home buyers.

The success of this grant has underpinned the strong interest for new home construction in Queensland’s regions and was available for approved applications in conjunction with the First Home Owners’ Grant and the Australian Government’s HomeBuilder Grant.

[Goals: G10, G11]

### **Department of Energy and Public Works – Townsville (North Queensland) Hydrogen**

Townsville has been identified by industry as another prime location for renewable hydrogen production and future export opportunities and the Queensland Government is committed to accelerating the region’s hydrogen economy.

Through the first round of the Hydrogen Industry Development Fund, the Queensland Government has invested \$5 million towards North Queensland’s first renewable hydrogen facility which will be built at Townsville’s Sun Metals Zinc Refinery. The project will help establish North Queensland’s renewable hydrogen supply chain and boost Townsville’s profile as a hydrogen hotspot.

Townsville State Development Area is also home to two proposed large-scale hydrogen projects by proponents Origin Energy and Ark Energy and the state is supporting the development of Townsville’s hydrogen sector through industry partnerships.

On 14 April 2021, the Queensland Government supported the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Origin Energy, the Port of Townsville and Kawasaki Heavy Industries to develop a 36,500Tpa liquid hydrogen export facility in Townsville for potential export to Japan.

The Queensland Government has also committed \$145 million to establish three Queensland Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) – the Southern, Central, and Northern zones. In May 2021, the Northern REZ was officially launched with the announcement of \$40 million to upgrade transmission lines in Far North Queensland, which will support infrastructure projects such as Neon's \$373 million, 157-megawatt Kaban Wind Farm to forge ahead and unlock future jobs and investment in renewable energy in the region.

As part of the Queensland Government's \$32.6 million hydrogen industry skills and training investment, \$10.6 million is committed to build a hydrogen and renewable energy training facility at the Bohle Trade Training TAFE in Townsville.

[Goals: G8, G9, G10, G11]

### **Department of the Premier and Cabinet – Regional Community Forums**

As part of the Queensland Government's ongoing commitment to rural, remote and regional Queensland, the Office for Rural and Regional Queensland (ORRQ) in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet has facilitated the delivery of the Regional Community Forums (the Forums).

The Forums take place in seven regions across Queensland. In each round, seven Forums run simultaneously in a local community within the Far North Queensland, North Queensland, Mackay, Western Queensland, Central Queensland, Wide Bay-Fraser Coast and the Darling Downs South West regions.

Each Forum is an opportunity for appointed Forum members to promote their region, raise issues and have direct engagement with local community leaders, local government, service providers, state government agencies, Ministers and other Members of Parliament.

In 2020–21, the ORRQ delivered three rounds of Forums. Through these Forums, the Queensland Government and Ministers were able to continue targeting government support to improve livability, economic growth and job creation in our vital regions.

Principally during this year, the Forums enabled effective communication of Queensland's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan throughout regional and remote Queensland. Forum members were also proactive in responding to the impacts of COVID-19 by driving 'buy local' initiatives, pivoting their priorities to support the mental health of their communities, and sharing information with their networks about the supports and assistance provided by the Queensland and Australian governments.

[Goals: G8, G9, G10, G11, G33]

## Economy

### Department of Employment, Small Business and Training – Small Business COVID-19 Adaption Grants

On the Sunshine Coast, well-known tourist attraction Bellingham Maze is returning to pre-COVID levels of visitors and spend largely due to the support of Queenslanders via the local drive market.

Owner Adam Cheshire said support from the Queensland Government had also been amazing and helped the business come through the long and short lockdowns.

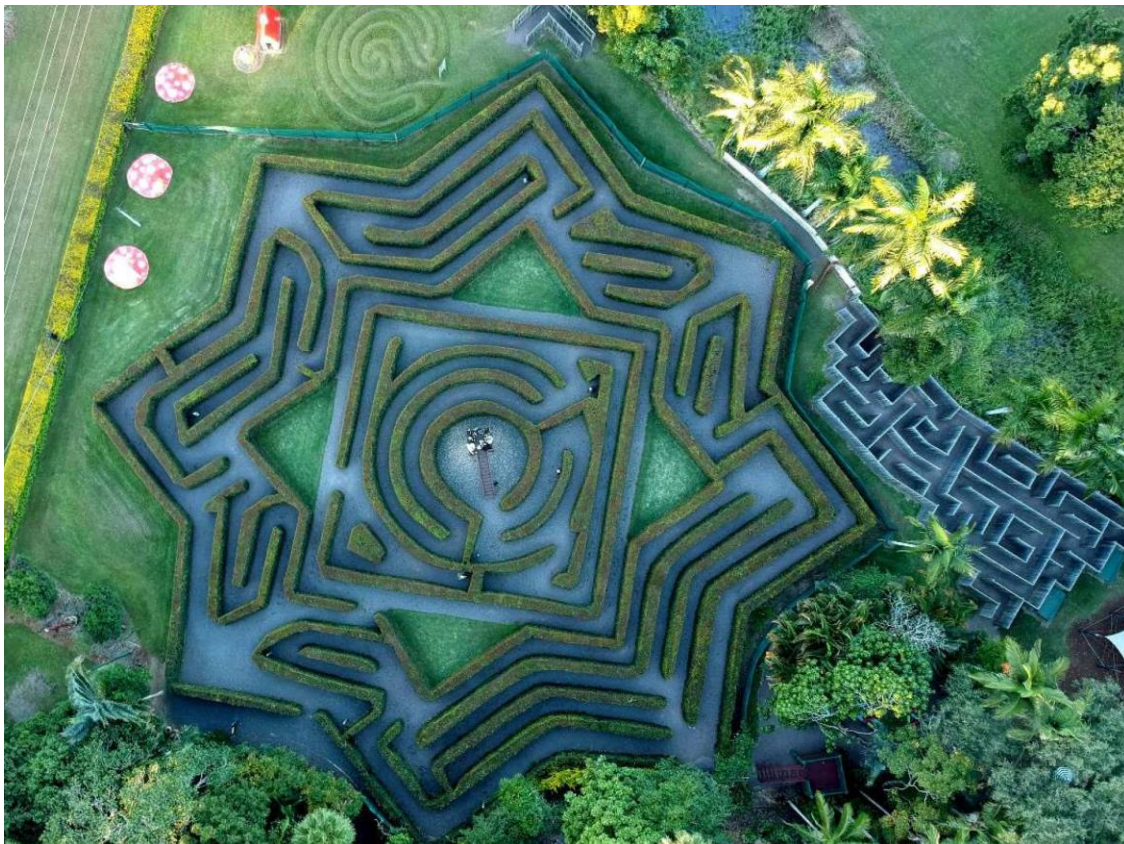
“The \$10,000 Small Business COVID-19 Adaption Grant went towards paying for running costs at the time and will help finance a major rebranding and marketing of the attraction later this year.

“Our staff also did the COVID safe training through TAFE Queensland and we developed our own COVID safe plan with the help of the Queensland Government template.

“We have also received a Queensland Government grant to support a major infrastructure project.”

The Bellingham Maze tourist attraction is one of more than 20,000 operations to have shared in more than \$181 million of the Small Business COVID-19 Adaption Grants.

[Goals: G12]



*Photo caption: The 80m x 80m living hedge maze is popular with those who love a challenge and the great outdoors.*





*Photo caption: Tourists and locals of all ages are returning to Bellingham Maze.*

### **Department of the Premier and Cabinet, 2032 Taskforce – Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Bid**

The 2032 Taskforce, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, led the Queensland Government's effort to secure the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games for Queensland in close collaboration with Games partners. A home 2032 Games has unlocked a once in a lifetime opportunity to drive economic growth and job creation by capitalising on global promotion, tourism and trade, supply chain opportunities, skills development, and improved sports and community infrastructure.

In June 2021, KPMG released its *Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Preliminary economic, social and environmental analysis Summary Report* which demonstrated the significant economic benefits from hosting the 2032 Games, including \$8.1 billion in economic benefits for Queensland. The report also found that a Games-induced boost in international tourism and trade was estimated to contribute to an economic uplift of \$4.6 billion. In addition, the report projected that the increased economic activity and expenditures resulting from the 2032 Games would result in the creation of approximately 91,600 Full Time Equivalent job years in Queensland over a 20-year period.

