

**Barcaldine (Outback Queensland region)
Travelling Issues Briefs Index
7 July 2022**

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REGIONAL BRIEFS

6. Barcaldine Renewable Energy Zone

7. Drought Assistance and Water Supply

- Barcaldine has been drought declared since 2014

8. Health Overview – Central West Hospital and Health Service

- \$0.83M upgrade to water treatment plant at Barcaldine Hospital multi-purpose health service - completed 30 March 2021
- Planned \$2.36M corridor flooring replacement for Barcaldine Hospital, expected to generate 7 jobs during construction will commence 30 June 2022 and is expected to be finalised by 30 June 2023.

9. Housing – Outback Queensland

- By 30 June 2025, construction of 98 new social homes will commence in the Outback Queensland region. Planned investment is \$45.3M, supporting more than 141 jobs.

10. Lake Eyre Basin Future Basin

11. Natural Disaster Support and Preparedness

12. National Disability Insurance Scheme

13. Policing and Youth Crime – Capricornia Police District

- 16% increase in offences
 - 34% decrease in the number of proven offences
 - 150% increase in number of distinct 10-17-year-old offenders
- * small number involved exaggerate the percentage difference*

14. Regional Regulated Electricity Prices

- Increased assistance for households from \$50 to \$175
- More than \$600M budgeted 2022-23 in Community Service Obligation payments to Energy Queensland

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15. Road and Transport Upgrades – Barcaldine

- \$5.665M Barcaldine-Aramac Road pavement rehabilitation works completed November 2021 – fully funded by QG
- \$5.25M for Barcaldine-Aramac Road widening completed December 2021 – jointly funded as part of the Road Safety Program Tranche 2 (\$4.2M AG; \$1.05M QG)
- \$4.572M to widen 6.4 kms of Barcaldine-Aramac Road – jointly funded (\$3.658M AG; \$914,000 QG)
- \$5.1M Barcaldine-Aramac Road widen narrow seal – completion expected by end June 2022 – jointly funded by AG (\$4.08M) and QG (\$1.02M) under Tranche 3 of the Road Safety Program
- \$1.255M to widen 2.5 kilometres of the Barcaldine-Aramac Road – construction expected to begin mid-2022 – fully funded by QG under the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme
- \$9.65M Capricorn Highway (Emerald – Alpha) widening works – completion expected late-2022 – fully funded by the Queensland Government.

16. Schools Overview

- Five schools in the Barcaldine Regional Council area
 - 3 have had almost \$1.1M of major infrastructure work
 - all schools have air conditioning and solar panels

17. The Palace

- \$90,000 allocated to develop cultural heritage management plan for The Palace

18. Waratah Coal

19. Workforce Strategy

STATE-WIDE BRIEFS

20. Great Barrier Reef – Reef Regulations

21. Teacher Supply

REGION PROFILE	OUTBACK QUEENSLAND
ELECTORATE	SITTING MEMBER
Cook	Ms Cynthia Lui (ALP)
Gregory	Mr Lachlan Millar (LNP)
Traeger	Mr Robbie Katter (KAP)
Warrego	Ms Ann Leahy (LNP)

Queensland Government FTEs		2022	2015
Doctors	Cairns & Hinterland HHS <i>source: QH supplied MOHRI data</i>	697.77	450.65
Nurses		2,681.75	1,960.71
Other health professionals		810.97	500.77
Doctors	Central West HHS <i>source: QH supplied MOHRI data</i>	24.96	16.10
Nurses		166.48	144.39
Other health professionals		40.26	18.60
Doctors	North West HHS <i>source: QH supplied MOHRI data</i>	70.26	47.00
Nurses		352.89	282.37
Other health professionals		62.89	44.57
Doctors	South West HHS <i>source: QH supplied MOHRI data</i>	33.70	22.83
Nurses		392.53	309.21
Other health professionals		88.11	56.30
Doctors	Townsville HHS <i>source: QH supplied MOHRI data</i>	778.00	595.70
Nurses		2,449.50	2,160.14
Other health professionals		816.66	581.02
Ambulance officers	<i>source: PSC supplied MOHRI data</i>	74.48	73.89
Police officers		306.62	292.09
Fire officers		43.10	22.00
Teachers		731.97	662.61
Teacher aides		192.40	213.42

Employment – annual rate change	2022 (May)	2015 (Feb)
Queensland employment	4.7%	1.6%
Queensland – Outback employment (SA4)	-3.0%	10.1%
Unemployment Rate		
Queensland unemployment	4.0%	6.5%
Queensland - Outback unemployment (SA4)	11.1%	5.5%
Queensland youth unemployment	10.1%	14.1%
Queensland - Outback youth unemployment (SA4)	38.6%	17.7%

Employment by industry (2016 census)	Number	Percent
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3,501	15.1%
Mining	3,325	14.3%
Public administration and safety	2,379	10.2%
Health care and social assistance	2,243	9.6%
Education and training	1,918	8.3%

	Queensland	OQ Region
Median age (estimated as at 30 June 2020)	37.8 years	35.3 years
Population (estimated as at 30 June 2021)	5,221,233	47,591
Crime rate (per 100,000 persons) 2020-21	9,154	25,472

Tourism (Mar 2022)	Tourism Region	Visitors	Expenditure
Domestic tourism	Outback	868,000	\$568.8M
International tourism	Queensland	not published	not published

ECONOMIC PROFILE

Budget 2022-23	Outback Queensland
Infrastructure	\$634.4M
<u>Community wellbeing</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness services 	
<u>Utilities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fred Haigh pump station electro-mechanical overhaul • Lake Moondarra Deep Well pump station pumps renewal • Hughenden Water Bank • Network replacement and enhancements – Outback Queensland 	
<u>Transport and roads</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flinders Highway (Julia Creek – Cloncurry), Scrubby Creek, strengthen pavement and widen floodway • Gulf Developmental Road (Georgetown – Mount Garnet) (Package 1), strengthen and widen pavement • Kennedy Developmental Road (The Lynd – Hughenden), progressive sealing • Quilpie – Adavale Road, various locations, upgrade seal and floodways 	
<u>Government services</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W4Q 2021-24 Mornington Shire Council • W4Q 2021-24 Diamantina Shire Council • Unmanned Aerial Systems flight test range • Digitally Connected Regions • Disaster recovery and reconstruction 	

Budget 2022-23	Outback Queensland
<u>Justice and safety</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burketown replacement police facility • Cunnamulla replacement police facility 	
<u>Recreation and culture</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program • Boodjamulla National Park infrastructure upgrades • Mount Isa Family Fun Precinct Redevelopment – Stage 2 • Outback Rail Adventure • The Globe Tourist Lookout – Barcaldine 	
Health	\$495.0M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cunnamulla Hospital – reconfiguration and upgrades • Windorah Primary Health Care Centre – construction of modular Centre • Mornington Island Hospital – replacement and refurbishment of water treatment plant and equipment servicing • Mount Isa Hospital – replacement and refurbishment of water treatment plant and equipment servicing • Longreach Hospital – improve facilities • Barcaldine Hospital – improve facilities • Alpha Hospital and Multipurpose Health Service – solar system installation • Rural and Remote Health Program – Phase 2 – facilities and staff accommodation replacement 	
Education	\$15.3M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cloncurry State School – upgrade skills development and training facilities • Longreach State High School – upgrade skills development and training facilities 	
Total jobs supported in this region	2,300

	Jobs	Funding
Building our Regions (Rounds 1-5) (3 May 2022)		
Outback Queensland region	283.1	\$51.04M
Works for Queensland (Summary) – Outback Queensland region (30 Apr 2022)		
2019-21 Rnd	1,132.0	\$27.80M
2020-21 Covid Rnd	675.0	\$26.33M
2021-24 Rnd	178.0	\$27.03M
Back to Work (Total across all programs)	Employers	Jobs
<u>Initial</u> Back to work (closed 30 Jun 2021)	320	767
<u>Revitalised</u> Back to Work (31 May 2022)	11	17
Skilling Queenslanders for Work (31 May 2022)	Jobs	Funding
Total Projects	426	\$8.05M

Local Government	Mayor
Barcaldine Regional Council	Cr Sean Dillon
Barcoo Shire Council	Cr Sally O'Neil
Blackall-Tambo Regional Council	Cr Andrew Martin
Boulia Shire Council	Cr Rick Britton
Bulloo Shire Council	Cr John Ferguson
Burke Shire Council	Cr Ernie Camp
Carpentaria Shire Council	Cr Jack Bawden
Cloncurry Shire Council	Cr Greg Campbell
Croydon Shire Council	Cr Trevor Pickering
Diamantina Shire Council	Cr Robbie Dare
Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council	Cr Jason Ned
Etheridge Shire Council	Cr Barry Hughes
Flinders Shire Council	Cr Jane McNamara
Longreach Regional Council	Cr Tony Rayner
McKinlay Shire Council	Cr Philip Curr
Mornington Shire Council	Cr Kyle Yanner
Mount Isa City Council	Cr Danielle Slade
Murweh Shire Council	Cr Shaun Radnedge
Paroo Shire Council	Cr Suzette Beresford
Quilpie Shire Council	Cr Stuart Mackenzie
Richmond Shire Council	Cr John Wharton
Winton Shire Council	Cr Gavin Baskett

PREVIOUS VISITS

Since 2015, the Government has:

- held off-site Cabinet meetings, with receptions, in Longreach and Mt Isa (26 off-site Cabinet meetings have been held across the state, of which 8 included a reception)

