

**Whitsundays (Mackay-Whitsunday Region)
Travelling Issues Briefs Index
July 2022**

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REGION PROFILE	MACKAY-WHITSUNDAY
ELECTORATE	SITTING MEMBER
Burdekin	Mr Dale Last (LNP)
Gregory	Mr Lachlan Millar (LNP)
Mackay	Mrs Julieanne Gilbert (ALP)
Mirani	Mr Steve Andrew (ONP)
Whitsunday	Ms Amanda Camm (LNP)

Queensland Government FTEs		2022	2015
Doctors	Mackay HHS <i>source: QH supplied MOHRI data (20 March 2022)</i>	329.68	207.60
Nurses		1,092.63	751.70
Other health professionals		393.63	207.02
Ambulance officers	source: PSC supplied MOHRI data (31 March 2022)	171.70	154.81
Police officers		369.94	336.43
Fire officers		100.10	71.76
Teachers		1,790.33	1,698.40
Teacher aides		433.99	402.31

Employment – annual rate change	2022 (May)	2015 (Feb)
Queensland employment	4.7%	1.6%
Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday employment (SA4)	0.6%	0.3%
Unemployment Rate		
Queensland unemployment	4.0%	6.5%
Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday unemployment (SA4)	2.5%	5.6%
Queensland youth unemployment	10.1%	14.1%
Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday youth unemployment (SA4)	4.0%	9.3%

Employment by industry (2016 census)	Number	Percent
Mining	11,300	14.4%
Retail trade	7,259	9.3%
Health care and social assistance	7,146	9.1%
Accommodation and food services	6,429	8.2%
Education and training	5,557	7.1%

	Queensland	MW Region
Median age (estimated as at 30 June 2020)	37.8 years	37.6 years
Population (estimated as at 30 June 2021)	5,221,233	175,842
Crime rate (per 100,000 persons) 2020-21	9,154	11,612

Tourism (Dec 2021)	Tourism Region	Visitors	Expenditure
Domestic tourism	Mackay	1.1 million	\$452.2M
International tourism		not published	not published
Domestic tourism	Whitsundays	791,000	\$992.6M
International tourism		not published	not published

ECONOMIC PROFILE

Budget 2022-23	Mackay-Whitsunday
Infrastructure	\$596.4M
<u>Utilities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burdekin Haughton water supply scheme modernisation business case Strathmore transformer reinforcement Urannah Dam business case and approvals project Nebo secondary systems replacement business case Bedford Weir raising preliminary b 	
<u>Community Wellbeing</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homelessness services 	
<u>Government services</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salisbury Plains Industrial Precinct Flagstaff Hill Conference and Cultural Centre Future Foods Biohub Mackay Resource Centre of Excellence – Future Industries Delivery Hub 	
<u>Transport and Roads</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bruce Highway (Proserpine-Bowen) Ten Mile Creek to Yeates Creek – improve safety Mackay Port initiatives Mackay Ring Road – stage 1 Walkerston Bypass 	
<u>Justice and safety</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Airlie Beach replacement permanent and auxiliary fire and rescue station Mackay police facility upgrade Clermont replacement police station 	
<u>Recreation and culture</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whitsunday Islands National Park – Ngaro walking track upgrade 	
Health	\$562.2M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bowen Hospital – improve facilities 	

Budget 2022-23	Mackay-Whitsunday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proserpine Hospital – refurbishment clinical assimilation training area and acute primary care clinic • Mackay Community Mental Health Service – refurbishment • Sarina Hospital – new greenfield site • Health capacity expansion program • Rural and Remote Health Program – phase 2 	
Education	\$37.8M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowen State High School – skills development and training facilities • Mackay Northern Beaches State High School – additional learning spaces and skills development training facilities • Mackay Ooralea Trade Training Centre expansion • Moranbah East State School – new building • Dysart State High School – skills development and training facilities • Clermont State High School – skills development and training facilities • Great Barrier Reef Education experience program 	
Total jobs supported in this region	2,000

	Jobs	Funding
Building our Regions (Rounds 1-5) (May 2022)		
Mackay-Whitsunday region	245.6	\$36.267M
Works for Queensland (Summary) – Mackay-Whitsunday region (30 April 2022)		
2019-21 Rnd	457.0	\$18.25M
2020-21 COVID Rnd	339.0	\$12.99M
2021-24 Rnd	200.0	\$17.90M

Back to Work (Total across all programs)	Employers	Jobs	Funding
<u>Initial</u> Back to work (closed 30 Jun 2021)	1,275	2,811	\$30.367M
<u>Revitalised</u> Back to Work (31 May 2022)	52	59	\$399,236
Skilling Queenslanders for Work (31 May 2022)			
Total Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative		1,056	\$10.83M

Local Government	Mayor
Isaac Regional Council	Cr Anne Baker
Mackay Regional Council	Cr Greg Williamson
Whitsunday Regional Council	Cr Michael Brunker (acting)

PREVIOUS VISITS

Since 2015, the Government:

- held 1 Community Cabinet in the Mackay-Whitsunday region (9 Community Cabinets have been held across the State); and
- held a Governing from the Regions session in the region (7 have been held across the State).

DATE	LOCATION	PURPOSE
31 May 2022	Mackay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Visit
22 March 2022	Proserpine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – attend and lay wreath at dedication ceremony for Cenotaph – attend official opening of, and tour, new Proserpine Entertainment Centre
21 October 2021	Mackay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Media conference, Mackay Vaccination Hub – Meet with Mayor of Mackay Regional Council
29 September 2020	Mackay/ Moranbah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – visit Isaac Plains Coal Mine, Resources Sector Investment and Jobs – meeting and media conference, Mackay Whitsunday Regional Economic Recovery Plan and Jobs
15 September 2020	Mackay/ Proserpine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – attend state funeral of Hon. Tim Mulherin, MP – attend Official Opening of Proserpine Administration Building, Disaster Coordination Centre and Climate Change Innovation Hub – meeting and media conference, Proserpine Entertainment Centre Construction and Jobs
28 July 2020	Proserpine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – attend media conference, Gregory River Prawn Farm Expansion and Jobs
9 June 2020	Mackay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – attend media conference, Support for Queensland manufacturing – visit Jayden Enterprises, Support of Queensland Jobs

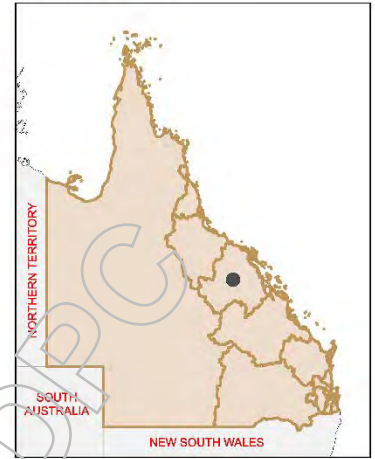
DATE	LOCATION	PURPOSE
3 June 2020	Whitsundays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – attend Whitsunday airport
16-17 August 2019	Whitsundays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – open and inspect Hayman Island Redevelopment – attend Hamilton Island Race Week Welcome Event and Dinner
18 June 2019	Mackay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – attend Kynaston Engineering Event – attend 140th Mackay Regional Show
22 May 2019	Mackay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – attend Hay Point Coal Terminal
18 August 2018	Whitsundays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – attend Hamilton Island Race Week Welcome Event and Dinner
21 – 24 May 2018	Mackay/ Proserpine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governing from the Regions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – meet with Mayors of Isaac, Mackay and Whitsunday regional councils – attend Cannonvale Community Forum, community Government reception and various meetings – attend Official Opening of the Mackay Fire Station and Disaster Recovery Centre – visit Police Communications Centre, Mackay – visit and inspect Lambert Beach damage from Tropical Cyclone Debbie
22 September 2017	Mackay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – meet with Sir Elton John and Mayor Mackay Regional Council and attend Elton John Concert
17 August 2017	Clermont/ Tieri/ Moranbah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – meet with local MP and mine workers and families – tour Moranbah town centre and visit Workers Club – meet with Mayor Isaac Regional Council – inspect chickpea farm, Clermont – visit Tieri State School
27 May 2017	Bowen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – meeting with Mayor Whitsunday Regional Council – attend Bowen Gumlu Growers Association gala dinner

DATE	LOCATION	PURPOSE
26 April 2017	Mackay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> onsite pre-brief, Vines Creek Bridge, Mackay visit Ergon Energy depot
11 April 2017	Whitsunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> meet with CEO, Whitsundays Tourism and community members and cruise Whitsunday and visit Shute Harbour
8 April 2017	Bowen / Proserpine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> inspect Phantom Produce farm, Bowen visit Queens Beach visit Koorelah Farms, Bowen visit Proserpine Recovery Centre and Australian Defence Force Staging area walking tour of main street, Proserpine
4 April 2017	Airlie Beach / Hideaway Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> visit Airlie Beach PCYC Recovery Centre and inspect the Orange Sky Mobile Laundry walking tour of Airlie Beach to inspect damage to shops and homes visit North Queensland Toyota Cowboys Fun Day, Airlie Beach vehicle survey of damage of Hideaway Bay
1 April 2017	Mackay-Whitsunday region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> meet with Mayor Mackay Regional Council, Mackay-Whitsunday region Members of Parliament, and Leader of the Opposition view damage in the Mackay area
29 March 2017	Bowen / Proserpine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> inspect damage by Tropical Cyclone Debbie
21 February 2017	Mackay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> meet with Mayor Mackay Regional Council
23-25 October 2016	Proserpine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Cabinet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> delegation meetings Community Cabinet Official Government Reception meeting with Mayor Mackay Regional Council, and Mackay-Whitsunday region Members of Parliament

DATE	LOCATION	PURPOSE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - attend Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy 2016-20 Business Breakfast - attend and address DestinationQ Forum Dinner, officially open and attend DestinationQ Forum and networking reception - various community meetings
18 May 2016	Moranbah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional visit - attend the Official Opening of the Isaac Plains Mine
2 March 2016	Mackay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Queensland Cabinet Committee meeting
10 February 2016	Sarina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biofutures Cabinet Committee meeting
16 December 2015	Mackay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional visit: - attend official opening of Hay Point Coal Terminal third expansion
30 July 2015	Mackay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional visit: - attend official opening of the Marian Water Treatment Plant - tour Wilmar BioEthanol Sarina Distillery

MAP – Mackay-Whitsunday region

Queensland Statistical Areas, Level 4 (SA4), 2021 - Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday (ASGS Code 312)



Map produced by Queensland Government's Office,
 Queensland Treasury
<https://www.qasg.qld.gov.au/geographies-maps/maps>
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Achievements – Whitsunday Regional Council area

HEALTH

- **\$1.49M** Proserpine Hospital Emergency Department refurbishment – redevelopment and expansion of the existing Acute Primary Care Clinic Emergency Department – commenced 28 June 2016, completed 6 November 2017 – 4 jobs supported during construction.
- **\$1.17M** Proserpine Hospital Kitchen upgrade – kitchen upgrade to meet food safety standards and covered walkway – commenced 29 September 2017, completed 21 March 2018 – 3 jobs supported during construction.

EDUCATION / TAFE

- **ACES Installation completed at Bucasia State School** 90 kw system, 272 panels.
- **\$460,000** to Glenella State School to provide equitable access to core classrooms – election commitment delivered

ROADS

- Recent projects completed include:
 - \$39.13M (Mackay – Proserpine) Hampden to Kuttabul, rehabilitate and widen – jointly funded by the State (20) and Federal (80) governments – supported 95 jobs – completed December 2021;
 - \$12.1M Bruce Highway (Mackay – Proserpine), Powell Road North, improve safety – jointly funded by the State (20) and Federal (80) governments – supported 40 jobs – completed March 2022;
 - \$15M Bowen Developmental Road (Collinsville 0 Belyando Crossing), Deception Creek to Bulgonunna Creek, pave and seal – fully funded by the State government – supported 28 jobs – completed December 2021;
 - \$3.63M Proserpine – Shute Harbour Road and Gregory – Cannon Valley Road, improve intersection – fully funded by the State government 0 expected to be complete late March 2022.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- **\$15M** jointly funded Whitsunday Coast Airport Terminal Expansion, completed in July 2019.

POLICE / JUSTICE

- **\$8.3M** replacement Bowen Police Station opened mid-2018.
- Police strength increased by 20 positions.

ENVIRONMENT

- **\$10M** in the Reef Assist Program for 11 projects in partnership with local government, including Whitsunday Regional Council, and natural resource management organisation – election commitment delivered

BUILDING OUR REGIONS

- \$13.60M to Whitsunday Regional Council for 7 projects supporting 104 jobs; to date 5 projects are complete and 1 project has been withdrawn.