Importantly, hosting the Games also provides an opportunity for Queensland to build on its world-leading response to COVID-19 in alignment with the six focus areas of the Queensland Economic Recovery Strategy: *Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs*, helping accelerate our economic recovery and support Queensland's medium to long-term economic development. There is an

opportunity to build a sense of renewed confidence and optimism about the future economic prosperity of the state by leveraging the status of hosting the world's biggest event, ultimately encouraging investment and keeping our economy moving.

[Goals: G12, G13, G14]

### **Department of Environment and Science – Queensland Defence Science Alliance**

On 16 June 2021, the Honourable Meaghan Scanlon MP, Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs officially launched the Queensland Defence Science Alliance (the Alliance).

The Alliance is a university-led initiative committed to foster collaboration and help address current and future complex challenges facing the Australian Defence Force.

The Alliance was established through a five-year strategic partnership agreement between seven Queensland universities, the Queensland Government, and the Australian Government.

The Department of Environment and Science is the lead agency representing the Queensland Government. Funding and support are also provided by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning.

The Alliance will act as a focal point for the Australian Government Department of Defence and Queensland defence-related research and industry to work together.

The key objectives include:

- better accessing the \$730 million Next Generation Technology Fund and other defence commercialisation and innovation funding opportunities to attract more investment into Queensland science
- increasing partnerships between local small to medium enterprises and larger contractors, with Queensland universities to deliver defence-relevant innovations more quickly
- strengthening the direct linkage between enhanced research capability and the development of a sector increasingly important to Queensland's economic growth and reflecting the state's increasingly critical geographical position in South-East Asia.

[Goals: G15]

### **Department of Transport and Main Roads – QTRIP case study**

During the 2020–21 financial year, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) remained focused on delivering programs and projects under the annual Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP), a pipeline of transport and road infrastructure investments. Delivery of QTRIP powers Queensland's economic recovery, supports jobs and delivers critical infrastructure across the state.

In 2020, as part of the COVID-19 economic recovery response, the Australian and Queensland governments accelerated funding for various road stimulus packages to increase infrastructure investment for road upgrades across Queensland. TMR continued to deliver these joint packages

of work that will provide many benefits to industry and communities, including freight efficiency, road safety and supporting jobs.

TMR also continued to deliver major projects under the jointly funded \$13 billion 15-year Bruce Highway Upgrade Program (2013–14 to 2027–28) to improve safety, flood immunity, and capacity along this important link. Key projects included the Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway upgrade, the Caboolture-Bribie Island Road to Steve Irwin Way upgrade, Cooroy to Curra Section D, the Haughton River Floodplain upgrade, the Townsville Northern Access Intersections upgrade, and the Cairns Southern Access Corridor (Stage 3) upgrade between Edmonton and Gordonvale.

TMR delivered major upgrades on the M1 Pacific Motorway, with work on the Gateway Motorway and Pacific Motorway merge, the Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill upgrade, the Exit 57 interchange upgrade, and the Varsity Lakes to Tugun upgrade.

Looking ahead, TMR's infrastructure pipeline will continue to play a key role in Queensland's economic recovery, to provide ongoing employment opportunities to Queensland communities, businesses, and industry. TMR will achieve successful delivery through strong partnerships with industry and delivery partners, leaving a legacy for communities across the state.

[Goals: G12, G13]



*Photo caption: Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway upgrade*

## **Department of Agriculture and Fisheries – COVID-19 Economic Recovery Initiatives**

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) coordinated delivery of approximately \$20 million of economic recovery initiatives to support regional development, jobs in rural communities, health and wellbeing, and the environment.

These initiatives will deliver immediate and long-term benefits for the sector and Queensland's economy:

- digital transformation in agribusiness: \$5.5 million over three years from 2020–21 to 2022–23 to develop integrated supply chains that improve traceability, biosecurity, and food safety.
- reinvigorated agricultural trade relationships: \$5 million (\$1.3 million DAF only component) over four years from 2020–21 to 2023–24 to support e-commerce and virtual trade facilitation in key markets and assist coordination of demand for additional regular airfreight services.
- agribusiness diversification assistance: \$2 million over three years from 2020–21 to 2022–23 to build capability and explore potential diversification opportunities in agribusiness, including tourism.
- agricultural seasonal labour: \$750,000 in new funding over two years from 2020–21 to 2021–22 for a total project of \$1.15 million to identify Queensland agricultural seasonal workforce needs and implement local solutions that connect agribusiness with relevant and appropriate workforce solutions.
- enhancing local government biosecurity capacity: \$450,000 over two years from 2020–21 to 2021–22 to embed effective, long-lasting regional biosecurity partnerships with local governments that significantly boost pest and invasive plant management capability across Queensland, with an initial focus on Far North Queensland.
- sheep meat processing industry investment strategy: \$250,000 in 2020–21 to deliver a strategy that guides investment and creates regional economic opportunities.
- agricultural development opportunities in North-West Queensland: \$250,000 over two years from 2020–21 to 2021–22 to support agricultural opportunities and deliver practical solutions that will inform decision making and unlock the region's dryland agricultural potential.

[Goals: G12, G13, G15]

## **Department of Agriculture and Fisheries – Aquaculture Industry Development Network**

The Aquaculture Industry Development Network (AIDN), supported by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), continued to stimulate investment in aquaculture projects in Queensland, support creation of a strong economy and to create jobs for Queenslanders.

In 2020–21, two new Aquaculture Development Areas (ADAs) were identified within the Hinchinbrook Regional Council area and gazetted under the State Planning Policy, bringing the total number of ADAs to eight, totaling over 9000 hectares in the area. The two new ADAs complement the existing six ADAs identified in the Gladstone, Rockhampton, Mackay, Whitsunday, and Townsville Council areas.

ADAs are located in coastal areas that are suitable for farming a range of marine species in ponds that require access to seawater to operate, e.g. prawns and marine finfish. They were identified



in consultation with the aquaculture industry, government agencies and landowners using planning methodology and applying physical, environmental and planning selection criteria.

The identification of these areas assists companies seeking to determine locations across the state that represent the best opportunities for aquaculture development, by essentially completing the geophysical due diligence for them. Through the AIDN, DAF has been able to assist several proponents to commence or expand operations in prawns, finfish, redclaw crayfish, aquarium species and corals, oysters, and hatcheries.

Highlights include the expansion of the largest aquaculture operation in Australia (Tassal) into Queensland, attraction of operational investment from the largest producer of barramundi fingerlings in Australia (Mainstream), and support for the establishment of a world first venture into cultured breeding and growing of tropical rock Lobsters (Ornatas).

[Goals: G10, G11, G12, G13, G14, G20, G33, G34]

### **Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning – Vaxxas**

Vaxxas is a biotechnology company currently based at the Translational Research Institute in Brisbane. Vaxxas is experiencing rapid growth to meet unprecedented demand to trial its novel vaccine delivery platform in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In September 2020, the Queensland Government announced its support for Vaxxas to develop a new manufacturing base in Northshore Brisbane for its high-density Microprojection Array Patch vaccine delivery system, a proprietary, advanced, needle-free vaccine delivery platform designed to improve the efficacy, reach and economics of vaccination.

The project involves construction and refurbishment of a new facility within an Economic Development Queensland-owned building in the Northshore Hamilton Priority Development Area.

Vaxxas will install a bespoke manufacturing line to supply, at scale, clinical-quality product required for phase 2 and phase 3 clinical studies at this facility.

Scaling-up commercial manufacturing capacity to 300 million doses per year is forecast to contribute \$497 million to the economy over 10 years, creating up to 139 additional highly skilled, knowledge intensive jobs.

Without Queensland Government support, Vaxxas was likely to relocate to the United States of America and Queensland would have lost the opportunity to manufacture this ground-breaking technology and strengthen its reputation as a manufacturer of high-value and high-quality complex therapeutic products.

[Goals: G13, G15]

## **Queensland Treasury – Private Industry Projects Creating Jobs and Building Queensland’s Economy**

In every economy, a key engine for growth is private sector investment. Two programs have been delivered aimed at increasing private sector investment and creating jobs across Queensland.

