

Subject: MEETING | Trevor Benneworth - Scootaville Event
Location: Room 5.05, Parliament House
Start: Tue 10/05/2022 1:30 PM
End: Tue 10/05/2022 2:00 PM
Recurrence: (none)
Meeting Status: Meeting organizer
Organizer: Bart Mellish
Required Attendees: External - Aspley Electorate Office; External - Bart Mellish; External - Jimmy Sullivan; Korrily Magill; Joey Kaiser

Maddy will collect Trevor and bring up to room.
Jimmy Sullivan also attending

Released under RTI - DPC

ASSISTANT MINISTER TO THE PREMIER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS AND COVID ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Governance and Engagement

Tracking Folder No. TF/22/8924

Document No. DOC/22/79075

To: ASSISTANT MINISTER
Date:
Subject: Meeting with Mr Trevor Benneworth UTT, Secretary/Treasurer, RAAF Radschool Association Tuesday 10 May 2022, 1.30pm – 2.00pm Room 5.05, Parliament House

Approved / Not Approved / Noted

A/Minister

Date/...../.....

Date Action Required by:/...../.....

Requested by:
(if appropriate)

• RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that you **note** the information provided to you for your attendance at the meeting with Mr Benneworth (**documents attached**):

• KEY ISSUES

- Mr Benneworth requested a short meeting with you to discuss the event organised by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Radschool Association (the Association) named 'Scootaville', which to be held in the near future.
- Mr Jimmy Sullivan MP, State Member of Stafford will also attend the meeting. An Electoral Officer of Stafford met with Mr Benneworth on 4 May 2022 to discuss the progress of the event.
- Scootaville is a 13-day charity ride on scooters, throughout regional Queensland to raise money for Legacy. The participants will be travelling from Brisbane to Townsville, via Kingaroy, Longreach, and Charters Towers.
- The event was planned to be held in 2021 for the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Association but was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Association has raised funds for this event through various raffles run by volunteers.
- Mr Benneworth would like to provide an update on the following:
 - o local Councils along the route are providing free use of showground facilities for overnight accommodation
 - o RAAF has arranged a hot air balloon at Rosewood and Air Force Roulettes at Longreach and the Australian Army is providing trucks for display at Rosewood
 - o the event provides opportunities for veterans to come together to discuss issues that are of concern to the veterans' community
 - o Mr Benneworth is seeking funding support from the Queensland Government across different portfolios, including Queensland Treasury, Events and Tourism, Veterans Affairs, and local governments.
- I will attend the meeting as DPC's representative.

CTPI - Business Affairs

ASSISTANT MINISTER TO THE PREMIER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS AND COVID ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Governance and Engagement

Tracking Folder No. TF/22/8924

Document No. DOC/22/79075

• BACKGROUND

- The RAAF Radschool Association is a registered charity and was formed in 1999 to represent the men and women who were trained by the RAAF to maintain and operate its electronic equipment.

Comments (*Assistant Minister or DG*)

Kirrily Magill
Executive Director

Released under RTI - DPC

Release

Subject: EVENT | Rep Hinchliffe at Media event - Crossfit
Location: Next to Joey's Cafe, 29 River Tce Kangaroo Point

Start: Thu 19/05/2022 8:45 AM
End: Thu 19/05/2022 9:45 AM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Meeting organizer

Organizer: Bart Mellish
Required Attendees: External - Aspley Electorate Office; Bart Mellish

Amanda from Hinchliffe's office will be with you.
Pack to come

Released under RTI - DPC

Subject: MEETING | Quentin Masson - Wandering Warriors
Location: Small Meeting Room - Level 40

Start: Thu 19/05/2022 2:00 PM
End: Thu 19/05/2022 3:00 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Meeting organizer

Organizer: Bart Mellish
Required Attendees: External - Aspley Electorate Office; External - Bart Mellish;
sonya.reesby@premiers.qld.gov.au

Released under RTI - DPC

To: ASSISTANT MINISTER
Date:
Subject: Meeting with Mr Quentin Masson DSM, Chief Executive Officer, Wandering Warriors Thursday 19 May 2022 at 10.00 am (Meeting Room TBC) 1 William Street

Approved / Not Approved / Noted
A/Minister
Date/...../.....
Date Action Required by:/...../.....
Requested by: <i>(if appropriate)</i>

• RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that you **note** the information provided in the **attached documents** to support your attendance at the meeting with Mr Masson.

• KEY ISSUES

- You met with Mr Masson in June 2021.
CTPI - Business Affairs
- Wandering Warriors is a not-for-profit ex-service organisation that supports Special Operations Command veterans and their families as they transition from military to civilian life.
- The organisation supports veterans through education, employment, respite and mentoring programs.
- Wandering Warriors receives funding support through corporate sponsorships, partnerships and donations.
- Mr Masson also the Managing Director of the Missio Group, a program, project management advisory and management consultancy service provider to a range of government, interagency and enterprise level customers nationally.
- Ms Sonya Reesby A/Executive Director, Office for Veterans and Office for Rural and Regional Queensland, will attend the meeting as the department of Premier and Cabinet's representative.

• ELECTION / CABINET / PUBLIC COMMITMENTS

- \$1.1 million training package to provide free TAFE and apprenticeships for up to 300 veterans transitioning to civilian employment and to enhance the Veterans' Employment Pathway and the Queensland Veterans' Portal.

• BACKGROUND

- Wandering Warriors commenced in 2013 as a charity organising fundraising events for veterans' causes. In 2015, it became a public company with a national presence.
- The head office of Wandering Warriors is located in Brisbane. However, there are state managers in New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory.

- CTPI - Business Affairs

**ASSISTANT MINISTER TO THE PREMIER FOR VETERANS'
AFFAIRS AND COVID ECONOMIC RECOVERY**
Governance and Engagement

Tracking Folder No. TF/22/8757
Document No. DOC/22/76778

Comments (Assistant Minister or DG)

Filly Morgan
**Acting Associate Director-
General**

Released under RTI - DPC

Release

s.73 Name

Subject: EVENT | Unveiling of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War State Memorial
Location: Anzac Square, Ann Street.
Start: Fri 27/05/2022 9:45 AM
End: Fri 27/05/2022 11:30 AM
Recurrence: (none)
Meeting Status: Meeting organizer
Organizer: Bart Mellish
Required Attendees: External - Aspley Electorate Office; External - Bart Mellish

Date and Time: Friday, 27 May, 2022 from 10:00am to 11:30am (guest arrival from 9:30am)

Venue: ANZAC Square, 285 Ann Street, Brisbane | **Dress:** Smart Casual. Veterans are requested to wear full medals

Please note that the Department of Premier and Cabinet Queensland will have a registration desk set up at the bottom of the stairs to the Eternal flame at ANZAC Square for RSVP'd guests. On arrival, please proceed to the registration desk to be advised of your seating allocation.

The public can view the event from public viewing areas with ample standing space outside of the quartered off seated event area.

This is an unveiling event of the State Memorial, wreaths are not encouraged to be laid on the day but could well be encouraged at ceremonies following this event.

If you have any questions regarding the information above, please reply to this email or contact

on (07) s.73 Not Relevant

s.73 Name

Subject: EVENT | Lay a Wreath at the 2022 Indigenous Veterans' Ceremony
Location: Anzac Square, Ann Street

Start: Sat 28/05/2022 10:40 AM
End: Sat 28/05/2022 11:45 AM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Meeting organizer

Organizer: Bart Mellish

Required Attendees: External - Aspley Electorate Office; External - Bart Mellish; Joey Kaiser; Elly Begley; Sonya Reesby

10.45am start

Elly Begley to staff

Contact for day – Jonathon Cole - s.73 Personal Information

Released under RTI - DPC

ASSISTANT MINISTER TO THE PREMIER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS AND COVID ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Governance and Engagement

Tracking Folder No. TF/22/8763

Document No. DOC/22/76810

To: ASSISTANT MINISTER
Date:
Subject: 2022 Indigenous Veterans' Ceremony
Shrine of Remembrance, ANZAC Square, Ann Street, Brisbane
Saturday 28 May 2022, 10.45am – 12.00pm

Approved / Not Approved / Noted

A/Minister

Date/...../.....

Date Action Required by:/...../.....

Requested by:

(if appropriate)

• **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that you **note** the following information to support your attendance as the Premier's Representative at the 2022 Indigenous Veterans' Ceremony (the Ceremony).

• **KEY ISSUES**

- The annual Ceremony has been organised by the Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) (RSL Qld) and will take place on Saturday 28 May 2022.
- You will be representing the Premier at this Ceremony and have been invited to lay a wreath by RSL Qld State President, Major General Stephen Day DSC AM.
- You are scheduled to arrive at 10.45am for an 11.00am commencement. The Ceremony will conclude at approximately 12.00pm.
- The Ceremony will take place at the Shrine of Remembrance, Anzac Square, Ann Street, Brisbane.
- A wreath has been organised for you and will be delivered to your Electorate Office on Friday 27 May 2022.
- Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young PSM, Governor of Queensland will also be attending the Ceremony.
- A departmental representative has not been requested to attend.
- Key documents to support your attendance are provided at the **Attachments 1-2**.

• **CONSULTATION**

- RSL Qld.

• **BACKGROUND**

- RSL Qld delivers the Ceremony every year during National Reconciliation Week to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander veterans.
- You have previously met with Major General Day on 14 April 2022.
- The Queensland Government contributed \$240,000 (excluding GST) for a new Indigenous Veterans Memorial which will be officially unveiled at Anzac Square one day prior to this event. You are also attending this official unveiling ceremony.
- 27 May 2022 marks the 55th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum, where more than 90 per cent of Australians voted to remove clauses from the Australian Constitution that discriminated against Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Release

Action Officer: Taylor Atkins
Area: Office for Veterans
Telephone: 300 39309

Approved by Sonya Reesby, A/Executive Director,
Office for Veterans and Rural and Regional
Queensland
Telephone: 300 39309 Approved on:

RTIP268 Part 3 10 of 67

- Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples have played an important role in the defence of Australia and have served in the Australian Defence Force with honour during every conflict since the second Boer War in 1899.

Comments (*Assistant Minister or DG*)

Filly Morgan
Associate Director-General

Released under RTI - DPC

s.73 Name

Subject: EVENT | PwC Marquee Derby Day (theme black & white)
Location: Squire's Perch Eagle Farm Racecourse - 230 Lancaster Rd, Ascot

Start: Sat 28/05/2022 12:30 PM
End: Sat 28/05/2022 5:00 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Meeting organizer

Organizer: Bart Mellish
Required Attendees: External - Aspley Electorate Office; Bart Mellish

Can arrive and leave anytime between 12.30-5pm
Fashion theme is black & white
Contact: Jane Knox - s.73 Personal Information

There is parking in the Members Carpark which your ticket will give you access to. Parking is on the grounds via the infield car park off Nudgee Rd - [Getting Here - Brisbane Racing Club \(brc.com.au\)](http://www.brc.com.au)

Released under RTI - DPC

Subject: FLIGHT QF2368 | BNE to RKY - arrives 3.25pm
Location: Airline Ref: 53ZR4Z

Start: Sun 29/05/2022 2:05 PM
End: Sun 29/05/2022 2:25 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Meeting organizer

Organizer: Bart Mellish
Required Attendees: External - Aspley Electorate Office; External - Bart Mellish

Released under RTI - DPC

Subject: ACCOM | Quest Rockhampton
Location: 48 Victoria Parade, Rockhampton (Ph 4920 5300)

Start: Sun 29/05/2022 3:30 PM
End: Sun 29/05/2022 4:00 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Meeting organizer

Organizer: Bart Mellish
Required Attendees: External - Aspley Electorate Office; External - Bart Mellish

Released under RTI - DPC

Subject: EVENT | Regional Forum Dinner
Location: TBC

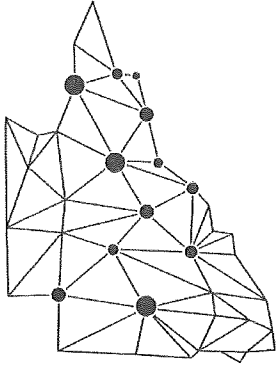
Start: Sun 29/05/2022 6:00 PM
End: Sun 29/05/2022 8:00 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Meeting organizer

