

2019-2020 Budget Estimates Volume of Additional Information

**State Development, Natural Resources and
Agricultural Industry Development Committee**

August 2019

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**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2019 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 1

asked on 01 July 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to page 3 of the SDS to the Made in Queensland program, could the Minister provide an update on how the program is supporting employment growth in the Queensland manufacturing sector?

ANSWER:

The Made in Queensland (MIQ) grant program is already stimulating economic activity and enabling jobs growth among small to medium Queensland-based manufacturers who are transforming their operations into advanced manufacturing.

As a key action under the government's Advanced Manufacturing 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan, the objectives of the MIQ program are to increase productivity and international competitiveness, encourage SMEs to become advanced manufacturers, support manufacturing firms to adopt innovative technologies, processes and systems, protect traditional manufacturing jobs and create new high-skilled jobs of the future.

Cairns based manufacturer, CSF Industries, who received \$713,050 in grant funding to adopt a robotic steel fabrication system and an advanced welding system is a demonstration of the success of the program. Within three months of project completion the company reported:

- a significant increase in production capabilities such as:
 - the automation of 40 per cent of existing work, resulting in increased accuracy and reduction of errors
 - up to 42 per cent increase in capacity, up to 41 per cent increase in welding efficiency, and up to 42 per cent savings in fabrication and welding costs
- improved value proposition and competitive advantage encouraging new contracts
- the retention of 113 jobs
- the creation of nine new high-skilled jobs.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2019 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 2

asked on 01 July 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to page 5 of the SDS, could the Minister please advise what the Government is doing in response to the Committee's recommendations on the development of a space industry in Queensland?

ANSWER:

On 28 February 2019 the Queensland Government welcomed the Queensland Parliamentary Committee's report on job opportunities in Queensland arising from the establishment of an Australian Space Agency.

The inquiry, which was conducted by the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee (the Committee), led to 15 recommendations relating to exploring opportunities for space infrastructure, incentivisation of supply chains and other industry enablers, defined career pathways to drive employment growth and continued support of the science, technology, engineering and mathematics education streams.

On 28 May 2019 the Queensland Government accepted all 15 of the Committee's recommendations, 11 in full and four in principle, and has already made progress towards many of them, including:

- conducting an initial site assessment for locations suitable for space infrastructure and working with the Federal Government on the market demand for Australian launch sites
- commissioning Deloitte Access Economics to carry out economic modelling on the current value and future potential of Queensland's space industry
- conducting the first capability audit of Queensland's space industry
- working with the industry on project opportunities.

The alignment between the Committee's recommendations and work already underway under the Aerospace 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan, is proof of the government's proactive support of Queensland's space industry.

The Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (the department) is now developing a Queensland Space Strategy to deliver on Committee recommendations and address industry opportunities and challenges.

The Queensland Space Strategy will be developed in consultation with the Queensland Space Industry Reference Group – chaired by former deputy head of the Royal Australian Air Force and Queensland Strategic Defence Advisor for Aerospace, Air Vice-Marshal Neil Hart AM (retired).

The Queensland Space Strategy will focus on leveraging the state's competitive advantages in earth observation, robotics and automation, ground systems and launch to grow the economic potential of Queensland's space industry.

While this work is underway the department will continue to work with the space sector – locally and nationally – to progress opportunities to deliver on the recommendations in the Parliamentary report and the Aerospace 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2019 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 3

asked on 01 July 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to page 3 of the SDS, could the Minister please advise on what the Government is doing to ensure the supply of affordable gas to the manufacturing industry?

ANSWER:

The Queensland government recognises the challenges to our manufacturing businesses posed by high gas prices.

The Queensland government has led the nation by implementing a proactive strategy to increase the supply of gas for domestic industry.

Since 2015, the Queensland government has released more than 39,000 square kilometres of land for gas exploration - nearly a quarter for the domestic market only.

Six companies, Senex, Central Petroleum, Armour Energy, a Santos-Shell joint venture, Chi Oil and Gas, and Australia Pacific LNG, have won the right to explore and produce gas exclusively for the domestic market.

The latest round of bids will soon be assessed for exploration of a further 3,700 square kilometres of land between Miles and Springsure.

The Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (the department) is working closely with gas producers to facilitate the rapid development of gas fields in the shortest possible timeframe. The department provides end-to-end project support to Queensland gas producers, such as Senex, and pipeline developers, such as Jemena, by assisting them to navigate and expedite approvals processes.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2019 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 4

asked on 01 July 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 11 of the SDS refers to reporting undertaken by the department on agency performance on capital delivery. What has this reporting revealed?

ANSWER:

The Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning has been working closely with agencies and actively monitoring the performance of the whole-of-government capital program.

The focus placed by the Queensland Government on continually improving the timely delivery of essential infrastructure can be seen through the ongoing improvement in the amount of capital expenditure delivered as a proportion of the annual budget allocation.

In 2019-20, the government will focus on delivery of its \$12.9 billion capital program, which is the largest annual capital program in the last six years and will support 40,500 jobs.

Over the 4-year forward estimates, the Queensland Government is well positioned to deliver on its \$49.5 billion capital program, the highest forecast government investment since the 2011 flood recovery.

For the \$11.583 billion 2018-19 capital program, preliminary figures from the 2019-20 Capital Statement (Budget Paper No. 3) anticipate that 99 per cent of budgeted capital purchases are expected to be delivered.

This is an improvement from the 96 per cent expenditure achieved in 2017-18 and a significant improvement from an average of 85 per cent achieved over the five years from 2012-13 to 2016-17.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2019 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 5

asked on 01 July 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to page 7 of the SDS, the Office of the Queensland's independent Coordinator-General, how has the Office of the Coordinator General facilitated investment in Queensland and how will that investment support jobs into the future?

ANSWER:

The independent Coordinator-General uses his powers under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* to assess the impacts of major projects and to aid them in progressing to construction stage. These significant powers enhance the economic development of Queensland, while ensuring environmental and social impacts of projects are properly managed.

In particular, the Coordinator-General uses prescribed project powers to ensure critical project approvals are obtained on time and gets involved where coordination and facilitation is needed between agencies. This gives proponents greater certainty about their ability to deliver projects and meet construction timeframes.

A recent example of the Coordinator-General's assistance in facilitating investment in Queensland includes recommending that the Minister declare the Cairns Shipping Development Project a prescribed project. This declaration has enabled the Office of the Coordinator-General to provide ongoing assistance to Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Ltd in obtaining critical environmental approvals that allowed dredging works to start on 30 June 2019.

The Coordinator-General has worked closely with all key agencies to help Ports North secure all the approvals they needed, and dredging can be completed by September 2019.

The Cairns Shipping Development Project is anticipated to create 195 construction jobs and will potentially result in an increase of 225,000 passenger days spent in Cairns each year by 2031 leading to an estimated additional 1,535 operational jobs, primarily in industries which provide services to the passengers and crew of the cruise vessels, particularly the tourism and hospitality sector.

The project is expected to grow the tourism industry in Far North Queensland and contribute \$848.5 million to the regional economy.

The Coordinator-General's powers to assess environmental impacts of major projects promotes investment into Queensland by providing an approvals pathway to complex

projects. For example, the assessment of the hydro component of the \$1.05 billion Kidston Project was completed in only six months, a record time.

There are currently 13 coordinated projects under environmental assessment with a total capital value of approximately \$11 billion and more than 25,700 construction and operational jobs.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2019 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 6

asked on 01 July 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to page 44 of the SDS, can the Minister please advise how the Flagstone Yarrabilba \$1.28 billion sub-regional infrastructure agreement will support development of Yarrabilba and Greater Flagstone Priority Development Areas?

ANSWER:

The Greater Flagstone and Yarrabilba Priority Development Areas (PDAs) are in Queensland's fastest growing population corridor, with estimates that there will be around 200,000 people living in these areas by 2066.

The Yarrabilba PDA and Greater Flagstone PDA sub-regional infrastructure agreements will guarantee the delivery of \$1.28 billion of essential infrastructure located outside the PDAs for the two communities over the next 45 years.

The agreement between the Queensland Government, Logan City Council and the nine key developers within the PDAs guarantees the roads, water supply and wastewater infrastructure needed to connect these emerging communities with the surrounding networks.

The agreement ensures that the infrastructure will be delivered without placing a financial impost from the PDAs on existing ratepayers.

The agreement also gives the developers confidence to progress their projects with a financially sustainable funding and delivery model in place for the essential infrastructure. This will support the delivery of their new developments which will provide a substantial portion of the new housing needed in South East Queensland over the next three to four decades.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2019 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 7

asked on 01 July 2019

QUESTION:

In reference to page 12 of the SDS South-east Queensland is growing, and this growth creates challenges. Can the Minister outline what the government is doing to monitor land supply and managing growth south-east Queensland?

ANSWER:

The release of *ShapingSEQ* delivered on the Queensland Government's commitment for a considered and effective growth management framework for the state's most populous region. The regional plan's policy aims are being advanced through 36 implementation actions which are shared between the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (the department), other state agencies and local governments.

The department is responsible for, and has progressed, implementation actions that support the provision of land to address housing affordability issues whilst also managing sustainable growth. These actions include establishing the South East Queensland (SEQ) Housing Supply Expert Panel in June 2018 and releasing the first annual Measures that Matter online dashboard in November 2018 as well as the Land Supply and Development Monitoring online report in December 2018.

The first annual Land Supply and Development Monitoring report provides detailed data and analysis about the nature and location of land supply and development across SEQ. The Housing Supply Expert Panel supported the release and recognised it as nation-leading work.

The Measures that Matter dashboard reports on aspects of the natural, economic and social environment compared with the preferred regional future in *ShapingSEQ*.

The department will continue to prepare annual releases of the Measures that Matter dashboard and Land Supply and Development Monitoring online report, with oversight from the Housing Supply Expert Panel.

The dashboard and online report will continue to inform discussions about regional planning issues, including growth management, missing middle dwellings, housing choices and industrial employment supply to support the objectives of *ShapingSEQ*.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2019 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 8

asked on 01 July 2019

QUESTION:

In reference to page 3 of the SDS could the Minister please inform the Committee of the process going forward for the implementation of The Spit Master Plan and the extent to which this process is encouraging investment?

ANSWER:

On 25 May 2019, the Queensland Government released The Spit Master Plan and announced that \$60 million would be invested to begin implementing the plan.

The master plan provides a clear direction for the future of one of the Gold Coast's most popular and iconic attractions that truly reflects the views and aspirations of the local community. It strikes a careful balance between protecting environmental and community values and paving the way for appropriate commercial development.

Over an 18-month period, the content of the master plan was shaped by more than 23,000 comments and conversations with the thousands of local people and visitors who have engaged through a comprehensive process that has delivered a new vision for The Spit.