Since 2016, the Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund (AQIAF), which includes the Essential Goods and Supply Chain Program and the Jobs and Regional Growth Fund (JRGF), has supported 82 projects to deliver more than 4500 new direct jobs and unlocked more than \$2.5 billion of capital investment.

In 2020–21 both funds supported private sector projects to be delivered in both regional and South East Queensland, including headquarter relocations, across a range of industries. These job-creating projects are helping Queensland’s economic recovery from the impacts of COVID-19. Two project highlights include:

- attracting the relocation of the Australia-New Zealand headquarters of leading food manufacturer, Kerry Australia, to Brisbane creating 55 new jobs, with support from AQIAF. Part of the project is to establish a technology and innovation centre, which will help Kerry develop new products towards its goal of serving its flavours to two billion people across the globe.
- assistance from JRGF is helping the world’s largest macadamia nut processor, Marquis Macadamias, to expand its Bundaberg facility and create 40 new jobs. The \$13.3 million expansion will increase its processing capacity and help capitalise on growing export opportunities.

Although AQIAF and JRGF are closed to new applications, the Queensland Government recently announced the Invested in Queensland program which will continue to work with industry on significant job-creating projects and promote the benefits of investing in Queensland.

[Goals: G13]

## Health and wellbeing

### **Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs – COVID Response to Support CALD Queenslanders**

People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 due to a range of factors, including language barriers, previous experiences of trauma, cultural understandings, family groupings and types of employment. Some communities have experienced an increase in racism.

Multicultural Affairs acted swiftly and worked with key service delivery agencies to ensure people from culturally diverse backgrounds were supported through the pandemic response and recovery. Local engagement with known community leaders and organisations has been critical to the success of health and support messaging.

Alongside an engagement plan, sector meetings were activated, to relay the latest health advice and activate a rapid response to community issues. Additional funding was provided to organisations under the Community Action for a Multicultural Society (CAMS) program to ensure organisational capability in supporting local community leaders, who often take on additional responsibilities to support individuals and families during a disaster.

Coordinated engagement efforts were developed in consultation with the Queensland Police Service (Rapid Response), Queensland Health and other operational areas such as Community Recovery.

Multicultural Affairs developed a \$900,000 COVID-19 Community Connections Support Package. This included:

- \$420,000 to Communitify Queensland to respond to increased demand from vulnerable asylum seekers and new arrivals through the Asylum Seeker and Refugee Assistance program
- \$132,000 to scale-up the I Speak Your Language telephone support program delivered by the Multicultural Communities Council of Gold Coast
- \$90,000 to providers under the Community Action for a Multicultural Society program to support technology enhancements for online platforms
- \$141,000 for a Community Connector position located within the Australian Red Cross.

[Goals: G16, G17, G18, G19]

### **Queensland Fire and Emergency Services – COVID-19 Planning and Response**

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) has played a significant role in supporting the Queensland Government's operational response through the operation of the State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC), providing frontline support to the Queensland Police Service with border control operations, planning, exercising and quarantine hotel management. QFES is responsible for maintaining the SDCC capability which has been stood up for a record amount of time, since 2 February 2020, in support of COVID-19 operations. QFES provides the Deputy Command role and leads the planning and logistics capabilities.

During 2020–21, QFES logistics capability supported quarantine accommodation for more than 91,000 people including international and interstate travellers, mariners, aircrew, Australian Defence Force personnel and seasonal workers.

The SDCC Planning cell has supported the development of foundational and supplementary plans that direct the whole-of-government response to COVID-19 including the State Pandemic and State Quarantine Plans and the State Mass Vaccination Plan (draft).

QFES staff and volunteers provided support at land and air borders, vaccination hubs and testing clinics contributing approximately 12,500 shifts to border operations, with the majority of these provided by State Emergency Service volunteers. QFES Emergency Management Coordinators within each QFES region have worked with partners to ensure local governments and other agencies have pandemic plans in place and are trained in the disaster management arrangements and operations.

QFES staff and volunteers were required to be flexible and agile in an ever-changing environment, at times assuming roles that were outside the norm and implementing innovative approaches to service delivery and training.

[Goals: G16, G17, G18, G19]

### **Department of Environment and Science – Increased private conservation and public protected area estates**

On 3 October 2020, the Queensland Government released Queensland's Protected Area Strategy 2020-2030 (the Strategy), a 10-year plan to support the growth, management and sustainability of national parks and other protected areas. The Strategy recognises the psychological and mental health benefits of nature and that the availability and continued growth of natural places such as our national parks, has far-reaching benefits for Queenslanders' health and wellbeing.

Throughout 2020–21, an additional 33,621 hectares of high value conservation land were added to Queensland's protected area system. This included the:

- addition of 4370 hectares to the Pinnacles National Park
- expansion of the Halifax Bay National Park by almost 3300 hectares
- addition of over 23,200 hectares to the Girringun National Park.

Eight new nature refuges were also added to the protected area system, including the 81 hectare Mount Elliott Nature Refuge and the 30 hectare Meralda Nature Refuge. In September 2020, Pullen Reserve in western Queensland was dedicated as the first Special Wildlife Reserve, which provides national park-level protection for private land of exceptional natural and cultural value.

The Department of Environment and Science also acquired 42 hectares of land to extend Mon Repos Conservation Park and the 118 hectare tourism lease over Wild Duck Island, which will allow the consolidation of two parcels of the Broad Sound Islands National Park within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, off Central Queensland. Altogether, Queensland's protected areas now protect an area more than twice the size of Tasmania.

[Goals: G16]

## **Department of Environment and Science – Air quality monitoring website enhancements, including to expansion of smoke impact monitoring from bushfires and other sources in Queensland**

The 2019–20 bushfire season created serious public health concerns for Queenslanders exposed to bushfire smoke.

To improve the health and safety of Queenslanders exposed to bushfire smoke, the Department of Environment and Science's (DES) air quality monitoring website now reports hourly particle data to align with new Queensland Health guidance on actions people should take to protect their health during a smoke event.

As part of a three-year expansion program to more than double the number of Queensland communities with access to local information on smoke impacts, particle monitoring equipment has been installed at all existing air monitoring stations in the state and a new air monitoring station has been established at Ayr.

Priority locations for a further 13 new monitoring stations/sensors to be deployed for the 2021 fire season have been agreed with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Queensland Health.

To ensure DES can continue to meet community expectations for delivery of air quality information, procurement of a new air quality data management system has commenced. The new system will improve reporting timeframes, have flexibility to respond to emerging air quality information demands, accept data from smoke sensors, and handle the increase in data from the expanded monitoring network.

[Goals: G16]

## **Queensland Health – Health Equity: Making Tracks Together**

In 2020, groundbreaking legislative change was passed by the Queensland Parliament. The omnibus *Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019* introduced two key provisions to amend the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011* to strengthen the commitment to closing the gap in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. The amendments require:

- that one or more Hospital and Health Board members must be Aboriginal persons or Torres Strait Islander persons
- all Hospital and Health Services (HHSs) develop a strategy to achieve health equity in partnership with Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

These legislative changes have substantially changed the legal framework guiding the public health system. The legislative changes are also supported by other significant reforms in Queensland Health since 2017, which have strengthened governance and commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

The health equity reform agenda presents a platform for change and the measurable improvement from that change. Health equity strategies support the health equity reform agenda to co-design and reshape local health systems with Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as prescribed by regulation.

By April 2022, HHSs must have a long-term strategy with key performance measures to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples, actively eliminate racial discrimination and institutional racism, increase access to healthcare services, influence the social, cultural and economic determinants of health, deliver culturally safe and responsive healthcare services and work with Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities and organisations to design, deliver, monitor and review health services.

[Goals: G16, G18]

### **Department of Transport and Main Roads – Active Transport**

The Queensland Government wants more people to experience the health benefits of active transport and is committed to making walking or riding a bike an easy, convenient and enjoyable way for Queenslanders to travel.

Since 2015, the Queensland Government has invested more than \$244 million to plan and build quality infrastructure and networks, and to deliver programs encouraging more people to ride and walk.