Organizer: Bart Mellish
Required Attendees: External - Aspley Electorate Office; External - Bart Mellish

Released under RTI - DPC



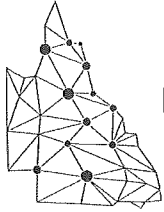
Regional Community Forums

Central Queensland folder contents

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| | Annotated Agenda (including speaking prompts) |
| 2. | Regional Community Forum invitee list |
| 3. | Forum Member biographies |
| 4. | Hot Issues Briefs – Region |
| | Hot Issues Briefs – Statewide |
| 5. | Region placemat |
| 6. | Information pack – Department of Employment, Small Business and Training's Workforce Strategy overview |



Queensland
Government



Central Queensland Region

29–30 May 2022

Rockhampton

Invitees

Position	Name
Chair (or) Co-Chairs	Ms Brittany Lauga MP Member for Keppel Assistant Minister for Education
	Mr Barry O'Rourke MP Member for Rockhampton
Attending Minister(s) and Assistant Minister(s)	The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP Premier of Queensland and Minister for the Olympics
	The Honourable Mick de Brenni MP Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement
	Mr Bart Mellish MP Assistant Minister to the Premier for Veterans' Affairs, Trade and COVID Economic Recovery
Queensland Government agency representatives	Rachel Hunter PSM, Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet
	Paul Martyn PSM, Director-General, Department of Energy and Public Works
	Richard Austin, Executive Director, Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water.
	David Thompson – Manager, Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships.
	John Fraser – District Manager, Department of Energy and Public Works.
	Karen Abrahams – Director, Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs.
	Nicole Lee, Department of Employment, Small Business and Training
	Davina Roberts, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
	Ben Lorroway, Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport
	Debbie Housman, Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs

Position	Name
Regional Community Forum Members	Adrienne Ward Trent Miles
	Garry Scanlan Sharon Kingston
	Bronwyn Roberts Natalie Dunk-Andrews
	Warren Hale Jacob Weir
	Brigid Price Shelly McArdle
	Dan Smith Cassie Brophy
	Bronwyn Schultz Karen Butler
	Melinee Leather Suzie Lane
	Jess Mulhall
Apologies	Marion Wands Megan Daniels
Guests	Councillor Tony Williams, Mayor, Rockhampton Regional Council Susanne Carlton, CQ University
Networking Function only	Nil.
DESBT Workforce Strategy session – additional invitees	Phil Henry, Capricornia Chamber of Commerce Laurie Johansen, RPS Fire Peter Masters, Gladstone Engineering Alliance Rosemary Munrose, Biloela Enterprise Peter Heilbruth, Central Queensland University Mary Carroll, Capricorn Enterprise Wade Clarke, Advance Rockhampton Paul Heagney, Gladstone Ports Corporation Peter Woodall, Stanwell Karla Lovell, Callide Dawson Chamber of Commerce Joe Smith, Gladstone Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Forum Team

Position	Name
ORRQ Officer	Kris Biddle, Principal Stakeholder Relationship Officer, Office for Rural and Regional Queensland, Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Supporting Senior Officer	Richard Austin, Executive Director, Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water.
Scribes	Deb Dark, Executive Officer, Office for Rural and Regional Queensland, Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Central Queensland Hot Issues

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Central Queensland Hot Issues

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Released under RTI - DPC

Great Keppel Island (GKI) Funding and GKI Resort Proposal

- GKI Resort holds four term leases and one perpetual lease under the *Land Act 1994*, on which the resort is located. The resort is currently closed.
- The Department of Resources (DoR) has received applications to transfer the four term leases and one perpetual lease from GKI Resort Pty Ltd to GKI Investments Pty Ltd. GKI Investments Pty Ltd is part of Hancock Prospecting.
- As part of an assessment of the application to transfer the leases, an independent financial and managerial capability assessment of the incoming purchaser will need to be undertaken.
- DoR is working closely with Hancock Prospecting regarding what reasonable adjustments to the lease conditions to reflect and support its development plans for the island.
- The Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning led community engagement with the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport in late 2021 to understand the community's vision and aspirations for the island. Further engagement on this work will be informed by the outcome of HPPL's investment decision
- The government understands the importance of redevelopment of GKI that will provide significant local, regional, and state tourism benefits. In recognition of this, the government has committed \$30 million for the development of common-user infrastructure on the island.
- To inform the allocation of the \$30 million for the development of the common-user infrastructure, the government is working with stakeholders on a suitable Masterplan for fulfilling the tourism potential of GKI.
- The need for greater certainty on private sector plans to redevelop the GKI Resort leases has delayed expenditure on island infrastructure development under the government's funding commitment, however infrastructure priorities will be informed by the Masterplan to ensure the government's investment best supports the Masterplan outcomes and helps fulfil the tourism potential of GKI.

Housing and Accommodation Shortage

- Reports indicate there is a housing and accommodation shortage in Central Queensland, with the average vacancy rate across the Banana, Central Highlands, Gladstone, Livingstone, Rockhampton and Woorabinda Local Government Areas (LGAs) just 0.57 per cent in March 2022.
- The 2021–22 Budget allocated \$30.34 million to expand and improve social housing in the Central Queensland region, with approximately \$4.7 million allocated for new housing, \$2.3 million to acquire land and \$23.3 million for the maintenance and upgrade of existing housing.

Release

Central Queensland Hot Issues

- The median rent for a three-bedroom house in Rockhampton LGA increased by 15.63 per cent between March 2021 and March 2022 to \$370 per week. And by 16.07 per cent in Gladstone to \$325 per week.
- Across the six Central Queensland LGAs, 26.2 per cent of low-income private renters (receiving Commonwealth Rent Assistance) were in housing stress as at 30 June 2019.

Queensland Housing Strategy, Housing and Homelessness Action Plan

- The *Queensland Housing Strategy 2017–2027* (the Housing Strategy) sets out the 10-year vision for the state's housing system and the Queensland Government's commitment to making sure all Queenslanders have a pathway to safe, secure and affordable housing. The strategy drives new ways of working across government and the sector, delivering more new social affordable homes and an integrated system where people can access housing with support according to their needs.
- On 15 June 2021, the Queensland Government launched the *Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025* (the Action Plan) – a four-year plan to deliver the next stage of the Queensland Housing Strategy.
- The Action Plan is backed by a \$2.9 billion investment over the next four years, including the establishment of a \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund, to help more vulnerable Queenslanders into homes quicker.
- The Queensland Housing Investment Growth Initiative, which includes QuickStarts Qld is a coordinated capital program delivering new social homes across all Queensland and establishes new regions and targets.
- QuickStarts Qld will see 113 new social homes commenced in Central Queensland by 30 June 2025, through a planned investment of \$39.9 million over four years, supporting more than 125 full-time equivalent jobs. This is in addition to the 48 new social homes commenced in Central Queensland under the Housing Strategy, and 16 new social homes under Works for Tradies.
- Since the commencement of QuickStarts Qld, contracts have been awarded for the commencement of one new social home in the Central Queensland Region with a further 11 new social homes targeted to commence in Central Queensland Region by 30 June 2022.

Apprenticeships

- The Central Queensland region has seen a significant increase in apprenticeship registrations, with the influx of registrations raising concerns about the capacity of Registered Training Organisations to perform the required training in allocated timeframes.

Central Queensland Hot Issues

- Construction and electrical industry representatives have expressed concerns that the quality of training will reduce, and that apprentices may be qualified without meeting the required standards for individual modules.
- Each year Construction Skills Queensland (CSQ) develops an Annual Training Plan (ATP), endorsed by the Minister for Training and Skills Development, with the 2021–22 currently under consideration. The programs within CSQ's ATP, once endorsed, are available at a regional level to support the provision of training within the sector.
- As of 9 April 2022, new commencement in the Certificate III in Civil Construction Plant Operations were down 64 per cent in comparison with the same time last year. Commencements in general construction courses are up three per cent compared with the same time last year.
- For engineering, as of 9 April 2021, new commencements were down four per cent when compared with the same time last year.

Central Queensland Education Facilities Investment

Capricornia School of Distance Education (SDE), Emerald Campus

- In March 2020, a workplace health and safety inspection of the facilities revealed several concerning issues in relation to fire safety, occupancy recommendations and supervision of students.
- In February 2021, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services conducted a formal safety inspection and advised in its report that 'The Outstation' and 'The Shed' should not be used for accommodation.
- On 14 April 2021, the Department of Education (DoE) received the Building Code Compliance Report (Department of Energy and Public Works (DEPW) QBuild) and Town Planning report.
- In July 2021, an interim Building Compliance Technical Memorandum was completed by DEPW identifying that 'The Outstation' and 'The Shed' at the Emerald campus would require extensive upgrades and alterations to make them compliant with the Building Code of Australia/National Construction Code.
- In August 2021, the final DEPW Building Compliance Audit was provided to the school and the school's Parents and Citizens' Association (P&C).
- DoE appointed a dedicated project manager to scope the work required to address all identified compliance issues to reintroduce overnight accommodation for mini-school and associated activities. To comply with relevant codes, the occupancy conditions of the buildings will reduce capacity of occupants accommodated at the site overnight.
- On 7 September 2021, a site meeting was held at the Emerald Campus for the Capricornia SDE, with school leadership, the P&C executive, Project Officer and the Project Manager, to commence discussions regarding a

needs analysis for the facilities, and the process for scoping of required building works.

- In March 2022, a design workshop was conducted at the Emerald Campus for the Capricornia SDE involving key stakeholders to further plan for the reinstatement of overnight accommodation in time for the start of the 2023 school year.
- As at 27 April 2022, the compliance upgrade project is in the design phase.

Valkyrie State School (SS)

- Valkyrie SS uses rainwater tanks for all the school water drinking needs and these tanks have a sufficient supply at this time. The school does not have access to mains water supply. In times of short rainfall, the school's water supply is supplemented with potable water deliveries. Water costs are covered by regional or central office budgets.
- DoE engaged a technical expert to undertake investigations and prepare a report to identify viable water security options for Valkyrie SS.
- On 10 January 2022, work commenced on site to implement the recommendations outlined in the report. The installation of water tanks, pumps, pipelines and electrical work has been completed and are in use and the project officially reached practical completion on 10 March 2022.

Heritage Minerals Mount Morgan Project

- Heritage Minerals Pty Ltd (Heritage) is seeking approvals for a tailings reprocessing operation at the historic Mount Morgan gold mine, near Rockhampton. This site is currently managed by the Department of Resources (DoR) under its Abandoned Mine Lands Program.
- Heritage is working with DoR to develop its \$97 million project. The project will produce approximately 325,000 ounces of gold and 9,300 tonnes of copper over an initial six-year mine life, generating 300 construction jobs and 150 operational jobs and significantly reducing the pollution legacy of the site.
- Heritage Minerals is also currently liaising with DoR regarding a contract proposal to allow them to commence construction works that will support their future mining activities and provide benefits to the ongoing management of site legacies. Any works at site conducted outside of mining approvals must be completed under the existing agreement between Heritage Minerals and DoR.
- On 12 May 2022 the Department of Environment and Science (DES) approved the Environmental Authority amendment application lodged by Heritage Minerals and issued the draft Environmental Authority.
- In accordance with relevant legislation, DES is required to provide a 20-business day period from issuing of the draft Environmental Authority to

allow for any potential objections or Land Court referrals before issuing the final Environmental Authority to Heritage.

- Heritage Minerals is also seeking support for its project from the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning under its Regional Development Program, and also from the federal government's North Australian Infrastructure Fund.
- Given that different parts of the site will be managed by DoR and Heritage, and as part of the assessment of the lodged Environmental Authority amendment application, DES has sought confirmation of responsibility for the management of various infrastructure with the parties.

Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI)

Rockhampton–Yeppoon Road – Yeppoon Road Upgrade

- As part of the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP) 2021–22 to 2024–25, the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) Central Queensland Region will deliver a jointly funded ROSI initiative on the Rockhampton–Yeppoon Road.
- TMR is delivering an \$80 million project to upgrade the Rockhampton–Yeppoon Road as part of the Federal ROSI initiative (\$64 million Australian Government; \$16 million Queensland Government). Development of the business case was completed in August 2021.
- Detailed design is currently being finalised and incorporates outcomes from community consultation in July to August 2020, and targeted engagement with key stakeholders in early 2021.
- The road corridor was gazetted on 18 March 2022.
- Contract award is expected in mid-2022, subject to the outcomes from the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC) submission.
- Construction is expected to commence in mid-to-late 2022 and is expected to be completed in late 2024.
- An average of 90 direct jobs will be supported over the life of the project.