WORKS FOR QLD

- Summary of funding for projects within Whitsunday Regional Council

Funding round	No of projects	Act Jobs	Funding
WFQ 2016-17	24	223.0	\$4.36M
WFQ 2017-19	6	87.0	\$4.07M
WFQ 2019-21	7	66.0	\$3.61M
2020-21 COVID-19	15	101.0	\$2.72M
WFQ 2021-24	15	118.0	\$3.84M
Total	67	595.0	\$18.6M

Election Commitments – Mackay-Whitsunday region

2017 Election Commitments

- The implementation status of 46 commitments, within this region, as at 31 March 2022, is:

Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet

2020 Election Commitments

- The implementation status of 84 commitments, within this region, as at 31 March 2022, is:

Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet

Electorate	2020 Election Commitments	Status as at 31 March 2022	Commitment also delivered in other regions
BRUCE HIGHWAY AND OTHER ROADS			
Whitsunday	GETTING ACTIVE \$100,000 for the Bucasia Road/ Sologinkin Road Shared Path Improvements Design	Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet	Whitsunday
Burdekin Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	A REAL BRUCE PLAN Task the Bruce Highway Trust to set ambitious targets to deliver the outcomes of the Safer Bruce 2030 Action Plan and achieve the vision of a 60 per cent reduction in the rate of fatalities by 2030		✓
Burdekin Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	A REAL BRUCE PLAN Implement the Bruce Highway Trust's 15 year vision and five year upgrade action plans		✓
Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	A REAL BRUCE PLAN Provide funding of \$126 million for priority safety upgrades including flood mitigation between Mackay and Proserpine		✓

Electorate	2020 Election Commitments	Status as at 31 March 2022	Commitment also delivered in other regions
Whitsunday Mackay	\$750,000 to plan and build a business case for the duplication of Mackay-Bucasia Road and the Rural View roundabout	Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet	
Burdekin Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	A REAL BRUCE PLAN Continue our \$1 billion per year Bruce Guarantee, with a 2-year path of \$1.6 billion committed in 2021-22, \$1.9 billion in 2022-23 on an 80:20 Federal: State basis		✓
Burdekin Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	A REAL BRUCE PLAN Expand the Bruce Highway Trust with 6 additional regional members to include users, road safety and regional development experts from along the Bruce Highway north of Gympie		✓
Burdekin Mackay Whitsunday	A REAL BRUCE PLAN Require every tenderer on Bruce Highway projects that are over \$100 million to submit a skills and apprentices plan and to demonstrate how locals will be given the chance to work on the project		✓
Burdekin Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	A REAL BRUCE PLAN Task the Bruce Highway Trust to set ambitious targets to achieve a minimum one-in-one-hundred-year flood immunity standard for the entire Bruce Highway, using experts to guide decision-making		✓
Burdekin Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	A REAL BRUCE PLAN Task the Bruce Highway Trust to prepare the Safer Bruce 2030 Action Plan		✓
Burdekin Mackay Whitsunday	A REAL BRUCE PLAN Require every tenderer on Bruce Highway projects that are over \$100 million to submit a skills and apprentices plan and to demonstrate how locals will be given the chance to work on the project		✓

Electorate	2020 Election Commitments	Status as at 31 March 2022	Commitment also delivered in other regions
Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	<p>A REAL BRUCE PLAN Provide \$100 million towards a \$500 million jointly funded boost for priority upgrades between Mackay and Proserpine, and between Gladstone and Rockhampton</p>	<p>Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet</p>	<p>✓</p>
Mackay	<p>EQUIPPING TAFE FOR OUR FUTURE Provide \$7.5 million to expand the heavy automotive facilities at Mackay Ooralea Trade Training Centre</p>		
Whitsunday	<p>GREAT SCHOOLS, GREAT FUTURE \$500,000 for an extension and to upgrade the tuckshop at Bucasia State School</p>		
Mirani Whitsunday	<p>GREAT SCHOOLS, GREAT FUTURE \$500,000 for an extension/upgrade to the tuckshop, including a commercial kitchen at Marian State School</p>		
Mirani Whitsunday	<p>GREAT SCHOOLS, GREAT FUTURE \$500,000 to upgrade the administration block at Mirani State High School</p>		
Whitsunday	<p>GREAT SCHOOLS, GREAT FUTURE \$500,000 to refurbish the amenities block at Eimeo Road State School</p>		
Whitsunday Mackay	<p>LOCAL SCHOOLS, LOCAL JOBS \$1.2 million to upgrade facilities to industry standards for digital engineering, early childhood, arts and business sectors at Mackay Northern Beaches State High School</p>		

Electorate	2020 Election Commitments	Status as at 31 March 2022	Commitment also delivered in other regions
Whitsunday	EQUIPPING TAFE FOR OUR FUTURE \$2 million on a new aquaculture training facility at the Cannonvale TAFE campus to provide training in areas like commercial fish farms, hatchery and pond management	Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet	✓
Burdekin Gregory Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	\$12 million over four years to expand the remote kindy program to include an extra 20 state schools at least 40km from the nearest approved Kindergarten Program Provider		
Burdekin	GREAT SCHOOLS, GREAT FUTURE \$160,000 to install a covered walkway and concrete paths at Bowen State High School		
Mackay Whitsunday	GREAT SCHOOLS, GREAT FUTURE \$460,000 to provide equitable access to core classrooms at Glenella State School		
Mackay Whitsunday	GREAT SCHOOLS, GREAT FUTURE \$60,000 to install a lifting hoist at Mackay District Special School		
Whitsunday Burdekin	Upgrade the tuckshop at Proserpine State School		
HEALTH			
Burdekin Gregory Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	Deliver a business case for the expansion of Mackay Hospital	Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet	
Burdekin Gregory Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	Deliver a business case for the expansion of Bowen Hospital		

Electorate	2020 Election Commitments	Status as at 31 March 2022	Commitment also delivered in other regions
Burdekin Gregory Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	\$27.8 million for 33 renal dialysis treatment spaces in regional Queensland at Proserpine, Clermont, Charter Towers, Ingham and Longreach hospitals, and at the Cooktown Multipurpose Health Service and Kowanyama Primary Health Care Centre	Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet	✓
Burdekin Gregory Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	Work with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and other stakeholders to design and implement a trial of pharmacists practising to their full scope in North Queensland		✓
Burdekin Gregory Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	Deliver a business case for the redevelopment of Moranbah Hospital		
Burdekin Gregory Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	\$490,000 over four years to extend the HIV self-testing project for people living in regional Queensland		✓
JUSTICE			
Whitsunday	Establish the Youth Justice Co-Responder program in Mackay	Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet	
COMMUNITY and RECREATION			
Whitsunday	Back the Whitsunday Skyway project by providing \$1 million towards land offsets through the purchase of 11 hectares in Conway National Park	Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet	
Burdekin Gregory Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	COUNTRY RACING \$35.2 million for Country Racing over 2 years from July 2021 to June 2023 which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – \$15 million per year for prize money – \$2.6 million per year for maintenance of racetracks 		✓

Electorate	2020 Election Commitments	Status as at 31 March 2022	Commitment also delivered in other regions
Burdekin Gregory Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	Establish a new ten year partnership agreement with the Royal Flying Doctors Service (RFDS) and a \$20 million capital grant to the RFDS towards a new base and hangar in Townsville	Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet	✓
Burdekin Gregory Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	Review the final Australian Competition and Consumer Commission report on insurance in northern Australia, and consult with northern Queensland businesses and the community on an appropriate response		✓
Burdekin Gregory Mirani Whitsunday	Work with the LGAQ on finalising an agreed Bush Councils Compact		✓
Burdekin Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	\$30 million over four years to support Surf Life Saving Queensland		✓
AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT			
Burdekin Gregory Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	Identify Queensland agricultural seasonal workforce needs and immediately implement local solutions that connect agribusinesses with relevant and appropriate workforce solutions	Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet	✓
TOURISM / INDUSTRY			
Whitsunday	Invite Giya Gia Kaiyu to engage in discussions regarding the proposed Whitsunday Skyway project including through a Traditional Owner Working Group	Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet	
Burdekin Gregory Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	Promote and support businesses in regional Queensland providing side-by-side vehicle recreation opportunities on private land		✓

Electorate	2020 Election Commitments	Status as at 31 March 2022	Commitment also delivered in other regions
Burdekin Gregory Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	REBUILDING QUEENSLAND TOURISM \$15 million for a Regional Tourism Organisation Recovery fund to provide a special one-off funding injection to regional tourism organisations	Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet	✓
ENVIRONMENT			
Whitsunday	Back the Whitsunday Skyway project by providing \$1 million towards land offsets through the purchase of 11 hectares in Conway National Park	Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet	
Burdekin Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	Healthy Reef, Healthy Environment, Healthy Economy \$10 million into a Reef Credits program to accelerate water quality improvements by incentivising land management activities		✓
Whitsunday	Healthy Reef, Healthy Environment, Healthy Economy – Investing in Nature Upgrade and build new nature-based visitor experiences of the next stage of the Ngaro Walking Track on Whitsunday Island		
Burdekin Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	\$1 million to deliver a business case for a BioHub in the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsundays regions		
Burdekin Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	\$3 million over two years to expand the QCoast2100 program to enable eligible local governments to develop and implement Coastal Hazard Adaption Strategies		✓

Electorate	2020 Election Commitments	Status as at 31 March 2022	Commitment also delivered in other regions
Burdekin Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	Healthy Reef, Healthy Environment, Healthy Economy \$6 million into the Great Barrier Reef Island Arks project which will expand Queensland's protected area estate and work with Traditional Owners to co-manage key ecological and cultural sites and promote new ecotourism offerings. This will be done by acquiring new areas which will add to Queensland's protected area estate	Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet	✓
Burdekin Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	Maintain reef protection laws and associated measures which are critical to the health of the Great Barrier Reef		✓
Whitsunday	Healthy Reef, Healthy Environment, Healthy Economy \$3.9 million to develop two Reef Trails to improve access to the Great Barrier Reef with 30 new public moorings and 20 new non- anchoring zones in Whitsunday and Townsville areas		✓
Burdekin Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	Healthy Reef, Healthy Environment, Healthy Economy \$10 million in the Reef Assist Program which will include 11 projects in partnerships with local government and natural resource management organisations		✓
Burdekin Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	Continue the Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Program		✓
MARINE RESCUE SERVICES			
Burdekin Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	Boosting Marine Rescue Services Establish an integrated Volunteer Marine Rescue and Coast Guard service to bring 47 volunteer organisations together, and provide operational funding and capacity building for marine rescue services	Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet	✓

Electorate	2020 Election Commitments	Status as at 31 March 2022	Commitment also delivered in other regions	
Burdekin Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	Boosting Marine Rescue Services Increase funding for insurance costs and provide for additional operational expenses incurred by Squadrons and Flotillas	Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet	✓	
Burdekin Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	Boosting Marine Rescue Services Invest \$17.38 million over four years to replace ageing vessels. This will deliver up to 27 new boats across the state			✓
Mackay Mirani	BACKING QUEENSLAND MARITIME JOBS Work with the publicly owned ports to invest in land side infrastructure which has the potential to facilitate coastal cargoes such as porter cranes. As an early first step, work with the Port of Gladstone to work with industry to progress planning for a porter crane*			✓
Burdekin Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	Boosting Marine Rescue Services Establish a Marine Rescue Queensland implementation Working Group with representatives from Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland and Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association to progress the transition to an integrated state-wide Marine Volunteer service. The Marine Rescue Queensland Implementation Working Group will be in the field in the first 100 days			✓
WORKS FOR QUEENSLAND				
Burdekin Gregory Mackay Mirani Whitsunday	Keeping Queensland Working \$400 million over six years to continue Works for Queensland in 65 council areas with each eligible regional council to receive two rounds of \$1 million, with the rest of the money to be allocated according to population and unemployment	Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet	✓	

Building our Regions and Works for Queensland

Building our Regions

- As at 3 May 2022, under Rounds 1-5, the Mackay-Whitsunday region has received **\$36.26M for 18 projects** supporting around **245 jobs**; to date **15 projects are complete** and 1 project has been withdrawn.

Building our Regions (Rounds 1-5)		
(May 2022)	Jobs	Funding
Burdekin SC (BSC)	11.4	\$1.611M
Isaac RC (IRC)	75.6	\$12.425M
Mackay RC (MRC)	54.2	\$8.624M
Whitsunday RC (WRC)	104.4	\$13.607M
TOTALS	245.6	\$36.267M

- The **Whitsunday Regional Council (WRC)** received **\$13.6M for 7 projects** supporting around **104 jobs**; to date **5 projects are complete** and 1 project has been withdrawn.

WRC Projects	Electorate	Rd	Approved Funding	Total Cost	Jobs (Est)	Project Stage
Revitalisation of the Collinsville Showground	Burdekin	02	\$254,000	\$508,000	1.6	completed 30/3/2018
Airlie Beach Foreshore Revitalisation Project	Whitsunday	03	\$2.83M	\$6.34M	19.0	completed 28/6/2019
Greening and Growing Bowen – recycled water network expansion	Burdekin	03	\$2.02M	\$4.05M	12.1	completed 16/12/2019
Lake Proserpine Barramundi Fishing and Recreational Precinct	Whitsunday	03	\$1.50M	\$3.15M	10.4	exp completion 2022/23
Flagstaff Hill Conference and Cultural Centre	Burdekin	04	\$2.00M	\$3.00M	9.9	Completed 30/09/2021
Collinsville Aerodrome Ind Precinct Stg 1 – (funding t'ferred to Flagstaff Hill proj)		04	\$500,000	\$1.221M	4.0	withdrawn funding transferred
Airlie Beach Sustainable Water Project	Whitsunday	05	\$5.00M	\$14.36M	47.4	completed 2/8/2021

Works for Queensland

- Since 2016, through Works for Queensland the Mackay-Whitsunday region has received **\$89.31M** for **261 projects** supporting around **2,560 jobs**; to date **1240 projects** are now complete.
- **WRC** has received **\$18.6M** for **67 projects** supporting, to date, **595 jobs** with **53 projects** completed.

Summary of W4Q Council Projects (as at 30 Apr 2022)

Council	2019-21 Rnd		2020-21 COVID Rnd		2021-24 Rnd	
	Jobs	Funding	Jobs	Funding	Jobs	Funding
BSC	204.0	\$3.07M	109.0	\$1.95M	50.0	\$2.48M
IRC	61.0	\$1.59M	44.0	\$1.39M	14.0	\$1.59M
MRC	126.0	\$9.98M	85.0	\$6.93M	18.0	\$9.99M
WRC	66.0	\$3.61M	101.0	\$2.72M	118.0	\$3.84M
TOTALS	457.0	\$18.25M	339.0	\$12.99M	200.0	\$17.90M

W4Q Projects - WRC

2019-21 Works for Queensland Projects	Electorate	Budget	jobs created /supported		Project Status
			Est	Act	
Division 1 Improving Beach Communities	Whitsunday	\$599,775	16.0	10.0	completed 30/9/2021
Division 2 Improving Beach Communities	Burdekin	\$623,089	10.0	8.0	completed 30/9/2021
Division 3 Improving Rural Communities	Whitsunday	\$540,835	16.0	15.0	completed 24/12/2020
Division 4 Improving Beach Communities	Whitsunday	\$123,502	4.0	7.0	completed 19/6/2021
Division 4 Improving Rural Communities	Burdekin	\$515,216	16.0	8.0	completed 31/8/2021
Division 5 Improving Beach Communities	Burdekin	\$615,508	14.0	12.0	completed 30/6/2021
Division 6 Improving Beach Communities	Burdekin	\$588,071	15.0	6.0	completed 1/7/2021

2020-21 COVID Works for Queensland Projects	Electorate	Budget	jobs created /supported		Project Status
			Est	Act	
Bowen Aerodrome Sewerage Treatment Renewal	Burdekin	\$35,000		6.0	completed 6/3/2021

2020-21 COVID Works for Queensland Projects	Electorate	Budget	jobs created /supported		Project Status
			Est	Act	
Bowen Aerodrome Workcamp	Burdekin	\$87,977	2.0	4.0	completed 6/08/2021
Bowen Aquatic Facility Town Pool Amenity Upgrade - Stage 1 & 2	Burdekin	\$367,235	12.0	6.0	completed Nov-2021
Bowen Water Park Renewal	Burdekin	\$86,618	7.0	6.0	completed 21/09/2021
Cannonvale Depot Office Roof Replacement	Whitsunday	\$119,000		10.0	completed 15/12/2020
Cannonvale Foreshore Hall - New Playground	Whitsunday	\$41,000		10.0	completed 9/12/2020
Cannonvale Foreshore Hall - Roof Renewal (After School Care)	Whitsunday	\$42,000		10.0	completed 2/11/2020
Collinsville Pool amenity and kiosk upgrade	Burdekin	\$206,460	10.0	6.0	completed 14/11/2021
Collinsville Youth Coalition – Amenities Renewal	Burdekin	\$99,000		4.0	completed 4/6/2021
Continuation of Pedestrian Path Lighting Airlie Foreshore	Whitsunday	\$100,000	5.0	7.0	exp completion Apr-2022
Les Stagg Oval Grandstand renewal	Whitsunday	\$70,000		4.0	completed 28/5/2021
Proserpine aquatic facility residence demolish & kiosk renewal	Whitsunday	\$322,195	16.0	6.0	completed 30/09/2021
Proserpine Water & Sewer Admin Reroof	Whitsunday	\$80,000		10.0	completed 15/12/2020
Wangaratta Caravan Park pool refurbishment	Burdekin	\$75,600		4.0	completed 5/6/2021
Whitsunday Coast Airport roof renewal	Whitsunday	\$1.039M		8.0	completed 30/6/2021

