



Returning jobs and investment to the North

January – June 2017



Queensland
Government

Returning jobs and investment to the North

I am very pleased to present this report highlighting what the Queensland Government has been doing and the great achievements in the North for the period January to June 2017.

Advancements in the five priority areas have great momentum with initiatives being implemented supporting infrastructure, energy, trade, innovation, business and jobs.

These investments and programs will create jobs and allow North Queensland to prosper, leverage strengths and realise new opportunities.

As always, hearing from you, listening and delivering is my priority. Please stay engaged and informed through the new dedicated Advancing North Queensland website.

I will continue to be the voice for North Queenslanders and bring investment to the region.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Coralee O'Rourke'.

Coralee O'Rourke MP
Minister for Disability Services,
Minister for Seniors and
Minister Assisting the Premier
on North Queensland

Roads infrastructure



Water and energy security



Research and innovation



Tourism, trade and investment



North Queensland Stadium



Roads infrastructure



✓ Partnering and investing in roads

✓ Connecting people and supply across the North

✓ Creating local jobs

We are building roads, leveraging investment from partners and fast tracking projects to create jobs sooner

- Delivering **\$5 billion** for North Queensland transport and roads under the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2017–18 to 2020–21
- Key North Queensland state-funded investments include:
 - **\$42.3 million** for a road-widening package on the Gregory Developmental Road (Charters Towers – The Lynd)
 - **\$34.6 million** for a new high-level Cape River Bridge and approaches on the Gregory Developmental Road (south of Charters Towers)
 - **\$35 million** for the Riverway Drive duplication in Townsville
 - **\$40 million** to replace timber bridges at various locations on the Dawson Highway
 - **\$34.2 million** for the Bill Fulton Bridge project on the Cairns Western Arterial Road
 - **\$28 million** to replace two bridges at Vines Creek in Mackay
- The state and federal governments are delivering major investments on the Peak Downs Highway, including:
 - **\$189.2 million** for the Eton Range Crossing
 - **\$70 million** to replace four timber bridges
- On the Bruce Highway, the Queensland Government, in partnership with the federal government, is delivering projects under the 10-year **\$8.5 billion** Bruce Highway commitment. Key major upgrades include:
 - **\$58 million** for the Cairns Southern Access Corridor (Stage 2)
 - **\$118.9 million** for the Cattle Creek and Frances Creek upgrade (south of Ingham)
 - **\$515 million** for the Haughton River and Pink Lily Lagoon upgrade (south of Townsville)
 - **\$497.8 million** for the Mackay Ring Road (Stage 1)
 - **\$121 million** for the Rockhampton Northern Access upgrade (Stage 1)

Securing deserved funding from the federal government

- Securing **\$56 million** in federal government funding for the Northern Australia Beef Roads Program and **\$224 million** for the Northern Australia Roads Program (Indigenous participation targets are currently being negotiated for these programs)
- In April 2017, the federal government approved the first four projects for delivery under the Northern Australia Roads Program
 - **\$25 million** Flinders Highway (Charters Towers – Richmond) culvert upgrades (Package 1)
 - **\$17 million** Flinders Highway (Townsville – Torrens Creek) pavement strengthening and rehabilitation (Package 1)
 - **\$50 million** Kennedy Developmental Road (The Lynd – Hughenden) progressive sealing
 - **\$3.32 million** Kennedy Developmental Road (Mount Garnet – The Lynd) road widening

Water and energy security



✓ Making sure water is available for personal use and industry

✓ Future-proofing water for the North

✓ Exploring new ways to power the North

✓ Working to stabilise power prices

We are working with locals to future-proof North Queensland's water supply

- **\$225 million** commitment over the next four years to implement the findings of the Townsville Water Security Taskforce established under the Townsville City Deal
- The Queensland Government is currently developing a water plan for the Great Artesian Basin and other regional aquifers and has initiated a water planning process in Cape York
- Mount Isa, Mackay, Mossman and Cloncurry Regional Water Supply Security Assessments are underway

We are making sure North Queensland benefits from investment in water and energy sources