The master plan secures the future of 138 hectares of green space, unlocks the potential for 1800 new jobs, provides for potentially more than 800 new short-term accommodation rooms, depending on the market, and supports the creation of vibrant community spaces and outstanding natural areas.

The certainty and consensus brought about by this master plan is already encouraging vital investment in revitalising this important part of the Gold Coast. This is evidenced by Village Roadshow Theme Park's announcement of a \$50 million investment in the future of Sea World, one of the Gold Coast's most iconic tourist attractions, and its other Gold Coast theme parks offerings. In addition, the City of Gold Coast has announced a \$35 million commitment towards transport and access improvements.

The state government is currently working through implementation and governance arrangements to oversee ongoing implementation of the master plan and guide further investment.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2019 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 9

asked on 01 July 2019

QUESTION:

In reference to page 3 of the SDS can the Minister outline how the Government is strengthening regional Queensland through investment enabled by round four of the Building our Regions program?

ANSWER:

As of 30 June 2019, the \$365 million Building our Regions program has approved nearly \$295 million in funding towards 223 infrastructure projects across 66 local governments in regional Queensland, supporting more than 2,400 construction jobs.

Round 4 of the Building our Regions program approved 49 projects for funding across 37 councils, supporting an estimated 657 construction jobs. Round 4 saw the introduction of a strengthened focus on supporting projects that will deliver more enduring economic outcomes and job creation.

For example, the \$2.7 million Toowoomba Escarpment Parks Upgrades project was approved in Building our Regions Round 4 funding. This project will deliver new tourism infrastructure capitalising on Toowoomba's Great Dividing Range escarpment parks to unlock nature-based and sports tourism opportunities, including cycling and walking. Early works have commenced across much of the escarpment. The project includes improvements at Picnic Point Parklands, Redwood, Jubilee, McKnight, JE Duggan and Glen Lomond parks, and the Tabletop Bushland Reserve, with Toowoomba's first "all-abilities" trail at JE Duggan Park featuring interpretive signage in braille describing the area and the history.

The Kilcoy Racecourse Development project received a \$369,000 contribution from Building our Regions to increase its capacity, functionality, appeal, accessibility and flood resistance. Demolition of old buildings took place in late April / early May this year to make way for a new grandstand and functions space, as well as enhanced spectator viewing to improve patronage and support local economic activity.

The Townsville Waterfront Promenade is being delivered alongside the North Queensland Stadium Project. With funding of \$5 million from Building our Regions, this project will capitalise on the stadium development by providing new pedestrian footpaths and bridges that will connect the stadium with the CBD, the Palmer St dining precinct, the Civic Theatre and Reid Park V8s track precinct, the Central Precinct and the Bus Hub. Excavation works commenced on site in early June.

These and the other projects approved under Round 4 will all contribute to strengthening the economic and social fabric of local communities.

\$70 million has been committed in the latest State Budget for Round 5 of Building our Regions.

Round 5 of the program will build on the success of Round 4, continuing the focus on economic outcomes. Funding will support job-creating infrastructure in regional communities that improves liveability and economic conditions.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2019 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 10

asked on 01 July 2019

QUESTION:

Can the Minister advise how the Government is supporting North and North West communities' resilience to natural disasters?

ANSWER:

Queensland continues to be the most disaster impacted state in Australia.

In the past decade, we have been impacted by more than 80 significant natural disaster events, resulting in tragic loss of life and more than \$15.6 billion in damage to public infrastructure.

This year's North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough in January and February had a devastating effect on many Queensland communities with 39 council areas activated for assistance through the joint Commonwealth-Queensland Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Damage to public infrastructure is currently more than \$1.156 billion.

The Insurance Council of Australia has received claims of more than \$1.2 billion and stock losses have been estimated at approximately \$2 billion.

The numbers are significant and only tell part of the story; Deloitte Access Economics estimates the total economic cost of the disaster will top more than \$5.6 billion, when factoring in the human and social impacts of the event.

Even as the event was unfolding, the Queensland Government was working to ensure impacted communities in Queensland's North, Far North, Central and Western communities got the helping hand they needed, while also focussing on building resilience to future natural disasters.

History has shown that an upfront investment in stronger infrastructure and more resilient communities lowers the cost of disasters and enables quicker recovery.

In the wake of the Monsoon Trough, the Palaszczuk Government negotiated and jointly funded a \$242 million DRFA Category C/D extraordinary circumstances recovery fund with the Commonwealth.

The largest component of the package is \$100 million for resilient infrastructure, also known as betterment. Through the betterment program, councils will be able to build impacted essential public infrastructure back to a stronger and more resilient standard.

The Queensland Government has been the driving force behind highly successful betterment programs, which have been jointly funded with the Commonwealth, after significant events in 2013, 2015 and 2017.

Betterment helps make communities more resilient to future disasters. More than \$100 million spent on projects to better the state's infrastructure has already been recovered through avoided restoration costs of more than \$104 million from subsequent natural disasters.

There are a range of other measures available to North and North West communities to help them recover for this year's event and ultimately make them better equipped to withstand future events. This includes:

- \$36 million for an Environmental Recovery Package
- \$22 million will be injected into the North West Queensland Beef Recovery Package
- \$20 million for clean-up and repair of community recreational assets
- \$14.5 million for damaged water and sewerage infrastructure
- \$10 million for business and industry support
- \$7 million for community health and wellbeing
- \$5 million for a tourism recovery package, and
- \$19.75 million for other community-led resilience and recovery activities.

Communities in North and North West Queensland, and across the rest of the state, can rest assured the Queensland Government is working hard to ensure Queensland is the most disaster resilient state in the nation.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2019 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 11

asked on 01 July 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS's page 8 service standard of estimated number of jobs and value of capital investment being developed or delivered through projects, will the Minister provide a detailed breakdown in table format of all individual projects that are used to calculate the service standards including

- a) the individual project value and
- b) the estimated number of jobs separately for the 2018-19 target, 2018-19 estimated actual and 2019-20 target?

ANSWER:

The Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (the department) facilitates the timely planning and delivery of projects that drive economic growth and provide job creation opportunities for the people of Queensland.

The department has measured its performance against the Project Development and Delivery service standard referenced on page 8 of the SDS since the 2017–18 budget.

As referenced in the service standard notes, the reported value of capital investment and jobs enabled through projects developed and delivered, indicates the total values at the time of reporting over the entire life of the project including projects under development or being delivered.

This reporting methodology has historically been used across a variety of departmental SDS service standards such as the Industry and Investment Facilitation and Regional Economic Development service standards which report on similar measures for the Building our Regions and Royalties for the Regions programs.

The Queensland Treasury jobs multiplier is also relied on to provide a credible and consistent methodology for estimating full time equivalent jobs directly supported by capital works projects in the absence of job estimates provided by the project or program proponent.

For the 2018–19 and 2019–20 periods, construction jobs are estimated using the Queensland Treasury jobs estimation multiplier of 3.3 jobs per \$1 million of capital invested across a total project value reported during a year.

The Queensland Treasury jobs multiplier estimates average construction jobs only. It does not include any indirect impacts outside of the construction services industry.

The Queensland Treasury jobs multiplier estimates are based on the value of residential, non-residential and engineering construction, excluding values for land purchases, software, and plant and equipment. Excluded components support only a small number of direct jobs.

The department uses job numbers provided by the proponent where they have reached contractual close with the state and supply a jobs estimate that is lower than the value resulting from the Queensland Treasury methodology.

In 2018-19 a number of projects that are used to report against the reporting standard for 2018-19 were transferred to the Department of Housing and Public Works (HPW) including the North Queensland Stadium, State Netball Centre and the Counter Terrorism and Community Safety Centre. The total value of these public sector projects, transferred to HPW was \$250 million, \$51.9 million and \$52.0 million respectively, and were associated with 750, 154, 144 jobs respectively. Given these were transferred to HPW, they were not recorded as 2018-2019 actuals. In addition, the Commonwealth Games Village was finalised in 2018-19, worth \$550 million and associated with 1500 jobs. A further \$937.1 million and 2,160 jobs are associated with private sector projects in the 2018-2019 target, achieving a value of \$908.6 million and 2,027 jobs in the 2018-2019 actuals. The latter projects are also incorporated into the 2019-20 target. It should be noted that these results do not include capital investment and jobs being facilitated under separate categorisation, notably those detailed on page 5 and 6 of the SDS, and upwards of \$25 billion of potential investment as detailed in my response to Question on Notice no 13.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2019 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 12

asked on 01 July 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning capital budget for 2019-20 - Will the Minister provide a detailed list of approved projects, including:

- a) the budget and scope of each project and
- b) the scheduled date of completion and
- c) whether the completion timeframe for individual projects has been extended (reported in table format)?

ANSWER:

\$97,356,000 is allocated to the Building Our Regions Project in the 2019-2020 capital budget.

Building our Regions is a targeted regional infrastructure program for local government projects. The Building our Regions program partners with local councils across Queensland to deliver valuable infrastructure to regional communities that improve liveability and economic conditions. The Palaszczuk Government has committed \$515 million to the Building our Regions program. This includes \$150 million for Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme. \$365 million is available through the Building our Regions competitive grants program. Local councils are responsible for delivering projects and meeting agreed completion timeframes.

Following the allocation of funding for Round 5, the completion timeframe for Building our Regions has been extended so that funds for Building Our Regions will be allocated to councils through to 2023.

A further \$9,488,000 is allocated to "Other regional assistance programs" for 2019--2020. I can advise the Committee that this is Royalties for the Regions. The scope of the Royalties for the Regions program is difficult to describe. As the Auditor General has found, the then Minister's decisions to award the grants under this program were not always consistent with the Departmental assessments. In particular, the then Deputy Premier "funded strategic projects where no departmental assessment was undertaken, and value for money in line with the program objectives was not considered." The Auditor General also found that there was "no documentation to support the reasons for these decisions.

There have been numerous delays and extensions associated with the administration of the LNP's Royalties for the Regions Program, with funds still being allocated to councils through to 2020. As the Auditor General found, under the Royalties for the Regions program, projects were meant to be "shovel ready", defined as ready to commence within 6 months. However,

as the Auditor General found, many projects were not ready to commence construction within six months after signing the agreements. Councils reported project delays due to land use issues, finalising tender documents and project scope and dependencies. Notably, the Auditor General identified funding granted to drop off zones, where the Auditor General found there was no documentation to support the decision to approve these projects, the projects were not assessed against the guidelines, and no detailed project plans or cost benefit analyses were developed. The Auditor General found that planning and cost estimates were incomplete for the three school projects and in some cases non-existent, and that this increased the risk of significant delays.