Investments in improving and extending networks for walking and riding bikes in 2020–21 included:

- completion by the Queensland Government of the North Brisbane Bikeway Stage 4 in January 2021 and the Mackay – Slade Point Road (Mackay) shared path in July 2020 through the Cycling Works program
- Cycle Network Local Government Grant funding to local governments for:
  - design and construction of the Ron Searle Drive shared path by Mackay Regional Council in July 2020, supporting connectivity to the harbour
  - Stage 3 of the Caboolture to Wamuran Rail Trail, completed by Moreton Bay Regional Council in December 2020
  - a section of the Oceanway from View Avenue to Higman Street, delivered by Gold Coast City Council in July 2020.

Under its *Action Plan for Walking 2019–21* and *Queensland Cycling Action Plan 2020–22*, the Government is implementing 110 practical, targeted actions to enable and promote active transport choices for all sorts of trips, for recreation and for health.

Of the 34 actions completed, achievements include:

- the development and pilot of new Queensland Walking Network Guidance with three local governments
- supporting 15 community organisations to progress fresh ideas to get more Queenslanders riding through the Bike Riding Encouragement Program community grants.

[Goals: G16, G17]



*Photo caption: Family bike riding on cycleway*



*Photo caption: Shared pathway – pedestrians and cyclists*

## **Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy – Queensland Community Support Scheme**

The Queensland Community Support Scheme (QCSS) supports the Queensland Government's commitment to build thriving communities and enable the active participation of all Queenslanders, both socially and economically, within their community.

QCSS supports people who experience disability (who are not eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme), chronic illness, mental health or other conditions that impacts on their functional capacity to undertake day-to-day living activities and participate in their community.

QCSS is available to people under 65 years of age or under 50 for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples. To support greater inclusion, QCSS has targeted services for special needs groups including Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

QCSS is based on the underlying principle that individuals can, and want to, achieve outcomes that are meaningful to them and be responsible for their wellbeing. QCSS supports people to improve their physical and emotional wellbeing by increasing their feelings of independence, empowerment and autonomy, supporting people to maintain meaningful relationships with community members, friends and family and to participate in local activities and events.

In 2020–21, more than 400,000 hours of support were delivered through QCSS.

Supports can include activities like engaging with a neighbourhood and community centre or sports club; developing skills in meal preparation including shopping; learning to use technology to set an alert for remembering medication; or support to re-engage with primary health care support networks to assist people to manage their underlying health condition or disability.

[Goals: G17, G19]

## **Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport – Building a Healthy Bundaberg Alliance**

In 2020, the Building a Healthy Bundaberg Alliance (the Alliance) was formed to work towards improving the health and wellbeing of the region through new place-based approaches. The Bundaberg local government area has been identified as having the highest levels of obesity in Queensland. The Alliance is made up of more than 13 stakeholders including Bundaberg Regional Council (the Council), Health and Wellbeing Queensland (HWQ) and Sport and Recreation within the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport.

The Alliance commissioned a report which applies a behavioural science-based approach to enhancing the uptake of health initiatives within the Bundaberg community. The approach was guided by the principle that for large-scale behaviour change to be successful, initiatives must be driven and led by locals. Bundaberg community members were engaged to capture local perspectives and co-design the development and delivery of all project components.

The Building a Healthy Bundaberg Report revealed multiple local perspectives on how to improve the overall health and wellbeing of the region through the implementation of encouraged habit formation and preventative health practices. The Council has since been approved \$134,600



under the ActiveKIT program to deliver a series of fitness activities for socially disadvantaged people at Bundaberg. HWQ is currently negotiating a further 18 months of capacity building support to the Alliance.

[Goals: G16, G17]

## Environment

### Queensland Fire and Emergency Services – Queensland Bushfire Plan

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), in partnership with bushfire management stakeholders, developed the Queensland Bushfire Plan (the plan). The plan, released in July 2020, outlines the whole-of-government response arrangements for bushfire management in Queensland. The plan is underpinned by three principles—hazard mitigation, public safety, and collaboration and coordination. As lead agency, QFES has a critical role in implementing the plan across the state, with key responsibilities to ensure the safety of Queensland communities. The plan is a key document within Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements and is a sub-plan to the Queensland State Disaster Management Plan.

Developed following extensive research, benchmarking with other states and territories and feedback from stakeholders, the plan is a living document and will change to cater for any relevant recommendations from the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements final report.

Fire management groups and committees operate at the local, area, regional and state level. In total, there are more than 50 Area Fire Management Groups largely based on local government areas, seven Regional Bushfire Committees (one per QFES region) and a State Bushfire Committee.

The plan helps QFES, its partner agencies, major landholders and communities understand how everyone works together to mitigate the risk of bushfire. As part of Queensland's Bushfire Plan, QFES supports its land management agency partners to prepare for the coming bushfire season through Operation Cool Burn (OCB). OCB 2020 commenced on 1 April 2020 and continued through to 31 August 2020. A total of 567 activities were completed out of 719 that had been planned (79 per cent).

In 2021–22, the mitigation program will transition from a five-month operational period (OCB) to year-round, enabling greater flexibility for land managers and owners to conduct mitigation activities in a changing climate that is leading to more protracted bushfire seasons and often limiting windows for hazard reduction burning.

[Goals: G21]



*Photo caption: A hazard reduction burn conducted at Woodgate*

## **Department of Environment and Science – Improved Reef water quality**

The Reef Water Quality Report Card 2019, released in February 2021, showed the largest ever reduction of dissolved inorganic nitrogen flowing from the catchments to the Great Barrier Reef lagoon. The Queensland Government's mix of programs under the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program ranging from collaborative voluntary programs with agricultural partners to regulation are making a real difference. For example, more than 650 sugarcane farms have voluntarily participated in a nutrient management planning project working with agronomists to reduce nitrogen inputs by more than 800,000kg whilst maintaining or increasing productivity.

The voluntary programs work hand in hand with regulations, which target farmers who are not engaged in programs. Non-compliance rates of sugarcane growers have decreased by more than 20 per cent between initial and follow-up engagement by Department of Environment and Science compliance officers. Many of those growers are now participating in voluntary programs.

The Queensland Government is also investing in innovative market mechanisms with \$10 million allocated to purchase Reef Credits. This scheme allows property owners in Reef catchments to undertake projects that improve water quality to generate a tradeable unit of pollutant reduction or Reef Credit, which is then sold on to businesses who want to protect the Reef or meet their corporate responsibilities. In the second ever tranche of Reef Credits to be sold, five sugarcane farmers successfully traded 18,000 Reef Credits earning money for their business, while taking action to improve Reef water quality.

[Goals: G21]

## **Department of Environment and Science – Single use plastics ban**

Legislation to enable a ban on the supply of single-use plastic straws, stirrers, plates, bowls and cutlery, and single-use expanded polystyrene (EPS) takeaway food containers and cups passed in the Queensland Parliament on 10 March 2021. The ban commenced on 1 September 2021.

Single-use plastic items such as straws and cutlery are some of the most commonly found items in the litter stream. Plastics in the environment can have a devastating effect on wildlife and will break down into smaller and smaller fragments, often staying in the environment for decades.

The purpose of the initiative is to reduce the amount of plastic waste and reduce the environmental impacts from plastic pollution.

Public consultation undertaken between March and April 2020 saw more than 20,000 online and written submissions, with more than 94 per cent support for the ban on single-use plastic straws, stirrers, plates, bowls and cutlery. As a result of overwhelming support for the inclusion of EPS takeaway food containers and cups, and due to the environmental impact that EPS has on the environment, these items were also included in the ban.

The effect of the ban will be reviewed within 12 months of its commencement. The Department of Environment and Science will continue to work with stakeholders and the public to identify additional single-use plastic items suitable for inclusion in the ban.

[Goals: G22]

## Department of Transport and Main Roads – Recycled crushed glass pilot program

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is continuing to make Queensland a better place to live. TMR is committed to minimising the environmental impact of its construction and operations by ensuring environmental standards are met, including an increase in the use of recycled materials.

One example of how TMR is doing this is by using recycled glass to help build more sustainable roads. In December 2020, TMR completed the first project to use Recycled Crushed Glass (RCG) in asphalt on a Queensland state-controlled road.