2021-24 Works for Queensland Projects	Electorate	Budget	jobs created /supported		Project Status
			Est	Act	
Airlie Lagoon Lighting Improvements	Whitsunday	\$500,000	4.0	6.0	exp completion Jun-2022
Astro-turfing, Airlie Beach Lagoon 'beach area'	Burdekin	\$125,711	8.0	5.0	exp completion Jun-2022

2021-24 Works for Queensland Projects	Electorate	Budget	jobs created /supported		Project Status
			Est	Act	
Bowen WTP Intake, Switchboard and Structure	Whitsunday	\$300,500	8.0	4.0	exp completion Dec-2022
Brandy Creek – new amenities	Burdekin	\$140,332	6.0	9.0	exp completion Jun-2022
Case Park Walking Track, Bowen	Whitsunday	\$383,500	9.0	15.0	exp completion Jul-2022
Collinsville Aquatic Facility – pool retiling renewal	Whitsunday	\$140,400	5.0	6.0	exp completion Dec-2022
Collinsville Community Centre – exterior painting program	Burdekin	\$68,000	4.0	4.0	exp completion Jun-2022
Dingo Beach Bollards	Burdekin	\$107,500	4.0	6.0	completed 17/12/2021
Front beach skate bowl timber replacement Bowen	Burdekin	\$172,000	5.0	9.0	completed 28/01/2022
Gloucester sports park access and car park reconstruction and seal	Whitsunday	\$300,000	9.0	12.0	exp completion Jun-2022
Greening & Growing Bowen 3 – recycled water network extension	Whitsunday	\$428,000	8.0	9.0	exp completion Jul-2022
Hydro therapy rehabilitation above ground pool	Burdekin	\$75,000	6.0	5.0	exp completion Jun-2022
Lions Lookout & Carpark Upgrade – Shute Harbour	Burdekin	\$475,000	12.0	12.0	exp completion Oct-2022
Mullers Lagoon Bridge x 2 upgrade - Bowen	Whitsunday	\$124,057	10.0	8.0	exp completion Jun-2022
Sewer relining – regional possible PFAS infiltration	Burdekin	\$500,000	5.0	8.0	exp completion Jun-2022

Mackay-Whitsunday

budget.qld.gov.au



Whitehaven Beach - Getty

The 2022-23 Queensland Budget supports **good jobs**, provides **better services** for all Queenslanders and protects our **great lifestyle**. In Mackay-Whitsunday it provides:

\$596.4M

on infrastructure

for productivity enhancing infrastructure and capital works estimated to support around

2,000 JOBS in this region.

\$186.6M

for the Walkerston Bypass

including \$56.5 million in 2022-23 towards the construction of a new two-lane highway connecting Peak Downs Highway to the Mackay Ring Road. Delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.

\$562.2M

on health

for the Mackay Hospital and Health Services.

\$31.5M

for Sarina Hospital

including \$20.6 million in 2022-23 for a new greenfield site, to deliver a purpose-built hospital and staff accommodation.

\$37.8M

on education

to maintain, improve and upgrade schools in Mackay-Whitsunday.

\$23.7M

for social housing

to expand and improve social housing in Mackay-Whitsunday.

Delivering for the Mackay-Whitsunday region



Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

An estimated \$115.7 million total grants paid and payable to Local Government Authorities in Mackay-Whitsunday for reconstruction, betterment and other projects to recover from natural disaster events that occurred between 2019 and 2022. The program is jointly funded by the Queensland Government and the Australian Government.



Building our Regions

\$34.7 million allocated to 16 projects for critical infrastructure in Mackay-Whitsunday supporting an estimated 234 jobs. This has leveraged further financial co-contributions statewide of over \$539 million from local governments, the Australian Government, and other organisations, with a total capital expenditure value of over \$887 million.

(March 2015 to June 2023)



Back to Work

\$31.6 million of payments have been paid to 2,701 employers in Mackay-Whitsunday to employ 1,195 eligible unemployed jobseekers.

(July 2017 to April 2022)



Works for Queensland

\$15.4 million provided to regional councils to undertake 21 maintenance and minor infrastructure projects in Mackay-Whitsunday.

(July 2021 to June 2024)

Delivering better services in Mackay-Whitsunday

Growth from March 2015 to March 2022



341 extra nurses
up **45.5%**



123 extra doctors
up **59.7%**



107 extra teachers
up **6.2%**



28 extra firefighters
up **39.5%**



Mackay-Whitsunday

1 Salisbury Plains Industrial Precinct
\$500,000 in 2022-23 out of a \$9.3 million total spend to help establish significant industrial developments and provide for the establishment of essential services and infrastructure corridors.

2 Bowen State High School
\$868,000 in 2022-23 out of a \$1.4 million total spend to provide new skills development and training facilities.

3 Bowen Hospital
\$5.2 million in 2022-23 out of a \$20 million total spend for construction projects to improve facilities at the Bowen Hospital site, including a new Computed Tomography Scanner.

4 Flagstaff Hill Conference and Cultural Centre
\$400,000 in 2022-23 out of a \$2.5 million total spend to build a conference and cultural centre at Flagstaff Hill that will complement the site's visually stunning natural environment. Part of the Building our Regions program.

5 Bruce Highway (Proserpine - Bowen), Ten Mile Creek to Yeates Creek, improve safety
\$15 million in 2022-23 out of a \$44.1 million total spend towards safety improvements on the Bruce Highway, between Ten Mile Creek and Yeates Creek. Delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.

6 Airlie Beach replacement permanent and auxiliary fire and rescue station
\$750,000 in 2022-23 out of a \$7 million total spend to commence replacement of the permanent and auxiliary fire and rescue station at Airlie Beach.

7 Whitsunday Islands National Park - Ngaro walking track upgrade
\$1.8 million in 2022-23 out of a \$4.5 million total spend to extend the Ngaro walking track in the Whitsunday Islands National Park. Part of the \$10.1 million investment in Ecotourism and World Heritage Areas.

8 Proserpine Hospital
\$5 million in 2022-23 out of a \$7.9 million total spend for the refurbishment of the clinical assimilation training area, and acute primary care clinic upgrade.

9 Burdekin Haughton Water Supply Scheme modernisation business case
\$1.4 million in 2022-23 out of a \$1.9 million total spend to develop a detailed business case investigating modernisation of water storage and channelling in the Burdekin Haughton Water Supply Scheme. Part of the National Water Grid Fund, delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.

10 Strathmore Transformer Reinforcement
\$3.2 million in 2022-23 out of a \$24.3 million total spend to add additional transformers at the Strathmore substation to preserve network strength in the vicinity to Strathmore.

11 Urannah Dam business case and approvals project
\$650,000 in 2022-23 out of a \$22.7 million total spend to complete a detailed business case, approvals, environmental impact statements and cultural heritage and Native Title review of the Urannah Water Scheme. Part of the National Water Grid Fund, delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.

12 Mackay Northern Beaches State High School
\$5.7 million in 2022-23 out of a \$7.9 million total spend to construct additional learning spaces and upgrade skills development and training facilities.

13 Mackay Port initiatives
\$7.6 million in 2022-23, including for maintenance of the Mackay Port, replacement of the Middle Breakwater fuel line supports and studies for hydrogen trade for ports overseen by North Queensland Bulk Ports.

14 Mackay police facility upgrade
\$1.1 million in 2022-23 out of a \$4 million total spend to continue the upgrade of the police facility at Mackay.

15 Future Foods Biohub Mackay
\$640,000 in 2022-23 out of a \$1 million total spend to support the development of a business case for the Future Foods Biohub in Mackay.

16 Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program
\$526,400 in 2022-23 to protect environmental and Indigenous cultural heritage values in Mackay. Part of the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program, providing \$21 million statewide in 2022-23.

17 Mackay Community Mental Health Service
\$2 million in 2022-23 out of a \$6 million total spend for the refurbishment of Mackay Community Mental Health to provide purpose designed clinical spaces and therapy rooms.

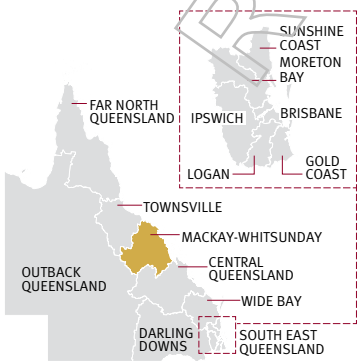
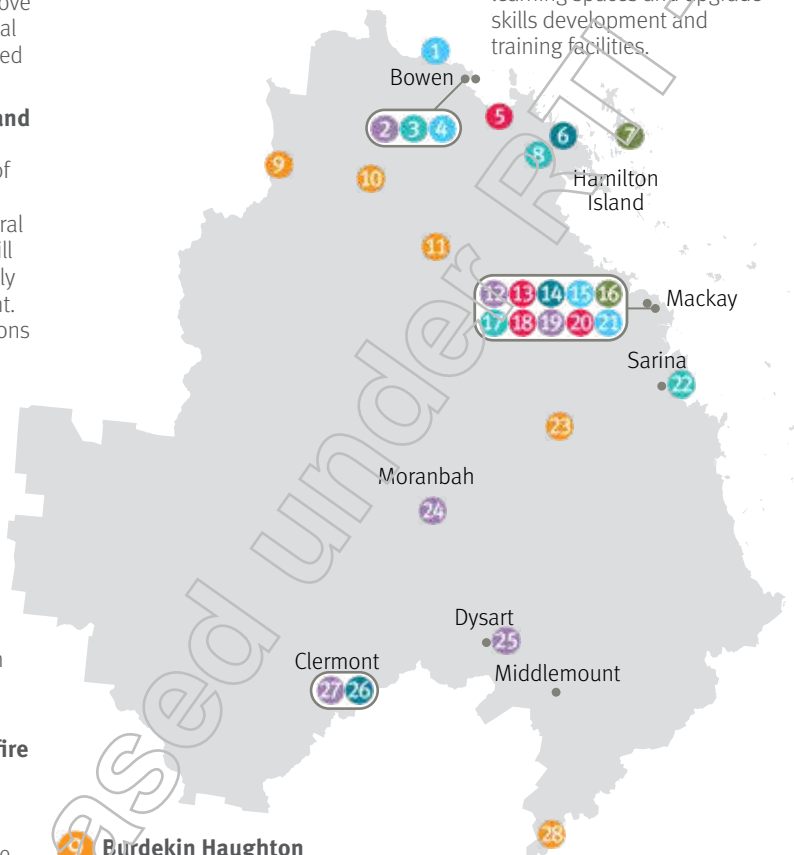
18 Mackay Ring Road (Stage One)
\$15 million in 2022-23 out of a \$497.4 million total spend to construct the Mackay Ring Road (Stage One) project, including works between the intersection of the Mackay Ring Road and Bald Hill Road. Delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.

19 Mackay Ooralea Trade Training Centre expansion
\$4.5 million in 2022-23 out of a \$7.5 million total spend to expand the heavy automotive facilities at Mackay Ooralea Trade Training Centre. Part of the Equipping TAFE for Our Future program.

20 Walkerston Bypass
\$56.5 million in 2022-23 out of a \$186.6 million total spend towards the construction of a new two-lane highway connecting Peak Downs Highway to the Mackay Ring Road. Delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.

21 Resource Centre of Excellence - Future Industries Delivery Hub
\$1.9 million in 2022-23 out of a \$5.7 million total spend to support the Resources Centre of Excellence in Mackay to develop a Future Industries Delivery Hub. Part of the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan package.

22 Sarina Hospital
\$20.6 million in 2022-23 out of a \$31.5 million total spend for a new greenfield site, to deliver a purpose-built hospital and staff accommodation.



\$1B coal mine boosts regional jobs

Construction is underway on the \$1 billion Olive Downs coal mine near Moranbah, generating employment opportunities for the region and bringing significant economic benefits to all of Queensland.

The Olive Downs coal mine was the first to complete an enhanced social impact assessment in Queensland, ensuring the project is conditioned to support local communities. It will support up to 700 construction jobs over the life of the project and will create up to 1,000 long term regional jobs. Located in the coal-rich Bowen Basin, the Olive Downs project includes building the mine and associated infrastructure such as rail and transmission lines, water pipelines and access roads.

At its peak, the mine will produce up to 15 million tonnes per annum of steel-making metallurgical coal for exporting to key international markets such as Japan, India and South Korea. Queensland will continue to be a coal exporter for many years to come and for this reason the Queensland Government has facilitated more than \$21 billion in investment in the state's resource sector since 2015.



Social housing in Mackay

Boosting Mackay's social housing

The Queensland Government has delivered on its commitment to build more social and affordable housing in the Mackay region while providing safe and secure homes for vulnerable Queenslanders.

A \$3.5 million apartment building in North Mackay opened in December 2021, providing 10 social housing units. The government is investing a further \$36 million, over the 4-year Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021–2025, to build an additional 98 social homes in the region, supporting around 112 construction jobs.

Boosting Mackay's social housing is supported by the government's \$1.9 billion investment in the Action Plan, which will deliver 7,400 new dwelling commencements across Queensland. This is the largest concentrated investment in social housing in Queensland's history and delivers on the government's vision that every Queenslanders has access to a safe, secure and affordable home.

KEY

	Community wellbeing
	Utilities
	Health
	Education
	Transport and roads
	Justice and safety
	Government services
	Recreation and culture
	Statewide/region-wide
	Relates to government election commitment

23 Nebo secondary systems replacement

\$3.4 million in 2022-23 out of a \$31.5 million total spend to replace secondary systems at the Nebo substation to ensure continued reliability of supply to the surrounding area.

24 Moranbah East State School

\$5.8 million in 2022-23 out of a \$6.2 million total spend to construct a new building for additional learning spaces.

25 Dysart State High School

\$750,000 in 2022-23 out of a \$900,000 total spend to upgrade skills development and training facilities.

26 Clermont replacement police facility

\$1.7 million in 2022-23 out of a \$3.5 million total spend to continue the replacement police facility at Clermont.