The department has also allocated \$12.3 million for acquisition of industrial land in State Development Areas. This project proceeds in line with market conditions and negotiations with existing landholders.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2019 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 13

asked on 01 July 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS's page 14 note 1 outlining that services delivered under the Market Led Proposals Framework have been reviewed and replaced by a new industry facilitation model. Will the Minister provide a detailed list of all projects currently being facilitated under the new model including;

- a) estimated project value and
- b) estimated construction commencement date?

ANSWER:

As part of the refreshed industry facilitation model the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (the department) provides a range of tailored services to support the promotion and delivery of private sector investment in Queensland. These services are tailored to meet the needs of private sector investors to attract and enable investment in Queensland and generate jobs for Queenslanders. This assistance may include:

- coordination and delivery of major investment opportunities
- working with private sector investors to ease their pathway to project implementation including advice and guidance on relevant grant programs
- providing a pathway for complex commercial proposals initiated by the private sector, which require negotiations across departments and an exclusive mandate with the Queensland Government

Typically, the department is dealing with 500 to 600 project proposals, which fluctuates periodically based on government funding rounds and market conditions. These reflect project investment and deal opportunities with the potential to draw private sector investment in Queensland upwards of \$25 billion dollars.

However, many of these projects are at an early stage of development, may not proceed, or may proceed in a different form.

Private sector proponents expect confidentiality be maintained during early stages of investment negotiation, and accordingly it is not appropriate to provide details of these early stage discussions.

Many projects facilitated by the department have proceeded to delivery, for example, the Brisbane International Cruise Ship Terminal and Rheinmetall Defence Australia's Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2019 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 14

asked on 01 July 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS's page 30 Building Queensland function outline of preparing businesses cases. For the past financial year by individual business case, will the Minister list

- a) all business cases that have been finalised and provided to the government,
- b) all business cases that have been publicly released and
- c) all business cases that have had the originally published completion timeframe extended?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government has a commitment to conveying its infrastructure planning and decision making processes with respect to infrastructure planning and delivery.

The two primary mechanisms for conveying information about infrastructure planning and financial decision making are the Building Queensland infrastructure Pipeline (which conveys information about projects valued at \$50 million or more) and the more comprehensive State Infrastructure Plan.

Details of business cases that have been finalised by Building Queensland and provided to government are published on the Building Queensland website under the Business Case tab including information about business cases that have been publicly released.

Building Queensland's estimates of completion timeframes are published in the Building Queensland Pipeline Report <https://buildingqueensland.qld.gov.au/pipeline/>. The next report is due to be published on or before 20 August, consistent with the Building Queensland Act 2015.

An update to the State Infrastructure Plan Part B was published on 23 July 2018 and is available at <https://www.dsdmip.qld.gov.au/infrastructure/state-infrastructure-plan.html> and may be of assistance.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2019 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 15

asked on 01 July 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to the establishment of Building Queensland under the Building Queensland Act 2015 on SDS page 30. Since the statutory body was established, will the Minister list

- a) all businesses cases that have been finalised,
- b) all completed businesses cases that have led to projects being constructed,
- c) all completed businesses cases that have led to projects being currently constructed and
- d) all completed businesses cases that have not led to any past or current project construction?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government has a commitment to conveying its infrastructure planning and decision making processes with respect to infrastructure planning and delivery.

The two primary mechanisms for conveying information about infrastructure planning and financial decision making are the Building Queensland infrastructure Pipeline (which conveys information about projects valued at \$50 million or more) and the more comprehensive State Infrastructure Plan.

Details of business cases that have been finalised by Building Queensland and provided to government are published on the Building Queensland website under the Business Case tab including information about business cases that have been publicly released.

Details of projects that are under construction are published in the budget papers and in the State Infrastructure Plan.

The process of business case development aims to inform an investment decision. Not all completed business cases result in a decision to build.

For example, the Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor business case recommended that a rail corridor be preserved, a recommendation that has been implemented.

A small number of business cases have been provided to Government, and remain under consideration. All were completed in the most recent financial year and may include more complex decision making processes that include the Commonwealth or private sector coinvestment.

An update to the State Infrastructure Plan Part B was published on 23 July 2018 and is available at <https://www.dsdmip.qld.gov.au/infrastructure/state-infrastructure-plan.html> and may be of assistance.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
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2019 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 16

asked on 01 July 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning departmental budget summary on SDS page 16. Will the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of all overseas related travel departmental expenses (in table format, per financial year and per country) for 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19?

ANSWER:

Information related to overseas travel undertaken by officers of the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning is compiled as part of the Annual Report process of the Department and published on the Queensland Government open data portal, <https://data.qld.gov.au>.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2019 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 17

asked on 01 July 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning departmental budget summary on SDS page 16. Will the Minister advise the total annual expenditure relating to conferences, workshops, catering and other hospitality expenses by departments and agencies under the administration of the Minister for 2018-19 and the budgeted amount for 2019-20?

ANSWER:

Government departments only host conferences and workshops, or public servants attend such events, in accordance with departmental approval processes. The Code of Conduct for the Queensland Public Service would apply to the attendance of public servants at such events.

Furthermore, financial transactions involving departments are annually and independently audited by the Queensland Audit Office.

The Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (the department) expended \$1,477,701 relating to staff training and development (conferences/workshops), events (conferences/seminars/workshops) and entertainment in 2018-19.

Staff training and professional development accounted for 54.8 per cent of total expenditure. Significant expenditure in this category related to White Ribbon Australia accreditation and training courses run by the Australian Institute of Management and the Australia and New Zealand School of Government.

Conferences, seminars and workshops run by the department for industry stakeholders accounted for 42.3 per cent of total expenditure. Examples of programs run include tendering for business workshops to assist SMEs to develop and submit conforming and effective tenders, capability statement workshops to provide SMEs with the information needed to develop a powerful capability statement that demonstrates at-a-glance, what their business is and what their company offers customers, regional promotion of major project procurement opportunities through events such as the very successful Townsville Industry Breakfast series and project information sessions that connect suppliers with specific prime contractors such as Rheinmetall Defence Australia.

The department's 2019-2020 budget relating to conferences, workshops, catering and other hospitality is currently under review.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2019 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 18

asked on 01 July 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to Economic Development Queensland's income statement on page 46 of the SDS. Will the Minister detail in table format by region and financial year for the 2018–19 estimated actual and the 2019–20 budgeted

- a) the total value of land sales and
- b) the total area of land sales?

ANSWER:

Economic Development Queensland renews and repurposes surplus and underutilised state property to create jobs, drive private sector investment and deliver community outcomes.

Land sales are across multiple projects, including large complex urban sites that facilitate renewal, regional projects that provide community and economic benefit and industrial sales that generate on-going employment opportunities. The value per square metre of land sold will depend on the location and use of the land.

The total value and area of land sales for the 2018–19 estimated actual and 2019–20 budget are shown in the table below:

Region	18/19 Est Act¹ (\$000's)	18/19 Land Area (m²)	19/20 Budget¹ (\$000's)	19/20 Land Area (m²)
South East Queensland	43,800	350,000	53,800	345,000
Regional Queensland	9,000	48,000	23,700	3,438,000
Grand Total	52,800	398,000	77,500	3,783,000

1. These totals are included as part of the User charges and fees on page 46 of the SDS. User charges and fees also includes other items such as operating lease income, development application fees, rent revenue and other fees and charges.

The total estimated actual value of land sales in 2018–19 relates to sales in urban renewal projects, residential estates and industrial estates including Northshore; Woree, Cairns; and The Village, Townsville.

The total budgeted value of land sales in 2019–20 relates to anticipated sales in urban renewal projects, residential estates and industrial estates including the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct; Aldoga, Gladstone; and the Sunshine Coast Industrial Park.

This is compared to \$144.85 million for the sale of 7,577,000m² of land in 2013–14. This includes sales at Lytton Industrial Estate; Fitzgibbon Chase; and Northshore.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2019 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 19

asked on 01 July 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning departmental budget summary on SDS page 16. Will the Minister advise the total number and value of all fraudulent incidents by departments and agencies under the administration of the Minister for the past financial year (listed by individual department or agency)?

ANSWER:

The Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning and portfolio entities have not lost any money due to fraud in 2018-19.

The department has robust fraud and corruption prevention systems, policies and procedures and in 2018-19 detected several instances of third party fraudulent corporate credit card transactions totalling \$2,004. These are not the actions of any employees or contractors and are suspected to be fraud attempts resulting from randomly generated credit card numbers. Early identification of these fraudulent transactions and prompt reporting to the department's financial institution meant that the department incurred no loss in relation to these transactions.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee**

2019 Estimates Pre-hearing

Question on Notice

No. 20

asked on 01 July 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning departmental budget summary on SDS page 17. Will the Minister provide a detailed list in table format by the value of individual capital purchases for:

- a) the 2018-19 adjusted budget and
- b) the 2018-19 estimated actual budget?

ANSWER:

Land, buildings, infrastructure and other	2018-19 Adjusted budget \$'000	2018-19 Estimated actual budget \$'000
State Development Areas	14,909	926
North Queensland Stadium	12,000	12,000
Other	632	643
Sub-total	27,541	13,569

The variance between the 2018-19 adjusted budget and the 2018-19 estimated actual budget for State Development Areas is due to lower than expected claims for compensation from former landowners and affected by the timing of when they submit a compensation claim, under the compulsory acquisition program.

When the Coordinator-General acquires land, the previous owners have a right to claim compensation. They have three years to lodge a claim. Land ownership has already changed so the compensation process does not affect the timing of the underlying project or activity.

The compensation process followed is defined under the *Acquisition of Land Act 1967* and set by Court precedent. The Coordinator-General has a proven record of settling matters through negotiation, with over 99 per cent of matters settled this way.

The Coordinator-General is bound by legislation and court precedent on what can be paid and what can be claimed. The Coordinator-General is obliged to protect the Queensland

taxpayers from unfounded claims and must act consistently and reasonably in the handling of claims for compensation.

The Coordinator-General obtains independent valuation advice, and always works to resolve matters in a fair and timely manner to minimise legal costs of all parties. Previous landowners also obtain a valuation to assist them in preparing their claim for compensation.

Where the parties cannot agree initially, the Coordinator-General can pay an advance based on the Coordinator-Generals valuation. For this to occur the previous owner must submit a claim. The Coordinator-General must make the payment of advance within 90 days of receiving the request for payment.

The most common delays occur where the previous owners take time to submit their claim, or where their claim exceeds the Coordinator-General's valuation and the evidence provided does not support their claim. This then often leads to lengthy negotiations, sometime resulting in mediation.

In the case of 2018-19 the vast majority of the difference is related to one acquisition where the previous owner has not yet submitted a claim for compensation.