The project involved successfully using RCG instead of fine aggregate in asphalt that was placed on a 1.2-kilometre section of the Millaa – Malanda Road, through the town of Malanda, on the Atherton Tablelands in Far North Queensland.

The project was completed as part of TMR's annual rehabilitation and maintenance program and involved sourcing RCG manufactured from waste glass collected locally through the Containers for Change refund deposit scheme.

More than a million bottles (which produced about 200 tons of RCG) were used in the works.

While TMR's current asphalt specification permits a maximum of 2.5 per cent RCG in dense graded asphalt surfacing's, the project provided an opportunity to trial the use of the higher 5 per cent RCG content in deep asphalt repairs and asphalt surfacing applications.

[Goals: G22]



*Photo caption: Millaa recycled crushed glass pilot program*

## **Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport – Stadiums Queensland Sustainability**

Stadiums Queensland's (SQ) Strategic Plan includes Sustainability as one of its six key strategic objectives. To meet this objective, SQ is investing in and adopting sustainable and renewable solutions across its 10 venues. SQ is becoming a sustainability focused organisation by implementing energy consumption practices that minimise costs and CO2 emissions, optimising waste recycling and reuse practices, minimising portable water consumption and optimally re-positioning through improved environmental and social governance.

In 2020–21, SQ installed three 5000-litre water harvesting tanks adjacent to the amenities block at the Queensland Sport and Athletics Centre (QSAC). Water from these tanks is being used for toilet flushing in an amenities block and by the QSAC grounds team for irrigation.

Since installation, no potable water has been used for flushing in the 21 toilets and two urinals in the amenities block, with 45,000L of harvested water being used instead. This key initiative strongly supports SQ's sustainability strategic objective.

[Goals: G22]

## **Queensland Treasury – Energy Transformation – Karara Wind Farm**

With an abundant supply of wind and solar resources across the state, Queensland is investing in new renewable energy solutions, ready to power our future energy needs.

The Queensland Government's clean energy generator, CleanCo, has announced plans to build, own, and operate the \$250 million 102.6-megawatt Karara Wind Farm in the Darling Downs.

This project is one of 44 large-scale renewable energy projects since 2015 that have become operational, financially committed or are under construction in Queensland, representing approximately \$10 billion in investment and 7000 construction jobs.

In addition to owning and operating the Karara Wind Farm, CleanCo will also purchase 400 megawatts of renewable energy capacity from the MacIntyre Wind Farm, delivering the Government's Renewables 400 Program, a reverse auction for up to 400 megawatts of renewable energy capacity.

Construction of the precinct is expected to commence in 2021–22 and be fully operational by 2024. The precinct is set to provide up to 400 local jobs during construction, with an additional 240 jobs for construction of the 64km transmission line, and 14 full-time jobs once in operation.

Together with CleanCo's involvement, the local spend during construction is expected to exceed \$500 million, delivering significant economic benefits for the Darling Downs region and environmental benefits to all of Queensland.

[Goals: G22]

## People

### **Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs – Indigenous Career Progression Program**

As part of the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry's focus on workforce development and capacity, it was recommended the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs (DCYJMA) implement a program to support Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples to attain the requisite qualifications to become Child Safety Officers (CSOs). The basis of this recommendation was the assumption that the requirements and needs of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are overrepresented in the system, their families, and communities would be better met by qualified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff working in the department.

The Indigenous Career Progression Program (ICPP) offers scholarships to DCYJMA staff and cadetships to final year Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander university students studying a CSO qualifying course, and aims to:

- enhance DCYJMA's ability to deliver culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients
- assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander officers to gain tertiary qualifications
- provide professional and career development opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander officers.

Scholarship holders have university fees paid, receive a textbook allowance, and are entitled to study leave days during the academic year. Cadets have university fees reimbursed and receive a textbook allowance.

Courses being studied include the Bachelor of Human Service, Bachelor and Master of Social Work, and Bachelor of Psychology.

The ICPP is now in the seventh year of its ten-year project life. During this time:

- 62 scholarships have been awarded, 55 scholarships have been taken up, nine scholarship holders have graduated and 14 are yet to graduate
- 30 cadetships have been awarded, 24 cadets have graduated, 14 have been employed as CSOs, and nine of those employed have since left DCYJMA.

[Goals: G26]



## **Queensland Fire and Emergency Services – Inclusion and Diversity**

CareerTrackers is a national non-profit organisation that works to create internship opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander university students. The Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) – CareerTrackers partnership is a great example of the department contributing to improving career pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander university students through providing intern placements. The partnership continues to have meaningful outcomes for both the organisation and the student interns by building cultural capability and networks within the workforce, and providing practical, ‘real-world’ development experiences and connections for the interns.

The QFES – CareerTrackers partnership was recognised through QFES’ Close the Gap Award in 2020 and QFES was also the recipient of the 2020 Women and Firefighting Australasia (WAFA) Member Organisation Diversity, Fairness and Inclusion Award, reflecting the commitment to the QFES – CareerTrackers partnership in delivering positive inclusion outcomes.

The 2020–21 Summer and Winter programs saw a Queensland University of Technology Human Resources and Marketing student embedded within the QFES People Workforce Development Unit.

The internship programs provided great opportunities for the student to build on their university studies by applying their skills, knowledge and capabilities within the workplace context. The student also took part in the CareerTrackers Schools program as a workplace buddy for a WorkShadow student placed within the team. The student developed further within their role as buddy and mentor to a Year 12 student and was able to provide a fantastic work-experience program for the student, despite the challenges of COVID-19 lockdown measures.

[Goals: G27]

## **Department of Environment and Science – Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers’ Recruitment and Leadership Programs**

The Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program (QILSRP) supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to care for country and protect the environment.

The QILSRP assists organisations with grant funding to employ Indigenous Land and Sea rangers to deliver a program of on-country activities, documented in negotiated annual work plans.

The QILSRP also provides training, network opportunities and partnership support for ranger groups. In 2020, the Queensland Government announced a funding boost of \$24 million over three years (to 2023–24) for the QILSRP, which will deliver 100 additional Indigenous Land and Sea ranger positions.

The QILSRP provides important country management services across the state, including care for cultural sites, protected species, and land, waterway, and marine ecosystems.

The priorities for the work of each ranger group are decided in partnership with the funded organisation, Traditional Owners, partner organisations and the Department of Environment and Science.

Through providing employment and two-way capacity building opportunities, the QILSRP aims to:

- promote the protection of Queensland's environment and cultural heritage, drawing on First Nations peoples' knowledge in land and sea management
- strengthen and support stewardship of land and sea country by First Nations communities
- support continuous learning (both western and traditional) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rangers
- increase conservation jobs and conservation economy opportunities for communities where rangers operate.

Funding for the first additional 50 positions will be allocated during 2021 and the second round is expected in 2023.

[Goals: G26]

### **Department of Transport and Main Roads – People – Women in Leadership Mentoring Program**

The Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) Women in Leadership (WiL) Mentoring Program is now in its seventh year and continues to support TMR's commitment to increasing women in senior leadership positions (Senior Officer/Senior Executive Service) to 38 per cent by 2022. The program provides participants with support to achieve their goals and offers an exciting opportunity to further develop leadership skills and create broader networks within TMR. The program was first piloted in 2015 and to date, 459 mentors and mentees have participated in the program.

TMR's WiL Mentoring Program runs from June to December, launching with virtual workshops using Microsoft Teams, includes a mid-program reflective learning activity, virtual Mentor Meetup networking and knowledge sharing session in September followed by an end of program session in early December. Mentors and mentees are provided with fortnightly 'Mentor Bytes' which are short, curated courses and specific video resources from LinkedIn Learning.

The program was run in person prior to 2020, however in response to COVID-19 the format was revised. To keep employees safe, supported and connected, the program was moved to a virtual format using Microsoft Teams for training workshops. Following the successful delivery of the program virtually in 2020, TMR continued this format in 2021 to better support regional participants and allow the program to continue with minimal disruptions, should COVID-19 lockdowns continue to occur.

Alongside this, TMR's annual Wonder Women campaign profiles the leadership, technical excellence and innovations of 10 eminent TMR women to help promote gender equity across all disciplines within TMR. Nominated by their peers, the selected employees are paired with an Ambassador – a person from TMR's Senior Leadership Team – as an informal mentor to help guide personal and professional development and create ongoing networking opportunities over the following year.