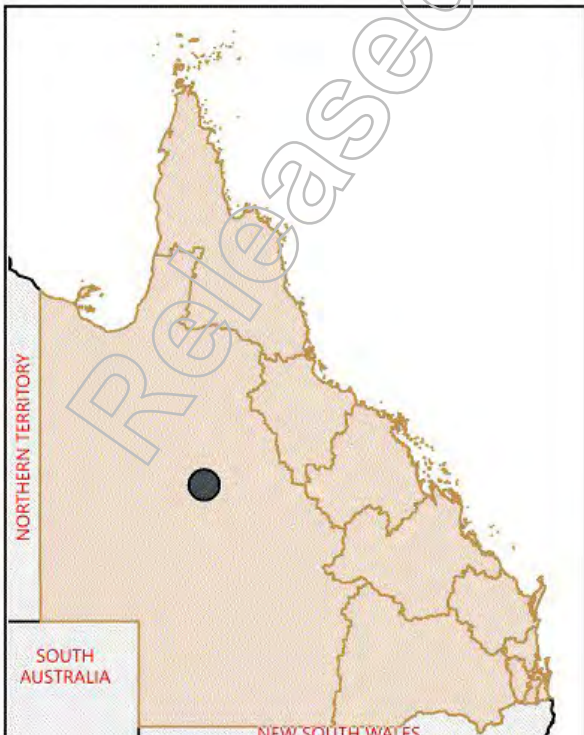
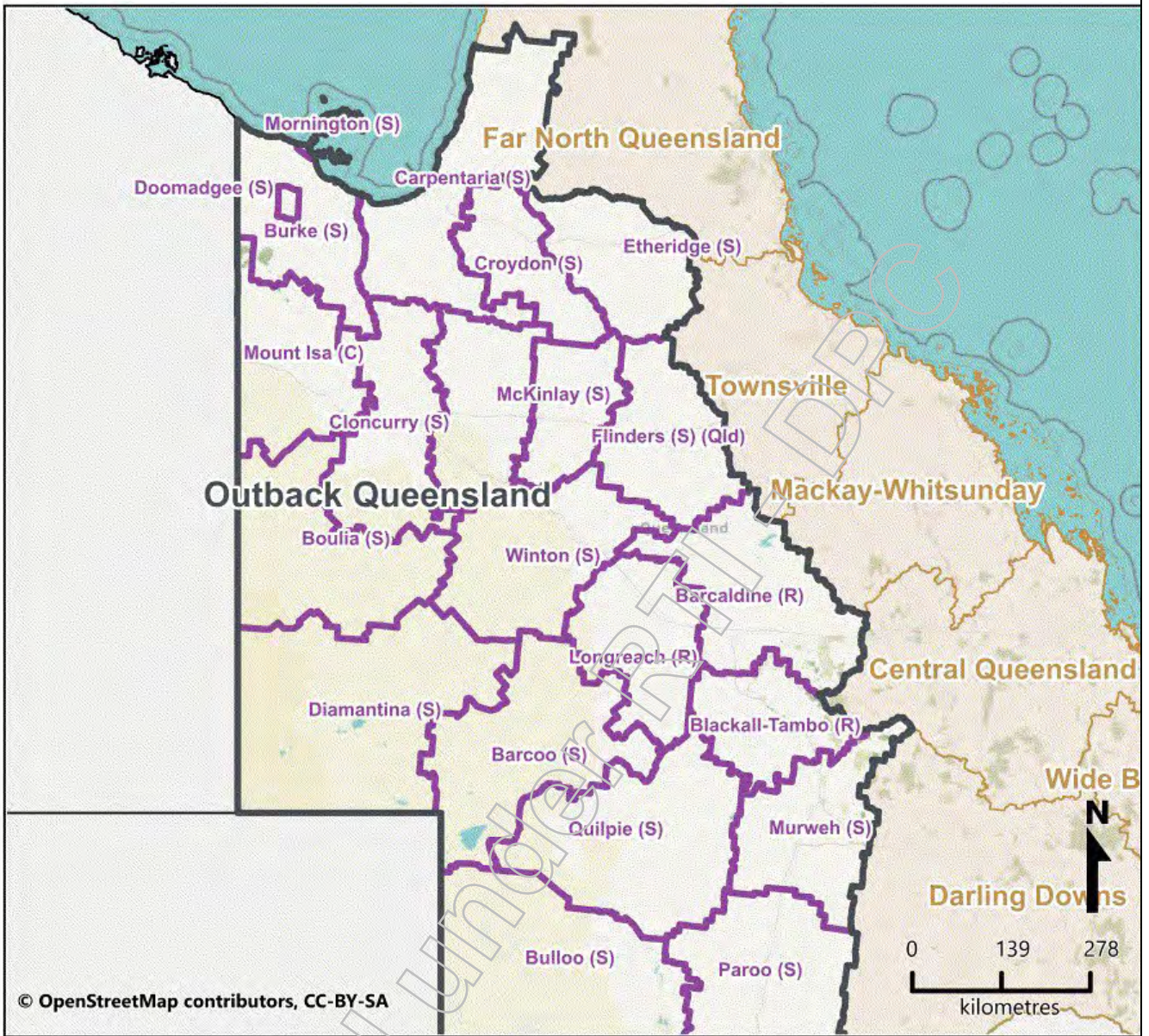
DATE	LOCATION	PURPOSE
2 – 4 May 2021	Barcaldine / Longreach	<p>Regional Visit and Off-site Cabinet meeting</p> <p>Barcaldine – attended Labour Day march and activities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Australian Workers Heritage Centre extension <p>Longreach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off site Cabinet meeting at Qantas Founder Museum • host Qld Government Community Reception at Australian Stockmans Hall of Fame & Outback Heritage Centre • visit Longreach saleyards • visit ABC Western Qld

DATE	LOCATION	PURPOSE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> attend Thomson River sunset cruise and Smithy's Outback Dinner and Show. Western Queensland
23 – 24 June 2020	Longreach / Barcaldine	<p>Regional Visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> meeting and media conference, Outback Tourism Support Package meeting with RAPAD Mayors, Economic Recovery meeting Stockman's Hall of Fame, Outback Tourism Support package visit Longreach Library, Works for Queensland program meet with Editor, The Longreach Leader visit QANTAS Founders Museum dinner meeting with local councillors and QANTAS representative meeting and media conference, Grants for Cluster Fencing visit Works for Queensland projects = Barcaldine Recreation Park and Oak Street upgrades teleconference with Cabinet ministers, local government mayors, and Chief Health Officer re coronavirus lunch meeting with Mayor Barcaldine Regional Council and other council representatives visit Australian Workers Heritage Centre, Outback Tourism visit Tree of Knowledge, Outback Tourism
18-19 November 2019	Mount Isa	<p>Off-site Cabinet meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> visit Mt Isa Train Station meet with local MP and representative from Mona Horsemanship Program host Qld Government Community Reception attend North West Mineral Province Summit
20 February 2019	Julia Creek	<p>Regional Visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> morning tea with Queensland Country Women's Association members meet with Mayors of McKinlay and Richmond shire councils inspect flood damage
7 February 2019	Cloncurry	<p>Regional Visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> meet with Mayor and councillors, Cloncurry Shire Council inspect flood damage
10 October 2018	Blackall	<p>Regional Visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> visit saleyards inspect Wild Cluster Dog Fencing meet with Mayor, Blackall-Tambo Regional Council and Country Women's Association Blackall branch members
20 April 2018	Winton	<p>Regional Visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> attend opening of Waltzing Matilda Centre

DATE	LOCATION	PURPOSE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attend Waltzing Matilda Luncheon • attend Winton Way Out West Festival
24 January 2018	Longreach, Ilfracombe	Regional Visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with Mayor of Longreach Regional Council (LRC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – visit Longreach Weir – visit Ilfracombe Bore and Dam – visit Wellshot Hotel
11 August 2017	Mount Isa	Regional Visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attend Mount Isa Mines Rotary Rodeo official opening ceremony with state and federal members of parliament, US Consul-General and President of Mount Isa Mines Rodeo Organising Committee • helipad sod turn and site tour of Children and Maternity Wards of Mount Isa hospital • visit the Desert Border Aboriginal Art Exhibition • attend community afternoon tea • attend Mount Isa Mines Rotary Rodeo • attend Thoroughbred Day event
16 January 2017	Longreach	Regional Visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meet with Mayor and councillors, LRC • inspect Wild Dog Fence Construction Site • meet with Advance Queensland Community Digital Champion, Mayor LRC and Outback Queensland regional tourism operators
30 April – 2 May 2016	Barcaldine	Regional visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with Executive Chair, Eromanga Natural History Museum and Mayor, Quilpie Shire Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – view Knotosaurus art installation and participate in sod turning of the new park – visit Eromanga Natural History Museum and view new facility for tourists • with Mayor, Barcaldine Regional Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – attend the Tree of Knowledge Cup horse races – attend Barcaldine goat races • attend Australian Workers' Union dinner to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Shearers' Strike with former Prime Minister the Hon Bob Hawke AC • visit the Australian Workers' Heritage Centre • visit Dunblane Station • attend the Shearers Stands Memorial unveiling • attend the dedication ceremony for "Mr Kevin O'Leary – A True Believer" • attend Under the Tree meet and greet

DATE	LOCATION	PURPOSE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> attend the 125th anniversary dinner of the 1891 Shearers' Strike attend the shearers' re-enactment, "The Torchlight March" 125 years official ceremony attend the Labor Day march
21-22 March 2016	Mount Isa	<p>Working Queensland Cabinet Committee meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community meet and greet with Member for Mt Isa visit Laura Johnson Home
21-22 January 2016	Windorah, Longreach	<p>Regional visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> visit Rotherfield Station meet with Mayor and councillors, LRC meet with Mayor and Councillors, Barcoo Shire Council meet with Windorah business owners
7-8 August 2015	Mount Isa	<p>Regional visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> meet with Mayor, Mount Isa City Council and Mr Robbie Katter MP, Member for Mount Isa meet with Gulf Savannah Development Inc with regional mayors and local member meet with local Department of Communities staff meet with CEO Glencore-Mount Isa Mines along with local mayor and local MP open and attend Mount Isa Mines Rotary Rodeo events meet with Tennant Creek Mount Isa Alliance representatives
26 -27 May 2015	Winton	<p>Regional visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> meet with the Outback Queensland Tourism Association Board hold Regional Mayors roundtable meeting attend Outback Tourism Brand Launch
21-22 April 2015	Charleville, Longreach and Murweh	<p>Regional visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> meet with Wallal Station, Arundal Station and Dunblane Station owners regarding drought and agricultural related issues meet with Mayors Murweh and Paroo shire councils meet with Mayor, Murweh Shire Council to announce construction of Angellala Creek bridge visit local Charleville and District Healthy Ageing Program visit Charleville State High School meet with teachers and students from the School of Distance Education meet with Deputy Mayor, Barcaldine Regional Council attend community event regarding 125 year anniversary of the shearers strike

MAP – Outback Queensland region



LEGEND

-  Selected RAP
-  Component LGAs
-  Neighbouring RAPs

Map features

-  City/Town
-  Main road
-  Railway
-  Park
-  Waterway

Achievements – Western Queensland

HEALTH

- **\$7.9M** - Longreach Hospital's medical imaging and mechanical services upgrade, included a new medical imaging unit for new CT scanner equipment, a new maternity unit and a new day surgery unit and upgrades to the emergency department, nurse call, medical gas and air-conditioning systems, completed November 2018.
- **\$20.1M** – Blackall Hospital Redevelopment – generated 60 jobs during construction, construction of the new Blackall Hospital and General Practice to support the delivery of contemporary, flexible models of care, completed 20 October 2020, officially opened 20 November 2020.
- **\$7.43M** – Boulia Refurbishment and Mechanical upgrade – generated 21 jobs during construction, completed 6 July 2020.
- **\$4.2M** – Aramac Primary Healthcare Centre – generated 13 jobs during construction, replaced the Aramac Hospital with a Primary Healthcare Centre, completed 14 March 2018.
- **\$1.8M** – Longreach Hospital – replacement of generator and switchboard, completed 12 November 2021, generated 5 jobs during construction.
- **\$0.83M** – Barcaldine Hospital – replace and refurbish the water treatment plant and equipment at the multi-purpose health service. Generated 2 jobs during construction and reached practical completion on 30 June 2022.
- **\$0.6M** – Longreach Hospital – install new water tanks and install a water treatment plant. Generated 2 jobs during construction and was completed on 30 March 2021.
- **\$0.42M** – Barcaldine Hospital – replace fire indication panel and emergency warning and intercom system that services the hospital, staff accommodation and private practice. Generated one job during construction and completed on 28 March 2019.