- Securing a share of the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund
- The Queensland Government is facilitating feasibility studies worth more than **\$13 million** to assess nine North Queensland water infrastructure projects
- **\$2.2 million** in 2017–18 out of a \$2.4 million total spend to construct a new concrete drinking water reservoir in Pormpuraaw
- **\$42.5 million** for the Ergon Energy Townsville (Garbutt) depot upgrade Stage 2, supporting 60 jobs
- **\$7.9 million** in 2017–18 out of a \$17.5 million total spend to improve supply reliability from Clear Water Lagoon to Mount Isa Terminal Reservoir
- **\$472,000** in 2017–18 to refurbish and enhance the Collinsville pipeline
- **\$402,000** in 2017–18 to refurbish and enhance infrastructure assets for Bowen Broken water supply scheme
- **\$991,000** in 2017–18 to refurbish and enhance infrastructure assets for the Eton irrigation and water supply schemes
- **\$462,000** in 2017–18 to refurbish and enhance infrastructure assets for the Pioneer water supply scheme
- **\$982,000** in 2017–18 out of a \$15.6 million spend to upgrade the Palm Island power station
- **\$53.8 million** to undertake a major refurbishment and upgrade of Stanwell power station
- **\$1.6 million** in 2017–18 out of a \$24.5 million total spend to replace the Moura switchyard to ensure reliability of supply
- **\$1.6 million** in 2017–18 out of a \$1.8 million total spend to replace the generator on Mer (Murray) Island
- **\$1.2 million** in 2017–18 to replace the generator at Aurukun
- **\$2.1 million** in 2017–18 to carry out major refurbishment and upgrade to Mica Creek power station
- **\$1.4 million** in 2017–18 to upgrade the Mackay Tennyson Street substation
- **\$8.6 million** in 2017–18 out of a \$24.5 million total spend to replace the Mackay substation
- **\$8.3 million** in 2017–18 out of a \$29.8 million total spend to refit the Collinsville–Proserpine transmission line

Water and energy security



We are exploring new approaches to water and energy supply and creating local job opportunities in the process

- The Queensland Government is investing **\$386 million** to strengthen and diversify North Queensland's energy supply, drive economic growth and support 5000 jobs
- Actions under the Powering North Queensland plan include:
 - **\$150 million** to develop strategic transmission infrastructure in North and North-West Queensland, subject to completion of a feasibility study
 - Commissioning a hydro-electric study to assess options for deploying hydro in the state
 - **\$100 million** to develop the Burdekin Hydro power project, subject to completion of a business case
 - **\$136 million** towards improvement works to ensure the Burdekin Falls Dam continues to meet design standards
- Currently **11 renewable energy projects** are being developed in North Queensland, with a total installed capacity of 837 megawatts—including the Whitsunday Solar Farm and the Kidston Solar Project, which are being supported under the Queensland Government's Solar 150 program
- These projects are expected to deliver **\$1.6 billion** in new investment into North Queensland, with more than **1400 jobs** supported during construction
- Mt Emerald wind farm is a **\$380 million** project that will comprise 53 turbines with a total capacity of 180 megawatts, which will produce enough electricity to power approximately 75,000 homes annually. Preliminary construction works are underway
- The Clean Energy Finance Corporation has established a local presence in Townsville to take advantage of the potential to support clean energy, renewable energy and energy efficiency technology in the region
- **\$313,000** in 2017–18 to finance renewable energy and solar projects on Coconut Island
- **\$1 million** in 2017–18 of a \$13 million total spend to develop a solar power supply for the Lake Julius water supply system to achieve more cost-effective water supplies

Research and innovation

- ✓ Investing in research and innovation to boost the economy and create local jobs
- ✓ Building knowledge and infrastructure to support local research and innovation
- ✓ Providing support for local entrepreneurs and businesses