[Goals: G27]

## **Department of Agriculture and Fisheries – Pacific Labour Scheme and Seasonal Worker Programme**

The closure of Australia's international border in 2020 resulted in a shortage of seasonal farm workers.

Under the restart of the Australian Government's Pacific Labour Scheme and Seasonal Worker Programme, Queensland's programme has provided various agricultural industries with the safe arrival of around 3000 workers from five countries to work across 16 local government areas. This figure equates to almost one-third of the total workers being brought in nationally.

Queensland is the only state to offer on-farm and industry-led regional quarantine options, in addition to hotel quarantine.

Queensland's programme is overseen by a highly experienced cross-agency governance group.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries successfully leads and holds overall responsibility for the programme for Queensland and works proactively with approved employers to assist them in developing suitable quarantine options, in addition to processing applications and providing a compliance overlay at all on-farm and regional quarantine sites.

[Goals: G8, G9, G10, G11. G14, G24]

## Infrastructure

### **Department of Employment, Small Business and Training – Hydrogen Training Centre of Excellence**

Queensland is on track to become the national hub for the emerging hydrogen industry.

A ceremonial sod turning in February 2021 marked the start of construction of a \$20 million Hydrogen Training Centre of Excellence at Beenleigh.

The new facility will enable Queenslanders to gain the skills needed to deliver on the state's hydrogen plan and contribute towards the state government's 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030.

The government is working in partnership with the industry not-for-profit organisation, Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre (PICAC), to build the new facility by June 2022.

It will expand capacity from 600 to 800 per year to train apprentices in fire protection, gas plumbing, carpentry, and electrical and plumbing skills.

The new world-class training facilities will include gas training equipment, lower carbon technology upgrades, roof-access work platforms, special hazards fire systems and state-of-the-art training rooms.

Infrastructure investment in renewable energy includes \$10.6 million for a Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Training facility at Bohle TAFE campus in Townsville, \$2 million to upgrade training facilities at Gladstone State High School and a \$17 million grant to allow Electro Group Training to deliver a new \$23 million renewable energy training facility.

The investment at Bohle forms part of the government's \$100 million Equipping TAFE for our Future initiative.

[Goals: G28, G29]

### **Department of the Premier and Cabinet, 2032 Taskforce – 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games**

The 2032 Taskforce, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, led the design of the 2032 Master Plan in consultation with Games partners as part of Brisbane's candidature to host the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. In designing the Master Plan, the use of existing and temporary venues was maximised with new permanent infrastructure only used where there is a clear long-term legacy and community need. This has resulted in 84 per cent of venues being existing or temporary, including several venues used for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

The 2032 Master Plan includes construction of four new community centres across the region that are purpose-designed and built to meet community needs first and foremost, before being converted to Games competition venues, and then returned to the community. The construction of the Brisbane Arena as a replacement for the ageing Brisbane Entertainment Centre and

redevelopment of The Gabba will also provide an enduring community legacy for Brisbane, the region and Queensland.

The Games transport solution, developed in tandem with the 2032 Master Plan, places emphasis on the alignment of the venue footprint with South East Queensland's existing and planned transport infrastructure. In particular, all Brisbane venues may be accessed by major road links, and most are served by one or more sustainable and accessible public transport modes including Cross River Rail, Brisbane Metro and other rail lines. The capacity of these systems will be increased significantly through planned investments and operational enhancements.

[Goals: G28, G29, G30, G31]

### **Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water – Rookwood Weir**

In-river works have now started on Rookwood Weir, the largest piece of new water infrastructure currently under construction in Australia, 66 kilometres south-west of Rockhampton on the Fitzroy River. The \$367.2 million project, which is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments and delivered in partnership with Sunwater, will deliver 86,000 megalitres of medium priority water to Central Queensland.

The design and construction of the weir, which is being delivered through a partnership between Sunwater, GHD and McCosker-Acciona, is focused on maximising local benefit. More than 200 jobs are being created during construction, with a large majority of those being sourced locally. Long term, the water the weir provides will drive a transition to higher value agricultural land use, facilitate new industrial business opportunities, and deliver water security for urban and industrial use in Central Queensland.

The first stage of the tender process for the sale of this water concluded in December 2020, with 30,000 megalitres of medium priority water awarded to major irrigated agriculture operations looking to establish in the region. A second stage, aimed at supporting local farmers, will commence in late 2021.

Even ahead of its planned completion in 2023, Rookwood Weir is delivering for Central Queensland. Three of six supporting projects — the new Riversleigh Bridge, the Capricorn Highway intersection upgrade at Gogango, and the upgrade and widening of Thirsty Creek Road — have been completed and are providing immediate benefits for locals.

Also benefiting the region both now and into the future are recent amendments to the Water Plan (Fitzroy Basin) 2011 and the Fitzroy Basin Water Management Protocol to support the Rookwood Weir project. The amendments provide opportunities to meet emerging agriculture demands in the area while giving existing users certainty and flexibility for years to come.

[Goals: G28, G29, G35]

## Department of Transport and Main Roads – M1 Program

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) remains committed to building a better M1, to get people home safely and keep freight moving in South East Queensland.

The Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill upgrade project, the second stage of the Pacific Motorway (M1) North upgrade program (Gateway Motorway to Logan Motorway), focused on eight kilometres of improvements. This includes widening of the M1, an extension of the South East Busway from Eight Mile Plains to Springwood, a new bus station and park 'n' ride at Rochedale, and the completion of the missing V1 Veloway link between Gateway Motorway and Paradise Road.

The last stage of the M1 North upgrade program (Gateway Motorway to Logan Motorway) is the Daisy Hill to Logan Motorway project that is currently in planning.

Heading further south, planning for upgrades of interchanges on the Pacific Motorway (M1) between Stapylton and Pimpama is underway. This includes Exit 41, where construction began in May 2021 and Exit 45, where southbound improvements will begin in late 2021. Preliminary design for an interchange upgrade at Exit 49 in Pimpama has begun and TMR has completed the business case for Exit 38.

The \$1 billion Pacific Motorway M1 Varsity Lakes to Tugun project is upgrading 10 kilometres of the motorway to a minimum of three lanes in each direction. Construction is underway on all three packages and includes the Gold Coast's first Diverging Diamond Interchange.

[Goals: G28, G29, G31, G32]



*Photo caption: Varsity Lakes to Tugun Package C, Palm Beach Exit 92 interchange.*



## **Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning – Building Acceleration Fund**

South East Queensland is experiencing record migration levels as more and more people want to call the Sunshine State home.

In partnership with local governments and private developers, Economic Development Queensland (EDQ) is investing in trunk infrastructure to ‘unlock’ land supply across South East Queensland. More than \$92 million is being supported through EDQ’s Building Acceleration Fund and other catalyst infrastructure agreements.

This is targeted investment in catalytic infrastructure like key road and water projects in booming communities such as Greater Flagstone and Ripley Valley and priority growth areas like Southern Redland Bay and Caboolture West.

Around 120,000 people are expected to call Greater Flagstone and Ripley Valley home in the next 40 years, and they will need somewhere to live.

Almost \$37 million in catalyst infrastructure funding for critical road infrastructure, will unlock around 27,000 new residential lots in Greater Flagstone, and 5600 in the Ripley Valley. Separate to Greater Flagstone and Ripley Valley, almost 15,000 residential lots have started being unlocked across South East Queensland since November last year.

These include:

- Caboolture West – 3000 lots unlocked and \$10.5 million from Building Acceleration Fund for water supply and sewage infrastructure
- Southern Redland Bay – 5000 lots unlocked and \$15 million from Building Acceleration Fund for a new wastewater management plant
- Bahr’s Scrub – 1700 lots unlocked and \$15 million from Building Acceleration Fund to improve access and transport efficiency
- Yarrabilba – 2000 lots unlocked and \$15 million from Building Acceleration Fund for infrastructure for primary school site and roads
- Caloundra South – 3091 lots unlocked.