Dawson Developmental Road (Springsure–Tambo)

- The \$50 million investment in the Dawson Developmental Road (Springsure–Tambo), jointly funded by the federal and state governments on an 80:20 (federal:state) basis, will significantly improve access for local traffic and the cattle industry.
- TMR continues to work closely with Central Highlands Regional Council to develop a delivery strategy for the Dawson Developmental Road (Springsure–Tambo) targeting jointly agreed priorities.

Central Queensland Hot Issues

- As part of this investment, detailed design is currently underway for the \$5 million project (\$4 million Federal Government; \$1 million Queensland Government) to seal almost five kilometres of road from the end of the existing seal (Nandowrie) to 1.5 kilometres west of Coranderrk Road. Construction is expected to commence later in 2022.
- TMR has submitted a project proposal report (PPR) for a project value of \$25.54 million on an 80:20 (federal:state) basis (\$20.43 million Australian Government; \$5.11 million Queensland Government) for the scoping, development and delivery phase of a project to deliver priority upgrades to this road.
- The scope of this PPR includes \$2 million for TMR to lead planning and preconstruction activities to determine the remaining scope of work to be included in a future PPR Addendum to seek the total balance (\$19.46 million – 80:20 (federal:state) basis) of funding from the \$50 million commitment to this ROSI corridor.

Capricorn Highway (Emerald-Alpha)

- In the 2022–23 Federal Budget, the Federal Government committed \$111.7 million in funding for three projects to strengthen and widen various sections of the Capricorn Highway between Emerald and Alpha.
- The projects will improve the safety and efficiency of this key freight route, connecting agricultural and mining regions to ports, airports and other transport hubs, while better connecting regional communities.
- The recent funding announcement to strengthen and widen sections of the Capricorn Highway between Emerald and Alpha is funded under the ROSI initiative on an 80:20 (federal:state) basis (\$111.7 million Federal Government; anticipated \$22.34 million Queensland Government) over a five-year period from 2022–2026.

Local Government-funded ROSI Projects

Banana Shire Council – Biloela Heavy Vehicle Bypass

- The \$2.1 million Federal Government -funded project will construct a heavy vehicle bypass at Biloela, in Central Queensland.
- Construction commenced in early 2021 and is expected to be completed in mid-2022.

Livingstone Shire Council – Stanage Bay Road Upgrade, Shoalwater Bay

- The Federal Government has committed \$21.6 million to upgrade Stanage Bay Road.
- This project will upgrade Stanage Bay Road, which runs from the Bruce Highway to Stanage. The project involves widening and sealing approximately 39.7 kilometres of unsealed road between the Bruce Highway and the Stevens Road Access Army Gate.

Central Queensland Hot Issues

- Construction commenced in mid-2020, with completion expected in mid-2023.

Government Procurement – Compliance and Complaints

- From 1 July 2020, the Queensland Government has set a target of sourcing at least 25 per cent of procurement by value from Queensland Small and Medium Enterprises, increasing to 30 per cent by 30 June 2022.
- Rookwood Weir Project is a \$352 million water infrastructure investment to drive new economic and employment opportunities for the agricultural industry and the community of Central Queensland.
- The design and construction of the weir will be managed by:
 - Sunwater – construction authority, operator and water marketer
 - Rookwood Weir Alliance (GHD – designer; McCosker and ACCIONA – construction).
- There have been concerns raised around local benefits for the Rookwood Weir Project Alliance Group using FIFO workers. Consultation between the Queensland Government Procurement (QGP) Compliance Branch and Sunwater have confirmed contractual commitments to local benefits.
- QGP Compliance Branch the Buy Queensland Audit Team commenced a Managing Contractor audit with the Rookwood Weir Alliance in January 2022. All project activities for the design and construction of the Weir are centralised under the Alliance agreement, for example centralised procurement, human resources, work health and safety. The findings from this audit are currently being finalised, including the review of the commitments to local benefits. Final outcomes of the achievement of targets for local benefits will not be able to be determined until the project reaches practical completion.

Repurposing Emerald Pastoral College

- On 6 December 2019, the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges (QATC) ceased practical operations. This was in response to the recommendations of a review of vocational education, training and skilling in Central and Western Queensland.
- The review identified the residential-based training model was no longer viable in the competitive training market and transitioning the facilities at Emerald and Longreach to alternative uses provided a more sustainable option.
- The former QATC assets were passed to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) on 1 March 2020. DAF has in place several lease and licence to occupy agreements with various groups utilising land and/or infrastructure at the Emerald site.

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- The Queensland Government's 2021–2022 Budget includes funding of \$16.74 million over five years to maintain the sites in a safe, fit-for-purpose condition, with specific capital investments as required, to repurpose the former QATC properties for sustainable future use, including the development of a Smart Cropping Centre at Emerald.
- Economic Development Queensland is seeking to undertake due diligence on part of the site for future industrial estate development.
- The Smart Cropping Centre will be an innovation ecosystem that brings together research development and extension in areas such as farming systems, agronomy, crop innovation, and plant protection, together with the latest innovations in AgTech and data sciences to deliver impact for Queensland's cropping sector. Ms Alicia Dunbar has been appointed to the role of interim leader for the Central Queensland Smart Cropping Centre initiative.
- DAF has actively engaged with the Central Highlands Regional Council (CHRC) and the Central Highlands Development Corporation regarding alternative options for the future use of the campus and related areas.
- The CHRC have indicated an in-principal support to acquire a portion of the property, subject to due diligence that they are currently undertaking. A decision to acquire or not is expected in the next three months.

Gladstone Water Security – Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline

- Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) issued a low supply alert for Awoonga Dam on 7 April 2021. Modelling showed the dam has five years supply remaining before the predicted date of dead storage.
- Although rainfall over the last few months has supported dam levels, Awoonga dam is now at around 54 per cent capacity.
- The alert does not amount to the imposition of water restrictions. However, the community and industrial customers are being asked to use this as an opportunity to act early, use water wisely and raise awareness of water security for industry in the Gladstone region.
- The Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water is working with GAWB on the Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline to improve water security for Central Queensland residents and its large industrial base, while also catering for future economic growth, particularly in industries like hydrogen.
- The business case process is structured in such a way that if drought conditions persist, construction of a pipeline from the Fitzroy River to Gladstone can occur in the shortest possible time – this includes undertaking investigations and preparatory works that are currently underway.

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- In March this year as part of the preconstruction activities, GAWB announced two shortlisted parties who are participating in an early contractor involvement process to identify a preferred contractor to construct the Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline following a competitive procurement process.
- There was strong market interest in the project, allowing there to be confidence in the procurement process and outcome. A core focus for the government for this project is ensuring that local suppliers and services are provided with opportunities.
- The business case is also examining options to improve water security for the Gladstone, Rockhampton and Livingstone regions, as well as what additional infrastructure would be required to bolster economic development, including in the hydrogen industry.

Rockhampton and Livingstone Local Government Boundary Realignment

- In 2019 and following representation from the Rockhampton Regional and the Livingstone Shire Councils, the former Minister for Local Government referred the matter of the proposed Local Government boundary to the Local Government Change Commission.
- The proposed boundary change comprises the transfer of three suburbs, Glenlee, Rockyview and Glendale, from Livingstone Shire Council to Rockhampton Regional Council.
- The Change Commission is undertaking an independent assessment and is providing advice regarding any change, distribution of divisions, timing of any change, and the naming of each Local Government.
- The financial assessment has been completed and is being reviewed by the Change Commission. The full report will be made available to the public in the near future allowing all residents of Rockhampton and Livingstone to have the opportunity to have their say about the proposed boundary change.
- Following its assessment, the Change Commission will make a recommendation for consideration by government.

Rockhampton Stadium Proposals

- On 24 September 2020, the Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier and then Minister for Trade committed \$25 million towards Stage 1 of the redevelopment of Browne Park in Rockhampton, as a key initiative of the Central Queensland Regional Recovery Action Plan. The commitment is subject to completion of a detailed design and costing, including options and costs for staged development.
- A 2017 election commitment resulted in completion of a scoping study for the refurbishment of Browne Park. As part of the scoping study, other sites

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in Rockhampton were considered for suitability, however Browne Park was deemed most suitable to develop a multi-purpose sport and event facility.

- In September 2020, Federal Member for Capricornia, the Honourable Michelle Landry MP committed the Federal Government to a \$23 million the development of Victoria Park in Rockhampton.
- While Victoria Park Stadium provides benefit to the local community, the Queensland Government's preferred redevelopment location is Browne Park, as the Victoria Park site is flood prone and provides limited development options.
- Victoria Park has not approached the Queensland Government for a commitment, nor has there been an approach to the Federal Government for Browne Park.
- The Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport are leading the first phase of the Browne Park planning and design documentation that will be presented to Government in mid-2022. Proposed construction commencement is scheduled for late 2022 (during the winter sports off-season), with proposed completion prior to the 2024 winter sports season.

Gladstone Port Operations, Throughput and Expansion Plans

- The Port of Gladstone is Queensland's largest multi-commodity port, handling over 30 different products with major cargoes including coal, bauxite, alumina, aluminium, cement and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).
- Overall trade through the Port of Gladstone for 2020–21 was 122.0 million tonnes which was a 0.6 million tonne increase on the 2019–20 total. Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC) had a record trade in LNG from Curtis Island in 2020–21 with 23 million tonnes exported – an increase of around four per cent from the previous financial year, while the coal trade was approximately 70.1 million tonnes, 2.2 per cent less than 2019–20.
- In 2021–22, \$44.1 million is budgeted to continue upgrades to the RG Tanna Coal Terminal, \$9.8 million for the Auckland Point wharves and a further \$10.5 million to finalise the Clinton Vessel Interaction Project.
- GPC is currently developing a new land use plan for the Port of Gladstone based on a long-term strategic management framework. The plan will identify strategic port land to be used for port and industry development and provides the framework for GPC to assess and approve development on port land.
- GPC is working collaboratively with Gladstone Regional Council, the Queensland Government and other key stakeholders to explore and plan for hydrogen-related projects and potential for common user infrastructure for the region. Detailed planning for the infrastructure required to facilitate hydrogen projects is continuing as industry further defines its project needs

and the nature of the product to be traded. GPC is also engaging with these proponents on commercial arrangements which must underpin the projects.

Gladstone Hydrogen Proposals and Manufacturing Capability

- A diverse range of project proponents are investigating hydrogen production in Gladstone for both domestic and future large-scale export. Project proponents include Stanwell Corporation, H2U™ The Hydrogen Utility green ammonia project, Fortescue Future Industries Pty Ltd (FFI), and Rio Tinto/Sumitomo's study into the construction of a hydrogen pilot plant at Rio Tinto's Yarwun alumina refinery.
- FFI will establish a Green Energy Manufacturing facility in the Gladstone State Development Area (SDA) at Aldoga. The facility will have the capacity to manufacture up to two gigawatts of electrolysers annually in its initial phase. This project was announced on 10 October 2021 and commenced construction in March 2022.
- This project will build one of the world's largest hydrogen-equipment manufacturing facility in partnership with the Queensland Government. Job numbers are expected to be 300 over the life of the project (including 120 construction and 53 operation jobs in the initial \$114 million stage).
- Stanwell Corporation has secured land for its proposed 3,000MW (after completion of Phase 2) green hydrogen electrolysis facility at Aldoga, 20 kilometres west of Gladstone. Stanwell have partnered with Japanese companies Iwatani, Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Kansai Electric Power Company and Marubeni, and Australian energy infrastructure business, APA Group to undertake a \$10.4 million feasibility study into the development of a large-scale renewable hydrogen facility in Gladstone. Stanwell has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Acciona Energia for future energy supply for the proposed hydrogen facility from Acciona's planned 600MWp solar farm on government-owned land in the Gladstone SDA.
- Sumitomo Australia, Gladstone Ports Corporation, Gladstone Regional Council, Australian Gas Networks (part of the Australian Gas Infrastructure Group) and CQUniversity have signed an MOU for a Gladstone H2 Ecosystem to explore domestic offtake and mobility solutions before moving to enable large-scale export. Clean Co joined the consortium in October 2021. The initial plant would produce 250,000 to 300,000 kg of hydrogen annually using Solar PV as the main power source.
- On 11 April 2022, the Coordinator-General declared the \$4.7 billion H2-Hub™ Gladstone project a coordinated project. The project is an industrial-scale green hydrogen and ammonia production complex in the Gladstone SDA, to be built in stages for a total capacity of up to 3 gigawatts of electrolysis plant and up to 5,000 tonnes per day green ammonia production. H2U has signed an offtake agreement with Orica Energy for the supply of green ammonia.