EDUCATION / TAFE

- **\$661,507** – Alpha State School includes covered learning area, completed in 2017; replacement of amenities on the oval and Block B external stairs – both completed by June 2018

- **\$393,306** – Barcaldine Prep-12 State School – refurbish special education rooms, completed 2020
- **\$20,293** – Jericho State School – disability access upgrade, completed November 2021
- **\$318,102** – Ilfracombe State School - replace amenities, completed 2018
- **\$1.22M** – Longreach State High School – includes refurbishment of science rooms, completed 2019, and learning centre (library), completed June 2019
- **\$457,354** – Longreach State School – replace the amenities block, completed August 2021

ROADS

- **\$416.2M** of transport and roads infrastructure investment in the **Central West** district, including:
 - **\$15.487M** Barcaldine – Aramac Road – rehabilitate and widen pavement – about 20km of the Barcaldine-Aramac Road has been gradually widened to improve travelling conditions – completed in three stages:
 - \$5.665M (fully funded QG) Pavement Rehabilitation Project widened about 6.5km of the road 42km north of Barcaldine - started in January 2021, completed in November 2021.
 - \$4.572M (80 AG : 20 QG) rehabilitate and widen – widening 6.4km of the road 36km north of Barcaldine – started in February 2021, completed June 2021; and
 - \$5.25M (80 AG : 20 QG) widen and rehabilitate – almost 7km of the road about 30 km north of Barcaldine – started in September 2021, completed in December 2021.
 - **\$3.01M** (80 AG : 20 QG) Clermont – Alpha Road, progressive sealing – almost 5km of Clermont – Alpha Road has been sealed to a width of 8m, improving safety, efficiency and wet weather access for all road users – construction started November 2020 and was completed in August 2021.
 - Clermont – Alpha Road, 2018–19 pave and seal (Package 2), completed in 2019 (jointly funded by the Federal and State governments)

- Landsborough Highway (Blackall – Barcaldine), Barcaldine south rehabilitation and widening, completed in 2018 (jointly funded by the Federal and State governments)
- Landsborough Highway (Longreach – Winton), Dingo Creek to Darr River, completed in 2020 (jointly funded by the Federal and State governments).
- \$4.5M Birdsville Developmental Road (Morney-Birdsville), pave and seal (\$3.6M AG; \$900,000 QG) – completed November 2021
- \$4M Blackall-Jericho Road, pave and seal - Stage 2 (\$3.2M AG; \$800,000 QG) completed March 2022*
- \$6M Landsborough Highway (Winton – Kynuna) (Section 2) – (\$4.8M AG; \$1.2M QG) - completed December 2021
- \$5.39M Richmond-Winton Road (\$4.312M AG; \$1.078M QG) – construction started in March 2021 and was completed September 2021

Three projects worth \$13.4M were delivered during 2021 and early 2022 to seal the last 15kms of the Blackall-Jericho Road (includes *\$4M project mentioned above). Works were completed in March 2022 with the road now fully sealed.

TOURISM

- \$2.2M – Australian Worker's Heritage Centre Grant – for an extension to the centre with a new entrance building and facilities including a café/restaurant, retail and a children's activity area. Opened on 2 May 2021.
- \$10M Outback Tourism Infrastructure Fund projects:
 - \$871,317 in the Barcaldine Regional Council area
 - \$471,217 – Freedom Parks in Aramac, Jericho and Muttaburra
 - \$400,000 – Murra Kumbee Yambangku – Hands Sharing On Country Together
 - \$1.846M in the Longreach Regional Council area
 - \$336,000 – Super Constellation Interior Construction and Display Area
 - \$510,000 – 5-star Eco lodges
 - \$1M – Outback Rail Adventure

BUILDING OUR REGIONS

- **\$3.01M** to Barcaldine Regional Council for 4 projects supporting over 14 jobs – all projects are now complete:
 - \$987,312 towards \$2.0M Aramac Aquatic Centre;
 - \$250,000 towards \$500,000 Barcaldine Recreation Park – stage 2;
 - \$273,000 towards the \$546,289 Barcaldine Racecourse; and
 - \$1.50M towards \$1.58M the Globe Precinct Tourist Lookout.

WORKS FOR QLD

- Summary of funding for projects within the Outback Queensland region

Funding round	Outback Queensland Region	
	No of projects	Funding
WFQ 2016-17	142	\$27.96M
WFQ 2017-19	132	\$27.63M
WFQ 2019-21	109	\$27.80M
2020-21 COVID-19	122	\$26.33M
WFQ 2021-24	90	\$27.03M
Total	595	\$136.75M

Funding round	Barcaldine Regional Council		
	No of projects	Act Jobs	Funding
WFQ 2016-17	7	61.0	\$1.15M
WFQ 2017-19	6	52.0	\$1.13M
WFQ 2019-21	7	27.0	\$1.14M
2020-21 COVID-19	4	16.0	\$1.11M
WFQ 2021-24	12	15.0	\$1.12M
Total	36	171.0	\$5.65M

Election Commitments – Western Queensland

2020 Election Commitments

- The implementation status of 19 commitments, within Western Queensland, as at 31 March 2022, is:

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

Electorate	2020 Election Commitments	Status as at 31 Mar 2022	Commitment also delivered in other regions
ROADS			
Traeger Gregory	\$9.994 million for routine maintenance of the Kennedy Developmental Road between Hughenden and Winton	Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet	
EDUCATION			
Cook Gregory Traeger Warrego	\$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	Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet	✓
Gregory	\$500,000 to replace the existing amenities block at Longreach State School		
Gregory	\$2.6M for an automotive training facility kitted with necessary equipment to deliver both practical and theoretical learning at Longreach State High School		
HEALTH			
Gregory Traeger	\$27.8M for 33 renal dialysis treatment spaces in regional Queensland at Proserpine, Clermont, Charters 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	✓

Electorate	2020 Election Commitments	Status as at 31 Mar 2022	Commitment also delivered in other regions
Cook Gregory Traeger Warrego	\$490,000 over four years to extend the HIV self-testing project for people living in regional Queensland	Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet	✓
Cook Gregory Traeger	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		✓
COMMUNITY and RECREATION			
Cook Gregory Traeger Warrego	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 	Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet	✓
Cook Gregory Traeger Warrego	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		✓
Gregory	Determine the future of the Longreach Agricultural Training College in consultation with the Remote Area Planning and Development Board Mayors.		✓
Cook Gregory Traeger	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		✓
Cook Gregory Traeger Warrego	Work with the LGAQ on finalising an agreed Bush Councils Compact		✓

Electorate	2020 Election Commitments	Status as at 31 Mar 2022	Commitment also delivered in other regions
ENVIRONMENT			
Gregory Traeger Warrego	Establish a Lake Eyre Basin (Qld) Stakeholder Advisory Group including Traditional Owners, industry bodies, environment groups, local government, scientific experts and government departments to inform the development of a consultation Regulatory Impact Statement for the proposed Lake Eyre Basin Framework	Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet	
Gregory Traeger Warrego	Following the establishment of the Lake Eyre Basin (Qld) Stakeholder Advisory Group, release the Independent Expert Scientific Panel report and CSIRO's Assessment of scientific knowledge of shale gas and shale oil potential impacts report		
FUNDING			
Cook Gregory Traeger	Conduct a review of funding arrangements for Indigenous Councils including the State Government Financial Aid rate of funding and the Revenue Replacement Program and Indigenous Economic Development Grant	Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet	✓
TOURISM / INDUSTRY			
Cook Gregory Traeger Warrego	Promote and support businesses in regional Queensland providing side-by-side vehicle recreation opportunities on private land	Exempt Sch.3(2)(1)(a) Submitted to Cabinet	✓
Cook Gregory Traeger Warrego	REBUILDING QUEENSLAND TOURISM \$15 million for a Regional Tourism Organisation Recovery fund to provide a special one-off funding injection to regional tourism organisations		✓

Electorate	2020 Election Commitments	Status as at 31 Mar 2022	Commitment also delivered in other regions
AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT			
Cook Gregory Traeger Warrego	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	✓
WORKS FOR QUEENSLAND			
Cook Gregory Traeger Warrego	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	✓

Released under RTI
DPC

Building our Regions and Works for Queensland

Building our Regions – Western Queensland region

- As at 3 May 2022, under Rounds 1-5, the Western Queensland region received \$12.9M for 24 projects with a total project cost of \$24.8M.
- The **Barcaldine Region Council (BRC)** has received **\$3.01M** for **4 projects** supporting **over 14 jobs** – **all 4 projects** are now **complete**.
- Funding received by the regional councils (RC) and shire councils (SC) in the region, which all fall in the electorate of Gregory, include:

Building our Regions (Rounds 1-5)		
(3 May 2022)	Jobs	Funding
Barcaldine RC (BRC)	14.5	\$3.010M
Barcoo SC (Barcoo)	5.5	\$499,000
Blackall-Tambo RC (BTRC)	9.6	\$1.857M
Boulia SC (Boulia)	9.0	\$2.429M
Diamantina SC (DSC)	8.8	\$1.690M
Longreach RC (LRC)	20.8	\$2.942M
Winton SC (WSC)	9.3	\$500,000
TOTAL	77.5	\$12.927M

Building our Regions projects (Rounds 1-5) within BRC

Rd	Project	Approved Funding	Total Cost	Jobs (Est)	Project Stage
02	Aramac aquatic centre	\$987,312	\$2.00M	6.2	completed 3/5/2019
03	Barcaldine recreation park – stage 2	\$250,000	\$500,000	1.5	completed 12/3/2021
03	Barcaldine racecourse upgrade	\$273,000	\$546,289	1.6	completed 20/4/2018
05	The Globe Precinct tourist lookout - Barcaldine	\$1.50M	\$1.58M	5.2	completed 4/3/2022

Works for Queensland – Western Queensland region

- Since 2016, through Works for Queensland the Outback Queensland region has received **\$136.75M for 595 projects** supporting around **4724 jobs**; to date **499 projects** are now complete.
- For the same period:
 - Western Queensland received **\$37.6M for 204 projects** supporting around **1471 jobs** – to date **167 projects** are complete; and specifically
 - **BRC** has received **\$5.65M for 36 projects** supporting, to date, **171 jobs** with **26 projects** completed.