[Goals: G31]

## Governance

### **Queensland Fire and Emergency Services – Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework**

In 2020–21, an independent review of the Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework (QERMF) was undertaken to identify lessons and opportunities for improvement.

The review included an online survey with local, district and state level stakeholders. Ninety-one responses were received to the local and district level stakeholders survey and 13 responses to the state level. Detailed stakeholder interviews were also held with local, district and state government agencies to obtain more detailed views on the design and implementation of the framework, with specific focus on stakeholder ideas for continuous improvement.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services commenced work to address the 15 key findings and 12 recommendations that resulted from the review to improve the way that the framework enables the prevention of new disaster risk, reduction of existing disaster risk and management of residual risk. The action plan will be implemented by a whole-of-government working group formed under the State Disaster Coordination Group, with representation from across Queensland's disaster management arrangements.

[Goals: G33, G35]

### **Department of Environment and Science – Gurra Gurra Framework to Support More Meaningful and Genuine Partnerships with First Nations Peoples**

The Gurra Gurra Framework 2020–2026<sup>1</sup> (*Gurra Gurra*) was launched in early 2020 to further strengthen the Department of Environment and Science's (DES) commitment to reframe its relationship with Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

*Gurra Gurra* provides the foundations to transform the way DES works with First Nations Peoples, by holding Country and people at the centre of all it does across its business, from policies and programs to service delivery.

Since launching *Gurra Gurra* strong progress has been made across DES to refocus the business and accelerate the department's capability in areas such as engagement, agreement making, recruitment and retention, cultural agility, partnerships, and procurement.

In November 2020, as part of NAIDOC week celebrations, the *Gurra Gurra* First Nations Employment and Development Action Plan 2020-2025 was released.

This Action Plan is one of 10 strategically focused action plans or strategies to support the operationalisation of *Gurra Gurra* and build lasting and more impactful partnerships with First Nations people.

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<sup>1</sup> The Gurra Gurra Framework 2020–2026, Department of Environment and Science – <https://www.des.qld.gov.au/our-department/corporate-docs/gurra-gurra-framework>.

The First Nations Employment and Development Action Plan 2020–2025 sets out a blueprint for DES to:

- build a more culturally representative, capable and connected workforce
- provide a culturally safe working environment that supports and develops First Nations employees
- value cultural diversity and the knowledge, expertise and contributions of First Nations employees to deliver DES's strategic objectives
- respect the history and cultural obligations of First Nations peoples in the work of the department.

### **Department of Transport and Main Roads – Accessibility and Inclusion Strategy**

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) published an Accessibility and Inclusion Strategy (AIS) committing to leading the delivery of accessible and inclusive transport products, services, information, and infrastructure for Queenslanders, as well as within the department's workplaces and practices.

Accessible and inclusive transport is critical to breaking down barriers within our community and providing access to employment, health, education, recreation and culture. TMR has the role of connecting people, places, goods and services safely, efficiently and effectively across Queensland.

TMR's vision is to create a single integrated transport network accessible to everyone, with the purpose of bringing Queensland closer together. All Queenslanders, irrespective of where they live and work, will have appropriate transport choices and fair access to the transport system.

TMR will commit to co-designing and engaging with its customers, people and partners by embedding these accessibility and inclusion principles:

- co-designing with its customers, people and partners
- making its customers and people feel welcome and independent
- to listen responsively and continuously improve
- making inclusion part of its culture.

TMR commits to lead Queensland's effort for dignified, accessible and inclusive transport products, services, information and infrastructure, in line with federal, state and local government objectives and broader human rights obligations.

[Goals: G35]



*Photo caption: Accessibility and Inclusion Strategy*

## **Resources Safety and Health Queensland – Compliance and Enforcement Policy**

Resources Safety and Health Queensland (RSHQ) is an independent regulator of worker safety and health in Queensland's petroleum and gas, mining, quarrying and explosives sectors, with a vision of zero serious harm.

In March 2021, RSHQ released its Compliance and Enforcement Policy (Policy) which outlines the principles and practices that underpin its compliance and enforcement actions. These are a critical part of preventing serious harm to workers and the community across the Queensland resource industry and provides guidance when determining regulatory compliance and enforcement actions that are systems-focus and proportionate to the risk/harm and/or circumstances.

The Policy sets out categories of regulatory compliance response activities, ranging between educational, corrective, deterrent or punitive. When deciding what compliance action to take, the following circumstances are considered:

- the nature of the particular risk
- whether the non-compliance is systemic and/or recurrent
- the nature of the non-compliant behaviour, considering evidence of:
  - disengagement with, or resistance to, safety and health regulation
  - the extent to which the non-compliance was deliberate, negligent, or accidental.

By applying compliance actions by assessing the level of risk/harm and considering the circumstances in each case, RSHQ will ensure its regulatory responses are proportionate, encouraging compliance through education and only focusing enforcement actions on the small minority of reckless or deliberate non-compliers.

[Goals: G34]

## **Arts Queensland –Queensland Government vision for arts, culture and creativity**

In October 2020, the Queensland Government launched the whole-of-government plan Creative Together 2020–2030: A 10-Year Roadmap for arts, culture and creativity in Queensland and the first action plan Sustain 2020–2022.

Creative Together sets a bold and strong long-term vision to renew and transform Queensland through arts, culture and creativity. At its core is a strong and sustainable arts, cultural and creative sector that will support the delivery of five priorities:

- elevate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts
- activate Queensland's local places and global digital spaces
- drive social change across the state
- strengthen Queensland communities
- share our stories and celebrate our storytellers.

The first year of Creative Together was supported through the delivery of key actions in Sustain 2020–2022, the first two-year action plan to support its delivery. Actions focussed on stabilising Queensland's arts companies, securing jobs, and delivering COVID-safe cultural experiences to Queensland audiences, underpinned by the \$22.5 million Arts and Cultural Recovery Package.

[Goals: G35]

## **The Office of the Queensland Chief Entrepreneur**

The Office of the Queensland Chief Entrepreneur plays a vital role in building and promoting the importance and contribution of entrepreneurship and investment in Queensland.

On 16 June 2021, Wayne Gerard was appointed Queensland's new Chief Entrepreneur. As the CEO and Co-Founder of global company RedEye, Wayne is a key leader in Queensland's innovation ecosystem and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role.

He will work alongside a newly established Innovation Advisory Council to strengthen the state's startup sector and home-grown industries. Together they will focus on connecting, energising and accelerating the innovation ecosystem across Queensland.

[Goals: G33]

## **Queensland Police Service – The Service Alignment Program**

The Service Alignment Program (SAP) was established in January 2020 to implement the recommendations from the Queensland Police Service (QPS) Strategic Review, a detailed and independent assessment of the Service's strategic challenges and opportunities.

One of the foundational initiatives from the SAP was the Service Delivery Re-design Project which commenced in early 2020 to drive service delivery reform throughout the state by de-centralising some functions and devolving decision-making responsibility to the regions and districts.

During 2020–21, as part of the SAP, the QPS has commenced:

- transitioning several formally 'centrally functioned' groups to district control under a new partnership model, providing greater resources to district officers to respond to local programs by developing local solutions
- developing a resource and demand analytics dashboard, and demand and resourcing modelling dashboard to improve understanding of the current state and anticipated future state of demand to inform decision making
- implementing a new organisational performance management framework to focus on a broad set of measures and data sets to support decision making
- implementing the new SOLVE (Severity, Opportunity, Likelihood, Vulnerability and Expectations) demand management framework to support the rollout of the Service Delivery Redesign Project.

[Goals: G33, G35]



## Local Government Association of Queensland

### Message from Local Government Association of Queensland President

It has been seven years since Queenslanders came together to map out their vision for the future of this state.

Never could they have envisaged, when they outlined their hopes and aspirations for Queensland, the challenges the state would experience as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The last 18 months have not been easy. But is during hard times like these that Queenslanders pull together.

That resilience has been on full display as Queensland councils work with their local communities and the state and federal governments to respond to the pandemic and work to keep us safe and our economies strong during these challenging times.

Councils have been at the forefront of supporting their communities through COVID-19 while also continuing to drive recovery from other natural disasters like the ongoing drought - as well as continuing to deliver the critical everyday services our communities require.