Questions on notice and responses – *Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy*

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1

asked on 1 JULY 2019

QUESTION:

In reference to SDS page 4, will the Minister please provide an update to the Committee on the Government's improvements to the SLATS report?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government has met its election commitment to restore a sustainable vegetation management framework.

During consultation on the Vegetation Management Amendment Bill 2018, landholders and other stakeholders, including AgForce, suggested that the Statewide Landcover and Trees Study (SLATS) could be improved. Of particular note was a concern that the report did not measure the regrowth of native vegetation.

During debate of this bill, the Queensland Government committed to enhancing the SLATS and vegetation information to support evidence-based decision-making. The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy is working in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Science (DES) to deliver SLATS, including the enhanced SLATS component.

In 2018-19, \$4 million was allocated to DES, over two years, to develop new scientific approaches for regrowth and vegetation bio-condition monitoring. This program is being developed and delivered through the significant expertise of scientists at the Queensland Herbarium and the Remote Sensing Centre. The monitoring will be based on new satellite and computing technologies, supported by field data acquisition.

The enhanced program will ensure that the best scientific vegetation information is available to government and the public. The enhancements will inform implementation of the government's election commitment to vegetation management, and support last year's amendments to the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

The program also leverages this government's investment in systematic satellite-based monitoring programs, such as Landsat and Sentinel, as well as high resolution satellite imagery. The program is using advanced satellite monitoring and computing technologies to: produce a baseline woody vegetation extent map for the state; develop regrowth monitoring approaches; transition the SLATS to higher resolution Sentinel 2 satellite imagery; and develop a vegetation condition mapping framework. The resulting maps and information will be incorporated into the SLATS reports.

The program will also provide significant direct benefit to the government, not only for the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, but for a range of priority programs and policies, including those related to the management of the Great Barrier Reef, biodiversity, climate change, state and regional planning, and land and fire management. The program will provide a more comprehensive view of Queensland's woody vegetation for landholders, the agricultural industry, and environment groups.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 2

asked on 1 JULY 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 2, will the Minister please provide and update the Committee on assistance the government has provided to advance the resources sector?

ANSWER:

A key priority of *Our Future State* is to create jobs in a strong economy. The resources sector is vital to this vision and the sector will continue to be a critical generator of jobs, particularly in our regions.

This government values the resources sector and its significant contribution to Queensland. We are committed to creating a state where resources projects can succeed and will continue to support projects that stack up economically, socially and environmentally.

Since 2015, the Palaszczuk Government has helped to deliver more than \$20 billion of resource projects in regional Queensland, creating more than 7000 Queensland jobs. To continue to grow the resources sector, the government is providing the following assistance.

Geoscience Initiatives

Launched in 2017, the four-year, \$27.125 million Strategic Resources Exploration Program is supporting industry success and, from that, differentiating Queensland as a favourable destination for new investment by mineral, coal and gas sector explorers, developers and customers.

The program is investing across four initiatives:

1. New Discovery Program – to help with base-metals discovery in the North West Minerals Province (NWMP);
2. Frontier Basin Gas Program – to better define the potential for new gas resources in frontier basins of the northwest, to support growing demand for our gas;
3. Geoscience Data Modernisation Project – a major transformation of the way exploration and geoscience data is managed and made available for industry use and
4. Investment attraction and support – which has two main elements: the Collaborative Exploration Initiative and a series of events and engagements with potential investors, particularly from North America and Asia, seeking to promote and attract new investment.

Infrastructure initiatives

Initiatives announced in the 2019-20 State Budget will continue to support the industry and the regions in which they operate. In many cases, the growth of the sector means the growth and ongoing sustainability of the regions. The following initiatives for infrastructure and tax relief support the mining sector, as well as a wide range of other regional industries and businesses, including farming and manufacturing.

The 2019-20 State Budget provides \$110 million, over four years, to support resource development in the NWMP. These initiatives, described in Budget Paper no. 4, are:

- Mount Isa Line Below Rail Subsidy - \$80 million, over four years. The government will introduce a \$20 million per annum Transport Services Contract payment for this freight line. This payment will be to reduce below rail access costs for users and further promote rail for freight, as well as support continued development of the NWMP.
- Port of Townsville Common User Facility - The government is providing additional funding of \$30 million, over two years, to contribute towards the construction and operation of containerised freight loading and unloading facilities at the Port of Townsville. The facility will be open for use by any above rail operator, will reduce the need for road transport to the port and will benefit the NWMP through reduced transport costs and time.

Additional funding to support expansion of Ports of Townsville and Cairns

The government is contributing to the \$193.5 million capacity upgrade of the Townsville channel to allow access by larger vessels and boost trade at the Port of Townsville.

Ports North, in 2019-20, will be progressing the delivery of the Cairns Shipping Development Project to deepen and widen the Cairns Port shipping channel, at a total cost of \$127.6 million.

Resources Regional Development Framework

Announced in May 2017, the Resources Regional Development Framework is designed to unlock development in the Galilee and Surat Basins and the NWMP. It provides investor certainty and encourages new development and related opportunities through royalty payment deferrals.

Payroll Tax

While not specific to the resource industry, the payroll tax initiatives announced in the 2019-20 State Budget will support resource companies working in Queensland through a two-year employment growth rebate, extension of the apprentice and trainee rebate for a further two years and 1 per cent payroll tax rate reduction, for regional employers, for four years.

Domestic Gas – Queensland Exploration Program

The Queensland Exploration Program, released in June 2018, announced the areas that would be released via tender throughout 2018 and 2019 for the right to explore for coal and petroleum and gas. It included 29 areas for petroleum and gas exploration, across seven basins, to support both domestic supply and the coal seam gas to liquefied natural gas export industry.

The Queensland Government is committed to increasing the supply of gas to the East Coast Gas Market. Since 2017, the Queensland Government has released 11 areas, totalling more than 8500 square kilometres of land, with the condition that gas from these areas can only be supplied to the Australian domestic market. This includes the recent award of an area with an additional condition that any gas produced be supplied only to the Australian manufacturing industry.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 3

asked on 1 JULY 2019

QUESTION:

Will the Minister please update the Committee on how the government's new financial provisioning scheme will allow the expansion of the abandoned mines program? SDS page 2

ANSWER:

Mining has played a strong role in the history of Queensland. It began in Queensland with the discovery of gold near Clermont in 1862 and coal at Blair Athol in 1864.

Over time, mines have become abandoned for a variety of reasons and sometimes these sites can create risks to community safety and the environment. To mitigate the risks associated with abandoned mines, the Queensland Government established and funded the Abandoned Mine Lands Program.

The review of Queensland's financial assurance framework in 2016 suggested improvements to the way the risks associated with abandoned mines are managed.

A key outcome of this review was the passing of the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill 2018 by the Queensland Parliament, in November 2018. The passage of this legislation represents the most significant reform to the resources sector in nearly 20 years.

The establishment of the financial provisioning scheme ensures that Queensland taxpayers will no longer fund all of the costs of dealing with the state's historic abandoned mines. The financial provisioning scheme commenced on 1 April 2019. Once the scheme matures, there will be a long-term funding source for the remediation of the state's abandoned mines. There will also be funds available for research into better and more effective ways to make abandoned mines safe, secure, durable and productive.

The Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill 2018 also introduced amendments to the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, to require projects to prepare and comply with progressive rehabilitation and closure plans. This reform will ensure that mining operators progressively rehabilitate their sites, further reducing risks to the state.

To complement these reforms, new and enhanced Abandoned Mine Lands Program initiatives will be progressively rolled out.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 4

asked on 1 JULY 2019

QUESTION:

In reference to SDS page 8, will the Minister please update the Committee on the Government's response to recommendations regarding Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis from both the Select Committee and the Monash Report?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government has put in place extensive reforms to protect Queensland mine workers from black lung and to identify and support former and current workers who have this insidious disease. I can report the government has actioned all 68 recommendations of the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee recommendations.

To date, the government has invested \$25 million to deliver reforms to improve the safety and health of our mine workers. Over the next two years, the government will commit a further \$11.597 million to sustain actions to address the re-identification of mine dust lung diseases, including coal workers' pneumoconiosis.

The government has also delivered all the recommendations of the independent Monash University review of the respiratory component of the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme. Under these reforms, mine workers now have compulsory free chest X-rays and health checks when they enter and leave the industry, and regularly while they work. The doctors who do the checks have specific training and experience, and X-rays are checked twice.

This chest X-ray dual reading, to the International Labour Organization standard, is now being done in Australia by qualified B-readers through Lungscreen Australia, replacing the US-based service.

This is delivering significant time savings, aiding in the early detection of disease and better outcomes for workers. As at 30 June 2019, more than 49 000 chest X-rays have been dual-read since this requirement was introduced in July 2016.

The re-identification of mine dust lung disease, including coal workers' pneumoconiosis, has shown that continuous monitoring and improvement of the regulatory framework is critical to protect workers. In late 2017, the government established a dedicated, independently-led Project Management Office to consider Select Committee recommendations relating to the structure and funding of the regulator. Following extensive consultation, the Project Management Office completed its report and has recommended the establishment of a standalone independent regulator.

I intend to bring forward legislation this year to establish the resources safety and health regulator as an independent statutory entity, separate to the facilitation arm of

government. This directly addresses issues at the core of the Select Committee recommendations.

The health and safety of Queensland's mine workers remains our number one priority.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 5

asked on 1 JULY 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to page 10 of the SDS, will the Minister please provide an update to the Committee on the progression of the bio-based petrol and diesel mandates?

ANSWER:

The biobased petrol mandate has stimulated significant growth in ethanol sales following its commencement in January 2017, giving assurance to biofuels producers and creating a positive environment for new investment in Queensland.

This policy is one of many Biofutures initiatives undertaken by the Palaszczuk Government to ensure Queensland is best placed to supply alternative and clean fuels domestically and internationally.

Ethanol sales have nearly doubled in less than three years and now, almost one in three motorists are choosing E10 over regular unleaded petrol. In the last quarter of 2018, sales of E10 reached 161 megalitres, which was almost double the 81 megalitres baseline recorded in 2016, before the mandate commenced.

The most recent available sales data for January to March 2019 shows that the fuel retailers liable under the mandate achieved an average of 2.8 per cent ethanol sales, up from the about 1.5 per cent baseline of 2016 before the mandates commenced.

This significant increase in E10 sales has largely been driven by the fuel industry undertaking significant infrastructure upgrades at a large number of retail sites to make E10 more widely available to motorists. The number of sites selling E10 has doubled. There are now more than 690 service stations in Queensland that sell E10, which is an increase of more than 350 sites since early 2016, before the mandates started.

Queensland ethanol sales are trending upwards. In New South Wales, where the mandate has now been operational for 12 years, ethanol sales have mostly been trending downwards since the end of 2012.