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- The Gladstone Strategic Development Area (SDA) is well-placed to support large scale hydrogen development which requires good access to renewable energy and water resources, and deep water ports for potential exports.
- While the Gladstone SDA development scheme can already accommodate hydrogen development, the Coordinator-General has reviewed the development scheme (DS) to identify opportunities to assist industry development. A range of DS and boundary amendments are proposed to reduce complexity and provide greater flexibility for industrial development.
- A proposed SDA boundary variation was approved by the Governor in Council on 28 April 2022 with the draft development scheme to be considered in May 2022.
- The Office of the Coordinator-General has formed a Technical Working Group with regulators and agencies, including Gladstone Ports Corporation, to contribute technical, strategic planning, policy and regulatory advice on the safe and efficient delivery of the hydrogen industry in Gladstone.
- A scope of works has been released by the Office of the Coordinator-General for expert advice on infrastructure corridor requirements from Fisherman's Landing connecting to potential common user hydrogen infrastructure locations and the Materials Transportation and Services Corridor in the Gladstone SDA.
- The Coordinator-General has been in discussions on other proposals including the reservoir and water pipeline for the Fitzroy to Gladstone project, electricity transmission infrastructure and a biofuel facility.
- The Minister for Economic Development Queensland (MEDQ) has signed a Contract of Sale with FFI for the purchase of 99.84 hectares of land located in the Aldoga precinct of the Gladstone SDA for the Green Energy Manufacturing project.
- On 5 April 2022, the MEDQ executed a Contract of Sale with Oceania Biofuels Gladstone Pty Ltd for the purchase of 47.4 hectares of land located in the Yarwun Industrial Precinct of the Gladstone SDA. The land will be used for the construction and operation of a Renewable Diesel and Sustainable Aviation Fuel Project to produce sustainable aviation fuel and renewable diesel from 100 per cent renewable feedstocks.
- The CQUniversity School of Manufacturing is currently being constructed at the Gladstone Marina Campus. It is anticipated the new \$13.5 million school will create over 300 jobs including over 100 in Gladstone. Students from the VET sector to PhD level will utilise the facility in areas such as advanced instrumentation and process manufacturing training, advanced welding and manufacturing and the emerging hydrogen industry. It is hoped the facility will help to build the region's future manufacturing workforce, enhance the manufacturing research expertise, and support the local sector to continue to thrive.

Reef Regulations – New Cropping Permits and Minimum Standards

- As of 1 June 2021, an environmental authority (EA) is required for environmentally relevant activity (ERA) 13A for new commercial cropping and horticulture activities occurring on more than five hectares of land in a Reef catchment that does not meet a cropping history test, to ensure farm design measures minimise nutrient and sediment run-off to the Great Barrier Reef.
- A cropping history is when the land has been used for cropping or horticultural activities in at least three years out of the last ten years, with transitional provisions allowing extra time for any cropping that has only started in the three years prior to 1 June 2021.
- To date the Department of Environment and Science (DES) has issued three EAs in the Central Queensland area in relation to new commercial cropping and horticulture activities. One EA was issued subject to standard conditions for ERA 13A, and two did not meet the eligibility criteria and were issued subject to site-specific conditions.
- EAs condition new farm areas to meet design standards that minimise nutrient and sediment run-off from entering receiving waters that flow to the Great Barrier Reef.
- In addition to EA requirements for new farms, from 1 December 2019, new requirements were introduced in Reef catchments to limit sediment and nutrient run-off from existing commercial agricultural properties, with industry-specific regulated minimum farm practice standards coming into effect in the Fitzroy region from 1 December 2021 for grazing and December 2022 for sugarcane and banana production.
- Compliance activities commenced in the Fitzroy catchment for the grazing industry in March 2022.
- The Queensland Reef Water Quality Program also provides a range of programs and support tools to support agricultural producers to increase the adoption of improved farm practices to minimise farm run-off and improve the quality of the water in the Great Barrier Reef catchment.

Statement of Cooperation with Stanwell, Rio Tinto, Orica etc.

- Central Queensland is home to energy-intensive industries that are looking to decarbonise their operations.
- On 12 October 2021, the Queensland Government signed a Statement of Cooperation with Rio Tinto. Following this, the following four companies have signed the Statement of Cooperation: Orica (18 November 2021); Alpha HPA (18 November 2021); Acciona (9 February 2022); and Stanwell (29 March 2022).
- The Statement of Cooperation outlines how the companies and the Queensland Government will work together to ensure Central Queensland

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can take advantage of its natural energy advantage and drive employment and economic outcomes from investment in renewable energy projects.

- The Statement of Cooperation will secure the future competitiveness of Queensland, seeking to deliver a globally competitive energy solution that is centred around firmed, low-carbon electricity for industry and growing the industries of the future in Central Queensland.

Rookwood Weir Project Delivery and Jobs

- With a significant weather event at the Rookwood Weir site delaying works at the project in late 2021, construction has recommenced and is now providing employment opportunities for 188 workers, with an expected 250 workers to be employed at the peak of construction.
- Further, this project is providing 21 Central Queensland trainees and apprentices a unique opportunity to learn their trade on a multi-million-dollar construction site.
- The recommencement of works at Rookwood Weir has seen a successful recruitment campaign recently conducted. This campaign was to initially fill 40 positions but with plans to increase construction on site after Easter, the number of workers being sought has increased to 90 with more than 70 of these positions now filled.
- Since the weather event, the project is regaining momentum, milestones have been refocussed and construction remains on track for completion by mid-2023.

Rockhampton – Mount Morgan Water Pipeline proposal

- Mount Morgan has been solely reliant on water carted from Gracemere since 20 April 2021, with extreme level (level 6) water restrictions imposed on residents since 15 March 2021.
- In March 2022, Rockhampton Regional Council resolved to undertake a detailed business case of a potable pipeline solution for Mount Morgan based on the results of its recently completed preliminary evaluation of options to enhance water security. The pipeline is expected to cost in the vicinity of \$50 million.
- Council is approaching Queensland Treasury, the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and the Federal Government for financial support to undertake the detailed business case and the follow-on detailed design works (estimated to cost \$800,000 and \$3 million respectively). Council was advised that DRDMW will not contribute to these costs.
- Queensland Treasury Corporation's February 2022 assessment of the financial sustainability of Rockhampton Regional Council found it has the

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capacity to fund its carting costs, at least up to June 2024, as well as to provide for up to an additional \$29 million of borrowings, based on carting costs of up to \$11,000 per day and \$6.7 million reduced financial assistance grant funding over the next three years.

- Queensland Treasury Corporation will be requested to undertake a further assessment of council's sustainability following the end of the current wet season, and again after completion of the detailed business case.

Building our Regions Fund

- Through rounds 1 to 5, the Building our Regions program has provided funding for local government infrastructure projects in regional communities that create flow-on economic development opportunities and jobs.
- To date, the Building our Regions program has approved over \$69.5 million towards 37 projects in the Central Queensland region, supporting an estimated 742.5 jobs. This has leveraged further financial co-contributions of approximately \$164.8 million from local governments, the Federal Government, and other organisations, with a total capital expenditure value of \$234.3 million.
- Building our Regions Round 6 will provide a further \$70 million over three years for local governments to improve their water supply and sewerage systems. Detailed applications for shortlisted construction projects will close in May 2022. Applications for planning projects have closed and are being assessed. Announcements of successful projects are expected mid-year.

Local Government Grants Commission funding decision for Rockhampton Regional Council

- During 2021, the Commission undertook a review of the Financial Assistance Grant allocation methodology. It has been approximately ten years since the Commission's last review of the methodology.
- On Monday 6 December 2021, the Commission advised every council in writing of the outcome of the FA Grant Review. Outcomes of the review are planned to be progressively implemented over a three-year transition period.
- 50 councils (65 per cent) out of 77 councils in Queensland will receive a greater funding allocation under the new FA Grant methodology.
- 35 per cent of councils will receive a reduced allocation. For these councils the average reduction is approximately 2.0 per cent of operating revenue.
- For Rockhampton this means:
 - 2021–22 entitlement: \$8,919,297 (4.5 percent of average operating revenue)

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- indicative 2022–23 entitlement of \$2,110,848 (a reduction of 3.4 per cent) transitioned over three years (1.1 per cent of average operating revenue).
- Several local governments, including the four new minimum grant councils (Bundaberg, Fraser Coast, Rockhampton and Toowoomba) have raised concerns about the Commission's review, including concerns about sustainability impacts and socioeconomic disadvantage in their local government areas.
- Council's Mayor, Cr Tony Williams, wrote to both the Deputy Premier and the Commission Chair on 17 December 2021 expressing concerns about the outcome of the Commission's review, requesting that the Deputy Premier defers the approval of the new methodology and to engage more meaningfully.
- Recently council has subsequently submitted a Request for Information regarding the methodology review, and a submitted a Statement of Reasons request seeking clarification why council has been classified as a minimum grant council.

Youth Crime statistics and response in Central Queensland (Rockhampton/Gladstone)

- The Queensland Police Service (QPS) is supporting implementation of the Government 5 Point Plan to address youth crime.
- The QPS in collaboration with the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs Youth Justice workers use a collaborative approach and share information for holistic responses to address the causes of youth offending.
- There is a Youth Co-responder Team (YCRT) operating in Rockhampton.
- The teams identify diversionary and bail options, facilitate appropriate custodial arrangements, monitor, and support bail compliance, and connect young people and their families with community supports and interventions that are culturally appropriate.
- From 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022 Rockhampton YCRT had 1,248 direct interactions with young people and 778 alternate interactions with parents, carers, health, education, and other stakeholders.
- A Community Based Crime Action Committee (CBCAC) is operating in Rockhampton. There is \$200,000 in funding available for programs targeting at risk youth.
- There are also Property Crime Teams operating in Rockhampton and Gladstone. Teams are made up of existing operational strength and target high volume property crime.

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- School Support Officers (SSO) will commence in Rockhampton in the near future. The SSO's will work in partnership with the Child Protection and Investigation Unit, School Based Police Officers, Education Queensland and the YCRT supporting at risk and vulnerable young people.

Rockhampton Ring Road Planning and Delivery

- The Rockhampton Ring Road is a major infrastructure project within the Central Queensland Region that will improve road safety and support the region's economy by improving freight efficiency, flood resilience and job opportunities.
- The \$1.065 billion plan, preserve and construct project is jointly funded by the state and federal governments with contributions of \$213 million and \$852 million respectively.
- Planning for the Rockhampton Ring Road is complete with the detailed business case assessed by Infrastructure Australia and detailed design completed in March 2022.
- Forty-five property owners (including five government agencies) have land requirements for the Rockhampton Ring Road. Gazettal of the road corridor is expected in May 2022.
- The tendering process commenced with an industry briefing to suitably prequalified contractors and release of the expression of interest on 18 November 2021. Expressions of interest closed on 23 December 2021. Two proponents were selected on 16 March 2022 to progress to the development phase of the collaborative project agreement. Construction contracts are expected to be awarded in late-2022 with construction proposed from 2022 to 2026.
- An average of 783 jobs will be supported over the life of the project at a time when maintaining jobs has never been more critical.

Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road Safety Project Planning and Delivery

- Rockhampton–Yeppoon Road is a 31.6-kilometre regional road linking the Capricorn Coast, including tourist locations such as Great Keppel Island to Rockhampton and the Bruce Highway.
- The road forms part of the designated state freight network and fulfils an important role in supporting defence, forestry, freight, tourism and commuter traffic demands in the region.
- The Department of Transport and Main Roads is delivering an \$80 million project to upgrade the Rockhampton–Yeppoon Road as part of the ROSI initiative (\$64 million Federal Government; \$16 million state government).
- Development of the business case was completed in August 2021 and the road corridor was gazetted on 18 March 2022.