At all times, councils have also kept an eye on the future, planning for what is to come as the state works its way through the recovery phase.

That future has a lot to offer our councils and their communities. For example, the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympics Games presents opportunities for communities right across the length and breadth of this state as we plan and prepare to host the world's largest event.

The onus now is on all three levels of government working together to realise those opportunities and secure an enduring legacy for our communities and for Queensland.

**MAYOR MARK JAMIESON**

**PRESIDENT**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND**

## Local government activities

### **Working together to keep Queenslanders safe**

Queensland councils have been playing a lead role in the effort to vaccinate local communities against COVID-19.

The local government sector worked closely with Queensland's Chief Health Officer Jeannette Young, and the relevant Hospital and Health Services, throughout the COVID-19 vaccine rollout to encourage their local communities to get the jab.

This has included the sharing of agreed key messages to counter vaccine misinformation and encourage residents to get vaccinated when they can.

Queensland councils have also enabled the use of council-owned facilities to help facilitate the vaccine rollout, particularly in rural and remote parts of the state like Barcaldine.

They have also participated in vaccine blitzes to bolster vaccination rates in their community, like Goondiwindi and Longreach.

As Goondiwindi Region Mayor the Honourable Lawrence Springborg said: "Being on the border, our towns experience high levels of interstate travel and increased risk. Vaccination is one of the very best defences we have against this virus and I'm extremely happy to see how well it has been adopted locally."

### **On the path to a zero-waste future**

Almost 5700 old tyres have been saved from landfill and recycled as part of a Fraser Coast Regional Council bitumen resealing program that is aimed at making local roads safer while also contributing to creating a circular economy for waste.

Infrastructure projects – including the use of recycled content in roads – that divert problem waste streams, including tyres and glass, from landfill are critical in guiding Queensland to a zero-waste future.

The bitumen reseal involves spraying a thin layer of bitumen over an existing road surface to protect the old pavement from weather damage. In the 2019–20 financial year, a crumb rubber bitumen of approximately 362,000 litres was applied to roads in 54 locations throughout Hervey Bay, Maryborough and rural areas of the Fraser Coast region – a great result for the environment, motorists and our roads.

Council allocated \$7 million in the 2020–21 financial year for resurfacing roads, along with more than \$40 million to ensure a resilient regional infrastructure of roads, bridges and drainage.

## **Let there be light**

The Yarrabah Seahawks Rugby League Football Club can now train well into the night, with better access for Aboriginal Elders as spectators, thanks to a recent upgrade of Jilara Oval in Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire. The Jilara Oval is the centrepiece of Yarrabah; Queensland's largest discrete Indigenous community with a population of 3000.

The \$1.2 million Works for Queensland-funded upgrade, which included new LED lights and grandstands, has made a huge difference to the community according to Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council Chief Executive Officer Leon Yeatman.

The oval now has a configuration of 16 lights as opposed to eight, but with an upgrade in lighting technology, the power bill is smaller. Getting to the lights is also easier as they fold down to field level for easy maintenance. With the new lighting installed at the oval, Mr Yeatman says it brought to the council's attention other issues with the oval's amenities.

"Soon after we completed the installation of the lights, we recognised that some of our Elders with a disability were not actually being supported," he said.

"So we ended up improving the amenities and they [now have] their own platform. They can use their assistance machinery, whatever they're using, whether it's a chair or frame, and we've put some new grandstands in as well so other family members who want to be close to the game can be."

The Seahawks, or Guyala—the totem for Yarrabah—are the only Indigenous club in the Cairns District Rugby League and have a large number of players in adult and junior teams.

## **Reducing the carbon footprint**

Logan City Council has unveiled a project that could dramatically reduce the carbon footprint of wastewater treatments plants across the world. Council along with project partners Pyrocal and Downer, has perfected a method that creates energy through gasification.

The partnership has been trialling the process, that sees sewage sludge (biosolids) baked in extreme temperatures to produce biogas, for about a year. The biogas is then used to heat the remaining biosolids, turning it into a 'biochar', suitable for agricultural purposes.

Logan Mayor Darren Power has described the successful trial at the Loganholme Wastewater Treatment Plant as a 'huge win' for ratepayers and the environment.

"Every day the plant sends three truckloads of treated waste to the Darling Downs to be used as a soil conditioner," Cr Power said.

"The gasification process perfected at Loganholme will reduce the volume of biosolids by 90 per cent and help our farmers."

"This will save ratepayers around \$500,000 annually while significantly reducing our carbon footprint.

"Council's water business Logan Water and development partners Pyrocal and Downer deserve great credit for coming up with such an innovative solution."

## **Cook Shire gets ready**

With Queenslanders urged to 'Get Ready' for the extreme weather and other natural disasters that befall our state each year, Cook Shire has gone to extra lengths to ensure emergency crews are keeping up to date.

At 105,718 square kilometres, Cook is Queensland's largest council area and has experienced bushfires as well as the extremes of wet season weather like severe tropical cyclones.

Council carries out several clean-up measures in advance of each cyclone season, including free dumping of sorted domestic waste and kerbside collection of green waste and white goods and has just, in partnership with Get Ready Queensland, donated six waterproof hand-held, UHF radios and an emergency-dedicated tablet to the Cooktown Rural Fire Brigade to boost vital communications between all agencies, contractors and volunteers during an emergency.

The radios also provide failsafe communications for emergency crews in blackspot areas without reliable mobile coverage and in emergency situations when mobile networks are disrupted.

Equipped with a specialised app, the tablet will be used to provide offline access to maps that will help teams identify rural blocks of land.

Cook Shire Mayor and Chair of the Local Disaster Management Group Councillor Peter Scott said reliable communications are crucial when disaster strikes.

"By enhancing the way our emergency teams communicate with each other during an event, we are improving efficiency and building resiliency. This ensures we're better prepared for the next inevitable disaster which can potentially save lives, property and livestock," he said.

## **Partnership delivers for rural and regional Queensland**

More than 240 rural and regional Queensland communities are experiencing the benefits of an innovative partnership to drive improvements in the delivery of critical water and wastewater services.

The Queensland Regional Water Alliances Program (QWRAP) seeks to improve water and sewerage services to rural and regional communities. Established in 2011, QWRAP is a partnership between Department of Regional Development Manufacturing and Water, the Local Government Association of Queensland, qldwater, and councils.

The program has enabled 57 councils to improve water and wastewater delivery for their local communities through regional collaboration and innovation.

The program saves ratepayers money by achieving strategic objectives at a regional scale, which drives greater financial and community benefit as more complex and deliberate issues are explored and resolved collaboratively.

Examples of QWRAP collaboration include:

- four North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils members have received seed QWRAP funding to undertake a pilot project to review their SCADA systems. Learning from the work undertaken in other QWRAP regions, the councils have reviewed their legacy systems and identified commonalities and opportunities for regional alignment that can lead to joint procurement, shared spares and human resources and strategic development including improved cybersecurity.
- Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils members have collaborated on the delivery of accredited training for nine operators in Certificate III in Water Industry Operations (Treatment). This joint delivery improved transferability of skills and knowledge across plants, providing greater resilience to risks for regional communities across the Far North Queensland region.
- councils in the North Queensland region are using QWRAP seed funding for a research project spearheaded by City of Townsville, in partnership with James Cook University, along with Burdekin, Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday and Cairns councils. This multi-regional project seeks treatment solutions for contaminants of emerging concern across multiple councils. The project will provide the first joint characterisation of biosolid wastes from tropical councils and also the first investigation of affordable treatment options that are feasible for addressing emerging risks in regional Queensland.
- the Downs and Surat Basin Group undertook a project to identify small water schemes requiring water security assessments, document the data needs to undertake robust water security assessments for those schemes, conduct a gap analysis of the available data against the identified data needs, and quantify the costs to address the identified data gaps.
- the Whitsunday, Isaac and Mackay Alliance jointly transitioned four regional sewerage treatment plants from private sector management back into the internal management by councils. A single Transition Manager was employed to plan and negotiate the change and assist the councils to work closely to develop contractual arrangements and manage risks. This program, which was the first of its kind in Queensland allowed for significant savings and other efficiencies including 25 per cent savings on legal, and 50 per cent saving on planning.