The biobased diesel mandate is also stimulating investment in the supply chain. Major terminal fuel wholesalers now have in place new infrastructure in south east Queensland to store, blend and sell biodiesel with mineral diesel.

In January to March 2019, several terminal fuel wholesalers recorded new or increased sales of biodiesel to the Queensland market. As the biodiesel market matures in coming months, sales volumes will continue to increase, driving more investment.

The Queensland Government, through my department, is now taking the opportunity to review the biofuels mandates so we can keep delivering on our commitment to grow Queensland's alternative fuels industry.

A discussion paper was released on 23 May 2019 and submissions closed on 1 July 2019. Sixteen submissions were received from a variety of stakeholders, including biofuels producers, fuel sellers, peak bodies and consumer groups. My department is currently reviewing these submissions.

The future for our biofuels and bio-manufacturing industries in Queensland is very bright, supporting investment and jobs across our regions.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 6

asked on 1 JULY 2019

QUESTION:

Will the Minister please provide an update on the government's continued progress regarding the resolution of Native Title claims in Queensland? SDS p4

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government continues to lead the nation in its settlement of native title claims. Resolving native title claims is always complex and can take considerable time, and all native title claims are lodged and overseen by the Federal Court of Australia. While Queensland remains committed to reaching negotiated settlements wherever possible, sometimes litigation is unavoidable.

Since the *Native Title (Queensland) Act 1993* came into effect, Queensland has resolved a total of 148 claimant applications. Of those, only 12 (approximately 8%) needed to be decided by trial in the Federal Court.

During 2018-19, there were four native title consent determinations, where all parties were able to settle. Agreement was reached with the Girramay People west of Cardwell, the Gulngay People from around Tully, and the Gangalidda People, whose native title was recognised over two locations, in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

While these numbers are down from 2016-17 and 2017-18, when there were eight and nine determinations respectively, there are several other claimant groups currently negotiating indigenous land use agreements (agreements), as supplementary agreements to their prospective native title settlements.

While these agreements can provide for a wider range of land-use activities that go beyond the core recognition of title recognition, it usually means that the claims themselves take longer to resolve. That has been the case during 2018-19. So far, Queensland has had 822 agreements registered with the National Native Title Tribunal.

While the state is not a party to all of them, these figures reflect well on the willingness of Indigenous Queenslanders, business and industry representatives and the Queensland Government to work together, to address these important questions.

Currently, Queensland has 53 active native title claimant applications at various stages in the claim resolution process, along with 15 active non-claimant applications and three native title compensation claims.

For current and future applications, the time taken to reach an outcome is likely to rise as the complexity of matters being considered increases.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 7

asked on 1 JULY 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 2, can the Minister please provide an update to the Committee on the rollout of the Interest Free Loan Scheme for Solar and Storage and the expected benefit to Queenslanders?

ANSWER:

As one of the many components of the Palaszczuk Government's Affordable Energy Plan, the rollout of the Interest Free Loans for Solar and Storage scheme has been a huge success. Queenslanders have shown that they are passionate about solar power and battery storage. Applications for the scheme closed 30 June 2019, with the scheme fully subscribed—this means over 3600 applicants are receiving support.

At the end of June 2019, almost 1600 battery systems had been installed under the scheme. These batteries have been installed right across Queensland, from the Gold Coast to north of Cairns and out to Mount Isa. Installing a solar battery system could save you up to \$600 a year, even after loan repayments.

We have 25 battery suppliers on our panel of eligible suppliers, every one of which has a physical presence in Queensland and has demonstrated a commitment to industry best practice. As at the end of June, these suppliers have collectively installed over \$25 million worth of solar and battery technology and this will continue to grow as installations progress through to the end of the year.

The scheme has helped to establish the battery storage industry in Queensland, with several of our suppliers advising my department they are putting on extra staff, thanks to the demand under this scheme. We have developed the scheme with best practice and safety at front of mind. At the end of June 2019, over 700 safety inspections had been conducted at no charge to customers.

By the time installations finish, we will have more than doubled the number of battery storage systems installed in Queensland. Both regional Queensland and the south-east corner have shown that they are keen to move to the next stage of the renewables revolution combining solar and battery storage, thanks to the assistance provided under the Interest Free Loans for Solar and Storage scheme.

Other components of the government's Affordable Energy Plan putting downward pressure on power prices for households include: \$50 per year Asset Ownership Dividend, Energy Efficient Appliance Rebates, EasyPay Rewards, Energy Savvy Families, Solar for Rentals Trial and the Business Energy Savers Program.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 8

asked on 1 JULY 2019

QUESTION:

In reference to SDS page 10, can the Minister please advise how the Palaszczuk Government is assisting Queenslanders with cost of living expenses such as electricity and water?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government understands the cost of living pressures faced by Queenslanders.

We have already taken action to put pressure on wholesale electricity prices. We directed Stanwell to modify its bidding strategies to more closely reflect its underlying costs, and to bring the Swanbank E gas power station back on line, to ensure additional capacity is available during our very hot summer months. Swanbank E was decommissioned under the previous LNP Government and as a result reduced the ability to meet demand during peak times.

And we have now established a new government owned generator, CleanCo, to support the growth of Queensland's renewable energy industry and increase competition in the wholesale electricity market, putting further downward pressure on electricity prices. CleanCo will have a strategic portfolio of low and no emission power generation assets, and will build, construct, own and maintain clean energy generation.

Through our \$2 billion Affordable Energy Plan, the Queensland Government committed to electricity prices, for typical household and small business customers, remaining below inflation, on average, for 2018-19, and 2019-20.

The Palaszczuk Government has more than delivered on our price commitment. Electricity prices have in fact fallen in regional Queensland for the past two years. An electricity bill for a typical regional household on Tariff 11 will reduce by 4.4 per cent, or approximately \$62 per year, from 1 July while a typical regional small business will reduce by 5.8 per cent, or approximately \$144 per year.

The Queensland Competition Authority reporting of the South East Queensland market has also shown small customer electricity prices falling in 2018-19, and again in 2019-20.

Importantly, the Queensland Government continues to ensure that regional Queenslanders pay similar prices for their electricity as customers in South East Queensland. This is done by subsidising additional costs involved in supplying electricity in regional Queensland. Without the support of the government's community service obligation subsidy, which is budgeted at around \$500 million for

2019–20, the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) estimates that regional customers would pay between 8 per cent and 100 per cent more for their electricity than they currently do, depending on where they live.

We have also removed the costs of the solar bonus scheme from customer's electricity bills, at a total estimated cost of \$770 million, for three years (ending June 2020). We used the dividends from our government-owned energy corporations to provide two \$50 payments to more than 1.9 million households and provided rebates of up to \$300 to more than 54 000 households who purchased a minimum four star energy efficient washing machine, refrigerator, or air conditioner. Our interest free loan scheme for solar and storage provided financial support to more than 3600 applicants. Applications for the scheme closed on 30 June 2019.

The Queensland Government has also provided additional support to regional Queenslanders. Our EasyPay Rewards rebate program gives \$75 to regional households and \$120 to regional small businesses who sign up to smooth billing, direct debit and e-billing.

We have extended our successful Energy Savvy Families program, providing energy literacy information and tools to an additional 4000 low-income households, in targeted regional Queensland locations, to help them manage their energy costs. This is on top of the 5500 families that have been helped over the past two and a half years.

We have also commenced our \$4 million solar for rentals trial. The trial is offering around 1000 rebates of up to \$3500, for the owners of rental properties in the Bundaberg, Gladstone and Townsville areas to install solar, and solar monitoring, to enable their tenants to share the benefits of solar and save on their power bills.

The Queensland Government supports pensioners with the cost of water bills through the state-wide Pensioner Rates Subsidy and the South East Queensland Pensioner Water Subsidy. The state-wide Pensioner Rates Subsidy, paying \$55.2 million annually, provides up to \$200 per year to eligible pensioner homeowners.

The South East Queensland Pensioner Water Subsidy was introduced to assist pensioners in meeting higher costs of water in South East Queensland. South East Queensland costs reflect the significant investment in water infrastructure to secure urban water supplies, made in response to the Millennium drought. This includes establishing the water grid and climate resilient water sources such as the Gold Coast desalination plant.

In the 2018–2019 financial year, approximately \$18.9 million was made available in South East Queensland, providing a maximum subsidy of \$120 per annum to eligible pensioners.

This government is providing these benefits to approximately 158 900 pensioners who will receive the South East Queensland Pensioner Water Subsidy and an estimated 278 100 pensioners, state-wide, who will receive the Pensioner Rates Subsidy.

These subsidy schemes help pensioners to continue to live in their own homes and meet the costs of essential services.

For 2019-2020, the government has budgeted \$74.1 million for eligible pensioners across all of Queensland for the rates and South East Queensland bulk water subsidy schemes.

For 2019-2020, the government has budgeted \$192.3 million for the \$341 electricity rebate for eligible seniors, pensioners, veterans and low-income families, including Commonwealth Health Care Card holders, and asylum seekers.

For 2019-2020, the government has allocated up to \$15 million to continue the Drought Relief from Electricity Charges Scheme, waiving or reimbursing the fixed charge from eligible customers' electricity bills during drought conditions.

The government has also taken decisive action to assist Queensland motorists concerned about high petrol prices. Motorists are now able to shop around and save at the bowser using nine fuel price apps and websites to find the lowest price fuel in their local area. Since 3 December last year, our fuel price reporting trial has required all fuel retailers to report their prices within 30 minutes of a change of price at the bowser. Fuel retailers now face large fines for not reporting their prices on time. As of 1 July, more than 1500 retail fuel sites are reporting their prices.

The potential savings for motorists that shop around are clear. On 1 July, motorists in Brisbane could have saved up to 29 cents per litre, or \$14 on a 50 litre tank of unleaded petrol, and Townsville motorists could have saved up to 14 cents per litre, or \$11 on an 80 litre tank of diesel.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 9

asked on 1 JULY 2019

QUESTION:

Will the Minister please update the Committee on progress of the Rural Water Management Program? SDS page 4

ANSWER:

The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy is making solid progress to renew and strengthen Queensland's sustainable water management framework, through the Rural Water Management Program (RWMP).

The Queensland Government acted to give confidence to Queenslanders following the *Four Corners* program of 24 July 2017, by appointing an independent panel of experts to undertake an audit of non-urban water measurement and compliance.

The work that the department is doing through the RWMP delivers the Queensland Government's response to the Queensland independent audit and our commitments under the Murray-Darling Basin Compliance Compact with the Federal Government. These reviews were in response to reports about significant problems with water management and compliance in the Murray-Darling Basin.

The RWMP is delivering better access to water information and better systems, policies and processes to give Queenslanders confidence that our water resources are being managed, openly, fairly and responsibly.