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- The Yeppoon Road Upgrade will be a four-lane 5.6 kilometre section of road between Ironpot and Hedlow Creek.
- One of the key objectives of the Yeppoon Road upgrade is to improve road safety for all road users. A key priority is removing the crossroad movements from Artillery Road to Dairy Inn Road and providing safe turnaround points. This becomes even more important when Rockhampton–Yeppoon Road is duplicated to four lanes.
- An independent review of the design options was undertaken in late 2021. This review considered factors including crash mitigation, connectivity, performance, traffic volume and movements, projected growth, flooding, resumption, design life and costs.
- Surveys and habitat mapping have been undertaken, and a snake expert engaged to oversee the assessments in accordance with the Australian Government guidelines.
 - Habitat mapping has reduced the areas identified as ‘important habitat’, but referral is still triggered.
 - The referral to Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE) was submitted on 11 March 2022. A decision is expected in mid-2022.
 - Due to this trigger, the legislation does not allow for work to commence for the main construction contract and the early works package. The contract cannot be awarded until a decision is received from DAWE.
- Contract award is expected in mid-2022 and construction is expected to commence in mid-to-late 2022 and completed in late 2024.

Fatality at Moranbah North Underground Coal Mine

- On 25 March 2022, a coal mine worker, Mr Gavin Feltwell, was fatally injured while dismantling conveyor equipment in an underground part of the Moranbah North Mine.
- The Queensland Mines Inspectorate was on site soon after the incident and has commenced its investigation into the nature and cause of the incident.
- Moranbah North is one of four underground coal mines operated by Anglo American.
- Mr Feltwell was employed by mining contractor Mastermyne, who hold a contract to perform development work at the mine.
- Safety Alert Number 406 was published by the Queensland Mines Inspectorate on 27 March 2022 and distributed to industry stakeholders.

Small-scale Mining Reform

- The draft Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan (draft QRIDP) announced a one-year moratorium on new mining claims under the Mineral Resources Act (MR Act), which commenced on 25 November 2021, to support the proposed reform of the small-scale mining sector to address concerns with the existing system of administering mining claims under the MR Act.
- Consultation on the draft QRIDP closed on 11 February 2022 and the Department of Resources is currently considering all feedback and suggestions received on the proposed small-scale mining reform.
- The Queensland Government recognises the value of small-scale mining and will continue to consult with industry on options for reform to deliver a more effective system for Queensland's small-scale mining sector.

Renewable Energy Projects in Central Queensland

- Five utility scale solar farms have been completed in central Queensland in recent years, namely Barcaldine Remote Community, Dunblane, Emerald, Lilyvale and Longreach solar farms. These total 214 megawatts and generate enough energy to supply over 90,000 homes. The Longreach Solar Farm was supported through the Solar 150 project.
- The Moura Solar Farm near the Banana township began construction in Feb 2022. This will have a capacity of 110 megawatts, enough to supply 43,000 homes. The project brings \$120 million in investment and will create 250 construction jobs. More than half of the output has been allocated through a long-term power purchase agreement (PPA) with Queensland government-owned generator CS Energy.
- Genex has also committed to building the Bouldercombe Battery Project in Rockhampton. This 50-megawatt battery will provide two hours of storage and is being built at a cost of \$25 million. Genex has signed a connection agreement with Powerlink.

Curtis Island Electrification Study

- The Federal Government has provided \$1.5 million for a pre-feasibility study to connect Curtis Island to the National Electricity Market.
- Connecting Curtis Island to the grid would reduce the volume of gas used in processes to produce LNG, potentially freeing up gas for other uses.
- The study will consider the technical requirements associated with connection scenarios ranging from the island's ~120MW ancilliary load to up to ~1320MW for the full electrification of LNG processes.
- The study is due to be finalised by the end of June with the final report shared with the LNG consortia.

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- The Queensland Government, Federal Government and LNG consortia are not bound by any outcomes of the feasibility study. Any further actions will be subject to future decisions by the Queensland Government.

Boyne Aluminium Smelter and Gladstone Power Station

- Rio Tinto is the majority shareholder for the Boyne Island aluminium smelter (the Smelter) (59 per cent) and the largest shareholder for the Gladstone Power Station (42 per cent).
- The Smelter employed 944 people in 2020 and is the largest single user of electricity in Queensland, accounting for around 13 per cent of the state's electricity use. Electricity is primarily supplied by the Gladstone Power Station.
- There are existing support arrangements for the long-term supply of electricity to the smelter that provide an effective subsidy of more than \$100 million per year.
- There has been significant work with Rio Tinto regarding renegotiating elements of the electricity supply arrangements through shareholding ministers in 2015, 2017 and 2020–22.
- In 2019–20 Rio Tinto publicly and privately lobbied the government to 'unwind' the existing arrangements and deliver even lower power prices. A key part of this was Rio Tinto's proposal that the State acquire Gladstone Power Station.

CTPI - Business Affairs

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Energy Transformation – Statewide

22

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COVID-19 Health Response and Restrictions

- For the first two years of the pandemic, Queensland adopted an agile approach to managing COVID-19 that prevented transmission until a vaccine was developed and appropriate levels of vaccination were reached.
- As vaccination levels reached key thresholds, gradual easing of restrictions moved towards living with a degree of ongoing COVID-19 transmission in the community.
- Since domestic borders reopened in December 2021, there have been two waves of the Omicron variant in Queensland:
 - The first wave, between December 2021 and early March 2022, saw at least 11 per cent of the population infected, and resulted in over 500 additional COVID-19-related deaths.
 - A second, smaller wave from mid-March 2022 with early indications of a plateau towards mid-April 2022. In this wave, coinciding with the return of face-to-face schooling, cases among school-aged children were overrepresented.
 - Deaths and hospitalisations during these two waves were substantially lower than predicted.
- As at 26 April 2022, there have been 974,270 COVID-19 cases and 850 deaths in Queensland.
- Density restrictions in a range of venues were removed at the end of the first Omicron wave, in early March 2022.
- The indoor mask-wearing requirement was removed in early March 2022.
- Vaccination requirements in a range of discretionary settings, such as hospitality venues, were in place from December 2021 when borders reopened. This and other restrictions reduce transmission and infection, reduce the risk of severe workplace outbreaks and business interruptions, prevent severe disease, protect health system capacity, and give Queenslanders the confidence to return to normal activities safely.
- In the context of high vaccination rates, including boosters, and an increased level of infection-derived immunity in the community, vaccination requirements in a wide range of discretionary settings were removed from 14 April 2022.
- From 28 April 2022, the requirements for close contacts of confirmed cases and for unvaccinated international arrivals to quarantine were removed.
- There is compelling evidence that people in vulnerable settings (e.g., hospitals, and aged care and disability facilities) are more vulnerable to severe outcomes from COVID-19 infection.
 - Key protections remain in place to protect these cohorts and to safeguard the continued delivery of care to them

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- Higher-level protections include vaccination requirements for staff and visitors, as well as restrictions of entry for close contacts, symptomatic people and for those who have recently returned from overseas.
- Queensland Health has implemented COVID-19 pathways model of care and provided guidance to the Hospital and Health Services and the health sector more broadly on how to reduce the risk and address the impacts of COVID-19 transmission to staff and patients within health, aged care and disability accommodation services.
- On 3 February 2022, Queensland Health implemented a model of care where people or their carers can contact the health system for advice and to access care appropriate for their circumstances.
 - A governance committee and working group have been established specifically to consider requests for changes or improvements to the model.

Tourism Industry Insurance Affordability

- Insurance availability and affordability remains a critical issue for the tourism industry.
- Tourism operators, particularly those providing adventure tourism products and experiences are still reporting the inability to secure affordable public liability and property insurance.
- Queensland's Tourism Industry Reference Panel identified in the Interim Action Plan for Tourism Recovery that regulatory reform in relation to insurance is required to address market failure.
- Federal Government contribution in Northern Australia:
 - \$40 million North Queensland Strata Title Resilience Pilot Program
 - \$10 billion Reinsurance Fund, scheduled to come into effect from 1 July 2022.
- The Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman (ASBFEO) stated that the Reinsurance Fund would only cover about 15 per cent of cases identified in the ASBFEO's Insurance Inquiry, leaving 85 percent of cases without insurance.
- The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and the ASBFEO made recommendations aimed at regulatory options and possible operational arrangements to assist with insurance costs and availability.
- To date, there has been minimal consideration or response by the Federal Government. This is a national issue that could be raised at a future 'Heads of Treasuries' meeting.

Jobs and Skills

- There was a new investment of more than \$1 billion for training and skills initiatives in the 2020–21 Queensland Budget.
- This includes an additional \$200 million over four years on a range of initiatives through the Future Skills Fund, to support the skills and training needs of Queenslanders in response to the COVID-19 economic recovery and to grow the jobs for the future. The investment will deliver a range of initiatives including:
 - \$100 million for Equipping TAFE for our Future
 - \$32.4 million for the TAFE Priority Skills Fund
 - \$25 million for Pre-Apprenticeship Support
 - \$8 million for a Digital Professional Workforce Plan
 - \$8 million for the Social Enterprise Jobs Fund
 - \$5 million for the First Nations Training Strategy
 - \$5 million for the Workforce Transition Support Programs.
- There is also an additional \$126 million in reprioritised funding for the following:
 - \$4.05 million to extend Regional Jobs Committees (RJC) to support the operation of the six existing RJC's and the creation of three new RJC's. The existing RJC's are established for Townsville, Mackay, Fraser Coast, Springfield, Toowoomba, Redlands, and new RJC's for Bundaberg and Gold Coast. A final RJC is still to be announced.
 - \$119.1 million to skill people for the jobs of the future through reprioritising existing VET investment funds.
 - \$3 million for the Diverse Queensland Workforce program to help migrants, refugees and international students secure training and jobs. Seven projects worth \$1.5 million have been funded to support 720 work-ready migrants, refugees and international students to find jobs and build up their careers. One-stop-shops or hubs have been established in Brisbane, Logan, Ipswich, Toowoomba, Gold Coast and Cairns. As at 31 March 2022, 221 migrants, refugees and international students have been assisted with 41 exiting and 41 or 100 per cent gaining jobs.
- In the 2021–22 state Budget, the Back to Work (BTW) program was extended with additional funding of up to \$140 million over four years for a revitalised BTW program. The revitalised BTW program is now focussed on intensive support, including financial and non-financial, for job seekers, employers and their employees. The BTW program:
 - has two types of employer incentive payments: Youth Boost and the Back to Work support payment. Employers who hire an eligible young person (aged 15 – 24 years old) may receive up to \$20,000. Employers who hire an eligible person from the following targeted cohorts (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, persons with a disability and long-term unemployed person) may receive up to \$15,000.

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- opened on 1 July 2021 with employers able to make an application for the BTW employer incentive payments from 29 July 2021. This has supported 642 job seekers and represents over \$3.9 million in funding provided to 543 employers.
- Since its reinstatement in July 2015, \$536.9 million has been committed statewide under Skilling Queenslanders for Work (with \$462.2 million actual expenditure) to provide nationally recognised training, skills development and job opportunities to assist 83,740 Queenslanders.
- Queensland is also supporting the Free TAFE and Apprenticeships for under 25s initiative, with \$7,900,000 allocated in 2021–22.
- The total free apprentices supported as at 26 April 2022 is 45,877 which comprises of 38,570 in under 21 cohort and 7,307 in 21 to 24 years cohort.
- The total number of people under free training arrangements is 49,777, inclusive of Free TAFE for year 12 graduates and Free TAFE for under 25s.
- Year to date 2021–22 student numbers show over a third (37.9 per cent) of Queensland's government-funded students were enrolled at TAFE as at 31 March 2022, an increase of 3.2 percentage points compared to the same time last year.