We are supporting local research and innovation infrastructure

- **\$10 million** commitment to fund, in partnership with the federal government and James Cook University, a \$30 million Cairns Innovation Centre at James Cook University to focus on innovation, commercialisation and entrepreneurship
- Supporting the **Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine (AITHM)**, with the Townsville facility at James Cook University open since October 2016, the Thursday Island facility completed in April 2017 and the Cairns facility expected to be completed in late 2017
- The Establishment Board for the **Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia** was announced in February 2017, with the first project funding round underway. Under the Townsville City Deal, the centre's headquarters will be established in Townsville by the end of 2017
- Advance Queensland has invested **\$3.2 million** through science and innovation programs with more than 30 recipients in the North Queensland region, including \$300,000 funding awarded to Professor Emma McBryde from James Cook University's AITHM from Round 2 of the Advance Queensland Research Fellowships. The funding will support a three-year project (2017–19) — *Combatting antibiotic resistant infections using a health system approach*
- **\$15 million** to develop 10-year priority industry roadmaps and actions plans to support emerging and priority sectors of advanced manufacturing, aerospace, biofutures, biomedical and life sciences, defence and mining equipment, technology and services

We are making sure funding supports ongoing research and innovation in the region, firing up new enterprise

- **\$500,000** over three years from the **\$6 million** Advancing Regional Innovation Program awarded to Ignite FNQ, a special purpose company formed with the support of partners across the region, to activate underutilised community assets to deliver workshop events on entrepreneurship, innovative thinking and social enterprise
- Providing funding support of up to **\$100,000** to two technology startups that have relocated to Cairns under the Advance Queensland Hot DesQ program—Deepblu Incorporated and KoalaSafe
- Awarding more than **\$565,000** to organisations under the Advance Queensland Ignite Ideas fund, to support activities that will test and implement commercialisation plans for projects including bicycle helmets with integrated forward and rear-facing cameras; export markets for Gulf of Carpentaria mud crabs and 'smart first aid kits'
- Supporting three organisations sharing **\$1.37 million** of funding under the Biofutures Commercialisation Program to test new or improved bioindustrial technologies and processes at the pilot or demonstration scale

Tourism, trade and investment



- ✓ Growing the region as a high-end tourism destination
- ✓ Building Asian tourism
- ✓ Attracting more investment
- ✓ Promoting North Queensland globally

We are bringing more visitors to create more tourism jobs

- The **\$35 million** Advancing Trade and Investment Strategy 2017–22 has been released, with plans to establish a dedicated Trade and Investment Queensland office in Townsville
- **New Tigerair service from Melbourne to Townsville** will inject \$12.5 million in overnight visitor expenditure and deliver 28,000 new seats into the region each year. Cairns also benefitted with new direct flights from Seoul to Cairns through Jin Air
- **Landmark deal with China Southern Airlines** to operate three flights a week direct from Guangzhou to Cairns through the Connecting with Asia Fund
- In the first year, these flights provide capacity to bring up to 33,000 Chinese visitors to Tropical North Queensland, which is forecast to be worth around \$30 million in overnight visitor expenditure
- Delivered a **\$2 million** tourism marketing campaign following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie to attract visitors, in partnership with the federal government
- Established a **\$7 million** joint federal and state tourism recovery fund following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie to rebuild damaged infrastructure and develop new experiences
- Invested **\$24.6 million** to help Mackay and Central Queensland tourism and other small business recover from natural disasters
- 123 grants totalling **\$532,237** have been allocated to small businesses in North Queensland under the **Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy 2016–20**. Of these, \$57,488 was awarded to 13 tourism businesses under the **Small Business Digital Grants Program** and \$8350 was awarded to one tourism business under the **Accelerate Small Business Grants Program**
- Investment of **\$2.1 million** in Cairns to create an Indigenous arts incubator for start-up Indigenous performance companies commissioning new works and performances in Indigenous communities and at the Centre for Contemporary Arts Cairns
- Investment of **\$2.5 million** to regional activities under the Backing Indigenous Arts initiative to promote economic, tourism and employment outcomes for Indigenous artists and communities
- The **Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (GC2018)** is the first large-scale multi-sport spectacle to be hosted in Australia for more than a decade and an opportunity for not only the Gold Coast, but the event cities of Townsville and Cairns to feature on the world sporting stage
- The men's and women's basketball heats will be jointly held in Cairns and Townsville from 5 to 10 April 2018
- Eight teams will compete over the five days at the Cairns Convention Centre and the Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre in front of a capacity crowd of 4600