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

Council	2019-21 Rnd		2020-21 COVID Rnd		2021-24 Rnd	
	Jobs	Funding	Jobs	Funding	Jobs	Funding
BRC	27.0	\$1.14M	16.0	\$1.11M	15.0	\$1.12M
Barcoo	50.0	\$1.02M	5.0	\$1.02M	8.0	\$1.03M
BTRC	50.0	\$1.09M	56.0	\$1.07M		\$1.08M
Boulia	58.0	\$1.03M	52.0	\$1.02M	28.0	\$1.03M
DSC	14.0	\$1.02M	16.0	\$1.02M	5.0	\$1.03M
LRC	148.0	\$1.19M	41.0	\$1.12M	16.0	\$1.12M
WSC	11.0	\$1.08M	13.0	\$1.04M	4.0	\$1.04M
TOTAL	358.0	\$7.57M	199.0	\$7.40M	76.0	\$7.44M

Works for Queensland Projects

Barcaldine Regional Council (all in Gregory electorate)

2019-21 Works for Queensland Projects – all complete	Budget	jobs created /supported		Project Status
		Est	Act	
Alpha Dip Yards	\$50,000		2.0	completed 25/6/2020
Aramac Showground Amenities	\$350,000		1.0	completed 24/5/2021
Bullock Dray Shed	\$80,000		6.0	completed 3/6/2021
Community Streetscapes	\$85,000		4.0	completed 11/9/2019
Jericho Skate Park	\$100,000		5.0	completed 29/4/2020

2019-21 Works for Queensland Projects – all complete	Budget	jobs created /supported		Project Status
		Est	Act	
Muttaborrasaurus Interpretation Centre - Internal Fitout	\$300,000		5.0	completed 17/6/2021
Oak Street Footpath	\$125,000		4.0	completed 17/12/2020
TOTALS	\$1.14M		27.0	

2020-21 COVID Works for Queensland Projects	Budget	jobs created/ supported		Project Status
		Est	Act	
Barcaldine sewerage treatment plant	\$600,000	13.0	6.0	exp completion TBC
Barcaldine waste landfill stage 2	\$300,000		4.0	completed 3/12/2021
Barcy Red - motorbike tourism project	\$100,000		2.0	completed 17/8/2021
Disability access	\$110,000		4.0	completed 3/6/2021
TOTALS	\$1.11M		16.0	

2021-24 Works for Queensland Projects	Budget	jobs created /supported		Project Status
		Est	Act	
Aramac caravan park and showground upgrade	\$50,000	4.0	1.0	exp completion TBC
Cemetery fence - Alpha Cemetery	\$20,000	2.0	1.0	Completed 10/2/2022
Cemetery fence - Jericho Cemetery	\$20,000	2.0	1.0	exp completion TBC
Entrance gates	\$70,000	4.0	1.0	exp completion TBC
Memorial hall air conditioning	\$50,000	2.0	2.0	exp completion TBC
Men's shed awning	\$20,000	2.0		Yet to commence
Recreation ground camping	\$40,000	2.0	0.0	exp completion TBC
Splash pad & shade	\$100,000	4.0		Yet to commence
Swimming pool upgrade - Barcaldine	\$500,000	10.0		Yet to commence
Swimming pool upgrade - Muttaborra	\$60,000		2.0	completed 1/9/2021

2021-24 Works for Queensland Projects	Budget	jobs created /supported		Project Status
		Est	Act	
The Globe Tower	\$165,000		6.0	completed 13/12/2021
Village green lighting	\$25,000	2.0	1.0	exp completion Jun-2022
TOTALS	\$1.15M		15.0	

Released under RTI - Draft

Outback Queensland

budget.qld.gov.au



Outback sheepdog - Getty

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

\$634.4M

on infrastructure

for productivity enhancing infrastructure and capital works estimated to support around

2,300 JOBS in this region.

\$334M

for the Royal Flying Doctor Service

including \$25.2 million in 2022-23 to secure a new 10-year deal with the Royal Flying Doctor Service, a Queensland Great, to ensure regional Queenslanders have access to aeromedical services.

\$495M

on health

for the North West, Central West and South West Hospital and Health Services.

\$24.4M

for social housing

to expand and improve social housing in Outback Queensland. Delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.

\$15.3M

on education

to maintain, improve and upgrade schools in Outback Queensland.

\$10.8M

for Works for Queensland

to support local councils to undertake job creating maintenance and minor infrastructure works.

Delivering for the Outback Queensland region



Building our Regions

\$51 million allocated to 74 projects for critical infrastructure in Outback Queensland supporting an estimated 283 jobs. This has leveraged further financial 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)



Works for Queensland

\$27 million provided to regional councils to undertake 90 maintenance and minor infrastructure projects in Outback Queensland.

(July 2021 to June 2024)



Drought Relief Assistance Scheme Funding

\$41.8 million in financial assistance provided to 1,371 Outback Queensland farms to help manage the adverse impacts of drought.

(March 2015 to April 2022)



Skilling Queenslanders for Work

\$8.1 million allocated to develop skills and provide training to 711 people in Outback Queensland, including 414 people who have now been employed.

(July 2015 to April 2022)

Delivering better services in Outback Queensland

Growth from March 2015 to March 2022



84 extra nurses
up **14.1%**



39 extra teachers
up **5.6%**



38 extra doctors
up **56.3%**



21 extra firefighters
up **95.9%**



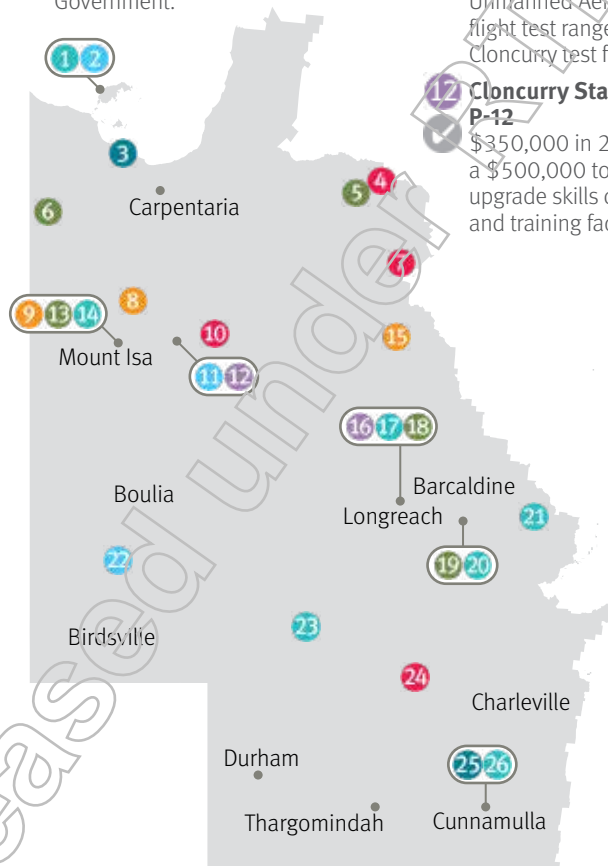
Outback Queensland

- 1 Mornington Island Hospital**
\$500,000 in 2022-23 out of a \$1.4 million total spend for the replacement and refurbishment of the water treatment plant and equipment servicing the Mornington Island Health Centre.
- 2 W4Q 2021-24 Mornington Shire Council**
\$564,000 in 2022-23 out of a \$1.4 million total spend to support Mornington Shire Council to undertake job-creating maintenance and minor infrastructure works. Part of the 2021-24 Works for Queensland program.
- 3 Burketown replacement police facility**
\$966,000 in 2022-23 out of a \$2 million total spend to complete the replacement police facility at Burketown.
- 4 Gulf Developmental Road (Georgetown - Mount Garnet) (Package 1), strengthen and widen pavement**
\$7.3 million in 2022-23 out of a \$12.3 million total spend towards a program of pavement strengthening and widening on the Gulf Developmental Road between Georgetown and Mount Garnet. Part of the Roads of Strategic Importance initiative, delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.
- 5 Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program**
\$658,000 in 2022-23 to protect environmental and Indigenous cultural heritage values in Georgetown. Part of the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program, providing \$21 million statewide in 2022-23.

- 6 Boodjamulla National Park infrastructure upgrades**
\$585,000 in 2022-23 out of a \$1.5 million total spend to upgrade roads, fences and water supply at Boodjamulla National Park.
- 7 Kennedy Developmental Road (The Lynd - Hughenden), progressive sealing**
\$13.4 million in 2022-23 out of a \$50 million total spend towards progressive sealing of priority sections of the Kennedy Developmental Road between The Lynd and Hughenden. Part of the Roads of Strategic Importance initiative, delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.

- 10 Flinders Highway (Julia Creek - Cloncurry), Scrubby Creek, strengthen pavement and widen floodway**
\$27.8 million in 2022-23 out of a \$42.7 million total spend towards strengthening pavement and widening floodway on Flinders Highway at Scrubby Creek. Part of the Roads of Strategic Importance initiative, delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.
- 11 Unmanned Aerial Systems flight test range**
\$1.4 million in 2022-23 out of a \$14.5 million total spend to deliver the Unmanned Aerial Systems flight test range at the Cloncurry test facility.

- 14 Mount Isa Hospital**
\$500,000 in 2022-23 out of a \$1.5 million total spend for the replacement and refurbishment of the water treatment plant and equipment servicing Mt Isa Hospital.
- 15 Hughenden Water Bank**
\$25.6 million to assist Flinders Shire Council with the Hughenden Water Bank project which includes a 7,000 megalitre off-stream water storage and distribution system, subject to a business case and matching Australian Government funding.
- 16 Longreach State High School**
\$2.4 million in 2022-23 out of a \$3.1 million total spend to upgrade skills development and training facilities.

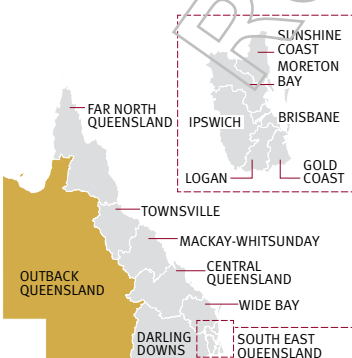


- 12 Cloncurry State School P-12**
\$350,000 in 2022-23 out of a \$500,000 total spend to upgrade skills development and training facilities.
- 17 Longreach Hospital**
\$500,000 in 2022-23 out of a \$4.8 million total spend for the rectification of structural issues, electrical and mechanical services, as well as the installation of new water tanks and a water treatment plant.
- 18 Outback Rail Adventure**
\$495,966 in 2022-23 out of a \$1.3 million total spend for construction of a storage shed and workshop for two heritage listed rail carriages. Initially operating between Ilfracombe & Longreach. Part of the Outback Tourism Infrastructure Fund.
- 19 The Globe Tourist Lookout - Barcaldine**
\$500,000 in 2022-23 out of a \$1.5 million total spend to construct a tourist lookout at the Globe Precinct, allowing visitors to experience the outback's beauty and vastness. Part of the Building our Regions program.

- 8 Fred Haigh pump station electro-mechanical overhaul**
\$3.8 million in 2022-23 out of a \$8 million total spend to continue renewal of high-voltage yard and electro-mechanical equipment in Fred Haigh pump station.
- 9 Lake Moondarra Deep Well pump station pumps renewal**
\$320,000 in 2022-23 out of a \$900,000 total spend to renew the old pump sets and improve reliability and efficiency of the deep well pump station.

- 13 Mount Isa Family Fun Precinct redevelopment - Stage 2**
\$1.3 million in 2022-23 out of a \$3.8 million total spend to redevelop the Mount Isa Family Fun Precinct to increase usability, functionality and appeal of the multi-use recreational venue.

- 20 Barcaldine Hospital**
\$3.2 million total spend for the repair and replacement of structural piers under the building, structural flooring, and water treatment plant and equipment.
- 21 Alpha Hospital and Multipurpose Health Service**
\$747,532 in 2022-23 out of a \$765,684 total spend for the delivery of a 50kW solar system funded from the Emissions Reduction Program.



22 W4Q 2021-24 Diamantina Shire Council

\$410,666 in 2022-23 out of a \$1 million total spend to support Diamantina Shire Council to undertake job-creating maintenance and minor infrastructure works. Part of the 2021-24 Works for Queensland program.

23 Windorah Primary Health Centre

\$7.9 million in 2022-23 out of a \$12.4 million total spend for the construction of a modular primary health care centre to improve patient flow, model of care, security, storage and service delivery.

24 Quilpie - Advale Road, various locations, upgrade seal and floodways

\$1.3 million in 2022-23 out of a \$6.8 million total spend towards upgrading the road sealing and floodways. Part of the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme funded by the Queensland Government.

25 Cunnamulla replacement police facility

\$550,000 in 2022-23 out of a \$13 million total spend to continue the replacement police facility at Cunnamulla.

26 Cunnamulla Hospital

\$2.2 million in 2022-23 out of a \$4.8 million total spend for the reconfiguration of the inpatient ward, an extension of aged care facilities, and upgrades of high voltage and air conditioning systems.