This important program is building on the department's existing programs and delivering projects to strengthen water measurement, provide transparent water information, enhance our regulatory approach, enable robust compliance and pursue opportunities to optimise water markets.

Strengthened water measurement

In order to achieve a water management framework that ensures accountability, transparency and fairness, it is necessary to ensure that water take can be accurately measured and that timely information is available, to ensure that water is being taken at the allowed times and volumes. Achieving this requires the installation and use of appropriate water meters that are well maintained and continue to accurately measure water take.

Through the RWMP, the department is developing a new non-urban water measurement policy and new metering standards to improve the quality and coverage of water measurement across the state. Key considerations are better alignment with national metering standards; greater clarity on when a meter will be required and ways to strengthen measurement assurance, accuracy and support the capture of

real-time information. Significant consultation will be undertaken on any future measurement proposal.

The department is also identifying implementation timeframes, with a focus on the highest risk areas, such as the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin, considered a priority. Sufficient time for water entitlement holders and the water meter industry to respond to any future changes are being taken into account.

The department has been discussing potential changes to the metering policy and standards with peak bodies and irrigator groups across the state. There is general support from these groups to introduce more robust metering requirements. The department is listening carefully and will continue to engage with all stakeholders to ensure any changes are fair and equitable.

Transparent water information

Access to transparent and timely information is essential for good water management. It will help improve water use efficiency, reduce costs and enable my department to make better decisions about access to water and compliance.

Transparency and access to water information can be realised through the department's proposed strengthened water measurement approach which will provide increased measurement assurance and accuracy and support the capture of real-time information.

Better water information will also encourage better use of our water resources and support water markets and trading. The department is therefore taking steps to enhance and develop systems to ensure that water users and the community can access accurate water information.

For example, in early 2019, the department developed and publicly released the Water Entitlement Viewer. This online tool is an important step in making information about water entitlements publicly available and accessible.

Enhanced regulatory approach

The government also continues to take steps to improve the department's regulatory framework for water. The recent Natural Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 included amendments to strengthen compliance and enforcement provisions for a range of water offences.

These legislative amendments built on amendments to the Water Regulation 2016 in February 2019, which strengthened water meter validation requirements and faulty meter provisions. In 2018, the Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, included amendments to allow strategic infrastructure reserves (water to be used for future infrastructure projects or dams) to be released temporarily, to support short-term economic development opportunities.

Robust compliance

A robust compliance framework gives Queenslanders confidence that our water resources are being managed fairly and responsibly. The department continues to improve its compliance policies, procedures and guidelines that relate to water compliance and enforcement.

Education is key component of any robust compliance framework and the department, through its dedicated staff throughout regional Queensland, engages directly with water users and provides information to help them understand their obligations and the department's compliance approach. The RWMP's provision of greater access to water information will support greater self-compliance.

Optimising water markets

Through the RWMP, the department is partnering with water users and industry to identify underutilised water across the state and to develop strategies to optimise water use for economic development and improve water trading.

The department is also improving access to unallocated water. Recently, the first ever release of water from strategic water infrastructure reserves was made to support economic development in the Dawson Valley, until such time that water is needed for proposed infrastructure.

The RWMP, led by the department, is on track to deliver transformational changes to water management in Queensland. Delivering changes of this scale and nature takes time and should not be rushed. Most importantly, the RWMP is enabling the government to take a more strategic and coordinated approach to non-urban water management, to deliver the best possible water resource outcomes for Queensland.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 10

asked on 1 JULY 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to page 3 of the SDS, will the Minister please provide the Committee an update on how the State Government is providing secure, timely and accurate Title Registry operations and the benefit this will provide to Queenslanders?

ANSWER:

My department's Titles Registry is continuing to provide customers with high quality titling services, to help inform investment decisions, support activity in Queensland's property and mortgage markets, and provide secure title for property interests through registration.

Timely registration of property interests and ready access to accurate and current title information is important for stakeholders. Almost four million title information searches are provided to customers annually – 99 per cent are conducted online, in real time. Currently, more than 640 000 title dealings are lodged annually – some 65 per cent are received electronically, with 94 per cent of all lodgements finalised within five days.

The department's range of electronic business options for customers, including stakeholders in the finance, legal and property sectors as well as local governments and state agencies, is helping to deliver substantial efficiencies to industry.

The department's bespoke eLodgement facility—which allows authorised customers to operate from the convenience of their own office by scanning titling documents and lodging electronic image files over the internet—is subject to ongoing enhancement and accounts for more than half of all titling lodgements in Queensland.

Continuing to advance the Titles Registry's "digital future" strategy is one of the department's priorities. Local uptake of the evolving national electronic conveyancing platforms, which provide fully digital workspaces for transactions, including data validation, financial settlement and funds disbursement, is growing. Participants will benefit from competition, with the appointment in late 2018 of a second electronic conveyancing network operator in Queensland.

Officers in my department are continuing to work collaboratively with other jurisdictions and key industry stakeholders to expand the scope of title dealing types that can be managed through the national electronic conveyancing system.

My department is committed to maintaining the integrity of Queensland's Automated Titles System through ongoing reviews and consultation regarding best practice, cyber-security awareness and risk mitigation strategies.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 11

asked on 1 JULY 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy portfolio's capital budget for 2019/20 on page 14 of the SDS, will the Minister provide a list of approved projects, including

- a) the budget and scope of each project; and
- b) the scheduled date of completion (reported in table format)?

ANSWER:

The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy's approved capital projects are listed below:

Project	Description	Total Budget \$'000	Expected completion
Rookwood Weir	Construction of the Rookwood Weir to supplement urban water supplies and enhance agricultural and industrial development in the Fitzroy Basin and Gladstone Region.	352,000 (83,000 in 2019-20)	2021-22
Hopeland (Linc Energy) Management and Remediation Project	DNRME has assumed the lead agency role for the management and remediation of the former Linc Energy abandoned mine site. The project focuses on the delivery of five key work packages that both manages the immediate risks, as well as seeks to understand future remediation challenges	4,260 (3,770 in 2019-20)	2023-24
Abandoned Mines – Tier One (high risk) sites	Continued mitigation of significant public safety, health and environmental risks at four Tier One (high risk) abandoned resource sites.	3,300 (2,800 in 2019-20)	2020-21
Geoscience Data Modernisation Project (Strategic Resources Exploration Program)	Modernising government's geosciences data and systems in order to unlock the full value of data and enable industry success.	7,125 (3,359 in 2019-20)	2019-20
Financial Assurance Framework Reform Program	Development of ICT system capability for the management and reporting of abandoned mines and related rehabilitation/remediation work under the Financial Provisioning Scheme.	3,975 (1,043 in 2019-20)	2019-20

The remaining \$15.621 million of the department's capital program includes an ongoing investment in the state's stock route network, water gauging stations and the replacement of property plant and equipment assets necessary for departmental operations.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 12

asked on 1 JULY 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to page 7 of the SDS and the Department's service objective to responsibly use Queensland's mineral and energy resources. In relation to petroleum authorities (both exploration and development) can the Minister advise:

- a) the number of wells that have been drilled in Queensland by geological basin;
- b) the number of wells that have been committed in development plans and work programs by geological basin; and
- c) the number of wells that have been committed to be drilled by 30 June 2019 but have not been drilled based on the latest approved development and work program by geological basin?

ANSWER:

- a) Departmental databases, were analysed to provide the data of total wells drilled in Queensland, to date.

Basin	Total Wells
Bowen	3630
Bowen/Surat	9194
Cooper	1
Eromanga	83
Cooper/Eromanga	1566
Galilee	205
Isa Superbasin	9
Other	230
Total	14,918

Parts b and c cannot be answered without placing unreasonable research requirements on the department.

The department does not maintain records that would answer the remaining parts b and c. Development plans and work programs are specific to individual tenures. The terms start and finish at different times and approved for varying time-periods. To attempt to answer these parts, an estimated 147 business days would be required to research and review data, to build into a suitable model. Therefore, under Standing Order 182(6), I am unable to provide a response to parts b and c.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 13

asked on 1 JULY 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to page 3 of the SDS in relation to Natural Resources Management Services, can the Minister outline the following in relation to its role in issuing land valuations:

- a) the number of objections lodged against statutory land valuations in the last five annual valuation programs (reported separately); and
- b) the internal and external legal costs incurred by the State Valuation Service in defending statutory valuations made over this period (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

- a) The total number of objections lodged against land valuations over the last five years, totals 15,513. See breakdown below:

Date of Valuation	No. Objections received
1/10/2018	3930
1/10/2017	1604
1/10/2016	3468
1/10/2015	3613
1/10/2014	2898
Total	15,513

- b) The total internal and external legal costs incurred by the State Valuations Service is below:

Description	FY 2018-19	FY2017-18	FY2016-17	FY 2015-16	FY 2014-15
Internal					
	\$331,961.16	\$316,593.75	\$127,803.03	\$112,660.37	\$199,618.82
<i>*Cost incurred by the department's In-House legal services in relation to defending statutory valuations.</i>					
External					
	\$1,408,797.29	\$928,068.29	\$1,045,662.51	\$586,212.90	\$99,682.89

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 14

asked on 1 JULY 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to page 7 of the SDS in relation to Minerals and Energy Resources Services, can the Minister outline the following in relation to complaints against resource activities (reported yearly 2015-2019):

- a) The overall number of complaints broken down into geographical areas;
- b) The overall number of sustained complaints broken down into geographical areas; and
- c) The number of complaints which resulted in disciplinary action taken by the department broken down into geographical areas?

ANSWER:

The information provided below relates to the overall number of complaints received by, and within the remit of, the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy's Georesources Division (formerly Minerals and Energy Resources Division), regarding the on-ground impacts of resource development.

All complaints received by the department are investigated and responses are outcome-focussed and proportionate to the risk and/or circumstances. Complaints listed below that did not result in formal disciplinary action (such as a reminder of obligations or Notice to Show Cause) were addressed using the range of other compliance tools available to the department, which may include education to improve performance.

Information has been broken down into key Queensland regions and by financial year.