Tourism, trade and investment



- Cairns Regional Council and Townsville City Council has each been funded by the state, **\$3.2 million** including **\$400,000 for public art**, to develop and deliver **Festival 2018** – the arts and cultural program for the Games – in Cairns and Townsville during GC2018

Securing investment for North Queensland jobs

- North Queensland will benefit from investment in infrastructure projects across the region totalling more than **\$3.244 billion** and creating more than **9500 job opportunities**:
 - Far North Queensland – \$819.2 million, supporting 2300 jobs
 - Townsville – \$689.2 million, supporting 1900 jobs
 - Mackay – \$519.8 million, supporting 1400 jobs
 - Central Queensland – \$788.1 million, supporting 2200 jobs
 - Outback Queensland (including the North West) – \$428.2 million, supporting 1200 jobs
- Some of the **key infrastructure projects** are:
 - Cairns Convention Centre – \$176 million
 - Cairns Shipping Development project – \$120 million
 - Contribution towards the development of a new Cairns Performing Arts Centre – \$15 million
 - Yeppoon foreshore revitalisation – \$9.4 million
 - Rockhampton CBD development – \$5 million
 - Support initial planning and the relocation of the Rockhampton Art Gallery as part of the CBD development – \$2 million
 - Whitsunday Airport upgrade – \$15 million
 - Great Barrier Reef Marine Park moorings in Mackay region – \$700,000
 - Sarina Hospital redevelopment – \$16.5 million
 - Les Wilson Barramundi Discovery Centre expansion – \$1.1 million
 - Transport and Tourism Connection Program in Outback Queensland – \$10 million
 - North Queensland Stadium in Townsville – \$250 million (\$140 million state contribution)
 - Townsville channel capacity upgrade – \$193 million (\$75 million state contribution)
 - Port of Mackay infrastructure improvements – \$11.64 million

North Queensland will benefit from improved healthcare with investment in health infrastructure across the region

- Detailed planning continues on the following health capital projects:
 - New Cairns South Health Precinct
 - Thursday Island Hospital redevelopment – \$36 million
 - Rockhampton Hospital car park – \$25.5 million
 - Atherton Hospital redevelopment
 - Various capital works throughout the Torres Strait Islands – \$11.3 million

Tourism, trade and investment



- Other projects in the 2017–18 budget include:
 - Sarina Hospital redevelopment – \$16.5 million
 - Completion of Dimbulah Primary Healthcare Clinic – \$2.9 million
 - New mental health facility for Cairns – \$70 million
 - Townsville Hospital Clinical Services redevelopment – \$10.4 million
 - Mer (Murray) Island Primary Healthcare Centre – \$7 million
 - Palm Island Primary Healthcare Centre – \$16.5 million
 - Various staff accommodation projects – \$13 million

We are helping to build a new economy

- The two-year **\$100 million Back to Work program** has seen regional employers employ more than 3288 jobseekers in North Queensland, with more than 1635 being young jobseekers. The government has now committed a further \$50 million to continue the program in regional Queensland
- Announced **\$130 million Jobs and Regional Growth fund** with almost \$24 million in funding already announced for projects in North Queensland
- As part of the **Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy 2016–20**, 29 registered events in 2017 Small Business Week and a further nine workshops were delivered across North Queensland
- **\$240 million Skilling Queenslanders for Work program** continues to make inroads in North Queensland with 1273 participants going on to gain employment and 613 entering further training
- Provided **\$151.6 million** in natural disaster relief and recovery funding for reconstruction projects, including:
 - Mackay – \$63.4 million
 - Far North Queensland – \$30.7 million
 - Central Queensland – \$57.5 million
- **\$142 million** investment over the next five years (2017–22) across Central Queensland, Townsville and Cairns to build 334 new social housing homes, expecting to support around 80 FTE jobs per annum in the local building industry
- **\$104 million** investment over the next four years (2017–2021) across Townsville, Outback, Fitzroy and Far North regions (including Aurukun) to construct 135 new government employee housing residences. This investment is expected to support approximately 75 FTE jobs per annum in the local building industry
- **Townsville City Deal** – Australia’s first City Deal was signed in December 2016, and identifies 16 commitments and nine future opportunities. Key milestones achieved under the Townsville City Deal include:
 - **\$140 million** commitment to deliver the \$250 million North Queensland Stadium
 - **\$225 million** in funding allocated in the 2017–18 Budget to act on the findings of the Townsville Water Security Taskforce
 - **\$75 million** towards the Townsville Port Channel Capacity Upgrade