Support for Small Business (COVID-19)

- The 2021 COVID-19 Business Support Grants program is a joint state and federal grant support package for Queensland businesses impacted by lockdowns during August 2021. Applications for this grant closed on 16 November 2021.
- In addition, eligible businesses within the border zone can apply for a hardship grant of \$5000. Applications for this grant opened on 14 October 2021.
- Over \$320.8 million has been paid to over 345,000 Queensland businesses through the 2021 COVID-19 Business Support Grants and Border Business Zone Hardship Grant program.
- As part of the \$600 million COVID-19 Business Support Program, \$110 million was made available through the Tourism and Hospitality Sector Hardship Program with grants of up to \$100,000 to a range of eligible tourism and hospitality operators facing significant financial hardship because of COVID-19 travel restrictions and interstate lockdowns.
- The Big Plans for Small Business strategy includes a \$25 million grants package to assist small business to continue to recover, grow and thrive. Businesses can utilise grant funding to increase key capabilities, embrace innovation, and capitalise on high-growth opportunities.
- Three grant programs support small business at different stages of growth, namely:

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- Business Basics grant program which is providing grant funding of \$5,000 to new and emerging businesses to increase core skills and adopt best practice. Round 3 will open on 4 May 2022 with a dedicated funding stream for regional small business.
- Business Boost grant program will provide grants of up to \$15,000 to support small business to invest in advancing operational efficiency and increasing productivity.
- Business Growth Fund program is providing grants of up to \$50,000 to small and medium sized businesses experiencing high growth to buy specialised equipment to unlock growth potential, increase production, expand the workforce and maximise economic returns.
- Grant rounds for each program opened in 2021 with more than 3,440 small businesses supported by grant funding commitments totalling more than \$20 million.
- Further rounds are scheduled to open in 2022.
- The Mentoring for Growth Program (M4G) offers eligible businesses access to volunteer business experts who provide insights, options and suggestions relating to challenges and opportunities you are experiencing in your business.
- There are currently more than 310 active mentors involved in M4G. During the 2020–21 financial year, M4G hosted 617 sessions with 601 unique businesses, with mentors providing 1590 volunteer hours of customised business mentoring.
- The Small Business COVID-19 Adaption Grant provided \$196 million to support employing small businesses subject to closure or highly impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) shutdown restrictions to adapt and sustain their operations and build resilience. Overall, 20,498 recipients across Queensland benefited from \$182.2 million funding.
- The second round of the program prioritised regional areas, with half of the funding to support small businesses in regional Queensland. Specifically, for regional Queensland, a total of 4456 recipients have benefited from \$39,030,498 funding.
- A portion of the balance of funding from the regional funding from the Small Business COVID-19 Adaption Grants has been allocated to a second round of the hugely successful Business Basics Grant. This round of the program was open to Regional Queensland only, aligning with the original intention of the funding and providing further support to regional Queensland. The program closed in October 2021 and provided almost \$6 million in grant funding to 1,158 small businesses.

Support for Small Business (Flood Event)

- In response to the South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding Event (February 2022), the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training

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(DESBT worked closely with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) to quickly progress a submission for extraordinary assistance under Category D of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) and Category B Disaster Assistance (Small Business) Loans.

- An initial \$558.5 million, jointly funded by the state and federal governments, is available to support communities in need across 21 council areas. Demand driven grants of up to \$75,000 for primary producers, up to \$50,000 for affected small businesses and not-for-profit organisations, and \$20,000 for sporting and community clubs and associations will be available to help flood affected communities get back on their feet.
- These grants are available through the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) and are enabling flood affected small businesses to purchase equipment and materials, clean up, remove debris, replace or repair damaged infrastructure and stock and other costs associated with the recovery process.
- The announcement of low interest loans under DRFA will also assist small businesses to repair or replace damaged buildings or equipment affected by the floods and to ensure they have capital to continue their operations. Concessional loans up to \$250,000 and essential working capital loans of up to \$100,000 are available to help the recovery of impacted primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profit organisations in Queensland.
- In addition to assisting businesses to access the recovery grants and loans, DESBT is providing information and referral to other forms of available support including state government personal hardship financial assistance; federal government disaster recovery payments; Queensland Small Business Commissioner's advice and support in lease dispute mediation and advocacy to government; natural disaster legal aid; industrial relations advice; and support for mental health and wellbeing.
- DESBT regional teams have mobilised staff and are working with the DESBT Customer Centre to reach out to further assist in connecting small business owners with available support, as well as determine what additional support may be needed.
- A DESBT Business Recovery team is conducting on-the-ground engagement and facilitating referral to a range of services to assist flood affected small businesses. The team is also staffing three pop-up hubs in Nundah, Milton and Albion. The team is also engaging extensively with small businesses in flood affected communities through small business assistance roadshows.

Queensland Government Flood Response

- Queensland experienced a severe weather event in late February to early March 2022 which saw significant amounts of rain fall across the south-east, south-west, and north coast.

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- In South-East Queensland, more than 30 sites in the Bureau of Meteorology's Flood Warning network recorded over 1000mm in the six days leading up to 28 February 2022.
- From 22 February (as at 1800 hrs) to 10 March 2022 (as at 0730hrs), QFES operations included:
 - 13,685 requests for SES assistance ranging from water inundation to flood boat operations; and
 - Over 650 water rescues were undertaken by Fire and Rescue Service crews.
- Over 1,500 people were displaced to evacuation centres at the peak of the event and a significant number of dwellings and businesses were affected during the peak of the event.
- The weather event caused disruption to transport networks, water, electrical systems, goods and services supply, education, agriculture, and damage to infrastructure and domestic dwellings.
- From 28 February 2022 to 10 March 2022, QFES conducted 17,688 damage assessments with over 11,000 of those in Brisbane.
- Of these 17,680 assessments, seven properties were destroyed and around 1,938 were identified as having severe damage.
- 6,458 assessments were classified as either minor or moderate damage and 9,277 assessments had no damage.
- Disaster Declarations were issued for Brisbane, Maryborough and Gympie during the event.
- The Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP) engaged with essential retailers including Woolworths, Coles, Aldi and Metcash and peak industry bodies to ensure food and grocery products continued to move to affected communities where safely possible.
- The Essential Goods Supply Committee (EGSC) was convened and met three times to identify alternative transportation routes and manage product supply given delays restocking.
- DSDILGP facilitated connections between essential retailers and local and district disaster management groups as needed, to ensure stores in affected areas such as Maryborough were able to trade or safeguard their stock and premises from flood impacts. Major General Jake Ellwood has been appointed as the State Recovery Coordinator (SRC) and is working closely with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) and key government agencies to lead recovery operations.
- DSDILGP is the lead agency for the Economic Functional Recovery Group (EFRG) which will coordinate, link and facilitate recovery planning, issues management and activities at the state level.

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- The EFRG will work with the QRA to deliver activities that support medium and longer-term economic recovery for communities. The work of the group will directly inform the development of the State Recovery Plan for this event.
- On 11 March 2022, the Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier and Minister for the Olympics announced the Queensland Government would provide incentives to attract interstate tradespeople to Queensland to support flood recovery.
- On 15 March 2022, the Premier and Minister for the Olympics announced that the Office of the Inspector General of Emergency Management will undertake a review of the South-East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding that occurred between February-March 2022. The final Review Report is expected to be provided by 31 August 2022.

Financial Assistance Grant Allocation Methodology

- During 2021, the Grants Commission undertook a review of the Financial Assistance (FA) Grant allocation methodology. It has been approximately 10 years since the Commission's last review of the methodology.
- On Monday 6 December 2021, the Commission advised every council in writing of the outcome of the FA Grant Review. Outcomes of the review are planned to be progressively implemented over a three-year transition period.
- 50 out of 77 councils (65 per cent) in Queensland will receive a greater funding allocation under the new FA Grant methodology.
- 35 per cent of councils will receive a reduced allocation. For these councils, the average reduction is approximately 2 per cent of operating revenue.
- Rockhampton Regional Council, Fraser Coast Regional Council, Toowoomba Regional Council, Bundaberg Regional Council and North Burnett Regional Council have raised most concerns about the outcomes of the review and have written to both the Grants Commission and the Deputy Premier about this matter.

Mental Health and Community Wellbeing

- Continuation of treatment services during the response and recovery phases of the COVID-19 pandemic has been a priority. All Hospital and Health Service mental health alcohol and other drug services have worked to ensure services have remained available for both inpatient and community treatment. Alternative ways of assisting people involve using telehealth, telephone support and other virtual and online technologies.
- As part of the \$46.5 million Mental Health and Wellbeing Community Package announced by the Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier and Minister for the Olympics (part of the Queensland Economic Recovery Strategy), funding of more than \$30 million over two years has been allocated

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to 10 priority identified Hospital and Health Services to support immediate mental health alcohol and other drug treatment services in response to emergent demand from people impacted by COVID-19.

- This package also includes \$75,000 one-off funding for localised responses aimed at addressing mental health impacts of COVID-19 for 45 eligible rural councils in Queensland. These grants will fund local initiatives to support community resilience activities and suicide prevention.
- In addition, the state government has provided over \$30 million through the COVID-19 Immediate Support Measures Grant Fund for the non-government sector. A total of 212 grants were awarded to community health services to respond to the impact of COVID-19. This included 109 grants worth \$14.8 million to support mental health and alcohol and other drug services, palliative care, Indigenous health, consumer support and primary and integrated care community health services.
- The Queensland Mental Health Commission has received advice from across the public, private and non-government sectors that there is an increase in demand for a range of mental health related services. Of concern is the reported increased presentations by younger people, particularly regarding issues of psychological distress, self harm, and disordered eating.
- The available data for crisis/helplines from across Australia points to:
 - spikes in demand during COVID-19 related lockdowns – particularly in relation to lockdowns in Victoria and New South Wales
 - continued higher number of contacts in 2021 compared to the same period in 2019.
- Recognising the importance of accurate and timely public health messaging, the state government extended the *Dear Mind* positive mental wellbeing media campaign to focus on mental wellbeing during the pandemic.
- Phase one of the campaign showed increased resilience, happiness and ability to provide support among people who had engaged with the campaign.
- The Queensland Mental Health Commission continues to work with the state government to address the additional mental health challenges being experienced during the pandemic in support of mentally healthy, resilient and thriving Queensland communities.
- Concerning small businesses, the Queensland Small Business Commissioner recently worked with DESBT, the Queensland Mental Health Commission and Beyond Blue to develop *A small business owner's guide to creating a mental health and wellbeing plan* to help small businesses to identify stressors and red flags, find available support, and develop practical strategies.
- Following a series of regular meetings with key stakeholders from March 2020, the Queensland Mental Health Commission, in collaboration with Queensland Health, Queensland Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies, Queensland Alliance for Mental Health, Health Consumers Queensland and Primary Health

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Networks held a webinar on COVID-19 and Sector preparedness on 15 December 2021.

- During the webinar, sector leaders were invited to contribute to planning about how the sector can respond to emerging needs at the individual, organisational and system levels across public, private, primary health and non-government service providers.

Child and Youth Mental Health

- Queensland Health offers a continuum of care for children and young people with severe and complex mental health, alcohol and other drugs concerns across Queensland, including community child and youth mental health services, acute inpatient treatment, community bed-based services, and a range of specialist mental health and alcohol and other drug treatment and harm reduction services.
- Under the \$46.5 million Mental Health and Wellbeing Community Package to support Queenslanders managing the impacts of COVID-19, Queensland Health, in partnership with the Children's Hospital Foundation engaged Orygen Digital to deliver the Queensland Moderated Online Social Therapy (Q-MOST) two-year pilot across seven Hospital and Health Services.
- Full implementation of Q-MOST is expected by May 2022 to complement existing face-to-face care for young people aged 12 to 25 years, by offering access to 24/7 mental health digital support through online personalised therapy programs, moderated social networking and evidence-based tools.
- Additionally, some of the funding under the \$46.5 million package, has been directed to establish two crisis services to meet the emergent needs of children and young people in crisis presenting to hospitals and mental health services.