27 Clermont State High School

\$1 million in 2022-23 out of a \$1.3 million total spend to provide new skills development and training facilities.

28 Bedford Weir raising preliminary business case

\$1.2 million in 2022-23 out of a \$1.7 million total spend to develop a preliminary business case investigating options to address water security in the Nogoia Mackenzie Water Supply Scheme. Part of the National Water Grid Fund, delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.

29 Continuation of fisheries reform

\$16.2 million in 2022-23 out of a \$82.8 million total spend for improvements to on-ground biological monitoring, stock assessments and compliance to support evidence-based catch limits and fishing rules. Part of the *Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027*.

30 Great Barrier Reef Education Experience Program

\$1.2 million in 2022-23 out of a \$3.5 million total spend to support students to undertake reef place-based learning and help regional tourism operators to enhance and create educational products and experiences.

31 Health Capacity Expansion Program

\$9.785 billion over 6 years for the Capacity Expansion Program to deliver around 2,200 additional overnight beds at 15 facilities across Queensland, including expansion of the Mackay Hospital.

32 Hear her voice - Report one

\$71.9 million in 2022-23 out of a \$363 million total spend over 5 years to respond to the recommendations of the Queensland Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce in *Hear her voice - Report one - Addressing coercive control and domestic and family violence in Queensland*.

33 Homelessness services

\$4.1 million in 2022-23 to deliver specialist homelessness services.

34 Joint field management - Great Barrier Reef

\$19.2 million in 2022-23 for joint management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.

35 Rural and Remote Health Program - Phase 2

\$943.5 million over 7 years for delivery of the Building Rural and Remote Health Program - Phase 2 to replace regional health facilities and staff accommodation, including the Moranbah Hospital Redevelopment.

Please note: Not all government expenditure for the region is shown. Dollar amounts may include capital and operating expenditure, though may not represent the entire funding allocated.

To see more Palaszczuk Government initiatives visit budget.qld.gov.au

At a Glance

Total health funding in 2022-23	\$23.6B	New jobs since COVID-19 began – the largest rise in the nation	206,000
Health capacity expansion: estimated additional beds over 6 years	2,200	Total infrastructure program over 4 years	\$59.1B
Total education and training funding in 2022-23	\$19.6B	Percentage of capital spend outside of Greater Brisbane in 2022-23	63.3%
Recovery and reconstruction following the 2021-22 disaster season	over \$3B	Concessions lowering the cost-of-living for Queenslanders in 2022-23	\$6.8B

Good jobs. Better services. Great lifestyle.

More jobs in more industries

Good, secure jobs in our traditional and emerging industries

Queensland is building on its advantages in traditional and emerging industries that support good, secure jobs. The Queensland Government's economic strategy will help Queensland businesses to take advantage of these opportunities and grow the economy.



Better services

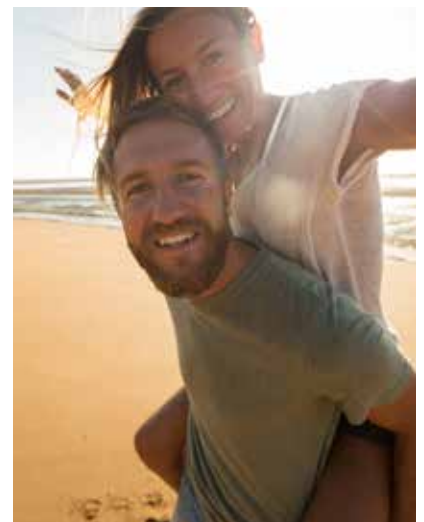
Deliver even better services right across Queensland

A growing economy will allow the government to deliver better services across the state, including in education, justice and social services. High-quality services improve the lives of Queenslanders and help everyone to participate fully in our economy and our community.

Protecting Queenslanders' lifestyle

Protect and enhance our Queensland lifestyle as we grow

Our great Queensland lifestyle will be protected while the economy grows. The Queensland Government is investing in crucial infrastructure to support our growing population, reducing cost-of-living pressures and taking care of our natural environment.



Agricultural Workers and Accommodation

Recommended response

- The Palaszczuk Government continues to support agricultural industries to develop local labour solutions to attract and retain workers.
- The Queensland Agricultural Workers Network (QAWN) has dedicated officers who provide advice on workforce services and initiatives. This free service is open to any agribusiness in Queensland. The Whitsunday's region QAWN Officer is hosted by the Bowen Gumlu Growers Association (BGGA).
- The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) and the QAWN network have continued to provide significant assistance to the agriculture industry, with a particular focus on the attraction of workers.

Key Facts

- TAFE Queensland has begun construction on a \$3.4 million Agriculture Centre of Excellence in Bowen with ground broken on 29 April 2022, the new centre will offer more than 70 courses related to agriculture and will feature a smart centre data analysis and ag tech development. This centre is scheduled to be completed in August 2022.
- TAFE Queensland has tendered for trades to begin construction on an Aquaculture Centre of Excellence in Cannonvale as part of the 2020 State election commitment and 2021-22 budget.
- As of March 2022, rental vacancy rate remains tight with Airlie Beach and Proserpine at 0.3 per cent.

Achievements

- In 2020–22, almost 330 workers were brought into the Mackay-Whitsundays region through the Federal Government's Pacific Labour Scheme and Seasonal Workers Programme (PLS/SWP). The BGGA strongly supported the PLS/SWP and hosted one of the PLS/SWP industry forums held throughout Queensland in 2021.

Background

- Labour to support the agricultural sector and associated supply chain continues to be a challenge as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) impacts.
- Long term access to seasonal workers is an ongoing concern in the region, not only for agriculture but across all industries. Skilled and semi-skilled machine operators are highly sort

after in the mining sector. The horticulture sector is heavily reliant on seasonal workers and working holiday maker visa holders to plant, prune, pick and pack produce.

- Lack of available regional housing and accommodation has been highlighted by industry and councils as an issue. This has added to the pressures of attracting suitable labour for the agriculture industry in some areas particularly for the Bowen Gumlu areas.
- In 2020, Queensland opted in to the Federal Government's PLS/SWP and led the development of innovative solutions to labour shortage challenges, with the introduction of quarantine on-farm and at industry-led regional sites. This enabled more PLS/SWP workers to enter Queensland during the COVID-19 pandemic than any other jurisdiction. However, DAF no longer has formal involvement in the new consolidated Pacific Australia Labour Mobility Scheme since the requirement to quarantine ended in Queensland on 22 January 2022.
- Throughout 2021, DAF continued to support Queensland's agriculture sector with its workforce transformation and implemented several initiatives aimed to meet short-term, pandemic related shortages, including #pickqld and the Federal Government's PLS/SWP, as well as longer term workforce planning and implementation to "Attract. Train. Retain". This included continuing support for QAWN to assist in local solutions for workforce transition and structural change, initiatives to encourage students to consider a career in the agriculture sector and the adoption of new technology and innovation through digital transformation initiatives, including the DAF AgTech Portal and Digital Transformation grants.
- Growers have faced many challenges last season, including attraction and retention of workers. Despite some lower market returns compared to 2020, due to reduced market demand and higher labour costs from turnover of staff, some growers still reported this was offset by receiving reasonable yields.

Released under RTI

Aquaculture Strategy - Tassal prawn farms

Recommended response

- The Queensland Government supports the future development and growth of an ecologically sustainable, diverse, and innovative aquaculture industry.
- The Government will work with industry to continue to contribute to Queensland's regional economic growth.
- The aim of offsets frameworks is to find a balance between mitigating environmental impacts, while supporting sustainable industry growth.

Key Facts

- Aquaculture is one of the fastest growing primary industries in Queensland with significant investment and new jobs across the state.
- However regulatory issues, particularly around water quality discharge requirements and offsets, are seen by industry as a significant impediment to any new investment or expansion in Queensland.
- Tassal diversified its aquaculture operation into prawns in 2018. Through De Costi Seafoods Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary, Tassal acquired prawn farms near Mission Beach and Proserpine in Queensland, and near Yamba in New South Wales. The Proserpine farm is Tassal's largest prawn farm, with more than 200 hectares of land-based pond systems across the site.
- Tassal have growth plans to 2030 with aspirations to triple the current production footprint. This includes a project value of over \$1 billion in Capex and creating 500-800 full time jobs.
- The Department of Environment and Science (DES) administers offset provisions relating to Environmental Authorities under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.
- Tassal have raised the following concerns:
 - the complex requirements of DES to establish an approved offsets framework for Tassal's current and future operations
 - a lack of certainty about timeframes and DES acceptance of land-use change, for example, from sugarcane to grazing being a viable mechanism to meet water quality offset requirements to support future growth once operations commence

- an apparent misalignment between DES and other agencies' positions on supporting aquaculture development in Queensland
- development Tassal would term "responsible growth".

CTPI Sch 4, part 3, factor 2 - Business affairs

Achievements

- The total value of Queensland's aquaculture industry has increased by 17.4 per cent, from \$165M in 2019-20 to \$193.5M in 2020-21, a new record.
- The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) will work with industry and other relevant agencies to develop a whole-of-Government Queensland Aquaculture Strategy (the Strategy) to support the development and growth of an ecologically sustainable, diverse, competitive and innovative aquaculture industry that will generate jobs and contribute to Queensland's regional economic growth.
- The Strategy will involve working with industry to set new targets for the aquaculture industry in Queensland over the next decade and will complement and build on the National Aquaculture Strategy. The Strategy will identify priorities and actions to support industry growth and competitiveness and increase economic contribution to achieve these targets.
- The Strategy will be complemented by an aquaculture research, development and extension component to further drive innovation and growth.
- DAF has re-activated the Aquaculture Development Network to bring together relevant expertise from across DAF to assist in growing the industry and drive development of the Strategy.

Background

- Tassal has been Australia's largest salmon producer for more than 30 years and the industry has come under significant public scrutiny in Tasmania for its environmental credentials.
- Tassal purchased a greenfield site at Exmoor near Mackay, for aquaculture development which was identified as part of an Aquaculture Development Area identified by the state. Tassal are still in the planning stages for this site, retaining 1 000 hectares for future expansion.

- As a continuation of Tassal's capital expansion, the company has also acquired the neighbouring property to their Gregory River site as this offered a further development footprint to leverage off existing infrastructure and access to freshwater to augment their supply requirements.

Federal Inquiry into the Australian Aquaculture Sector

- On 29 November 2021, Tassal made a submission to the House Standing Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources inquiry into the Australian aquaculture sector.
- The inquiry report was published in January 2022 and makes 15 recommendations to overcome barriers to growth including: Recommendation 13, to ensure that the current regulatory framework for industry nutrient and sediment emissions in the Great Barrier Reef catchment area reflects latest evidence and is not unfairly impeding the aquaculture industry's growth in Queensland.
- A Federal Government response to the inquiry is not yet available.
- A whole-of-Government approach is supported in working with relevant federal agencies and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to implement endorsed recommendations.

Released under RTI/DOCS

Burdekin Water Infrastructure Projects

Recommended response

- The Coordinator-General has declared the Urannah Project, Burdekin Falls Dam Raising Project and the Big Rocks Weir Project coordinated projects that require comprehensive environmental impact statements (EISs).
- The proponents for these projects have prepared preliminary draft EIS material and the Office of the Coordinator-General has commenced an adequacy review of material provided.

Key facts

- Final terms of reference for each EIS were released during 2021 following public notification of the draft terms of reference and after consideration of all submissions, including input from the Federal government.
- The terms of reference for each EIS require rigorous assessment of all the project's environmental, social and economic impacts. The potential cumulative impacts of the projects are a key issue for environmental and community groups and have been included in the terms of reference for the first time for consideration through the EIS processes.
- Proponents for each of the projects continue to develop and finalise preliminary draft EIS documents. Complete preliminary draft EISs, or significant parts of draft EISs have been provided to the Office of the Coordinator-General (OCG).
- The preliminary draft EIS for the Urannah Project is with key agencies for adequacy review against the terms of reference for the EIS, prior to public notification. Information regarding cumulative impacts is outstanding in the EIS while advice from agencies is being progressed.
- The availability of unallocated water is a key consideration for the projects. The Water Plan (Burdekin Basin) 2007 provides the framework for managing surface water resources throughout the Burdekin Basin.
- In September 2021, Townsville Enterprise Limited withdrew their coordinated project application for the Hells Gates Dam and Irrigation Scheme. Townsville Enterprise Limited has signalled that they may re-apply for a coordinated project declaration following revision of the project's components, staging and delivery.

Gilmour Space Technologies

Recommended response

- The Queensland Government has been working closely with Gilmour Space Technologies to facilitate the development of the Bowen Orbital Spaceport. It is an exciting project and I look forward to hearing more about it as it progresses through the Australian government approval processes.
- This is another great example of collaborative work across state agencies helping to bring a cutting-edge project to regional Queensland.

Key Facts

- Gilmour Space Technologies Pty Ltd (Gilmour) is a venture-backed Australian rocket company developing new capabilities for launching small satellites to space.
- Founded by two brothers in 2013, this Queensland start-up is now one of Australia's leading space companies pioneering new and innovative hybrid propulsion technologies that will offer low-cost access to space.
- The rockets are set to be manufactured at Gilmour's Gold Coast Manufacturing Hub before being transported north.
- Gilmour is working through the approvals phase for its plan for a rocket launch site at Abbot Point, just north of Bowen.
- When the facility becomes operational, rockets carrying small satellites will be the most common item launched into low-Earth orbit.
- Satellites forming part of broadband internet constellations are expected to make up a sizeable part of those launches, as well as observation tasks detecting bushfires and monitoring agricultural land.
- The company employs approximately 150 employees with an anticipated increase of their workforce to 1,000 employees in the next five to 10 years.

Achievements

- In 2021 Trevor Prior, Juru Elder and Board Director of the Kyburra Munda Yalga Aboriginal Corporation, signed a

- On 7 March 2022, the Juru traditional owners provided the Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony ushering in a new space beginning for Queensland and Australia, welcoming Gilmour to build its spaceport on Juru country.
- The launch site, currently under construction at Abbot Point, could potentially deliver an economic boost for the Whitsunday region and generate job opportunities as well as providing a tourist attraction to observe the launches. Several Australian payloads are scheduled to launch on Gilmour's first Eris rocket in 2023 including a "space taxi" by Space Machines Company from Sydney and a fire detection satellite by Fireball International in the Sunshine Coast.
- To prevent turtles mistaking a rocket and launch pad for the rising sun and becoming disoriented, Gilmour will minimise artificial light generated on site after dark and ensure that all external lights are fitted facing away from the beach, shielded from transmission in the horizontal plane, and controlled by motion sensors.