27 Digitally Connected Regions

\$31 million in 2022-23 out of a \$31.6 million total spend for improvements in regional and remote internet and mobile services. Part of the Regional Connectivity Program, delivered in partnership with the Australian Government, local government and the private sector.

28 Disaster recovery and reconstruction

\$221.8 million in 2022-23 for delivery of recovery and betterment projects to local government assets impacted by disaster events between 2019 and 2022 in Outback Queensland. Part of the joint State/Australian Government Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

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

29 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*.

30 Homelessness services

\$5.9 million in 2022-23 to deliver specialist homelessness services.

31 Network replacement and enhancements - Outback Queensland

\$84.7 million in 2022-23 to undertake replacements and enhancements on the network.

32 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 improvements at Normanton Hospital.

33 Skilling Queenslanders for Work

\$1.5 million in 2022-23 to fund more training opportunities and increase workforce participation.

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

Game-changing energy supply to power up North West

The Queensland Government has provided \$16 million to the Copperstring 2.0 project to help deliver highly reliable and affordable energy in Queensland's North West to unlock new mining opportunities and create regional jobs.

Copperstring 2.0 is a proposed 1,000km high-voltage network line that will connect the communities and businesses of Mount Isa, Cloncurry and the North West Minerals Province to the National Electricity Grid. Following recent community consultation, the government is considering options to further support the North West, including the Copperstring 2.0 project.

This is a game-changing, open access infrastructure that will power the growth of new opportunities in mining for new economy minerals, industrial manufacturing, and major hydrogen and renewable energy projects. It will unlock the massive potential of the North West Minerals Province, generating billions of dollars in increased revenues for Queensland and Australia.



Courtesy of Powerlink



Cunnamulla in South West Queensland

Historic Native Title for Kunja People

An historic Native Title determination will help the Kunja People of South West Queensland connect younger generations to Country. Traditional Custodian Stephen Howarth said the determination, made on country at Cunnamulla in late March 2022, would ensure his people's culture and language continues to be passed down for generations.

"There are some First Nations languages and cultures that aren't lost, they're just asleep – and for us, this is an awakening. By recognising the Kunja People as the traditional custodians of the land, our language, identity and culture will be awoken in our young people," Mr Howarth said.

Native title is now recognised in more than 30 per cent of our state, as the Queensland Government continues to work alongside Indigenous Queenslanders to recognise their Native Title rights.

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

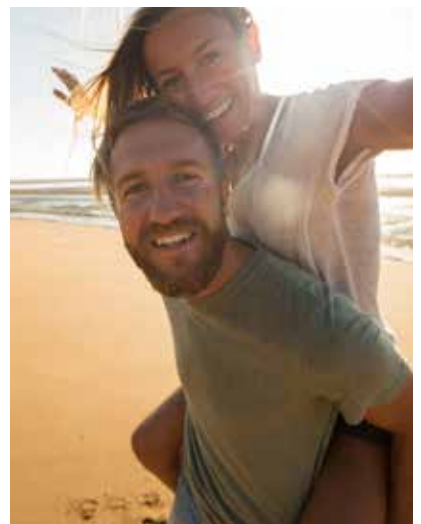
Deliver even better services right across Queensland

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.



Barcaldine Renewable Energy Zone

Recommended response

- The Barcaldine Renewable Energy Zone (BREZ) is a proposed industrial zone in Barcaldine which will be linked to a large scale, renewable energy project to provide tenants with cheap, low carbon electricity.
- The Department of State Development Infrastructure Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP) is currently assessing the application to the Industry Partnership Program (IPP) for the initial foundation stage of the BREZ.
- In addition to the IPP application, DSDILGP is facilitating meetings with the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (DRDMW) and the Department of Energy and Public Works (DEPW) to assist with specific challenges identified in developing the project.

Key Facts

- The BREZ project is proposed by Sunshot Industries Pty Ltd.
- Sunshot Industries has informed DSDILGP there are 10 companies that have indicated an interest in establishing in the BREZ. This includes commercial scale zero emissions production of ammonia and urea, as well as hosting intensive protected horticulture and several other manufacturing activities.
- It estimates that, if all companies, most of which are currently based in other states, were to establish at the site, the capital investment would be \$883M, which would create more than 1,000 full-time equivalent jobs during construction and approximately 500 operational jobs.
- Following a meeting between Professor Garnaut, Chairman of Sunshot Industries and the Hon Dr Steven Miles MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Local Government and Planning on 29 March 2021, Sunshot Industries wrote to the Deputy Premier on 1 April 2021 Exempt Sch 3(8)(1) Breach of Confidence establishment of the industrial precinct.
- The Queensland Government determined it was too early to commit funding to the project but has committed to working with Sunshot Industries and its partners to facilitate approvals for the project.

- Sunshot Industries has raised some concerns at the length of time that the assessment has taken. The application has now advanced in its assessment.
- The Queensland Government is assisting Sunshot Industries to progress approvals for the BREZ project. Most matters have been successfully addressed although discussions on the Transmission Use of System (TUOS) and Distribution Use of System (DUOS) charges is continuing between Sunshot Industries and DEPW.
- A decision on TUOS and DUOS charges will not delay the establishment of BREZ but could impact some of the companies that want to establish in the precinct that are more energy intensive (such as the proposed urea plant).
- Barcaldine Regional Council (BRC) has agreed to commit \$1M towards the project. The contract for this has yet to be signed and is pending other funding being secured for the project.

Background

Exempt Sch 3(8)(1) Breach of Confidence

- The Deputy Premier has met with Professor Garnaut a number of times to discuss this project. The First meeting was on 29 March 2021 with subsequent meetings occurring through 2021 and the most recent meeting on 8 March 2022.
- On 26 May 2021, DSDILGP hosted a meeting between Sunshot Industries and regulatory agencies to discuss approvals likely to be required for this project

Exempt Sch 3(8)(1) Breach of Confidence

- BRC agreed to partner with Sunshot Industries to develop this project in December 2021.
- Sunshot Industries lodged the development application for the site with BRC in May 2022 and this is currently under consideration.

Drought Assistance and Water Supply

Recommended response

Drought

- Barcaldine has been fully drought declared since 1 January 2014.
- Over the past 12 months, most of the Outback Queensland region, except Far Northern Queensland, has received between average to above average rainfall.
- Over the past three months, parts of Barcaldine have received below average rainfall.

Water Supply

- Limitations are currently in place for new entitlements from the Great Artesian Basin in the Barcaldine area to protect Great Artesian Basin Springs.
- The Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (DRDMW) will continue to investigate options for additional water needed, such as relocating existing entitlements or creating water savings by capping and piping uncontrolled artesian bores in the area.

Key facts

Drought

- As at May 2022, 44.9 per cent of Queensland is drought declared.
- The Queensland Government has committed to maintaining existing drought assistance programs for the duration of the current drought, while transitioning to new programs to better support primary producer drought preparedness.
- Primary producers in the Barcaldine region have received just over \$8.56M through 1,705 claims under the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS). DRAS provides a rebate on the movement of fodder and water in the grazing industry and a rebate on Emergency Water Infrastructure.

Water Supply

- Barcaldine Regional Council (BRC) is one of the seven member Councils of the Remote Area Planning and Development (RAPAD) Water and Sewage Alliance, which receive funding via the Queensland Regional Alliances Program (QWRAP).

- Past decisions by BRC resulting in projects with inefficient water use (such as the recreational lake), has placed some pressure on water supply for the town.
- BRC is in the process of upgrading its sewage treatment plant in Barcaldine to provide treated water to parks, gardens and sporting facilities.
- Proposed developments in the area such as the Barcaldine Renewal Energy Zone, which features a large-scale solar farm and biosteam turbine generator, and associated population increase will require additional water in the future.
- New entitlements in the Barcaldine area from the Great Artesian Basin are severely limited by the proximity of the vulnerable Great Artesian Basin Springs.
- BRC and proponents of nearby developments have been in discussion with DRDMW about future water supply options.
- DRDMW has advised BRC and other project proponents to seek opportunities to relocate existing water entitlements, or to gain entitlements through saving water by capping and piping uncontrolled artesian bores in the area.

CTPI - Sch 4, Part 3, factor 20

Achievements

- The Government has commenced a new drought and drought preparedness package to better support being prepared for future droughts. This package includes:
 - Drought Preparedness Grants of up to \$50,000 to support on-farm capital infrastructure for drought preparedness;

- Farm Management Grants of up to \$2,500 for professional advice to support the development of individual farm resilience plans; and
- three concessional loan products to support primary producers during drought or to support their recovery from drought.
- These products are being administered by the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority.

Background

Water Supply

- Barcaldine Regional Council (BRC) provides drinking water for a population of 2,259, across its five drinking water schemes: Aramac, Alpha, Barcaldine, Muttaborra and Jericho.
- Muttaborra, Aramac and Barcaldine drinking water is sourced from deep, artesian bores, and do not receive any form of treatment or disinfection; Alpha and Jericho drinking water is sourced from shallow bores and has conventional treatment and disinfection. This removes aesthetic (taste) issues, with chlorine providing a barrier against pathogens.
- These supplies are drought-resilient and there are no specific water quality concerns.
- Outback Queensland areas share similar challenges: staff turnover and difficulty filling vacancies; historically poor record keeping; and ageing infrastructure, particularly pipes.

Released under the DPIS Act

Health Overview – Central West Hospital and Health Services

Recommended response

- All data as at 4 July 2022.

Covid-19 and Influenza cases

- Across Queensland:
 - 1,316,745 recorded cases of Covid-19, of which 34,054 were active cases and 1,281 people had died; and
 - 33,047 cases of influenza were recorded, of which 2,747 were active cases and 39 people had died.
- Across the Central West Hospital and Health Service (HHS) there were:
 - 408 recorded cases of Covid-19, of which there were 31 active cases; and
 - 86 cases of influenza were recorded, of which 17 were active cases.
- Central West HHS was managing:
 - one in-patient with Covid-19 – (not in ICU);
 - 43 people with Covid-19 at home; and
 - no cases of influenza.

Vaccinations – Percentage of Queensland population vaccinated

	At least 1 dose	2 doses	booster
16 yrs & over	94.23%	92.68%	63.46%
12-15 yrs	93.11%	91.34%	
5-11 yrs	43.06%	31.42%	

Influenza Vaccinations – vaccine doses reported to Australian Immunisation Register

Under 5 years	67,046
5-64 Years	1,198,178
65+ years	652,822
Total	1,918,046

Staff impacts

- Central West HHS had:
 - 7 staff registered as being Covid-19 positive who are isolated; and
 - 1 close contact who is working (including WFH).

Key facts

- The 2022-23 Central West Hospital and Health Service (HHS) budget is **\$93.6M in operational funding**.
- Currently Central West HHS has a **staff head count** of approximately **451**.
- Since 2015, within Central West HHS, my Government has hired:
 - 8.86 FTEs more doctors;
 - 22.09 FTEs more Nurses and Midwives; and
 - 21.66 FTEs more Allied Health Professionals.