Region	Complaints	Sustained Complaints	Outcome
2015-16			
Wide Bay Burnett	5	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All complaints closed out• Nil formal disciplinary action
Darling Downs and South West Qld	36	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All complaints closed out• Nil formal disciplinary action
Central Qld	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All complaints closed out• Nil formal disciplinary action
Mackay Isaac Whitsunday	3	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All complaints closed out• Nil formal disciplinary action
North Qld	3	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All complaints closed out• Nil formal disciplinary action
Far North Queensland	6	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All complaints closed out• Nil formal disciplinary action

Region	Complaints	Sustained Complaints	Outcome
North West Qld	Nil	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All complaints closed out Nil formal disciplinary action
2016-17			
Wide Bay Burnett	3	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All complaints closed out Two Notice to Show Cause issued
Darling Downs and South West Qld	32	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All complaints closed out One Reminder of Obligations issued
Central Qld	4	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All complaints closed out Nil formal disciplinary action
Mackay Isaac Whitsunday	3	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All complaints closed out Nil formal disciplinary action
North Qld	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All complaints closed out Nil formal disciplinary action
Far North Queensland	Nil	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All complaints closed out Nil formal disciplinary action
North West Qld	2	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All complaints closed out One statutory notice issued
2017-18			
Wide Bay Burnett	3	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All complaints closed out Nil formal disciplinary action
Darling Downs and South West Qld	14	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All complaints closed out Nil formal disciplinary action
Central Qld	3	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All complaints closed out Nil formal disciplinary action
Mackay Isaac Whitsunday	11	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All complaints closed out One statutory direction issued One complaint referred to Police, resulting in a fine
North Qld	2	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil
Far North Queensland	9	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All complaints closed out Three statutory notices issued Two statutory directions issued Two Notices to Show Cause issued One complaint resulting in penalty payment
North West Qld	Nil	Nil	Nil
2018-19			
Wide Bay Burnett	6	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All complaints closed out Nil formal disciplinary action
Darling Downs and South West Qld	20	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four complaints ongoing Nil formal disciplinary action
Central Qld	25	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two complaints ongoing Nil formal disciplinary action
Mackay Isaac Whitsunday	15	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two complaints closed out One Warning Notice issued
North Qld	5	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All complaints closed out Nil formal disciplinary action

Region	Complaints	Sustained Complaints	Outcome
Far North Queensland	13	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three complaints ongoing • Two statutory notices issued • Two statutory directions issued • One Notice to Show Cause issued
North West Qld	4	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One complaint ongoing • Two Warning Notices issued • One statutory notice issued

Note: 'sustained' is defined as two or more complaints on a single matter by either the same or separate complainants.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 15

asked on 1 JULY 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to the Powering Queensland Plan, SDS pages 2 and 10; and with reference to reports that industry figures estimated that the recent changes requiring qualified electricians to install photovoltaic panels at solar farms would increase the cost of building solar farms by 20% and possibly higher:

- a) what modelling was undertaken in relation to the budgetary implications of these changes; and
- b) what modelling was undertaken into the impact on renewable energy investment in Queensland and the plan's goal to achieve 50% renewable energy by 2030?

ANSWER:

- a) The question refers to a new electrical safety regulation to apply to solar farms that the government sought to introduce. Recent court proceedings ruled the regulation invalid.

Questions regarding the details of the policy development process relating to the regulation should be directed to the Honourable Grace Grace MP, Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations

- b) As per previous response.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 16

asked on 1 JULY 2019

QUESTION:

Reference is made to the Department's SDS page 10, continuing to support the establishment of the new clean energy generator CleanCo. As the Powering Queensland Plan involves the removal of renewable assets from CS Energy and Stanwell - can the Minister advise

- a) any advice regarding the agency credit ratings of CS Energy and Stanwell; and
- b) whether there has been any assessment on the ability of CS Energy and Stanwell to manage their financial risk and generation back-up strategies?

ANSWER:

- a) Questions about credit ratings should be referred to the Honourable Jackie Trad MP, Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, as the responsible Minister for financial matters.
- b) The capability of CS Energy and Stanwell to manage their financial risk and generation back-up strategies was taken into consideration during the development of CleanCo's portfolio and subsequent reallocation of generation assets between the generators. Details of these assessments are, however, commercial-in-confidence.

Queensland continues to operate Australia's youngest and most efficient fleet of coal-fired generators, safeguarding jobs in traditional industries as well as a growing industry of large-scale renewable projects. This will be supported into the future by the three publicly owned energy generators, as government continues to work with Stanwell and CS Energy to look at further opportunities for them to be part of the renewable future.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 17

asked on 1 JULY 2019

QUESTION:

On page 10 of the Department's SDS in relation to Energy Services, reference is made to a new measure of Renewable energy as a percentage of total energy consumed in Queensland with a 2019-20 target of 9.9%. Can the Minister advise how this reconciles with the Government's stated renewable energy target of 50% by 2030, along with the projected cost involved to reach this target?

ANSWER:

The 2019-20 Service Delivery Statement for the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, estimated that in 2019-20, the proportion of renewable energy generation in Queensland is approximately 9.9%.

Based on the output of existing projects and continued growth in small and large-scale renewable energy capacity in Queensland, the proportion of electricity generated from renewable sources is projected to reach around 20% in 2020.

This new service standard measure is consistent with the final report of the Queensland Renewable Energy Expert Panel which, in 2016, recommended an output based calculation for the Queensland Renewable Energy Target - a target for 50% renewable energy generation by 2030. While the Queensland Government has not set annual targets on the pathway to 50%, it is tracking progress towards the target through this new measure.

In 2016, the expert panel found that achieving the target would require an estimated \$6.7 billion (net present value) in additional investment across the market, to deliver an additional 5500 megawatts of new renewable capacity between 2020 and 2030. This is considered to remain broadly accurate for the Queensland market today.

Queensland is well placed to achieve this investment, with a large pipeline of projects already being developed. In addition, Government initiatives such as the CleanCo commitment for 1000 megawatts (MW) of new capacity by 2025, and commitment for up to 400 MW under Renewables 400 will incentivise investment at the large-scale. Consumer uptake of rooftop solar is also expected to continue.

Importantly, the expert panel noted that the cost of incentivising renewables into the system would have a cost neutral impact on consumers. This was due to the expected lower wholesale electricity prices as a result of increased level of renewable energy in the market.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 18

asked on 1 JULY 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to page 9 of the Departmental SDS in relation to Energy Services – specifically new energy potential, can the Minister confirm if the power off-take agreements entered into by the Government-owned Corporations are below the average wholesale electricity prices per MW for this financial year as listed on the AEMO data dashboard?

ANSWER:

I can confirm that the government owned corporations enter into commercial deals, with the purpose of participating in a competitive electricity market.

This means that a government owned corporation will only be entering power off-take agreements that are cost effective, when compared to the alternative options for wholesale electricity supply in the market place.

The specific details of power off-take agreements are commercial in confidence.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 19

asked on 1 JULY 2019

QUESTION:

With respect to the SDS page 2 Departmental overview objective point 2 deliver safe, secure, sustainable energy and also Energy Services unlocking the State's renewable energy potential, can the Minister advise by month for each facility since January 2017 to the present –

- a) how many mW hours of energy were generated at the Wivenhoe pumped hydro power station; and similarly
- b) how much electricity has been generated at the Swanbank E Power Station?

ANSWER:

- a) Wivenhoe Power Station uses cheaper energy from the National Electricity Market to pump water into storage, to be later utilised as hydropower generation during market peaks.

Wivenhoe Power Station has generated more than 173 GWh from January 2017 to June 2019. **Table A** in Attachment 1 provides a month by month break down of energy generated in MWh.

- b) Swanbank E Power Station is a combined cycle gas turbine, designed for both baseload operation and providing energy during market peaks.

Swanbank E has generated more than 1,200 GWh from January 2017 to June 2019. **Table B** in Attachment 1 provides a month by month break down of energy generated in MWh.

Table A

Wivenhoe Power Station	
Month	Energy Generated (MWh)
Jan-17	4,740
Feb-17	7,153
Mar-17	10,072
Apr-17	1,618
May-17	598
Jun-17	41
Jul-17	167
Aug-17	1,467
Sep-17	2,564
Oct-17	13,260
Nov-17	812
Dec-17	2,179
Jan-18	2,048
Feb-18	619
Mar-18	459
Apr-18	4,470
May-18	2,720
Jun-18	5,004
Jul-18	3,725
Aug-18	10,053
Sep-18	12,063
Oct-18	10,501
Nov-18	25,639
Dec-18	6,257
Jan-19	7,429
Feb-19	7,565
Mar-19	11,099
Apr-19	6,644
May-19	5,930
Jun-19	6,765

Table B

Swanbank E Power Station	
Month	Energy Generated (MWh)
Jan-17	-
Feb-17	-
Mar-17	-
Apr-17	-
May-17	-
Jun-17	-
Jul-17	-
Aug-17	-
Sep-17	-
Oct-17	-
Nov-17	39,537
Dec-17	38,090
Jan-18	180,319
Feb-18	156,392
Mar-18	174,403
Apr-18	18,830
May-18	44,056
Jun-18	22,277
Jul-18	-
Aug-18	-
Sep-18	6,360
Oct-18	-
Nov-18	-
Dec-18	13,625
Jan-19	168,776
Feb-19	156,604
Mar-19	158,077
Apr-19	-
May-19	40,325
Jun-19	59,990

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 20

asked on 1 JULY 2019

QUESTION:

With reference to page 7 service area description in the SDS, can the Minister outline the number of permits it granted in 2018-19:

- a) Mining - with a breakdown into resource types;
- b) Gas;
- c) Geothermal and carbon sequestration; and
- d) Storage facilities?

ANSWER:

The following permits were granted in 2018-19:

- a) Mining:
 - Coal*
 - 2 Exploration Permits for Coal;
 - 7 Mineral Development Licences for Coal;
 - 8 Mining Leases for Coal;
 - Minerals*
 - 314 Exploration Permits for Minerals;
 - 49 Mining Leases including 21 alluvial, colluvial and alluvial for gold and tin and 28 mineral.
- b) Gas:
 - 20 Petroleum Leases;
 - 18 Authorities to Prospect;
 - 14 Petroleum Pipeline Licences;
 - 1 Petroleum Facility Licence;
 - 7 Petroleum Survey Licences.
 - 49 Potential Commercial Area – Petroleum
- c) Geothermal and carbon sequestration:
 - 1 Geothermal Lease
 - No Carbon Sequestration Leases were granted in 2018-19.
- d) Storage facilities:
 - No Greenhouse Gas Storage Facility Leases were granted in 2018-19.

**Questions on notice and responses – *Minister for
Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries***

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 1

Asked on 1 July 2019

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 12, will the Minister advise how new funding and technologies are enhancing fisheries management and enforcement in Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government continues to invest in new technologies to enhance fisheries management and enforcement.

To enhance the state fisheries compliance program, body-worn cameras have been rolled out to all Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (QBFP) officers, which includes software licences, a data storage solution and training. These cameras have already assisted officers in the collection of evidence required for the successful prosecution of fisheries offences and provide an additional tool to help ensure the safety of our officers.

More recently, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has purchased a number of drones and surveillance kits for the QBFP. Drones will be used for both surveillance and evidence gathering purposes, providing an additional tool for our QBFP officers to help uncover illegal fishing activities and protect our fisheries resources.