Background

- As part of an action under the Queensland Space Industry Strategy 2020–2025, the Queensland Government undertook a technical and environmental investigation on the potential for Abbot Point to host a space launch facility. The investigation found the site within the Abbot Point State Development Area may be suitable for small-scale launch activities.
- On 23 September 2021, Gilmour signed a conditional agreement to lease land from Economic Development Queensland for development and operation of the Bowen Orbital Spaceport, a space launch facility. Gilmour has applied for a launch facility licence with the Australian Space Agency and a Material Change of Use application to the Office of the Coordinator-General for assessment.
- The Coordinator-General approved on 21 June 2022, subject to certain conditions, a material change of use for a high impact industry (launch facility) within the Abbot Point State Development Area. This has not yet been publicly announced.
- The project was referred to the Commonwealth for determination as a controlled action under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). On 25 November 2021, the Commonwealth declared the construction and operation of the Bowen Orbital Spaceport a controlled action requiring assessment under the EPBC Act and has subsequently varied the scope to include only the operational phase of the Spaceport.
- Gilmour has submitted applications, to the Australian Space Agency, for a launch facility license and a launch permit under the *Space (Launch and Returns) Act 2018*.
- On 24 February 2022, Whitsunday Regional Council provided Operational Works approval to Gilmour for bulk earthworks aligned to the establishment of an access road and bulk earthworks aligned to the launch pad area and Gilmour has started these works.
- On 6 June 2022, The Chronicle reported Gilmour's comments that Government approval processes and COVID-induced supply chain issues have delayed Gilmour's initial June-July launch target until late 2022. Media reporting noted the environmental and regulatory approvals process is ongoing, including the State level Material Change of Use proposal.

Health Overview – Mackay Hospital and Health Service

- All data as at 28 June 2022.

Covid-19 and Influenza cases

- Across Queensland:
 - 1,282,034 cases of Covid-19 were recorded, of which 29,776 were active cases and 1,218 people had died; and
 - 30,439 cases of influenza were recorded, of which 4,121 were active cases and 28 people had died.
- Across the Mackay Hospital and Health Service (HHS):
 - 16,143 recorded cases of Covid-19, of which there were 161 active cases; and
 - 938 cases of influenza were recorded, of which 110 were active cases.
- Mackay HHS was managing:
 - 11 in-patients with Covid-19 and 1 in-patient with influenza; and
 - 21 people with Covid-19 at home.
 - Within the Whitsunday Regional Council area, there have been 2,848 recorded cases of Covid-19, of which 2,474 cases were recorded since 13 December 2021.

Covid-19 Vaccinations – Percentage of QLD population vaccinated

	At least 1 dose	2 doses	booster
16 yrs & over	94.16%	92.61%	63.39%
12-15 yrs	93.05%	91.29%	
5-11 yrs	43.09%	31.23%	

Influenza Vaccinations – vaccine doses reported to Australian Immunisation Register

Under 5 years	61,358
5-64 Years	1,134,403
65+ years	643,714
Total	1,839,475

Staff impacts

- Mackay HHS had nil staff as being Covid-19 positive.

Key facts

- The 2022-23 Mackay HHS budget is more than **\$560M in operational funding**.
- In addition, we've committed hundreds of millions of dollars in upgrades to Mackay health infrastructure.
- There are around **3,280 staff in the Mackay HHS**.
- Since 2015, in the Mackay HHS my Government has hired:
 - more than 129 FTE doctors;
 - more than 300 more FTE nurses and midwives; and
 - more than 150 FTE health professionals.

Mackay HHS Infrastructure projects

- The Queensland Government is working hard to provide infrastructure that facilitates high level healthcare services in the Darling Downs region.
- Over **\$23.0M** has been expended on major infrastructure work **completed within Mackay HHS**, including **\$1.49M for Proserpine Hospital Emergency Department refurbishment**, delivered November 2017; **\$1.34M for Proserpine Hospital kitchen upgrade**, delivered March 2018; and **\$7.0M for Bowen imaging department refurbishment and CT scanner**, delivered in June 2022.
- Mackay HHS also has **2 projects worth over \$4.3M** in the delivery phase, both projects are located in the Whitsunday Regional Council Area:

Facility	Budget	Project	Exp delivery date	Jobs
Proserpine Hospital	\$2.87M	Rural and regional renal program – four renal dialysis treatment spaces as part of the Advanced Kidney Care 2026 plan	Jul-2023	8
Proserpine Hospital	\$1.45M	Acute Primary Care Clinic refurbishment	Aug-2023	4

Planned Infrastructure Projects

- Over \$5.8M for 3 planned projects within Mackay HHS, including:
 - \$5.0M Proserpine Hospital Acute Primary Care Clinic upgrade, construction start date to be determined;
 - \$0.7M Bowen Hospital Redevelopment preliminary business case, construction start date to be determined; and
 - \$0.13M Proserpine Mechanical Services upgrade, construction start date to be determined.

Waiting Lists

Elective Surgery Waitlist

- Between 1 June 2020 and 31 May 2022, 8,948 patients were added to the Elective Surgery Waitlist.
- As at 1 June 2022, the Elective Surgery – Ready for Surgery Waitlists showed:
 - ready for surgery waitlist decreased from 1,316 (as at 1 June 2020) to 1,310 – a reduction of 6; and
 - ready for surgery long waitlist increased from 122 (as at 1 June 2020) to 223 – a growth of 101.

Specialist Outpatient Department (SOPD) Waitlist

- Between 1 June 2020 and 31 May 2022, an estimated 46,600 patients were added to the SOPD Waitlist.
- As at 1 June 2022, the SOPD Ready for Care Waitlists showed:
 - the SOPD ready for care waitlist increased from 5,722 (as at 1 June 2020) to 9,333 – a growth of 3,611; and
 - the SOPD ready for care long waitlist increased from 2,092 (as at 1 June 2020) to 4,340 – a growth of 2,248.

Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Waitlist

- Between 1 June 2020 and 31 May 2022, 7,954 patients were added to the Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (GIE) Procedures Waitlist.
- As at 1 June 2022, the GIE ready for care waitlists showed:
 - the GIE ready for care waitlist decreased from 596 (as at 1 June 2020) to 437 – a reduction of 159; and
 - the GIE ready for care long waitlist decreased from 59 (as at 1 June 2020) to 36 – a reduction of 23.

Housing – Mackay-Whitsundays Region

Key Facts

- The *Queensland Housing Investment Growth Initiative* (QHIGI) is a coordinated capital program delivering new social homes across Queensland and establishes new regions and targets.
- Mackay-Whitsunday region is a newly established region. Formerly it had been part of the Central Queensland region.
- In the **Mackay-Whitsunday Region**, under the QuickStarts Qld program, we will commence **98 new social homes by 30 June 2025**, through a planned investment of **\$36M, supporting more than 112 full-time equivalent jobs**.
- This is in addition to the **20** new social homes already commenced under the *Queensland Housing Strategy 2017–2027*.
- More broadly, the Government is increasing Queensland's supply of social and affordable housing by almost 10,000 over the life of the Housing Strategy, including:
 - 6,365 social housing commencements over the next four years;
 - in addition to the 2,480 commencements under the first four years of the Housing Strategy; and
 - 1,034 affordable housing commencements over the life of the Housing Strategy.
- Between 2015-16 to 31 May 2022 in the Mackay-Whitsunday Region, **41** dwellings have been delivered – one in the Whitsunday Regional Council (WRC) area.
- As at 31 May 2022, under QuickStarts Qld, contracts have been awarded for the commencement of **six** new dwellings in the Mackay-Whitsunday region – **all** dwellings are in the WRC area.

Housing Investment

- The Government is continuing to deliver the four-year \$1.9 billion investment in social and affordable housing under the *Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025* (the Action Plan) announced last year – the largest concentrated investment in social housing in Queensland's history.

- The Action Plan is supported by a \$1 billion *Housing Investment Fund* (HIF) to boost housing supply and increase housing and homelessness support across Queensland.
- This investment strengthens the momentum created since the 10-year *Queensland Housing Strategy* was launched in 2017 and responds to the current housing market conditions we are now facing.

Queensland Housing Investment Growth Initiative (QHIGI)

- The 2022-23 Budget includes \$441.3M for capital purchases and capital grants through the QHIGI to deliver new social homes and upgrade existing dwellings for vulnerable Queenslanders.
- The QHIGI procurement process launched on 28 October 2021 to invite interest in any one of three initiatives and will deliver accelerated social housing supply of **6,365 social housing commencements** through:
 - **HIF – a \$1 billion investment** which will generate an **estimated \$40M to deliver 3,600 new social housing dwelling commencements** and additional affordable housing between 2021-2025:
 - the EOI for the HIF remains open for proposals to be submitted
 - regional allocation of the 3,600 commencements under the HIF will be determined by demand and opportunities.
 - **QuickStarts Qld** – a capital investment program to commence **2,765 new social housing dwellings over four years**, primarily through partnerships with Community Housing Providers (CHPs), for social housing eligible clients.
 - **Help to Home (H2H)** – a **\$40M dollar investment to deliver private market outcomes for 1,000 households** and additional spot purchase for two years with the first stage engaging Registered Community Housing Providers to manage the properties and deliver services to eligible social housing customers:
 - the EOI for H2H closed on 3 December 2021
 - the program is progressing through two stages
 - the first stage involved procuring the registered housing providers to manage tenancies and is currently being finalised
 - the next stage will focus on sourcing suitable properties from the market – Property Procurement went live on 10 June; and

- most of these homes will be newly built properties that are yet to come onto the rental market, or existing homes that haven't been on the rental market before.

Delivering essential housing and homelessness services to Queenslanders

- The Action Plan supports the Government's continued commitment to deliver essential frontline services and provide enhanced housing and support options for vulnerable people, moving towards ending homelessness. The Action Plan:
 - establishes the QHIGI
 - accelerates the construction, redevelopment and spot purchase of social housing homes
 - tailors housing responses for First Nations peoples and communities, to continue to close the gap
 - provides **\$20M for homelessness initiatives**, improving services and support to provide accommodation to people in crisis
 - provides **\$20M to enhance frontline responses to domestic violence**, through a specialist response team and flexible assistance packages
 - provides **\$54.9M to fund essential housing and homelessness services** established under the *Queensland Housing Strategy Action Plan 2017-2020*
 - puts in place measures and protections to ensure fairer private rental and retirement living systems
 - supports the creation of new construction jobs in the regions.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan

- The *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan 2019-2023* (ATSIH Action Plan) funding of \$67.1M over four years from 2019-23 is focussed on improving housing outcomes for First Nations peoples, including an investment of \$24.1M in 2021-22.
- The Government is committed to reframing our relationship with First Nations peoples and will deliver improved housing outcomes through genuine partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.
- Key actions under the Action Plans include commitments to:

- develop place-based, community led, local housing plans with communities to identify and respond to local housing challenges and priorities
 - establish the new peak body, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland, to strengthen housing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, supporting the sustainability of Indigenous housing providers and the community housing sector
 - increase home ownership opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
 - provide culturally responsive housing support through a service offer for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- In 2021-22, \$1.6M was provided towards the recently established Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Housing Body as part of a \$5.5M investment over five years – funding will support sector development of Indigenous Community Housing Organisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Councils.
 - The ATSIH Action Plan also provides for the ongoing delivery of the **\$75M commitment to home ownership in remote and discrete communities** – this allocation **enabled the transfer of 167 social housing dwellings** entitlements into the private ownership of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.
 - Increased home ownership and access to safe, appropriate and sustainable housing not only provides a foundation to close the gap but reflects our commitment to listening to First Nations Peoples in Queensland about their housing concerns and committing to a better future.

Major Road and Transport Upgrades

Recommended response

- Queensland's economic recovery plan is about building the infrastructure we need to create jobs.
- **We have committed \$59.1 billion over 4 years towards job creating infrastructure across the state, which includes \$7.309 billion on transport infrastructure in 2022-23.**
- In the 2022-23 budget, the Queensland Government is delivering **\$596.4M for infrastructure, supporting 2,000 jobs** for Mackay-Whitsunday.
- In the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2022-23 to 2025-26*, \$1.008 billion is committed across the Mackay-Whitsunday district, supporting an average of 940 direct jobs over the life of the program.
- One of the key transport initiatives in this year's budget is **\$186.6M for the Walkerston Bypass** – including \$56.5M in 2022-23 towards the construction of a new two-lane highway connecting Peak Downs Highway to the Mackay Ring Road (delivered in partnership with the Federal Government).

Key Facts

Road Projects underway right now

- **\$186.6M Walkerston Bypass** – jointly funded by Federal (\$149.28M)/State (\$3.32M) – supporting 225 jobs – construction commenced May 2022 with completion expected late 2024.
- **\$144.55M Mackay Northern Access Upgrade**, construct additional lanes – jointly funded by Federal (\$115.64M)/State (\$28.84M) – supporting 180 jobs – construction commenced April 2020 with completion expected August 2022.
- **\$23M Bruce Highway (Mackay-Proserpine), Jumper Creek, upgrade flood immunity** – jointly funded by Federal (\$18.4M)/State (\$4.6M) – supporting 72 jobs – construction commenced April 2022 with completion expected mid-2023.
- **\$7M Bruce Highway (Mackay-Proserpine), Knobels Road, upgrade intersection and approaches** – jointly funded by Federal (\$5.6M)/State (\$1.4M) - construction commenced April 2022 and expected to be complete by mid-2023

- **\$22M Bruce Highway (Bowen-Ayr) Bowen Connection Road to Champion Street intersection, widen pavement** – jointly funded by Federal (\$17.6M)/State (\$4.4M) - supporting 35 jobs – construction commenced February 2021 – work has ceased due to voluntary administration of company undertaking work – timelines for delivery will be determined once new contractors are organised.

Road Projects about to commence

- **\$497M Mackay Ring Road** (Mackay Ring Road to Bald Hill Road connection) – jointly funded by Federal (\$397.9M)/State (\$99.5M) – supporting 180 jobs – construction expected to commence September 2022 with completion mid-late 2024.
- **\$21M Proserpine- Shute Harbour Road, Hamilton Plains**, flood immunity upgrade – jointly funded by Federal (\$16.8M)/State (\$4.2M) – supporting 55 jobs – construction expected to commence mid-2023 with completion early 2024.

Road Projects in the detailed design stage

- **\$16M Proserpine-Shute Harbour Road, Paluma Road to Valley Drive (Cannonvale)** duplicate to four lanes - jointly funded by Federal (\$12.8M)/State (\$3.2M) – supporting 30 jobs – early works commenced June 2021; scope of works, design and funding requirements for this project are under review.
- **\$13M Proserpine-Shute Harbour Road, Valley Drive to Tropic Road (Cannonvale)** duplicate to four lanes – fully funded by the State government – supporting 20 jobs – early works commenced June 2021; scope of works, design and funding requirements for this project are under review.