Tourism, trade and investment



- Supporting the arts and cultural sector, **\$5.3 million** for eight small to medium arts and cultural organisations over four years under the Organisations Fund to support core operations
- The government's **\$8.4 million CarbonPlus** initiative is building the capacity of Indigenous communities in North Queensland to participate in the emerging domestic and global carbon markets
- As part of the **Queensland Climate Change Response**, the government will work with the tourism sector to develop a climate plan focusing on the job and industry development opportunities associated with transitioning to a low carbon and climate resilient economy

Building our Regions and Works for Queensland funding is supporting North Queensland local councils to undertake projects supporting jobs and unlocking economic benefits

- Building our Regions has invested **\$127.6 million** to support local council projects in North Queensland
- North Queensland councils received more than **\$133.6 million** in Works for Queensland funding with a further \$200 million being invested in the program over two years

Enabling the next generation of resource projects in the North West

- Investments of more than **\$27 million** over four years to expand resource exploration and development for gas in new basins and minerals in the North West Minerals Province, which includes:
 - **\$7.125 million** for the Strategic Resources Exploration Program to provide vital geological data to encourage new discoveries of gas and minerals in the North West
 - **\$3.6 million** for gas exploration in the new frontier Georgina, South Nicholson and Isa Super basins
 - **\$4.275 million** for mineral geophysics to pinpoint the locations of potential new mineral prospects over wide areas
 - **\$1.450 million** for mineral geochemistry programs to identify the type of potential mineral deposits (e.g. copper, or lead, or zinc)
 - **\$4.950 million** for mineral synthesis to develop a comprehensive and integrated understanding of the geology of the North West Minerals Province
 - **\$925,000** to support national research into advanced techniques used in the discovery of mineral deposits in frontier regions
 - **\$3.6 million** for the Collaborative Exploration Initiative that helps explorers target and test identified mineral prospects in frontier regions

North Queensland Stadium



✓ Creating local job opportunities and allowing local business to be part of the success

✓ Attracting more investment to the region

Using local know-how to build a stadium we can be proud of

- The **\$250 million** North Queensland Stadium project is on track to be completed by the 2020 NRL season
- The Queensland Government has committed **\$140 million** to the project. It is also supported by **\$100 million** from the federal government and a **\$10 million** commitment from the North Queensland Cowboys, with the support of the National Rugby League
- The appointment of the Managing Contractor, Watpac, was announced on 1 May 2017
- Watpac will work towards more than 80 per cent of hours spent building the stadium to be by local businesses
- Watpac will work towards at least 80 per cent of the value of the project to be spent on local subcontractors and suppliers
- Watpac has committed to targeting 6.6 per cent of the workforce to be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Total number of trade packages, to support local subcontractors and suppliers, is expected to reach around 80
- The stadium build is expected to **employ more than 750 people** from the region
- The design team appointed combines the expertise of one of Australia's leading stadium designers with the local knowledge and expertise of Townsville firms
- Stadium works are already delivering jobs to the local community and Townsville's Brazier Motti and Advantage Signs are the first contractors on the ground
- Brazier Motti is conducting a dilapidation survey of the site and adjoining areas, and this work will support **10 jobs**
- Advantage Signs has been commissioned to design, manufacture and install printed graphic shade cloth to the site fencing and this will support **13 jobs**