Agriculture Industry Unite and Recover — Seasonal Labour

- On 6 September 2020, Queensland opted in to participate in the recommencement of the Federal Government's Pacific Labour Scheme/ Seasonal Worker Programme (PLS/SWP).
- Participation allowed the agricultural industry to address labour shortages that resulted from COVID-19 health protection measures and provided longer term certainty for business and the community.
- Modelling suggested this shortage would peak at 6,000 seasonal farm workers during the 2021 winter harvest and significantly compromise the state's \$4.43 billion horticulture industry.
- In 2021, the Federal Government made a series of announcements regarding visa arrangements to fill labour shortages in the agriculture sector which included:

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- merging the PLS and SWP into a new Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme
- introducing a new Australian Agriculture visa program (Ag visa).
- Queensland's amended border restrictions on 22 January 2022 resulted in changes to quarantine requirements for international arrivals.
- While quarantine of these workers is no longer mandatory, DAF will continue to support Queensland agribusinesses with navigating through the federal government processes for PALM and the Ag visa program; worker welfare/pastoral needs; options for the longer-term challenge of agricultural worker accommodation; and whole-of-Government programs to attract overseas workers back to Queensland for agricultural work.
- From October 2020 to January 2022, Queensland proudly welcomed a total of 5,245 Pacific nation workers, the most of any other jurisdiction.
- Pacific nation workers have predominantly provided support to the horticulture and animal industry supply chains.
- The state government also implemented programs to encourage local workers to support agriculture's seasonal workforce demands including local solutions projects coordinated by the industry-hosted Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network, as well as the agriculture workforce incentive program (initially the Back to Work in Agriculture Incentive Scheme and then relaunched as the #pickqld bonus), which closed to new applicants on 31 December 2021.
- Overall, nearly 1,900 people were successful in receiving the initial \$500 incentive payment, and of those, just over half continued working and were successful in receiving the final payment of \$1,000. Those who received a payment supported over 500 Queensland agribusinesses.
- The federal government's agriculture worker relocation scheme, AgMove, is open to 31 December 2022. AgMove provides workers up to \$6000 to reimburse costs involved in relocation.

Availability of Affordable Rental Accommodation

- Queensland's rental sector is currently experiencing the lowest vacancy rates in the previous 17 years. Almost all local government areas (LGA) in Queensland are considered to have 'tight' rental markets (characterised by a vacancy rate under 2.5 per cent. Over three quarters (77 per cent) of Queensland LGAs have vacancy rates under 1 per cent as at August 2021. The median rent for a three-bedroom house in Queensland increased 8.1 per cent between September 2020 and September 2021 to \$400 per week.
- The *Queensland Housing Strategy 2017–2027* (Housing Strategy) sets out the 10-year vision for the state's housing system and the Queensland Government's commitment to making sure all Queenslanders have a pathway to safe, secure and affordable housing. The strategy drives new

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ways of working across government and the sector, delivering more new social affordable homes and an integrated system where people can access housing with support according to their needs

- On 15 June 2021, the Queensland Government launched the *Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021–2025* (the Action Plan) – a four-year plan to deliver the next stage of the Queensland Housing Strategy.
- The Action Plan is backed by a \$2.9 billion investment over the next four years, including the establishment of a \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund, to help more vulnerable Queenslanders into homes quicker.
- Since the commencement of the Housing Strategy to 30 June 2021, the state government has delivered 2,480 social and 692 affordable housing commencements.
- Through the Housing Strategy, a further 7,400 social and affordable housing homes will be commenced.
- This includes 6,365 new social housing homes by 30 June 2025 through the Queensland Housing Investment Growth Initiative (QHIGI).
- 6,365 is comprised of:
 - 2,765 new homes through QuickStarts Qld
 - 3,600 new homes through the \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund
 - as at 31 March 2022, under QuickStarts Qld, contracts have been awarded for the commencement of 329 new homes.
- The Action Plan is also delivering service delivery transformation for human services responses and includes a range of measures to deliver positive outcomes for Queenslanders, including engaging with regional and rural local councils about local housing and accommodation needs.
- The Help to Home initiative will also see up to 1000 additional private rental properties headleased to support emergent social housing needs.
- Regional allocation of the 3,600 commencements under the Housing Investment Fund will be determined by demand and opportunities.

Investment incentives – Invested in Queensland, Jobs and Regional Growth Fund (JRGF) and Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund (AQIAF)

- The Jobs and Regional Growth Fund (JRGF) and Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund (AQIAF) are not accepting new applications due to the program budgets being fully subscribed.
- As of 21 April 2022, JRGF and AQIAF supported 88 projects to deliver 4498 new direct jobs and unlock over \$2.5 billion in capital investment.
- As part of the Queensland Jobs Fund, a 2021 budget measure established the new \$520 million Invested in Queensland program.

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- As of 21 April 2022, almost \$75 million has been committed under the Invested in Queensland program with support announced for a pilot vanadium facility in Townsville, and a beverage manufacturing facility and hydrogen fuel cell manufacturing facility to be located in Ipswich. The Invested in Queensland program builds upon the success achieved through the JRGF and AQIAF.
- The program has two streams, the Strategic Investment Scheme and the Investment Support Scheme, and aims to create more than 5000 new ongoing jobs over the life of the program.
- The Strategic Investment Scheme is focused on tailored support to Queensland, interstate and international based businesses to undertake new investment, significant expansions and capability enhancements that promote economic activity and jobs growth throughout the state.
- The Investment Support Scheme is focused on tax relief, predominantly payroll tax for large-scale investment opportunities that are contestable.
- Both schemes support targeted investment, partnering with the private sector to achieve sustained economic recovery. Complementary to the funding schemes is the continued engagement with the private sector that will further enable investment attraction and facilitation, such as an annual investment summit, interstate roadshows, investor forums and investor roundtables.

State Infrastructure Strategy, Regional Plans and Regional Infrastructure Plans

- The state government has developed a new draft State Infrastructure Strategy for consultation (closed on 21 October 2021) with the final strategy due mid-2022. The strategy presents a clear vision of the state's infrastructure requirements over the next two decades. It's also clear about the challenges and opportunities we'll face over that time.
- The draft sets out 148 priority actions for both across-government and specific to the strategy's nine infrastructure classes, such as Transport and Health. The strategy aims to align infrastructure investment across state government to help inform industry and other levels of government so that together we build a strong, sustainable and resilient Queensland.
- The State Infrastructure Strategy is being supported by the development of 7 Regional Infrastructure Plans which are being progressively developed over the next three years from 2022, commencing with the Central Queensland Infrastructure Plan. These will help to further align regional infrastructure investment with regional priorities to drive economic recovery, boost regional productivity and resilience, and sustain jobs.
- Regional Infrastructure Plans are being developed through industry and regional engagement presenting an opportunity for regional stakeholders to help identify and prioritise necessary infrastructure on a regional basis. The first

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Regional Infrastructure Plan will be for Central Queensland, and this is due for finalisation in quarter three of 2022.

- Regional Infrastructure Plans will work in tandem with, and be complementary to, Statutory Regional Plans.
- The state government will drive economic development in regional Queensland through a coordinated approach to economic strategy, land-use and infrastructure planning as part of statutory Regional Plans.
- Setting strategic policy on future land use is critical for a balanced approach to achieving liveability, sustainability and economic prosperity in our regions. Statutory Regional Plans are designed to advance diverse regional communities and economies, supporting a broad range of industries, including manufacturing and knowledge-based industries creating new jobs in our regions.
- Queensland currently has:
 - 12 statutory Regional Plans in operation, including the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Plan 2011, which is currently being reviewed
 - one non-statutory development plan (Gulf Region Development Plan 2000) covering the local government areas of Burke, Carpentaria, Croydon, Doomadgee, Etheridge and Mornington.
- The Queensland Government supports regional planning solutions that reflect the unique local conditions of regional communities and recognise that it is not a case of 'one size fits all'.
- Queensland now has several Regional Plans that are at, or coming to, their review points. Investigations into whether these Regional Plans can be updated is underway. Alignment between Regional Plans and Regional Infrastructure Plans is being also being co-ordinated to ensure alignment within the state's Infrastructure framework.

Inland Rail – Brisbane vs Gladstone option

- As part of early investigations for the Inland Rail Project, the Federal Government examined the potential need and feasibility of a link between the Inland Rail Project to Brisbane and a connection to the Port of Gladstone. It was found to not be economically viable at the time of the investigation.
- On 3 September 2021, the Honourable Barnaby Joyce MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, announced up to \$10 million for the Federal Government to investigate the viability of a Toowoomba to Gladstone to the development of a business case to extend the current Inland Rail route from Toowoomba to Gladstone.
- The Deputy Prime Minister stated this connection to Gladstone would be in addition to the existing commitment to take Inland Rail to Brisbane.

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- The Deputy Prime Minister approached the Honourable Mark Bailey MP, Minister for Transport and Main Roads on 20 September 2021 seeking agreement to deliver the business case in partnership with the Federal Government.
- The final alignment of the project in Gladstone is yet to be confirmed, however, the Gladstone State Development Area includes rail corridors, which may be able to accommodate Inland Rail. On 30 September 2021, the Minister's response supported the further investigation of the proposed rail link to Gladstone but sought further details before committing to a business case.
- Details sought included preferred route, relationship of the findings of the 2020 Inland Rail Gladstone Link Prefeasibility Study, commitment to stakeholder consultations, funding provisions and governance. No response has been received as yet.
- The 2020 Inland Rail Gladstone Link Prefeasibility Study studied two routes between Toowoomba and Gladstone, the Inland Gladstone Route along the West Moreton Line to Miles, the heading north-east along the preserved Surat Basin Rail Corridor and the Coastal Gladstone Route through Brisbane and up the North Coast Line.
- The 2020 Inland Rail Gladstone Link Prefeasibility Study noted that without a significant increase in population growth in Central Queensland there is little chance of establishing a substantial intermodal freight hub in Gladstone. However, expanded coal production could make a Gladstone to Miles rail link viable. The Prefeasibility study recommended that 'Demand prospects should be re-visited after Inland Rail is constructed and operationally consolidated, or there is a significant and sustainable improvement in coal investment.
- On 31 March 2022, the Federal Government approved \$10 million in funding for the Toowoomba to Gladstone Inland Rail Extension project. The Department of Transport and Main Roads has since partnered with the Federal Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications to lead this study, which is scheduled for completion by mid-2023.

Innovation – Supporting Economic Growth and Recovery from COVID-19

- The Queensland Government's \$755 million Advance Queensland (AQ) initiative continues to drive economic growth and recovery from COVID-19 across the state.
- The AQ Ignite Ideas Fund continues to be highly sought after by Queensland's start-ups and scaleups looking for support to commercialise new and innovative products and services. More than 500 applications were submitted to the latest funding round with 21 Queensland businesses receiving support. The next round of the Ignite Ideas Fund is expected to open to applications in June-July 2022.

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- AQ is supporting the establishment and growth of a network of Queensland innovation hubs for emerging technologies including artificial intelligence, immersive technologies like augmented and virtual reality, and agricultural technology (Agtech) and logistics. These hubs are helping to attract talent, investment and high growth businesses, enhancing economic resilience, growing jobs, and acting as focal points for collaboration and accelerated commercialisation of new ideas.
- The AQ Regional Futures initiative is a \$5 million investment to accelerate regional economic growth through innovation. Building on AQ's past success and learnings, the program acknowledges the maturity and diversity of local innovation ecosystems and economies throughout the state. This first cohort of applications submitted to the Regional Futures – Collaborative Projects program have been considered and assessed with four proposals approved for funding support. The next cohort of applications will be assessed in June 2022.
- The Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport is developing the 10-year whole-of-government Queensland Innovation Places Strategy, which aims to create a highly collaborative system of innovation places, that will generate world-leading products, services, and businesses to deliver long-term economic growth and jobs for Queensland. The strategy is expected to be released to the public in mid-2022.
- In October 2017, the state government made a commitment to deliver a Deadly Innovation Program to create pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to increase participation in Queensland's innovation economy.
- Delivering on that commitment, the Deadly Innovation Strategy was released, with \$2.75 million committed over four years. This is a significant investment driving economic growth and creating jobs across Queensland, including supporting the growth of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, start-ups, researchers and communities.
- This whole-of-government strategy supports pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses and innovators to achieve success, broaden access to existing opportunities and provide opportunities to secure funding for innovative businesses created, led and managed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Innovative Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses across the state are being supported through the following programs:
 - Deadly Digits: the State Government has partnered with Reckon, an accounting software and support resource hub for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses to provide access to this digital platform.
 - Native Food Program: led by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to explore commercial opportunities for scalable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander native food businesses.
 - AQ One Business Program: designed and delivered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experts through TAFE Queensland – provides

workshops, one-on-one coaching, support and advice with the aim of helping businesses bring their ideas to commercial success.

Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Opportunities in Regional Queensland

- On 21 July 2021, the International Olympic Committee elected Queensland to host the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- Brisbane 2032 is an accelerator to deliver long-term state-wide and regional priorities that will benefit all Queenslanders.
- Across Queensland, Brisbane 2032 is set to deliver \$8.1 billion in benefits including a \$4.6 billion economic boost to tourism and trade and \$3.5 billion in social improvements such as health, volunteering and community benefits.
- Engaging local industry and generating jobs is one of the key objectives of the Queensland Government.
- Over the next 20 years, the Games will drive new investment in infrastructure, tourism, trade and community programs that will grow Queensland's economy and is projected to create approximately 91,600 FTE job years.
- The Games will provide the certainty and confidence to trigger increased investment across the state and drive industry investment in new skills, capacity and supply chains across the regions.
- The international spotlight will provide an opportunity for Queensland to market itself as a global destination and will support an enhanced brand and increased awareness that will help uplift local and international tourism numbers as part of our COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan.
- Increased global exposure for Queensland will enable us to promote our capacity and capability to foreign businesses to access new trade opportunities in a post COVID-19 environment.
- The Queensland Government will work with Games partners to establish a Forward Procurement Pipeline and initiatives to support businesses getting involved in opportunities from the Games.
- Businesses are encouraged to register for Buy Queensland Supplier Updates via the Brisbane 2032 web page to be notified when more information is available about ways businesses can be involved.
- Over the next two years, the Queensland Academy of Sport will undertake a state-wide search to select around 400 talented young athletes to set them up with elite sporting pathways all the way to the 2032 Brisbane Games.
- In awarding the 2032 Games to Brisbane the IOC recognised the quality of our transport system, the Queensland Government commitment to enhancing our networks and services and our successful track record in delivering transport for major events including the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

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- Transport infrastructure and services are critical for the hosting of Olympic and Paralympic Games. The majority of the Games will be hosted in South East Queensland with three regional cities hosting football events in Toowoomba, Townsville and Cairns. No significant transport investment is planned for the regional football events.
- During Games time temporary transport overlay and services will be provided to ensure a consistent Games experience in regional cities.

Study Queensland Regional Funding Framework (SQRFF)

- As part of the state government's strategy to support the international education and training sector, the new regional funding framework was launched in October 2021.
- It aims to provide longer term funding certainty for study clusters, supporting them to lead projects aligned to the International Education and Training (IET) Roadmap.
- Five regions have been awarded funding under the SQRFF: Cairns, Townsville, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and Toowoomba (\$50,000 base plus up to \$75,000 project funding depending on proposal).
- Base funding is guaranteed base funding for four years (until 30 June 2025), with a 20 per cent funding co-contribution required.
- The SQRFF will fund a range of study cluster activities including the ongoing service delivery and management of student hubs, student support and employability projects, community engagement initiatives, local advocacy for the IET sector, and supporting and building capacity with local IET providers.

Regional Arts Service Network Procurement 2022–2025

- The state government's commitment of \$6 million over four years (2021–22 to 2024–25) will enable the delivery of a second term of the Regional Arts Services Network (RASN) to determine regional arts and cultural priorities, and drive change through arts-led initiatives.
- RASN employs regionally based arts officers to deliver regional arts services.
- On 3 September 2021, Arts Queensland (AQ) opened a two-stage state-wide procurement process seeking expressions of interest (submissions for the delivery of RASN from 2022 to 2025 with the successful providers announced on 3 April 2022).
- Community development specialists, Plan C, will undertake an evaluation of RASN, including collaboration with economist firm AEC, to provide a robust and evidence-based evaluation of the strengths of the investment through to 2025.

Marine Rescue Implementation Program

- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) continues to work with partner organisations, Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland (VMRAQ) and Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (AVCGA) towards the implementation pathway and a single, integrated service.
- In 2020, the government announced that Queensland's dedicated marine rescue volunteers will be supported with a \$35.38 million investment for replacement vessels and the establishment of an integrated marine rescue service.
- QFES has remained clear that capability and assets, including vessels, that have been acquired through the hard work of volunteers and community support will stay in those communities through the transition to a single service.
- The priority remains to ensure the future structure provides the most effective service model for the people of Queensland and provides the highest possible level of support and protections for marine rescue volunteers. The new service is intended to be established within the current term of Government.
- QFES will continue to work towards an integrated marine rescue service and the Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group is working hard on the pathway forward to deliver a streamlined, single integrated marine rescue service for all Queenslanders.

Tracks to Treaty Local Thriving Communities

- Tracks to Treaty was launched in 2019 with two key elements working together to reframe the relationship between First Nations peoples and the Queensland Government: Path to Treaty and Local Thriving Communities.
- The state government has committed to progress a Path to Treaty and is currently considering a report of the Treaty Advancement Committee on the detailed architecture to support truth telling and treaty-making, delivered in October 2021.
- Local Thriving Communities is a long-term strengths-based reform involving working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to support local decision-making and self-determination.
- Local Thriving Communities is also about improving Government's cultural capability and capacity to ensure Government is ready to engage with local decision-making bodies as they are established.
- The following communities have successfully stood up interim local decision-making bodies – Mapoon, Napranum, Aurukun and Hope Vale.

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- The state government has developed a Local Thriving Communities Action Plan 2022–2024, the first in a series of action plans to articulate the steps Government needs to take to support the reform agenda.
- The LTC Action Plan is a whole-of-government commitment to implement the mechanisms and effect the change required to bring decision-making about service delivery closer to community.

Building our Regions Fund

- Through rounds one to five, the Building our Regions program has provided funding for local government infrastructure projects in regional communities that create flow-on economic development opportunities and jobs.
- To date, the Building our Regions program has approved over \$348 million towards 271 projects across 67 local government across Queensland, supporting an estimated 2770 jobs. This has leveraged further financial co-contributions of approximately \$539 million from local governments, the federal government, and other organisations, with a total capital expenditure value of over \$887 million.
- Building our Regions Round 6 will provide a further \$70 million over 3 years for local governments to improve their water supply and sewerage systems. Detailed applications for shortlisted construction projects will close in May 2022. Applications for planning projects have closed and are being assessed. Announcements of successful projects are expected mid-year.

Resources Community Infrastructure Fund

- The \$100 million Resources Community Infrastructure Fund represents a partnership between the state government and the resources industry, through the Queensland Resources Council, that seeks to supplement existing resources industry investment in Community Infrastructure.
- The Fund will invest in economic and social Community Infrastructure to enable resource communities to access services to meet their needs, maximise their potential, or enhance community wellbeing.
- Participating coal and mineral resource companies are making voluntary contributions of \$70 million with the state government contributing \$30 million over the life of the Fund.
- Applications for funding under Round 2 closed on 27 April 2022.

Spanish Mackerel Fishery

- Spanish mackerel is a key target species across commercial, recreational and charter fishing sectors on Queensland's east coast.

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- A 2021 stock assessment of Australian east coast Spanish mackerel was undertaken using the most current biological data, as well as commercial and recreational catch data. The purpose of the assessment was to determine the sustainability of fish stocks and inform future management decisions and the development of a harvest strategy.
- The stock assessment estimated the number of Spanish mackerel (biomass) to be between 14 per cent and 27 per cent of unfished levels, and most probably at around 17 per cent. A biomass of less than 20 per cent is the national trigger for urgent action to rebuild stocks to a sustainable level and, in view of the findings, the most responsible way forward is to accept the estimated biomass of 17 per cent as the most credible scenario and to make management decisions accordingly.
- This first round of consultation closed on 5 May 2022 with 1,470 submissions received, including 1,437 responses to the online survey and 33 written submissions. The majority of survey respondents were recreational fishers (78 per cent). Submissions were also received from commercial fishers (5 per cent), charter fishing operators (4 per cent), interested community members (7 per cent), seafood wholesales/marketers (1 per cent), hospitality workers/owners (1 per cent), fishing tackle retailers (1 per cent), Traditional Owners/fishers (1 per cent) and environmental, industry peak body and other non-government organisations (1 per cent).
- Stakeholder feedback is currently being considered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries with no decision on future management of the fishery made at this time.
- A further round of public consultation on proposed management arrangements (e.g., commercial and recreational catch limits, closed seasons) will be undertaken before a final decision is made by government.

Bush Councils Compact

- The Rural and Remote Councils Compact (the Compact) between the state government and the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) establishes a new level of collaboration between the Government and remote and rural councils.
- It provides a mechanism to ensure strategic priorities that support rural and regional councils are properly considered by government as part of its legislation, policy and program development.
- The Compact was signed on 25 June 2021 by the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Mark Jamieson (President, LGAQ).
- A key feature of the Compact is the establishment of a high-level Rural and Remote Councils Policy and Legislation Committee (the Committee) as a regular forum to develop solutions on key strategic priorities for rural and

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remote communities. It will bring together representatives of the state government, the LGAQ and nominated mayors/councillors representing councils (the Guardians).

- Roads, housing and local government sustainability were identified as the three key strategic priority issues for 2021–2022.
- The Committee held an initial meeting with the five Guardians and the LGAQ on Friday, 30 July 2021. At this meeting it was agreed for the first three Committee meetings to focus on each of the three priority areas, with one priority area to be considered in detail at each meeting.
- The first Committee meeting was held on Friday, 10 September 2021, and will include a workshop focusing on the strategic priority issue of roads.
- It discussed a range of opportunities for improved partnership between local and state government for enhanced local outcomes – particularly in relation to procurement opportunities and roads in rural areas.
- The Committee met again on 17 February 2022 and included a workshop on housing, where the housing challenges being faced by rural and remote communities in Queensland were considered.
- As a result of this workshop, on 10 March 2022 the Deputy Premier announced the state government would be fast-tracking Local Housing Action Plans for councils in rural and remote locations under the Compact. These plans will help identify needs, solutions and help coordinate responses to rural and remote community housing challenges.

Energy Transformation – Statewide

- The Department of Energy and Public Works is developing the Energy Plan (The Plan) which will provide cleaner and more affordable energy for Queenslanders.
- The Plan will set out our pathway to an affordable, reliable, and clean energy system so we can achieve our 2030 targets (50 per cent renewable energy target, 30 per cent emissions reduction target) and put the state on track for net zero emissions by 2050.
- To achieve these targets, Queensland will require investment in new renewable energy generation, transmission, and storage solutions. Queensland is currently investing in cleaner energy and creating more jobs for a sustainable and affordable energy future.
- Since 2015 Queensland has seen \$10.7 billion of investment in renewable energy projects and with that an increased share of renewable generation from seven per cent to more than 20 per cent.
- The Plan is currently under development and scheduled to be released later this year.

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- It will detail actions and investment required to put Queensland on a pathway to our future clean energy system, put downward pressure on electricity costs and deliver more clean energy for more jobs and more industry
- Queensland's advantage is that we own our energy assets. To help ease current cost of living pressures, the government is delivering a Cost of Living rebate of \$175.
- The Plan will leverage investments from our publicly owned power assets and current initiatives such as:
 - \$2 billion Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund
 - \$145 million to establish three Queensland Renewable Energy Zones (QREZ) (northern, central and southern).
- This will underpin Queensland's economic future – attracting investment and unlocking opportunity for our regions.
- Regional Queensland will further benefit through supply chain opportunities including manufacturing and growing new industries like hydrogen.
- In Central Queensland, the Queensland Government has invested \$2 million to upgrade training facilities at Gladstone State High School to prepare students for jobs in the hydrogen industry.
- CQ University has also attracted funding—from the Federal Government's Clean Energy Hubs program—to establish a Clean Hydrogen Industrial Hub in Central Queensland.

Released under RTIP268

Subject: EVENT | Regional Forum
Location: TBC

Start: Mon 30/05/2022 8:00 AM
End: Mon 30/05/2022 3:00 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Meeting organizer

Organizer: Bart Mellish
Required Attendees: External - Aspley Electorate Office; External - Bart Mellish

Released under RTI - DPC

Subject: FLIGHT QF2409 | RKY to BNE - arrives 6.10pm
Location: Airline Ref: 53ZR4Z

Start: Mon 30/05/2022 5:00 PM
End: Mon 30/05/2022 5:30 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Meeting organizer

Organizer: Bart Mellish
Required Attendees: External - Aspley Electorate Office; External - Bart Mellish

Released under RTI - DPC