Obsolete electricity tariffs and Electricity Tariff Adjustment Scheme (the Scheme)

Recommended response

- Recognising the unique situation faced by regional businesses on obsolete tariffs, the Queensland Government has introduced the Scheme, with support available from 1 July 2021 for up to nine years, including \$9.1M for 2021–22.
- The Scheme provides eligible customers with individually-tailored transition rebates to help offset bill increases when moving to standard tariffs.
- Connections with an annual bill increase of 5 per cent or more are eligible, providing their annual increases are more than \$500.
- Customers are assessed by Ergon Energy Retail for eligibility, with no applications required, and transition rebates are applied as credit on bills.
- With other new standard tariffs also now available, businesses should contact Ergon Energy Retail to determine the best tariff for their particular circumstances.
- To further help businesses on obsolete tariffs transition to standard tariffs, the Queensland Government funded up to \$30M across a range of programs and initiatives to ensure businesses are better equipped to understand their electricity use and how to minimise electricity costs.

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Policing and Youth Crime

POLICE NUMBERS

- **The Mackay-Whitsunday Police District has 370 permanent positions, up 19 since 2015.**
- It was fantastic to announce in September 2020, an additional 2,025 police personal across the state.
- **This is a \$624M investment over five years for 2,025 new police personnel. Of those 1,450 will be deployed to the frontline which means at least 150 positions will be located per key region across the state.**
- We're also investing in 25 mobile police vans that will take police into the heart of the community.
- There are more than 12,000 police officers in Queensland – a record number. **Under Labor, there are more police in Queensland than ever before with more on the way.**
- **And we back police 100% in what they do best – keeping communities safe,** providing them with the necessary equipment, like body worn cameras, new vehicles and tasers.

CRIME STATS

- From 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022 the overall rate of **Total Reported Crime** for the Mackay-Whitsunday Police District **increased by 457 offences or 2 per cent** compared with the previous year:
 - the rate of **Offences Against the Person increased by 467 or 38 per cent;**
 - the rate of **Offences Against Property increased by 583 or 10 per cent;** and
 - the rate of **Other Offences decreased by 593 offences or 8 per cent.**

CAPITAL WORKS

- **\$4M Mackay police facility upgrade** – in 2021-22, \$0.5M budgeted to commence planning works – expected to support 13.2 jobs over the life of the project.

- **\$3.5M to replace the Clermont police facility** – in 2021-22, \$0.5M budgeted to commence planning works – expected to support 11.55 jobs over the life of the project.

YOUTH CRIME

- In response to community concerns, I announced a **\$15.8M Five-Point Action Plan**:
 - offenders posing a risk to the community should not get bail;
 - a police blitz on bail, appealing court decisions where appropriate;
 - a 24/7 Police Strike Team;
 - culture-based rehabilitation for Indigenous offenders through new On Country initiatives; and
 - empowering local communities in the war on crime with \$2M for community-based organisations for local solutions.
- Building on these measures, the Government is targeting hardcore youth criminals who repeatedly offend and put the community at risk.
- For noting, compared to 2019, data for 2020 indicates increases in the number of proven offences and distinct young people with a proven offence. This is due to the COVID-19 pandemic response, which resulted in delayed court processes and delays in finalising charges (with finalisations occurring in 2020-21).
- Within Mackay Regional Council area, for the year ending 31 December 2021, compared to the year ending 31 December 2019 there has been:
 - **a decrease of 1 per cent** in the number of proven offences committed by 10–17-year-olds; and
 - **a decrease of 8 per cent** in the number of distinct 10–17-year-old offenders, with at least one proven offence committed in Mackay LGA.
- The Mackay Youth Justice Service Centre is funded for 18.1 full-time youth justice workers who focus on enhancing community safety and reducing and preventing youth crime.
- In partnership with community agencies, the Government provides a range of programs and services to young people that address offending behaviours and responsivity factors. These include:

- **24/7 co-responder teams** introduced in Mackay in March 2020 - 950 engagements with youth (as at 4 June 2022);
- **Restorative justice conferences, of which 33 have been held in Mackay, giving victims the opportunity to have a face-to-face meeting with offenders;**
- **Transition to Success** in Mackay was launched in April 2021 and has seen eight completions by young people across two programs and give young people transition to school/ further training; and
- **Bail Support Services** to assist lower-risk young people on bail with the support necessary to meet their bail conditions.

LNP

- A total police budget increase of 2.8%. Given the rate of inflation, that's a cut to police funding in real terms
- Sacked 110 senior police and cut a further 212 police positions.
- Cut police training, reduced firearms training, forced police to pay for their own body worn video cameras
- Slashed the auto theft squad from 18 to 3
- Axed funding to the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council – we reinstated it
- Failed to fund the roll out of automatic number plate recognition technology that helps police track stolen vehicles.
- The LNP had its chance to stamp out youth crime. It didn't work.
- The LNP voted **against our amendments to get tough on bail.**

Proserpine-Shute Harbour Road

Recommended response

- The Queensland Government is delivering a coordinated approach to address flood impacts on the road network in the Whitsunday region.
- By improving Myrtle Creek, Hamilton Plains and Goorganga Plains together, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) will be able to improve flood resilience in the area.
- The Hamilton Plains flood immunity upgrade project will significantly reduce the impact of road closures for the community.
- This project is due to start construction mid-2023.
- Upgrades are also being delivered to Proserpine-Shute Harbour Road between Paluma Road and Tropic Road in Cannonvale.
- A total of \$37M was allocated to upgrades on Proserpine-Shute Harbour Road at Hamilton Plains and between Paluma Road and Valley Drive in Cannonvale under the jointly-funded Roads of Strategic Importance program on an 80:20 basis.
- The Queensland Government also committed \$13M to the Proserpine-Shute Harbour Road, Valley Drive to Tropic Road, duplicate to four lanes project, as part of the Queensland Government's Economic Stimulus.
- The proposed upgrades to Proserpine-Shute Harbour Road between Paluma Road and Tropic Road in Cannonvale will widen the road to four lanes, upgrade key intersections, build a shared path, and address safety and road capacity at this location.
- Early works for the shared path started in June 2021.
- Due to the extent of potential service relocations, DTMR is currently reviewing the scope of works, design, and funding requirements for this project.

Key Facts

- Proserpine–Shute Harbour Road is the sole arterial road, which links the Bruce Highway and township of Proserpine to the Whitsunday township of Cannonvale, Airlie Brach, Jubilee Pocket and the Port of Shute Harbour.

- The Hamilton Plains flood plain contributes to the flood immunity issues in the Whitsunday area. It has a one in two-year flood immunity. The duration of flooding varies from one to two days between minor and major events.
- Access to the Proserpine Airport and the local hospital is not possible by road during flood events.
- The airport at Proserpine is the gateway to the Whitsunday Region, and a vital utility for the tourist destinations of Shute Harbour, Airlie Beach and the Whitsunday Islands.
- Tourism is a key economic driver for the region and the industry relies on a reliable road link to and from the airport.
- The Hamilton Plains flood immunity upgrade project will significantly reduce the impact of road closures for the community.
- Residential and industrial growth in the Whitsunday region has increased traffic along Proserpine-Shute Harbour Road in Cannonvale, with an average of 24,640 vehicles using this section every day.
- By upgrading this section of Proserpine–Shute Harbour Road, TMR will be able to improve safety and road capacity in this location.
- Projects currently programmed for delivery on Proserpine-Shute Harbour Road include:
 - \$21M Proserpine-Shute Harbour Road, Hamilton Plains flood immunity upgrade
 - jointly-funded by the Federal and State governments (80:20) under the Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) program
 - will support an average of 55 jobs over the life of the project
 - construction due to start in mid-2023
 - \$16M Proserpine-Shute Harbour Road, Paluma Road to Valley Drive, duplicate to four lanes
 - jointly-funded by the Federal and State governments (80:20) under the ROSI program
 - will support an average of 30 jobs over the life of the project
 - currently in detailed design

- \$13M to the Proserpine-Shute Harbour Road, Valley Drive to Tropic Road, duplicate to four lanes project
 - fully-funded by the Queensland Government's Infrastructure Economic Stimulus package
 - will support an average of 20 jobs over the life of the project
 - currently in detailed design
- \$2.6M Proserpine - Shute Harbour Road, Paluma Road to Tropic Road (Cannonvale), construct shared path
 - jointly-funded (50:50) by the Federal and State governments under the Road Safety Program – Tranche 1
 - early works as part of the shared path project commenced in June 2021 and are being delivered by Whitsunday Regional Council.

Background

Proserpine Shute Harbour Road (Cannonvale)

- Future key milestones are impacted due to delay in procurement of public utility plant (PUP) materials and redesign to accommodate PUP. A review of project scope and funding requirements is underway.
- DTMR has received multiple stakeholder enquiries related to concerns about the protection of trees adjacent to the Proserpine – Shute Harbour Road, Paluma Road to Tropic Road duplication project.
- The majority of this correspondence has been issued on behalf of various members of local advocacy groups – Residents Traffic Action group and Whitsunday Conservation Council (WCC).
- Some vegetation has been removed as part of the early works for this project. This includes a total of 12 trees, undertaken by the contractor, as part of PUP service relocations in late 2021. This was required as the vegetation was growing over the top of service cables.
- Guardrails were installed to protect existing mature blue gum trees adjacent to Waite Creek.
- While every effort has been made to retain established trees, some trees need to be removed in cases where engineering solutions cannot be included.
- Concerns from the wider community about the matter of tree protection is limited as DTMR has not received any additional correspondence from stakeholders outside of the WCC or its call to action.
- These groups have also been vocal about the proposed traffic signal treatment for this project.
- Engagement with key stakeholders has been ongoing for the duration of the project and overall, the design concept and project scope has been met with positive feedback by all stakeholders.

Hamilton Plains

- Construction is due to start in mid-2023 and be completed in early 2024.
- Ms Amanda Camm MP, Member for Whitsunday has been very vocal about the issues being experienced by residents due to the flooding in the Hamilton Plains and Goorganga Plains on the Bruce Highway near Proserpine and the status of these flood projects.
- Mr George Christensen MP, former Federal Member for Dawson has also been vocal in the media, on social media and in Parliament about this location, claiming the Queensland Government was stalling on the projects that would fix flooding issues at Hamilton Plains and Goorganga Plains. Mr Christensen has said the Federal Government's contribution for the projects had been available since 2019 and 2018 respectively.

Regional regulated electricity prices

Recommended response

- The Queensland Competition Authority has announced electricity prices for all customers on regulated offers in regional Queensland will increase in 2022-23.
- The increases are driven by higher wholesale energy costs resulting from challenges in the energy sector year and follow four years of decreases in electricity prices.
- The Queensland Government remains focussed on putting downward pressure on electricity bills.
- Households are set to receive a \$175 Cost of Living Rebate in 2022, building on the \$50 Asset Ownership Dividend announced earlier this year.
- The Queensland Government has increased this assistance for households from \$50 to \$175, in response to the extra cost-of-living pressures many Queenslanders are facing.
- Since 2018, the Queensland Government has delivered over \$575 to households in electricity bill relief, including the \$175 Cost of Living Rebate which will be provided to households from September 2022.
- To support Queenslanders during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Queensland Government has delivered targeted bill relief through a \$500M utility relief package providing direct financial assistance to households and small businesses.
- The Queensland Government also continues to support regional Queensland by subsidising electricity prices with more than \$600M budgeted in Community Service Obligation payment to Energy Queensland for 2022-23.

Schools – Overview

Recommended response

- In 2022-23, we are investing **\$37.8M on education** to maintain, improve and upgrade schools in the Mackay-Whitsunday region.
- We are investing **\$16.5 billion in 2022-23 in school and early childhood education, with hundreds of infrastructure projects to improve schools from the Gold Coast to the Cape.**
- Since coming to Government in 2015, we have opened **21 new schools.**
- We have **11 more new schools planned for 2023 and 2024, and another five for 2025 and 2026.**
- Thanks to more than **\$1.9 billion in infrastructure investment**, existing buildings will be expanded and improved, supporting thousands of jobs.
- Queensland is a growing state and we are delivering the infrastructure and educational facilities needed to support this growth.
- The 2022-23 Budget also includes funding of **nearly \$220 million over two years for additional classrooms at existing schools** experiencing in-catchment enrolment growth.
- **Of the 13 schools within the Whitsunday Regional Council area:**
 - major infrastructure work carried out at **10 schools totalling almost \$37M;**
 - **\$2.7M worth of works at 4 schools** is in progress or being planned; and
 - **all facilities have air conditioning and solar panels.**
- All Queensland state school classrooms, libraries and staff rooms are now air conditioned, delivering more comfortable teaching and learning environments for our students, teachers and school communities.

Key facts

New schools

- There are currently no new schools planned for this region.

Major infrastructure work

- Almost **\$37M** worth of major infrastructure work completed at 10 schools since 2017.