Central West HHS Infrastructure projects

- The Queensland Government is working hard to provide infrastructure that facilitates high level healthcare services in the Central West region.
- Since 2017, **\$35.37M** has been expended on major infrastructure work completed at 5 facilities within Central West HHS, including **\$4.22M** for **Aramac Primary Healthcare Centre, delivered in March 2018**, and **\$0.83M** for the **Barcaldine Hospital Multi-purpose Health Service Water Treatment**, which reached practical completion on **30 June 2022**.
- Central West HHS also has **8 projects worth \$22.57M** in the delivery phase, including four projects in the Barcaldine Regional Council area:

Facility	Budget	Project	Exp delivery date	Jobs
Barcaldine Hospital	\$2.4M	Replacing corridor flooring	Dec-2022	7
Aramac Hospital	\$0.6M	Demolition of old hospital	TBC	2
Alpha Hospital	\$0.6M	Demolition of old hospital	TBC	2

Alpha Multi-Purpose Health Service	\$0.1M	Solar project – install a 50kw system	TBC	-
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- There is also one planned \$0.35M project at Longreach Hospital, one of the locations across regional and rural Queensland, to establish renal dialysis treatment spaces. The funding is for schematic design, detail design and to prepare tender documentation, which is due to be released 1 July 2022. Project construction will likely start late September 2022 and be finalised in the first half of 2023.

Waiting Lists

- *Elective Surgery Waiting Lists* – between 1 June 2020 and 31 May 2022, 581 patients were added to the elective surgery wait list, with:
 - the ready for surgery wait list increasing from 67 to 121 – an increase of 46; and
 - the ready for surgery long wait list increasing from 4 to 12 – an increase of eight.
- *GIE Procedures Waiting Lists* -- between 1 June 2020 and 31 May 2022, 554 patients were added to the GIE wait list, with:
 - the ready for GIE care wait list increasing from 51 to 67 – an increase of 16; and
 - the ready for GIE care long wait list increasing from 2 to 12 – an increase of 10.
- Central West HHS is not in scope for specialist outpatients department key performance indicators.

Achievements

- The State Government funded \$7.9M for Longreach Hospital's medical imaging and mechanical services upgrade. The project which included a new medical imaging unit for new CT scanner equipment, a new maternity unit and a new day surgery unit and upgrades to the emergency department, nurse call, medical gas and air-conditioning systems with the project completed in November 2018.

LNP

-

Housing – Outback Queensland

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.
- In the **Outback Queensland Region**, under the **QuickStarts Qld** program, we will commence **98 new social homes** by 30 June 2025, with a planned investment of **\$45.3M** over four years, **supporting more than 141 jobs**.
- More broadly, the Queensland 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 Outback Queensland region, 53 dwellings have been constructed. None are in the Barcaldine Regional Council (BRC) area.
- As at 31 May 2022, under QuickStarts Qld, contracts have been awarded for the commencement of **8** new dwellings in the Outback region. None are in the BRC area.

Housing Investment

- This budget's \$2.9 billion total housing investment is the largest concentrated investment in social housing in Queensland's history.
- The Queensland Government launched a bold new housing action plan backed by a \$1.9 billion investment over four years and the establishment of a \$1 billion *Housing Investment Fund* (HIF) to boost housing supply and increase housing and homelessness support across Queensland.
- This investment, through the Palaszczuk Government's *Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025* (the Action Plan) 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

- The *Queensland Housing Investment Growth Initiative* (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;
 - **727 new social housing homes are targeted to commence** under QuickStarts Qld by the end of June 2022
 - the Request for Detailed Proposal process for QuickStarts Qld closed on 21 January 2022 and evaluation of proposals are underway, with priority given to spot purchases and 2021-22 commencements;
 - **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 being to engage 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, and this will commence in the coming months.
 - 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 Queensland 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 2019-2023 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 has been 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.

Specialist Homelessness Services

- In 2021-22, the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy allocated \$1.4M in homelessness funding to Anglicare Central Queensland Limited to deliver its Homelessness Service to adults and families in several geographical catchment areas across central Queensland, including Barcaldine.

Lake Eyre Basin Future Management

Recommended response

- At the last state election, the Queensland Government committed to work with stakeholders to ensure adequate protection of the streams and watercourses of the Queensland section of the Lake Eyre Basin (LEB), while also supporting sustainable economic development.
- On 24 November 2021, the LEB Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG), was formally established. The SAG has met four times to date including a face-to-face meeting in Longreach on 5 May 2022.
- The fifth and final meeting is proposed for 12 July 2022 in Brisbane.
- Chaired by former Natural Resources Minister Stephen Robertson, SAG members represent First Nations, community, local government, environment, resources, agriculture, and scientific interests.
- The SAG is providing advice and assistance to government in the preparation of a consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS).
- The RIS is intended to outline potential spatial and regulatory options for protecting the rivers and floodplains of the Queensland LEB, and to foreshadow how the longer-term sustainable management of the Queensland LEB region can be delivered.

Key Facts

- GEC 2071 – Establish a Lake Eyre Basin (Qld) Stakeholder Advisory Group including Traditional Owners, industry bodies, environment groups, local government, scientific experts and government departments to inform the development of a consultation RIS for the proposed LEB Framework.
- The Department of Environment and Science (DES) is providing funds to support the administration of the LEB Traditional Owners Alliance, to ensure First Nations consultation and input into the work.
- Several SAG members, DES senior management and representatives from Santos attended a field trip on 30 June to visit the Ballera Gas Centre (Cooper Basin) and nearby activities (well heads, infrastructure etc).

Achievements

- Substantial engagement with the array of stakeholders with interests in the Queensland LEB region, including resource sector representatives, and Traditional Custodians.

Background

- The convening of the LEB SAG represents the achievement of one election commitment milestone and allowed for completing a second election commitment milestone to formally release two key independent scientific reports related to the Lake Eyre Basin.
- The SAG's final meeting on 12 July 2022 aims to establish final positions and advice to Government.
- Ongoing media stories have sustained public interest and Ministerial correspondence on the granting of 11 new petroleum leases to Origin in sensitive ecological and cultural areas within the Lake Eyre Basin by the Department of Resources under the *Petroleum Act 1923*.
- All of these Origin petroleum leases are located within or intersect the Channel Country Strategic Environmental Area under the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014*, and DES is examining intersection with Native Title claimed or determined areas. DES has yet to receive any application for environmental authorities for these leases.
- During the May SAG meeting, Longreach local ABC news interviewed the Chair and other members. The meeting was mentioned on 7.30 ABC radio (Western Qld) news, Longreach "Exploration, Channel country and Lake Eyre Basin" on 5 May, and an article appeared in the *Longreach Leader*.

Released under RTI/IGL

Natural disaster support and preparedness in Barcaldine

Recommended response

- The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring the recovery of all communities impacted by natural disasters.
- Since 2011, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) has provided approximately \$88.5M in disaster recovery and resilience funding in the Barcaldine region in response to 11 natural disasters, including the 2011 Queensland Floods and annual monsoonal flooding each year except for 2015 and 2017.

Key Facts

- Barcaldine Regional Council (BRC) has recently been activated for joint State-Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) assistance in response to floods associated with the Northern and Central Western Queensland Rainfall and Flooding event 21 – 28 April 2022 event.
- The DRFA assistance is for Counter Disaster Operations and the Restoration of Essential Public Assets.
- QRA is working closely with BRC to provide engineering advice, determine an estimate of damage (currently at approximately \$10M) and prepare funding submissions.
- Prior to the current disaster, BRC was activated for DRFA assistance for the Queensland Monsoonal Flooding, 23 January - 3 February 2020 event, which is currently in delivery.
- BRC's program of DRFA funded works is estimated at approximately \$16.5M and is due for completion by 30 June 2024.

Achievements

- BRC has recently completed an \$18.2M program of restoration works in response to the following events:
 - *Western Queensland Thunderstorms, 21 - 30 December 2020*
 - *Severe Tropical Cyclone Trevor and associated low pressure system, 19-27 March 2019*
- Prior to the introduction of the DRFA in November 2018, BRC was activated for NDRRA assistance following natural disasters in 2011,

2012, 2013, 2014, 2016 and 2018, with the combined estimate of public infrastructure damage from these events approximately \$42M.

- These works are complete and were jointly funded by the Commonwealth and State under the NDRRA.
- Since 2017, QRA has approved approximately \$262,000 in resilience funding for BRC projects through programs including:
 - \$42,000 – Get Ready Queensland
 - \$120,000 – 2018 Natural Disaster Resilience Program - Installation of flood monitoring stations and cameras at key locations identified in the BRC Flood Gauge Network Investment Plan
 - \$100,000 – 2021-22 Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund – Installation of additional flood monitoring cameras.

Background

- The eligibility guidelines for reconstruction projects under DRFA and NDRRA are set by the Commonwealth and administered by the QRA.
- Under the Commonwealth's Determination (S4.3), it is a requirement that the State must work with the Commonwealth on all announcements in relation to DRFA/NDRRA funding.

Released under RTI/FOI

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) – Thin Markets

Recommended response

- Participants in some outback Queensland regions are only spending approximately half of the funds in their NDIS plans. This issue is likely a result of NDIS markets not responding as expected in some regional and remote areas.
- Remote Queensland regions continue to experience a shortage of NDIS providers/disability support services.
- Inadequate service provision may impact participation in the scheme, with Blackall-Tambo and Longreach regions not reaching expected participation rates.
- The Barcaldine Regional Council (BRC) registered as an NDIS provider in 2018 and is increasing its service provision footprint supporting 66 participants in 10 Local Government areas in 2021–22. Almost 91 per cent of the participants are in Barcaldine, Barcoo, Blackall-Tambo, Boulia, Longreach and Winton.
- BRC provides a range of services including assisting people with coordination of their supports, daily activities, social community and civic participation, and developing skills to be more independent in their daily activities and decision making.

Key Facts

- The Queensland Government invests over \$2 billion in the NDIS annually.
- This investment directly contributes to better outcomes for people with disability in Queensland.
- At 31 March 2022, there were 107,635 Queensland NDIS participants, including 64,304 people receiving funded disability supports for the first time.
- There is \$7.545 billion in annualised supports in the plans of Queensland participants.
- On average, Queensland NDIS participants are using only 78 per cent of the funding in their plans.
- This means people with disability aren't receiving all of the supports and services that they could and should be.

- Utilisation rates vary across Queensland and are particularly low in remote and very remote areas – 66 per cent and 57 per cent on average respectively. There is significant opportunity for market growth especially in remote areas.

Achievements

- The Queensland Productivity Commission (QPC) reviewed the Queensland NDIS market and the Queensland Government published the final report and response to the recommendations on 29 October 2021.
- As part of the Queensland Government's response to the QPC Inquiry, the government has committed to work with the Commonwealth Government and the National Disability Insurance Agency through existing governance arrangements.

Background

- The National Disability Insurance Agency is currently implementing market interventions in thin market areas in Queensland and is having some success in improving participant access to supports.
- Outback Queensland regions have not been included in the thin market interventions to date.
- The Hon Craig Crawford MP, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships recently discussed thin market concerns with Senator the Honourable Bill Shorten, federal Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme and Minister for Government Services.