Electorate	Facility Name	Cost	Project
Burdekin	Bowen State High School	\$192,041	provide hard shelter over aquaculture, completed by June 2018
		\$308,755	access upgrades, rectify light covers and replacement of lift to D Block, all projects completed by June 2019
		\$167,017	upgrade female student amenities, completed by June 2018
		\$443,978	refurbish 1 science lab in K Block, completed by Jul-2021
		\$160,000	<i>install covered walkway and equitable access*</i> concrete paths, election commitment delivered
Burdekin	Bowen State School	\$550,000	replace damaged shade sails with hard structure, completed by June 2019
		\$399,784	ramp and access to hall, completed by June 2019
		\$200,000	• lift and access to 3 x blocks, completed by June 2019
		\$408,368	• upgrade G Block - 4 GLAs, completed by June 2018
		\$145,776	• upgrade arts block, completed by June 2019

Electorate	Facility Name	Cost	Project
Whitsunday	Cannonvale State School	\$3,600,000	additional accommodation 5 GLA, 5 Prep GLA / Prep refurbishment, completed by June 2017
		\$681,174	2 space relocatable building (primary) completed by June 2018
		\$3,495,365	new administration building, completed by June 2021
		\$6,304,940	new administration building/resource centre, completed by November 2021
Burdekin	Collinsville State High School	\$359,224	refurbish and modernise science labs, completed by June 2018
Burdekin	Collinsville State School	\$172,518	refurbish 2 spaces in D Block, completed by November 2021
		\$190,000	upgrade 2 learning spaced in D Block, completed by November 2021
Burdekin	Merinda State School	\$257,644	refurbish B Block, completed by June 2018
		\$152,744	covered area extension, completed by June 2020
Whitsunday	Proserpine State High School	\$6,900,000	new building - 5 GLA, 1 FLA, 1 specialist, completed by June 2020
		\$8,000,000	new performing arts centre, completed by June 2021
		\$1,750,000	infill undercroft to create four learning spaces, completed April 2022

Electorate	Facility Name	Cost	Project
Whitsunday	Proserpine State School	\$190,000	Prep covered learning area, completed by June 2018
		\$515,072	refurbish Block A, completed by June 2017
		\$360,000	replace 5 external staircases, completed June 2022
Burdekin	Queens Beach State School	\$465,360	Refurbish 4 GLAs in C Block, completed by June 2019
		\$246,799	upgrade B Block amenities - completed by June 2020
		\$121,093	provide equitable access to amenities, completed September 2021
Burdekin	Scottville State School	\$260,000	refurbish 2 spaces in D Block, completed May 2022

Notes

* refers to 2020 election commitments

GLAs – general learning areas

- **Going forward, we're also investing over \$2.7M** worth of works in **4 schools** in the region including:

Electorate	Schools	Budget	Project
Burdekin	Bowen State High School	\$532,000	refurbish aquaculture shed, due for completion by start of school, 2023
		\$350,000	refurbish science lab in K Block
Whitsunday	Cannonvale State School	\$1,400,000	repurposing of hall and site works

Electorate	Schools	Budget	Project
Whitsunday	Proserpine State High School		additional classrooms
		\$188,771	quadrangle upgrades (stages 2 and 3)
Whitsunday	Proserpine State School	\$300,000	refurbish D Block

Notes

* refers to 2020 election commitments

STEM – science, technology, engineering and mathematics

Air conditioning and solar panels

- On 27 February 2020, the Government announced the Cooler Cleaner Schools Program (CCSP) which will provide more than \$477M over 4 years to air condition state schools and expand the existing ACES program.
- On 19 April 2022, the Government announced the CCSP has been fully delivered, providing all Queensland state school classrooms, libraries and staff rooms with air conditioning. Installations were completed over two months ahead of schedule to ensure air-conditioned spaces were available from the start of Term 2, 2022.
- The CCSP replaced the Government's former Cooler Schools Program.

Released Under RTI - DPC

WBHO Infrastructure Pty Ltd voluntary administration

Recommended response

- The Government is delivering its seventh record transport and roads infrastructure program in a row, as detailed in the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2022–23 to 2025–26*, which outlines \$29.7 billion in investment over the next four years and is estimated to support an average of 25,200 direct jobs over the life of the program.
- WBHO Infrastructure Pty Ltd (WBHO) was the main construction contractor for three safety upgrade projects being delivered on the Bruce Highway between Proserpine and Ayr. WBHO went into voluntary administration and works ceased in late February 2022.
- The Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) has developed a plan to deliver the remaining works at projects affected by the WBHO voluntary administration.
- As the projects are jointly funded with the Federal Government, the strategy to manage delivery is also subject to their approval.
- Additional costs will be incurred engaging new contractors and completing the full scope of works. Timelines for delivery will be determined once the procurement of new contractors is finalised.
- DTMR has also been working to ensure a resolution for subcontractors. It initially awarded the construction tenders to WBHO following a rigorous contractor pre-qualification and tender evaluation process.
- This included a detailed assessment of the contractor's financial and other information to ensure suitable resources and capacity were available to deliver the projects and meet the required contractual obligations.

Key Facts

- WBHO was the principal construction contractor for three safety projects currently being delivered in the Central Queensland region under the Bruce Highway Upgrade Program.
- The three projects are:
 - \$38.82M Bruce Highway (Proserpine – Bowen), Emu Creek to Drays Road, various locations, widen formation

- jointly funded by the Federal (\$31.06M) and Queensland (\$7.76M) governments under the Bruce Highway Safety Upgrade Program (BHSUP)
- \$22M Bruce Highway (Bowen – Ayr) Bowen Connection Road to Champion Street intersection, widen pavement
 - jointly funded by the Australian (\$17.6M) and Queensland (\$4.4M) governments under the BHSUP
- \$8.03M Bruce Highway (Proserpine – Bowen) Bowen Connection Road, improve intersection
 - jointly funded by the Federal (\$6.424M) and State (\$1.606M) governments under the BHSUP
- The three projects were due to be completed in December 2022.
- DTMR's routine maintenance performance contractor, Whitsunday Regional Council is ensuring the sites are maintained in a safe condition until construction activity resumes.

Background

- An average of 97 jobs in total were expected to be supported over the life of the three projects.
- DTMR received verbal advice from WBHO about this matter on Thursday 24 February 2022, followed by written advice on Monday 7 March 2022.
- The appointed administrator is Deloitte.
- On Friday 11 March 2022, DTMR issued Notices of Breach to WBHO regarding works to be taken out of the hands of the contractor (Pursuant to Clause 44.4 of the General Conditions of Contract, relating to a Substantial Breach of the Contract).
- Both contracts rely heavily on local suppliers and resources in the Bowen and Proserpine regions.
- Due to lost time and anticipated wet weather, current key milestones for each contract are not expected to be achieved. Revised timeframes are dependent on approvals.
- 'Emergent' works were required to make each project site safe until a replacement contractor is in place and construction activity can resume. These works have been undertaken under DTMR's existing Routine Maintenance Performance Contract (RMPC) with Whitsunday Regional Council (WRC).
- This contract gives WRC possession of site at these locations and allows the maintenance contractor to work as soon as the sites are handed back to DTMR.
- Since February 2022, DTMR has also been working with WRC to address rough pavement issues on a number of sections of the Emu Creek to Drays Road project. Initial emergent work was completed in late March 2022 and further work was undertaken following the wet weather event in May 2022.
- The speed limit in these locations was temporarily reduced to 60km/h and reinstated to 80km/h following completion of this emergent work.
- Multiple media enquiries have been received about this matter, with key concerns including the impact of WBHO's administration on project delivery, subcontractors and speed limits through the roadworks sites. The voluntary administration of WBHO and the actions of its South Africa-based parent company has also received national media coverage.

Whitsunday Mayoral by-election

Recommended response

- On 21 June 2022, the Deputy Premier referred the Whitsunday Regional Council's (WRC) application to conduct a postal vote to the Electoral Commissioner in accordance with section 45AB of the Local Government Electoral Act 2011, seeking recommendations about whether the application should be approved.
- In making the recommendation, the Electoral Commissioner considered the following:
 - the reasons, stated in the application, why the poll should be conducted by postal ballot
 - the costs of conducting the poll by postal ballot compared to the costs of conducting the poll using polling booths
 - the number of persons enrolled on an electoral roll for an electoral district, or part of an electoral district, included in the area to which the application relates
 - whether the poll has previously been by postal ballot in the area to which the application relates.
- The Electoral Commissioner's recommendation not to approve the application was received on 27 June 2022. The Deputy Premier will decide whether to approve or decline the request in due course.
- WRC is aware of the Electoral Commissioner's recommendation.

Key Facts

- Councillor Andrew Willcox, former WRC Mayor, was elected to the Federal House of Representatives in the seat of Dawson at the 21 May 2022 election. The Australian Electoral Commission declared the result on 15 June 2022 and in accordance with section 155 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Mr Willcox MP was disqualified from being a Councillor from this day.
- A by-election must be conducted within two months of the office becoming vacant.
- Three current Councillors have stated they will contest the by-election and should a current Councillor be elected as Mayor, their election will trigger another by-election. WRC has also sought the Deputy Premier's approval that should this occur, the subsequent by-election be conducted by postal vote.

Teacher Supply

Recommended response

- The Department of Education (DoE) undertakes comprehensive workforce planning to ensure there is a sustainable supply of teachers to meet the demands of state schools across Queensland.
- This includes an assessment of long-term, statewide supply and demand trends influencing schools' ability to recruit teachers. It also includes a detailed assessment of individual schools' short and medium-term needs and the development of tailored three-year action plans.
- Due to various factors, including the impact of COVID-19 measures, 2022 was a challenging year for all schools across Queensland.
- Vacancies are a natural part of the workforce cycle and occur due to a variety of reasons, including: teachers taking planned leave; accepting promotions; seeking a transfer; or retiring.
- Consequently, vacancies open and close continually throughout the year as teachers grow and move between schools. Local workforce planning ensures that many vacancies are identified in advance and filled to avoid class disruption.
- To respond to short-term unplanned vacancies, schools are staffed and supported by TRACER, DoE's teacher-replacement service. It is common for this service to fill over 1000 short-term absences across the State every day.
- The Government will continue to work with schools to address current and emerging teacher vacancies and ensure an uninterrupted year for our students.

Key Facts

- DoE currently employs around 48,000 teacher FTEs.
- Since 2017, more than 3500 temporary-to-permanent teacher conversions were made as part of the Government's commitment to maximising permanent frontline employment.

- As at 29 June 2022, DoE is working with schools to fill 896 current or emerging vacancies - this represents less than 2 per cent of the teaching workforce.
- Throughout the 2021 and 2022 school year-to-date, the DoE has filled over 6200 teacher vacancies across the State with existing teachers and new teacher hires.
- The **\$19.8M Turn to Teaching Internship election commitment**, to encourage career change to high-priority curriculum and geographic teaching areas, will provide 300 aspiring teachers with financial support, mentoring and paid internship employment to complete their teaching qualification and take up a guaranteed permanent teaching position.
- This program commenced in 2022, with the first interns due to start in schools in 2023.

Achievements

Teacher Rapid Response Team (RRT)

- Commencing Term 2, 2022, the RRT seeks to establish a pool of temporary and permanent state school teachers based in South East Queensland, where there is a supply of replacement teachers that schools can access to maintain adequate staffing.
- These teachers are deployed at short notice to temporarily fill specific teaching vacancies deemed to be critical in priority geographic areas across Queensland.
- As at 24 June 2022, there are 81 teachers in the RRT pool.
- Only the Central Queensland Region (with 4000 teaching staff) has accessed deployments from the RRT so far, with 11 positions filled through the RRT.

Background

- With a workforce of more than 54,000 Queensland teachers (headcount), it is common to have teaching vacancies—noting the current recorded vacancy rate is currently less than 2 per cent.
- DoE works closely with schools to support teachers to develop diverse skills and experiences, to plan for potential vacancies, and to ensure teachers are placed where they are most needed.
- It is typical for TRACER to experience high demand during Term 2 and 3 due to traditional flu seasons; however, Queensland Health's advice, 'stay home and get tested,' has also contributed to this.
- The largest change to schools in the immediate post-COVID period is lower than anticipated student enrolments. This is as a direct result of the pause to international migration and has resulted in reduced overall demand for teachers when compared with earlier forecasts. To combat these issues:
 - Staffing levels in the TRACER service increased during the year to allow more casual relief teachers to be contacted within the short time available.
 - Teachers in the applicant process are encouraged to consider casual relief teacher options while seeking permanent employment.
 - In schools where demand for casual relief teachers was increased beyond usual levels, support is provided to adopt existing strategies for internal relief including:
 - employing additional teachers to provide internal relief (a Local Relieving Teacher);
 - partnering with neighbouring schools to employ additional teachers to provide internal relief (a District Relieving Teacher); and
 - registering the Local Relieving Teacher or District Relieving Teacher arrangement with TRACER to ensure the best utilisation of the internal relief teaching pool and to ensure schools do not incur an additional workload associated with the arrangement.

Teacher RRT

- Teachers temporarily relocated as part of the RRT will have access to a tailored range of incentives.
- As these are pre-existing teaching positions, there are no additional costs to DoE for the teaching staff as transfer costs and rural locality allowances are already built into DoE budget.
- DoE continues to work with schools to address current and emerging teacher vacancies, including the sourcing and the retention of permanent, temporary and casual teachers.
- Through the RRT, DoE is encouraging vacancies to be filled for a minimum of four weeks.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Vacancies

- Specific actions to avoid potential teacher shortfalls in STEM areas include targeted strategies to recruit specialist teachers in areas of high demand in the geographic locations where they are needed the most:
 - Queensland has provided discipline-specific online STEM training to more than 3100 state school teachers to support building capability in subject areas including digital technologies, science and mathematics.
 - In addition to STEM training, targeted professional development courses are provided for the identified priority areas in the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority General Senior Syllabuses including Digital Solutions and Design.
 - DoE also offers Rural and Remote Graduate Teacher STEM Scholarships, which provide \$15,000 (each) to support high-achieving individuals, and permanent employment in a Queensland state school. Since 2018, 103 Rural and Remote Graduate Teacher STEM scholarships have been offered.
- Since 2019, more than 2700 STEM vacancies have been successfully filled across the State.
- DoE is not able to accurately measure the number of STEM teachers across the State due to system limitation and clarity around the classification of a STEM teacher. For example, teachers often teach subjects both inside and outside of the STEM fields, and the qualifications and skillset of a STEM teacher varies depending on the level of curriculum being taught.

Initiatives around staffing

- DoE also continues to recruit new teaching applicants year-round, with mid-year graduates often applying to teach during Term 3.
- Other initiatives and programs in place to provide Queensland state schools with the teachers they need now, and into the future, include:
 - the *Teach Queensland and Teacher Rural* annual career fairs;
 - *Never been a better time to teach* marketing campaign;
 - interstate recruitment campaigns;
 - the annual undertaking of a five-year teacher supply and demand forecast;
 - *Teach Queensland* digital and social media campaign; and
 - specific teacher mobility initiatives including the annual teacher transfer program, guaranteed transfer and rural and remote encouragement programs.
- Initiatives to support high achieving pre-service and graduate teachers to commence their career in high priority Queensland locations include:
 - *Aspiring Teacher Grants* for Year 12 graduates from Queensland schools with 174 grants offered since 2018 (one-off payment of up to \$5000);

- *Beyond the Range Professional Experience Grants* for pre-service teachers with over 1300 grants paid since 2018–19 (up to \$5000 per placement);
- *Pearl Duncan Teaching Scholarships* for aspiring and pre-service teachers who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander with 84 scholarships offered since 2018 (up to \$20,000 and permanent employment once graduated); and
- *Rural and Remote Graduate Teacher Scholarships* for pre-service teachers with 208 Generalist and 135 STEM scholarships offered since 2018 (up to \$15,000 and permanent employment once graduated).

Released under RTI - DRG

Whitsunday Skyway

Recommended response

- Post ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie in 2017, a feasibility study was undertaken by the Australian Adventure Tourism Group (AATG) for a proposed all-weather summit facility, cableway and adventure activities located both near and within Conway National Park overlooking Airlie Beach.
- The proposal is now part of the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning's Exclusive Transaction process, which includes investigating land access and tenure matters.