Released Under RTID580

Policing and Youth Crime

POLICE NUMBERS

- **Capricornia Police District has 606 permanent positions, up 24 since 2015.**
- In 2022-23, the Queensland Government is delivering a record police budget that means for the first time ever more than \$3 billion will be invested in better policing services in Queensland.
- This record and historic investment in better services is delivering 2025 extra police personnel over five years (from 1 July 2020), a major investment pipeline of new and upgraded infrastructure, and new high-tech equipment to support a modern world class police service.
- The record 2022-23 police budget will progress new and upgraded police facilities at Aurukun, Burketown, Cairns, Cairns West, Caloundra South, Clermont, Cooroy, Cunnamulla, Dalby, Dayboro, Hervey Bay, Kirwan, Longreach, Mackay, Maryborough, Palm Island, Proserpine, Rainbow Beach, Ripley, Rosewood, Warwick, Winton and Woree, as well as new police accommodation at Mount Isa.
- 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 Capricornia Police District **increased by 3,423 offences or 16 per cent** compared with the same time period the previous year.
- From 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022, compared with the previous year, the rate of:
 - Offences Against the Person **increased by 1,328 or 65 per cent;**
 - Offences Against Property **increased by 1,636 or 24 per cent;** and
 - Other Offences **increased by 459 offences or 3 per cent.**

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.
- For noting, compared to 2019-20, data for 2020-21 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).
- For the year ending 31 December 2021 compared to the year ending 30 September 2019, there has been:
 - a **12.5 per cent decrease** in the **number of proven offences** committed in Barcaldine by 10-17-year-olds; and
 - a **150 per cent increase** in the number of distinct 10-17-year old offenders, with at least one proven offence committed in Barcaldine.

[Caution should be exercised with these numbers, as small numbers are involved which exaggerates the percentage difference]

- **For the year ending 31 December 2021, there were 2 restorative justice conferences held in Barcaldine.**

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Negotiations continue with Barcaldine Regional Council to purchase the existing Council chambers for use as a replacement police facility in Barcaldine.

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.
- Wasted millions of dollars on a failed boot camp experiment to breed fitter, faster criminals.
 - 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.**

Background

- As of 1 July 2021, the Capricornia Police District had the following increase due to the Service Realignment Program:
 - The Longreach Patrol Group comprises of the Divisions of; Longreach, Winton, Muttaborra, Aramac, Barcaldine, Blackall, Isisford, Ilfracombe, Yarka, Jundah, Alpha, Jericho and Windorah inclusive of Tambo Division from Charleville Patrol Group and was realigned into Capricornia District from South West District.

Released under RTI/OPIC

Regional Regulated Electricity Prices

Recommended response

- 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 Government has increased this assistance for households from \$50 to \$175 in response to the extra cost-of-living pressures many Queenslanders are facing.
- To support Queenslanders during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government has delivered targeted bill relief through a \$500M utility relief package providing direct financial assistance to households and small businesses.
- The 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.

Key Facts

- 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.
- Since 2018, the 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.

Road and Transport Upgrades – Barcaldine

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 **\$634.4M for infrastructure, supporting 2,300 jobs** in Outback Queensland.
- The *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP) 2022–23 to 2025–26* outlines \$425.9M in works for the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (DTMR) Central West District, estimated to support an average of 470 direct jobs over the life of the program.

Key facts

- As part of QTRIP, significant achievements are being realised in the Barcaldine area including:
 - widening another 40 per cent of the Barcaldine–Aramac Road via five projects totalling \$22M. When completed in late 2022, more than 70 per cent of the entire road will be widened to eight metres;
 - widening three high priority sections of the Capricorn Highway between Emerald and Alpha as part of a \$9.65M project, with completion expected in late 2022; and
 - progressing planning for three additional projects on the Capricorn Highway between Emerald and Alpha totalling \$139.57M to further improve efficiency on this key freight route.
- These works are increasing the safety and reliability of the state-controlled road network, while also reducing travel times and improving links to key markets and essential services.
- These projects provide a reliable program of works for Barcaldine Regional Council (BRC) road crews.
- Recent completed projects include:
 - **\$5.665M** for the Barcaldine-Aramac Road, rehabilitate pavement – fully funded by the Queensland Government (QG) – completed in November 2021; and

- **\$5.25M** for the Barcaldine-Aramac Road widening - jointly funded as part of the Road Safety Program Tranche 2 (\$4.2M Australian Government (AG); \$1.05M QG) – completed December 2021.
- Projects underway include:
 - **\$5.1M Barcaldine-Aramac Road widen narrow seal** – jointly funded by AG (\$4.08M) and QG (\$1.02M) under Tranche 3 of the Road Safety Program. Construction started late April 2022 with completion expected by late 2022.
 - **\$9.65M Capricorn Highway (Emerald – Alpha) widen pavement** – fully funded by the QG – construction expected to be completed late-2022.
- Three of five projects being delivered by Barcaldine Regional Council (BRC) to widen about 26 kilometres, or almost 40 per cent, of Barcaldine-Aramac Road to a width of eight metres, are complete. One is underway and the remainder under planning:
 - \$1.255M to widen about 2.5 kilometres of the road. Fully funded by the QG under its Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme. Construction is expected to start mid-2022 with completion late 2022.
- In addition to these projects, the 2022-23 Federal Budget (delivered March 2022) committed a further \$112.5M to the 'Outback Way – Queensland Future Priorities'. This funding is in addition to the \$33.5M identified in the current *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program*.
- The 2022-23 Federal Budget committed \$111.7M AG funding for three projects to strengthen and widen various sections of the Capricorn Highway between Emerald and Alpha:
 - Mount Isa to Rockhampton Corridor Upgrade – Capricorn Highway – Pavement Strengthening and Widening (Package 1) – \$60M;
 - Mount Isa to Rockhampton Corridor Upgrade – Capricorn Highway – Pavement Strengthening and Widening (Package 2) – \$36M; and
 - Mount Isa to Rockhampton Corridor Upgrade – Capricorn Highway – Pavement Strengthening and Widening (Package 3) – \$15.7M.
- The projects will improve the safety and efficiency of this key freight route, connecting agricultural and mining regions to ports, airports and other transport hubs while better connecting regional communities.

- DTMR is progressing planning and scoping works to deliver these projects.

Achievements

- A \$22M upgrade of the Barcaldine–Aramac Road is well-advanced with works widening another 40 per cent of the road to a width of eight metres. Completion is expected in late 2022, at which time more than 70 per cent of the entire road will be eight metres wide.
- Construction is also progressing on a \$9.65M project to widen high priority sections of the Capricorn Highway east of Alpha, with completion expected in late 2022.
- To further support safety and capacity improvements along the Capricorn Highway between Emerald and Alpha, DTMR is progressing planning and scoping works for three projects totalling \$139.57M to widen additional high priority sections.
- Together, these achievements are supporting liveable and prosperous rural communities by providing a safer, more reliable and efficient road network capable of facilitating long-term economic opportunities and growth.

LNP

- The LNP cut \$600M from Queensland's road budget.
- Sacked 20 per cent Main Roads staff, including 700 RoadTek road builders and cut long-term planning for roads.

Background

- The Barcaldine–Aramac Road is 68 kilometres long and has the highest, non-highway traffic volumes in DTMR's Central West District. It is a key commuter route between the two towns and secures access via the Flinders Highway to Townsville and beyond, providing an important link for the agriculture and tourism industries.
- The Capricorn Highway is 575 kilometres long and is the principal east-west freight corridor connecting the Bruce Highway in the east with the Landsborough Highway in the west, supporting general freight, agriculture, and resource sector traffic. The highway links Rockhampton with Barcaldine, traversing three local government areas including Rockhampton Regional Council, Central Highlands Regional Council and BRC.

Schools – Overview

Recommended response

- In 2022-23, we are investing **\$15.3M on education** to maintain, improve and upgrade schools in Outback Queensland.
- 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 5 schools in the Barcaldine Regional Council (BRC) area:**
 - major infrastructure work carried out at **3 schools totalling almost \$1.1M;**
 - **all schools have air conditioning and solar panels.**
- On 19 April 2022, the Government announced that 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 no new schools planned for this region.

Major infrastructure work

- Almost \$1.1M worth of major infrastructure work carried out at 3 schools in the Barcaldine Regional Council area over the past 4 years.

Schools	Budget (GST excl)	Project
Alpha State School	\$347,794	covered learning area – completed in 2017
	\$254,711	replace amenities on oval – completed June 2018
	\$59,002	replace Block B external stairs – completed June 2018
Barcaldine Prep-12 State School	\$393,306	SIE program refurbish special education rooms – completed 2020
Jericho State School	\$20,293	Disability access upgrade – completed November 2021

Note: SIE program – School Infrastructure Enhancement program

Air conditioning and solar panels

- All schools within BRC are air conditioned and have 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 CSP.

Air Conditioning and Solar Panels in Schools – Barcaldine Regional Council area

All schools in BRC are in the state electorate of Gregory

LGA	School Facility	<i>Air Conditioning</i>	Solar Panels
			ACES program
BRC	Alpha State School	installed – under CSP	installed
BRC	Aramac State School	installed – under CSP	installed
BRC	Barcaldine Prep-12 State School	installed – under CSP	completed phase 2: 119kW, 360 panels
BRC	Jericho State School	installed – under CSP	installed
BRC	Muttaburra State School	installed – under CSP	installed

Released under RTI

The Palace

Recommended response

- The Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DSDSATSIP) is committed to working with the community to ensure The Palace, a designated area recorded on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register is protected and appropriately managed.
- It is important to ensure that any actions the Queensland Government undertakes in the management of The Palace is supported by Traditional Owners.

Key Facts

- The Palace (formerly known as Black's Palace) is one of Queensland's most spectacular Aboriginal cultural heritage treasures. It is a highly significant art site and burial ground located in the Sandstone Belt of Central Western Queensland, within the Barcaldine Local Government Area.
- DSDSATSIP is the Trustee of The Palace.
- The maintenance and future use of the site for cultural tourism was raised for discussion by Traditional Owners at the Regional Forums held in Western Queensland on 20 and 21 June 2021.
- \$90,000 has been allocated to develop a cultural heritage management plan for The Palace.
- DSDSATSIP officers met with Aboriginal stakeholders at a community meeting held in Barcaldine in November 2021.
- Hazard reduction activities and assessment of future maintenance requirements were undertaken by community members during the week ending 24 December 2021.
- There is disagreement between Traditional Owner groups over the approach to manage The Palace.
- DSDSATSIP continues to encourage Traditional Owners to work together for the current and future management of The Palace.

Barcaldine Traditional Owner Information

- The Traditional Owners acknowledged in the Barcaldine area are the Iningai (Inin-gai) People.

Waratah Coal

Recommended response

Proposed Galilee Coal Mine

- Waratah Coal Pty Ltd's proposed Galilee Coal Mine is located approximately 29 kilometres north-west of Alpha in the Galilee Basin, within the Barcaldine Regional Council (BRC) local government area.
- In 2011, Waratah Coal Pty Ltd (a wholly owned subsidiary of Mineralogy International Limited), applied for an open-cut and underground thermal coal mine with a total run-of-mine coal extraction of 56 million tonnes per annum over an estimated mine life of 25 to 30 years.
- The Coordinator-General (CG) approved the project in 2013, the project went through an Environmental Impact Statement process and a draft environmental authority (EA) was issued in 2015.
- The draft EA and mining lease applications were publicly notified in 2019 and 2020 and objections were referred to the Land Court.
- The objections relate to impacts to Bimblebox Nature Refuge and impacts on the environment in general including that a decision to approve the project would not be compatible with human rights due to the project's contribution to climate change.
- In 2021, Waratah Coal proposed to revise its mine plan to remove open-cut mining on Bimblebox Nature Refuge to address concerns raised by the objectors.