Key Facts

- Assessment of developments in National Parks need to consider the natural and cultural values of that area, and address complex land tenure, environmental, community, technical, transport, social and commercial factors.
- Should the project be approved, contractual arrangements for the election commitment of \$1M in matched funding towards land compensation costs will be put in place. Subject to approval, funding is expected to be spent within the 2023-24 financial year.

Background

- AATG has been in discussions with the Queensland Government since 2017.
- AATG will need to demonstrate how their proposal satisfies each of the exclusive transaction assessment criteria (Investment Alignment, Exclusive Dealing, Value for Money, and Investment Ready), as well as demonstrating approval could be obtained under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* and the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.
- There are sensitivities with this project and AATG may raise concerns with how long the Exclusive Transaction process is taking. It is understood AATG has written to the Premier and Minister for the Olympics earlier this year.

Great Barrier Reef Island Resorts

Recommended response

- On 21 February 2022, the Transport and Resources Committee (the Committee) resolved to conduct an inquiry into the economic and regulatory frameworks for Queensland's Island resorts (the Inquiry).
- The Committee will deliver its findings on the Inquiry to Parliament on Monday, 5 December 2022.

Key Facts

- The Committee received 52 public submissions, including the joint Queensland Government submission from the Department of Resources, the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Support and the Department of Environment and Science.
- Some issues raised include:
 - the viability of an Island resort is dependent on balancing complex operating, environmental and economic factors. Island resorts experience significantly higher: operating costs (e.g., workforce expenses, utilities, waste treatment and removal and insurance);
 - impacts from natural disasters; seasonal visitation variations; and competition for the tourism dollar, particularly from lower cost destinations such as Asia, and the cruise industry;
 - safe and reasonable access is a critical success factor for Island resorts (access underpins the day-to-day operation of resorts, construction efforts and provides safe arrival and departure for visitors and resort workers); and
 - viable and resilient marine infrastructure and safe harbours, also plays a key role in operation and in supporting recovery efforts following extreme weather events with barges and ferries being able to access the islands as soon as practical to execute critical works, subsequently facilitating repairs and reconstruction efforts and then supporting visitor access when appropriate.
- The Keswick Island Progress Association (KIPA) submission to the Committee mentions '*...meeting with the Premier's Department was at the invitation of the Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, and occurred on 13 March 2020 in her Brisbane offices. A joint departmental inspection was promised to Sublease holders...*'

- The governance of Keswick Island is complex, and the sub-lessees are seeking Queensland Government intervention to enforce breaches of regulations relating to the Head Lease and the Deeds of Agreement.
- The Head Lessee is Oasis Forest Ltd (formerly China Bloom Hong Kong Ltd) and their developer is Greaton Keswick Pty Ltd.

Achievements

- The Queensland Government is committed to administering state land to support regional communities and contribute to Queensland's economic prosperity.
- The Queensland Government continues to work with the tourism and hospitality industry to reinvigorate undeveloped Island resorts and build on the refreshed experience-based marketing approach for Queensland showcasing the Great Barrier Reef (GBR), islands, beaches, natural encounters, lifestyle, food, adventure, discovery, and events to the world.
- The Queensland Government has supported the development of some access facilities under the GBR Island Resorts Rejuvenation Fund, however, there are still several island resorts that are without suitable marine infrastructure access.
- The ability to build safe harbours can remain an impediment to island resort redevelopment.
- The status and needs for each island are slightly different, but those without a current joint GBR Marine Park Authority and State marine parks permit will face increasing challenges in being able to commence any tourism redevelopment (e.g., Lindeman Island).

Background

- On 7 April 2022, the call for public submissions to the Committee closed.
- On 20 June 2022, the Committee commenced its first public hearings for the Inquiry in Brisbane.
- Regional hearings, and further Brisbane hearings will be held on-dates and in places yet to be finalised. Hearing programs will be published on the Committee's website as they become available.
- The committee was due to table their final report on Monday, 22 August 2022, however due to the complex issues raised in the public submissions, the final report has been extended to Monday, 5 December 2022.

Great Barrier Reef – Reef Regulations

Recommended response

- Protecting the Great Barrier Reef and the thousands of jobs that rely on it is vital to the Regions and State's economy.
- The Great Barrier Reef is world heritage listed and contributes \$6 billion to the Australian economy every year, **supporting over 60,000 jobs.**
- **The Queensland Government has committed over \$400M towards protecting the Reef since 2015**, including:
 - \$270.1M over five years for the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program;
 - \$29.9M under the Healthy Reef, Healthy Environment, Healthy Economy package, including \$10M for Reef Credits, a \$6M Reef Islands Arks program and funding for a tourism hub and visitor centre in the Daintree National Park;
 - over \$19M per year from 2021-22 – increased investment in on-ground marine park management co-delivered by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority; and
 - Reef's park management is being boosted by the new \$9.7M Reef Resilience vessel launched recently.
- In June 2022, we increased our investment in the **Reef Assist Program from \$10M to \$13.5M** to deliver 200 nature-based jobs in Reef Catchments as part of our plan for economic recovery.
- In March 2022, a **new Reef Assist program was announced** for all of the catchments of the Great Barrier Reef from Cape York to Bundaberg **as part of the \$65.6M package** focused on restoring functional landscapes and soils.
- As well as supporting voluntary action, the Government is also taking regulatory action to improve Reef water quality. Strengthened Reef regulations which commenced on 1 December 2019 are being rolled out over three years.
- **Minimum practice standards** that mirror accepted industry practices in the Wet Tropics region are **now in place for sugarcane and banana production** and due to **commence for graziers and horticulture producers on 1 December 2022.**

- From **1 June 2021**, a **permit is required** to start **new commercial cropping activities** on more than five hectares of land – excluding existing cropping land.
- Permits will condition farm design standards to minimise nutrient and sediment run-off from the development of land for cropping.
- On 18 March 2022, following a public consultation process, small administrative updates to the minimum practice standards for banana, sugarcane and grazing commenced to make the requirements easier to understand and comply with.
- On 1 June 2021, new standards also commenced for urban and industrial environmentally relevant activities such as mines, aquaculture, and sewage treatment that may result in nutrient or sediment emissions in Reef catchments.
- Minimum practice agricultural standards for grains and horticulture are proposed to commence from 1 December 2024, giving these industries an additional two years to improve their practices voluntarily.
- The Queensland Government has invested millions into North Queensland to support landholders and communities to improve land management and catchment condition.
- This includes the **\$15M Major Integrated Project delivered across the Bowen Broken Bogie catchment**, one of the highest sediment generators of all the Reef's catchments.
- The project worked with 92 per cent of the catchments landholders, collectively responsible for over 1 million hectares, to deliver a locally designed and owned work program tackling large- and small-scale gully remediation, grazing land management, water quality monitoring, policy issues and engagement with non-grazing land managers.

Key facts

- A 2017 Deloitte Access Economics report found the Reef added \$3.9 billion to the State's economy in 2015-16 and supported more than 33,000 full-time Queensland jobs (pre-COVID).
- In 2020, the Government's election commitments included:
 - *Continue the Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Program;*
 - *Maintain reef protection laws and associated measures which are critical to the health of the Great Barrier Reef;* and

- *Conduct a review of the Paddock to Reef Program to ensure changes in technology and system knowledge are harnessed.*

UNESCO

- In July 2021, the World Heritage Committee (WHC) decided not to list the Great Barrier Reef “in danger” and instead await the outcomes of a joint WHC—International Union of Conservation Reactive Monitoring mission centred around an updated Reef 2050 Plan and accelerated action on water quality and climate change.

Achievements

UNESCO

- The State Government committed over \$700M directly towards protecting the Reef since 2015.
- The latest Reef Water Quality Report Card 2020 showed progress is now around halfway towards two critical water quality improvements targets – dissolved inorganic nitrogen and sediment.

Reef Regulations

- Between 2009 and 2020, more than \$143M was specifically allocated to support the agricultural industry to improve productivity, profitability and water quality through industry-led *best management practice* programs, science and on ground programs.

Background

- Since 2012, WHC has considered the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area possible in-danger listing several times.
- In 2015, WHC decided not to inscribe the Reef on the in-danger list due to the Reef 2050 Plan, particularly the water quality targets and the sustainable ports development and sustainable fisheries commitments.
- In 2017, WHC expressed concern of the mass bleaching events in 2016 and 2017, the slow progress in water quality progress and implementation delays in regulatory reforms.
- Strengthening the Reef protection regulations responds directly to the recommendations of the *Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce* on how best to meet the Reef water quality targets for a healthy Reef.
- The Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan sets 2025 reduction targets of 60% for dissolved inorganic nitrogen loads and 25% for sediment loads.
- The strengthened Reef regulations are expected to achieve an estimated dissolved inorganic nitrogen load reduction of 48.9% towards the 2025 target (i.e.

expected to achieve approximately 80% of the target reduction with full compliance) and an estimated fine sediment reduction of 4.2% towards the 2025 target (i.e. expected to achieve approximately 16.8% of the target reduction with full compliance).

- During consultation on the new cropping permit arrangements, agricultural peak bodies publicly re-iterated not supporting the regulatory approach to improving water quality, but AgForce publicly acknowledged the positive consultation process which resulted in changes to the proposed standard and requirements for new cropping.
- The Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan is a strong framework for coordinated action in partnership between governments, Traditional Owners and stakeholders.
- Queensland responded to the impact on businesses, particularly those in the tourism and hospitality sectors, by delivering a \$47.75M Tourism and Hospitality Sector COVID-19 Lockdown Support Package to assist businesses impacted by COVID-19 lockdowns.
- On 29 March 2022, a private members bill to reverse the Reef protection regulations, introduced by Mr Nick Dametto MP, Member for Hinchinbrook, did not pass consistent with the recommendation of the Health and Environment Committee.

Released under RTI

Insurance Affordability

Recommended response

- Insurance affordability is a key cost-of-living issue for regional Queensland, as evidenced by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's (ACCC) final insurance inquiry report.
- The majority of the ACCC's 38 recommendations are aimed at the insurance industry and the Australian Government.
- There were several key announcements in the 2021–22 Federal Budget including a cyclone reinsurance pool, a North Queensland Strata Title Resilience Pilot Program, and increased funding for disaster mitigation.
- Effective delivery on these commitments is needed to provide long-awaited support and I note the new Australian Government is continuing to work through these measures to appropriately progress their implementation.
- The ACCC report also highlights that investment in mitigation can sustainably reduce insurance premiums.
- The State Government has been taking action through initiatives such as the \$65M Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund, \$100M 2019 Queensland Betterment Fund, and \$41.5M Household Resilience Program.
- Successive budgets have built on the Queensland Government's prior action.
- The 2021–22 Queensland Budget included \$20M for a 2020–21 Betterment Fund to improve resilience of infrastructure to future disasters, as well as \$10M for the North Queensland Mitigation program to administer grants to local governments for disaster mitigation initiatives.
- The 2022–23 Queensland Budget further provides \$20M over two years to extend the Household Resilience Program to its third phase.

Key Facts

- The Queensland Government has focused on disaster mitigation to reduce risk and put downward pressure on premiums, including through a range of programs.
 - Household Resilience Program (HRP) (additional \$20M over two years for Phase 3): the HRP helps low-income homeowners improve the resilience of their properties, resulting in significant reductions in premiums in many cases (this builds on HRP phases 1 and 2 (31.5M State/\$10M Fed funding))
 - North Queensland Natural Disasters Mitigation Program (\$10M for establishment in 2021–22): administers grants to local government for disaster mitigation initiatives that may assist in reducing the cost of insurance in communities
 - Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (\$65M over five years, co-funded with the Australian Government): for initiatives which protect Queensland communities from natural disasters
 - 2020–21 Betterment Fund (\$20M, co-funded with the Australian Government): to continue to enable restoration of essential public assets in 2020–21 to a more resilient standard
 - 2019 Betterment Fund (\$100M over three years, co-funded with the Australian Government): to rebuild more resilient infrastructure after the 2019 North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough

Achievements

- The HRP has resulted in significant reductions in premiums.
- Across the first two phases of the program, over 3,500 North Queenslanders were awarded a grant, including 1,658 in Townsville. Recipients were able to negotiate around a 9 per cent premium reduction on average.

Background

- The ACCC's final report was released on 28 December 2020 and includes 38 recommendations. Of these, only 13 directly or partly relate to areas of State Government responsibility, including: stamp duty on insurance; disaster mitigation works; disclosure requirements in real estate transactions; planning frameworks; building codes; and commissions paid to strata managers.
- The report includes a recommendation to abolish or re-base stamp duty on insurance. The ACCC's estimate of a 127 per cent increase in average premiums (2007–08 to 2018–19)

equates to an annual increase of around 8 per cent. Therefore, hypothetically, any benefit of abolishing insurance duty (9 per cent), if fully passed on to consumers, would have been largely eroded within a year.

- The newly elected Australian Government has committed a \$200M investment per year on disaster prevention and resilience. The Disaster Ready Fund will invest in disaster prevention projects like flood levees, sea walls, cyclone shelters, evacuation centres, fire breaks and telecommunications improvements.
- Key insurance-related measures announced in the 2021–22 Federal Budget were:
 - Cyclone and related flooding reinsurance pool backed by a \$10B government guarantee.
 - \$40M North Queensland Strata Title Resilience Pilot Program to support disaster mitigation for strata properties.
 - New National Recovery and Resilience Agency, with \$615.5M for the Preparing Australia Program (PAP).
- The Queensland Government provided submissions to the Reinsurance Pool Taskforce in June and December 2021. The submissions highlighted the importance of any savings to insurers being passed on to consumers and the need for continued investment in mitigation works. They further proposed the Australian Government should provide an insurance premium reduction guarantee, and to subsidise premiums if this guarantee was not met.
- The reinsurance pool launched on 1 July 2022, with a transition period for insurers to bring eligible policies into the pool (by 31 December 2023 for large insurers and by 31 December 2024 for small insurers).
- Under the previous Morrison administration, the Australian Government estimated that policyholders facing acute cost pressures may benefit from premium discounts of up to 46 per cent for homeowners, 58 per cent for strata properties, and 34 per cent for small and medium enterprises.
- Queensland Treasury previously noted these savings appeared to relate to high-risk policyholders, rather than average savings. Industry further indicated it was too early to understand the impact on premiums and that quoted reductions could not be validated
- The newly elected Australian Government publicly released modelling on the impact of the Pool for the first time on 30 June 2022. In releasing this modelling, it signalled that the claims by the previous Australian Government were misleading, and that premium savings would be much lower. Queensland Treasury is considering the newly-released modelling.
- The report finds that overall savings for Northern Australian policies are in the order of 15 to 20 per cent for home, strata and small and medium enterprises insurance. For home insurance specifically, a small number of policies paying the highest premiums, could see reductions of around 38 per cent.
- This received considerable media coverage, including on the front page of the Townsville Bulletin on 30 June 2022.