Development Application – Galilee Power Station

- Late last year the Hon Dr Steven Miles MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure, issued a call in notice for Waratah Coal's development application for a 1400-megawatt coal fired power station at Alpha.
- Waratah Coal will be undertaking consultation on the application which will likely commence in early July 2022 for a period of 15 business days.
- I encourage interested parties to make a submission to the Planning Minister during the consultation period.

- The Planning Minister is responsible for making a decision on the application, and is required to take into consideration any submissions received.

Key Facts

Proposed Galilee Coal Mine

- The Land Court objections hearing took place over seven weeks, commencing with a site visit on 19 April 2022.
- During July 2022, the parties are scheduled to file written closing submissions and make oral closing submissions.
- The Land Court is expected to reserve its decision.

Development Application – Galilee Power Station

- On 7 February 2020, Waratah Coal lodged a development application to BRC for a 1400-megawatt coal fired power station at Monklands Road, Alpha.
- On 22 December 2021, the Planning Minister issued a call in notice for the development application.
- Consultation on the application will likely commence in early July 2022 for a period of 15 business days and include a notice published in *The Courier-Mail*, *Longreach Leader*, *The Bottom Rail* (Barcaldine) and the *Alpha Mail*. A sign will also be placed on the site.
- The statutory timeframe by which a decision on the application is required to be made is 10 October 2022, however, the Planning Minister can extend this period until 7 November 2022.
- The decision date could also be extended by further agreements and the applicant choosing to 'stop the current period'.

Background

Proposed Galilee Coal Mine

- In 2011, Waratah Coal Pty Ltd (a wholly owned subsidiary of Mineralogy International Limited), applied for an open-cut and underground thermal coal mine with a total run-of-mine coal extraction of 56 million tonnes per annum over an estimated mine life of 25 to 30 years.
- The CG approved the project in 2013, after which a draft EA was issued by the Department of Environment and Science (DES) in 2015.
- The draft EA and mining lease applications were publicly notified in 2019 and 2020 and objections were referred to the Land Court for an objections hearing on 22 April 2020.
- Objections to the EA relate to impacts to the Bimblebox Nature Refuge, the environment in general and that a decision to approve the project would not be compatible with human rights because of its contribution to climate change. This is the first matter where objections are based on human rights since the commencement of the *Human Rights Act 2019*.
- On 4 September 2020, the Land Court published its reasons for its decision that it has jurisdiction to consider the *Human Rights Act 2019*. The project will impact part of the Bimblebox Nature Refuge, which is located on a 7,900 hectare property known as 'Glen Innes'. The mostly uncleared property is used for cattle farming and was gazetted as a Nature Refuge under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (the NC Act) in 2003.
- The CG's approval requires Waratah Coal to deliver a land-based offset of at least the size and equivalent conservation value as the Bimblebox Nature Refuge that is suitable for declaration as a nature refuge under the NC Act.
- On 28 April 2021, Waratah Coal proposed to revise its mine plan, such that no open-cut mining (and only underground mining) methods are used in the area of the Bimblebox Nature Refuge.
- On 18 March 2022, the Land Court decided that:
 - it has the jurisdiction and the power to consider the revised mine plan as part of the objections hearing; and
 - that evidence from First Nations witnesses would be taken on-country because confining their evidence to written statements is an unreasonable and unjustifiable limit to their cultural rights under the *Human Rights Act 2019*.
- The hearing took place over seven weeks, commencing with a site visit (including to the Bimblebox Nature Refuge) on 19 April 2022. The hearing covered evidence taken on-country (in Cairns and the Torres Strait) and in the Land Court of Queensland, in Brisbane.
- During June 2022 and July 2022, the parties are scheduled to file written closing submissions and make oral closing submissions. DES' written submissions are required to be filed by 13 July 2022 and its oral closing submissions are scheduled for 21 July 2022. The Court is then expected to reserve its decision.
- Approval for the Project under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* was issued in 2013 and requires a water monitoring and management plan to be approved by the Minister for the Environment prior to commencement of the Project.
- The approved environmental impact statement for the project included the development of a rail line for transporting coal to the Port of Abbot Point for delivery to the export market. However, Waratah Coal is now considering other options to get the coal to port, including a coal slurry pipeline, to be powered by a new coal-fired power station and several pump stations.
- Waratah Coal is separately seeking approval for the Galilee Power Station, a 1,400 megawatt high efficiency low emissions coal-fired power station to be located adjacent to the coal mine.

Development Application – Galilee Power Station, Monklands Road, Alpha

- BRC was the assessment manager and the application is code assessable under the former Jericho Shire Council Planning Scheme.

- As the application is code assessable, there is no requirement for public notification and there are no third-party appeal rights.
- On 2 March 2020, the application was referred to the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) due to the proposed use being classed as an environmentally relevant activity and a hazardous chemical facility.
- The development application is also taken to be an application for an Environmental Authority (EA), which is being assessed concurrently by the Department of Environment and Science (DES).
- A total of 298 requests were received to call in the development application, including from Mr Michael Berkman MP, GetUp and the Environmental Defenders Office.
- On 9 November 2021, the Planning Minister issued a proposed call in notice for the application. This decision was made prior to SARA issuing a referral response of DES making a decision on the EA.
- During the representation period 197 representations were received and five representations after the end of the period on the proposed call in from Waratah Coal, BRC, Powerlink, Ergon Energy, community organisations and members of the public.
- On 22 December 2021, the Planning Minister issued a call in notice for the development application. The call in notice restarted the application at the start of the confirmation period in the application stage.
- On 27 January 2022, the Planning Minister issued an information request to Waratah Coal seeking additional information necessary to assess the application.
- On 24 February 2022, SARA issued an information request to Waratah Coal seeking additional information necessary to assess the application.
- On 27 June 2022, Waratah Coal provided a response to both information requests.
- In responding to the Minister's information request, the applicant also stopped the current period (decision period) in order to undertake public consultation on the application as required by the Minister.

Released under
Environmental Protection
Act 1987

Workforce Strategy 2022-23

Recommended response

- Retaining and recruiting suitably qualified employees is a key constraint on business growth in Barcaldine and surrounding areas, for both skilled and semi-skilled roles.
- Lack of local training opportunities adds to the difficulty in attracting and retaining a qualified workforce, and meeting skills gaps locally.
- The Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT) will deliver a Workforce Strategy in 2022-23 that will have a focus on supporting small businesses to access the workforce they need.
- DESBT has a strategic focus on skilling workers for emerging and growth industries. In addition, DESBT provides programs and training to address current and future skills needs, identify potential skills gaps, plan workforce development strategies and establish training pathways that meet the needs of industry and lead to positive outcomes for workers.

Key Facts

- Barcaldine is especially challenged due to the remote location and competing against more 'desirable' areas from a lifestyle perspective.
- Increasing costs e.g. supply chain, insurance, staffing costs, are also impacting on business.
- Business owners are reporting increasing impacts on the mental health of themselves and their employees. One driver of this is being understaffed, requiring remaining employees and business owners to work longer hours.
- On 30 April 2022, to support the mental well-being of business owners and their employees, the Queensland Government announced the Small Business Support and Wellness Package.

Achievements

- Small Business Support and Wellness Package includes:
 - \$6.75M to directly address the stresses and psychological support needed for small businesses.
 - six new wellness coaches to join with the Rural, Small Business and Tourism Financial Counsellors Network to provide independent, free, one-on-one support.

- access to a \$3M Small Business Support Service fund to assist small business owners in alleviating the stresses of their current situation, such as cashflow, financial planning, and minor works.
- a Small Business Smiles4Biz program to support a number of chambers of commerce to deliver local mental health programs for small businesses.
- a promotional campaign to raise awareness of the mental health, financial counselling and other support services for small businesses.
- Current programs available to support training and employment needs include:
 - Skilling Queenslanders for Work offers eight programs that deliver training to improve skills and employment opportunities. DESBT Regional Offices work closely with industry partners, community-based organisations and key stakeholders in the identification and delivery of targeted Skilling programs designed to meet the needs of regional training and employment priorities.
 - Certificate III Guarantee represents the entry-level skills pathway for most industries. The Certificate III Guarantee supports the recruitment of new employees by providing employers with access to a pool of skilled and work-ready individuals.
 - Back to Work program payments are available to hire an eligible unemployed job seeker from the identified target groups.
 - Workforce Participation Fund provides one-off grant funding of \$20,000 up to \$200,000 to develop partnerships with industry to build longevity and sustainability in the workforce by empowering industry and employers to support jobseekers from identified groups. While applications are currently closed, a future round of the fund may become available.

Background

Queensland Outback SA4 Labour Market as at 16 June 2022

- Unemployment rate 11.1 % (State-wide 4.0%)
- Youth employment 38.6 % (State-wide 10.1%)

Top 5 Industries (based on the count of small businesses in Barcaldine LGA)

- Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
- Construction
- Rental, Hiring and Real-estate Services

- Transport, postal and warehousing
- Retail Trade

Back to Work

- Total funding - \$0.4 million

Apprentice and Trainee Activity 21-22 period

- Currently in training (Apprentices and Trainees) – 51
- New Commencements (Apprentices and Trainees) – 23

Released under RTI - DPC

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 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 are now in place in the **Burdekin region for sugarcane and beef cattle grazing** and will commence for **bananas on 1 December 2022**. **Beef cattle grazing standards have also commenced in the Fitzroy.**
- 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.

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.
- Everyone meeting regulated minimum practice standards across the main commodity types is modelled to achieve around 80% of the target for dissolved inorganic nitrogen.
- The minimum practice standards are based on industry best practices, know-how and expertise as well as the best available water quality science as outlined by the 2017 Scientific Consensus Statement – Land use impacts on Great Barrier Reef water quality and ecosystem condition.
- Agricultural peak bodies, including AgForce, continue to publicly re-iterate their position of not supporting the regulatory approach to improving water quality.
- Under the minimum practice standards, the requirement to keep records of fertilisers applied commenced in December 2019 for graziers, sugar cane and banana growers.
- The minimum practice agricultural standards require that graziers implement measures to improve land condition for any grazing lands in poor or degraded condition to limit sediment and nutrient runoff.
- From 1 December 2021, sugarcane growers in the Burdekin region are required to have a farm nitrogen and phosphorus budget to calculate the amount of fertiliser they can apply prior to fertilising to prevent excess nutrient runoff harming the Great Barrier Reef.
- Small administrative updates to the minimum practice standards for banana, sugarcane and grazing that make the requirements easier to understand and comply with commenced on 18 March 2022 following a public consultation process.
- The updates allow accredited growers under recognised Best Management Practice programs, such as Smartcane BMP, to prepare their own farm nitrogen and phosphorous budgets.
- The new cropping and horticulture permit requirements do not apply to existing cropping land. This includes land that is currently under cropping or has a history of being cropped, meaning it has been cropped in at least three out of the last ten years.

- The permit requirements for new cropping and horticulture do not duplicate the minimum practice standards for sugarcane and bananas. The permit focuses on the design and set-up of a farm prior to cropping and the minimum practice standards on the ongoing farm operation.
- New standards also commenced on 1 June 2021 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.
- To support transition to the regulations, the department has engaged with growers and advisors in the Burdekin region, including delivering a public information session on the permit requirement in June 2021 in Ayr.
- 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 - DRG

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).