The department is also investing in the development of a single, integrated fisheries compliance system to replace the current system which is more than 17 years old.

The department's offshore fisheries patrol vessels have also recently been fitted with satellite communication systems which provide officers with real time access to vessel tracking data, making it easier to identify potential targets of non-compliance.

Since 1 January 2019, all net, line and crab vessels have been required to have vessel tracking units installed and operational. Over 1,600 units have been purchased with over 1,000 now operational.

Fisheries Queensland will be engaging with the remaining fisheries over the coming months that are due to have vessel tracking implemented by 2020.

The use of modern technologies like vessel tracking will help ensure the sustainability of Queensland's fisheries, but also provide a range of benefits to commercial fishers including being able to monitor their own vessels through an online portal.

Together with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Fisheries Queensland has pooled up to \$3 million to assist industry with implementing vessel tracking. The rebate scheme has been designed so that the majority of fishers should not be out of pocket for the unit purchase or installation costs.

Fisheries Queensland and partner Government agencies have already seen the benefits of vessel tracking with many officers commenting that the technology has changed the way investigations are planned and enforcement is undertaken.

Cutting edge technology, including fish image recognition, is being used to automatically collect information on commercial fishing in ground-breaking and innovative research funded by the Palaszczuk Government.

Electronic monitoring technology, including cameras, sensors and image recognition software, has been installed on a range of commercial fishing vessels over the last six months in line with the objectives of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy.

This technology, once established, will help reduce red tape for commercial fishers whilst increasing confidence and supporting compliance with regulatory conditions and relevant approvals.

The Palaszczuk Government is also investing this financial year in modernising Fisheries Queensland systems to provide better data capture, integration and dashboarding, making it easier for stakeholders to find and use fisheries data.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 2

Asked on 1 July 2019

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 12, will the Minister advise of any additional scientific and fishery monitoring undertaken as part of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy and other initiatives?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

Better information means better decision making. The Palaszczuk Government is committed to evidence based policy and building the department's capacity to provide timely and effective management to sustain our fisheries into the future.

This year is the 20th anniversary of the fishery monitoring program undertaken by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Biological monitoring began in 1999, providing a very important long-term data set for these species. The monitoring program collects information on size, gender, and age of fish that have been caught by recreational and commercial fishers and also undertakes independent scientific surveys.

Under the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027, the Palaszczuk Government is investing significantly in additional monitoring to help inform more responsive decision making.

In 2017-18, biological monitoring commenced on an additional five fish, four crustacean and one scallop species. A program also commenced to monitor the catch of sharks in the East Coast and Gulf of Carpentaria net fisheries. These programs are continuing, and in 2018-19, biological monitoring commenced for an additional six fish species.

In addition to biological monitoring, Fisheries Queensland has also commenced the next Statewide recreational fishing survey. This program estimates the numbers of Queensland residents that participate in recreational fishing, and monitors the catch of these fishers to estimate recreational harvest. The survey also collects some social and economic data on recreational fishing.

Fisheries Queensland has also commenced a monitoring program to collect economic and social data on commercial and charter fishing.

Fisheries Queensland is also working with research partners to increase investment in fisheries research to improve our understanding of key fish species. New research projects have already started on snapper, pearl perch and scallops, and research proposals for other species are currently being evaluated.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 3

Asked on 1 July 2019

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 12, will the Minister provide an update on any additional funding to the Shark Control Program?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is providing additional funding of \$17.1 million over four years and \$4.4 million per annum ongoing to help meet the growing cost of the program; promote swimmer education and awareness; and invest in research and innovation to trial new technologies.

This funding will ensure the continued operation and maintenance of the current Shark Control Program, while investing \$1 million per year in research and trials of new technologies like drones.

This new funding also includes \$600,000 per year to deliver swimmer safety education in collaboration with the Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.

The SharkSmart Program commenced in early 2019 and the additional funding will ensure continued safe swimming education messages are promoted to the community.

The Shark Control Program commenced in 1962 and operates at 86 of Queensland's most popular beaches.

There has been only one shark attack fatality on a shark controlled beach since 1962.

In 2018-19, the program removed more than 550 sharks including great white sharks, tiger sharks and bull sharks.

A mix of nets and drum lines are used which are designed to catch sharks over two metres in length, as experts recognise that most species of sharks over this size have the capacity to cause serious human injury or death.

The department is currently undertaking a review of the effectiveness of alternative shark control technologies to determine what might be appropriate to trial in

Queensland. This will also be informed by our shark control program scientific working group.

The Government will continue to support the current program of nets and drumlines at our most popular beaches.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 4

Asked on 1 July 2019

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries involvement in the North and Far North West Monsoonal trough response? SDS page 3

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The monsoonal trough that impacted much of northern Queensland during late January and early February led to significant damage for primary production, most notably hundreds of thousands of livestock losses.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) has played a significant role in the immediate response and post recovery effort.

In the immediate response, DAF deployed staff to the region to assess damage; provide advice on carcass disposal; and support the fodder drop operation in partnership with industry, council and the Australian Defence Force. Staff were embedded within local councils and assisted with fodder drop operations.

Post recovery, DAF has continued to support primary producers including working across Government for the activation of appropriate assistance under the joint Commonwealth State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, and working closely with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, North Queensland Livestock Industry Recovery Agency (NQLIRA) and the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) on the implementation and delivery of new assistance grant and loan schemes.

DAF is providing advisory extension support to producers on issues such as animal welfare and nutrition and the coordination of meetings with local government and industry on the recovery response. A new DAF office has been established in Richmond, and there will be an additional beef extension officer at both Richmond and Cloncurry.

DAF will continue to have oversight and administration of the North West Beef Recovery Package. This package includes a range of measures to support the recovery of primary production including industry recovery officers; concessional loans administered by QRIDA; weed management programs to assist local government manage weed outbreaks that can adversely impact primary production; and freight subsidies to assist producers with restocking and agistment.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 5

Asked on 1 July 2019

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 5 will the Minister update the Committee on DAF personnel and staffing arrangements?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

In the 2019-2020 Financial year DAF has a Budgeted FTE figure of 2124.

This figure is made up of 931 FTEs in Agriculture, 614 FTEs in Biosecurity Queensland, and 356 FTEs in Fisheries & Forestry (this includes the Corporate FTEs that are allocated to service each of the business groups within DAF). 223 FTEs in Corporate service other agencies through corporate partnership arrangements.

The movement of 4 FTEs in the 2019-20 Budget from Agriculture to Fisheries & Forestry, reflects the internal transfer of the Fisheries Stock Assessment team to Fisheries and Forestry.

The decrease of 3 FTEs in the 2019-20 Budget for Biosecurity Queensland is due to the planned outcomes resulting from the continued implementation of the Biosecurity Capability Review.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 6

Asked on 1 July 2019

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline the Government's research agenda? SDS page 4

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

Queensland's primary industries are a major contributor to the State's economy and continue to grow. They were estimated to be worth \$17.59 billion in 2018-19.

My department has identified six high priority focus areas for future research, development and extension:

- Driving production systems innovation: by improving resource use; managing for a changing climate and providing better decision support systems
- Advancing genetics: producing new and improved plant varieties or improved reproductive techniques/genetic selection that will improve the profitability and market growth opportunities for Queensland
- Plant and animal protection: transforming the management of major pests and diseases by developing better identification and diagnostic systems and improving producers' capability to manage and control pests, weeds and diseases
- Agricultural chemicals and food contaminants: AgVet chemical management to maintain consumer confidence and secure market access for Queensland produce
- Improving environmental sustainability: including tools and technologies to minimise environmental impacts from agricultural production systems, especially on the Great Barrier Reef
- Value adding, supply chains, and markets: increasing market access for Queensland produce through developing technologies and protocols, product innovation, and increasing detection capabilities to benefit producers as well as local and global consumers.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 7

Asked on 1 July 2019

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister detail the measure that DAF undertakes in regard to research, development and extension and delivery of services to assist producers to advance the Queensland agriculture industry? SDS page 4

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

Queensland's primary industries are a major contributor to the State's economy.

My department currently has over 300 research, development and extension projects that cover livestock, aquaculture, fisheries, broadacre cropping, horticulture, forestry, timber processing and new product development, food processing and value adding.

Some examples of key research and development are:

- the Palaszczuk Government's election commitment - investing \$1 million to address knowledge gaps in pulse storage. This work will develop strategies for industry that reduce the damage caused by pests and minimise the risk of chemical contamination in pulse storage
- research into the possible cause/s and management options for pasture dieback which is currently impacting more than 200 known producers. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) has appointed a new Pasture Dieback Agronomist in Rockhampton to increase industry engagement as well as undertake field-based research trials to try and identify the cause/s. DAF's research and extension effort on pasture dieback has and will continue to be complementary to the work being undertaken by Meat and Livestock Australia
- investing \$800,000 over three years to develop a summer legume crop of the future - pigeon pea - a future game changer for the grains industry. Current summer pulse options for broad-acre farming systems are extremely limited. Growers need a 'summer chickpea'. Only DAF can deliver the integrated platform of genetics, agronomics, market-based research and product development required
- the Small Tree High Productivity Initiative to transform the productivity and profitability of subtropical and tropical tree crops, in particular, avocado, macadamia and mango through better canopy management of high density orchard systems. The aim is to boost profitability by improving yield per hectare of high quality fruit and nuts and making those industries the most competitive in the

world. The initiative is being delivered in partnership with Hort Innovation and the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation

- FutureBeef is a collaborative extension program supporting sustainable and profitable productivity gains for northern beef producers by engagement, support, awareness and education of producers and the beef industry. The FutureBeef website is the one-stop shop for northern beef information with over 980 pages of quality content and over 150 videos

To support the uptake of the latest research and development, my department is engaging with industry and primary producers through traditional workshops and field days as well as through various other digital platforms, by adapting to new ways of engaging with primary producers. For example, online resource materials, webinars, social media and YouTube.

In 2018-19, an independent analysis of six research, development and extension projects/programs was completed. It found that DAF investment in the six projects generated a net present value of \$161.72 million and a benefit-cost ratio of 5.41.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 8

Asked on 1 July 2019

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister detail how fish attracting devices operate in regard to sustainability of fisheries resources for recreational fishers? SDS page 10

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is investing \$1 million this financial year in rolling out a series of Fish Aggregating Devices, or FADs, that will make pelagic fish species such as mahi mahi, more commonly known as dolphin fish, cobia and mackerel more accessible to Queensland's recreational fishers.

The added benefit of making it more likely that recreational fishers will hook one of these species is that it takes some of the pressure off heavily targeted species such as snapper and pearl perch.

Over the next year, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries will install appropriately designed FADs at suitable locations. This will be done in consultation with stakeholders. A FAD monitoring and maintenance program will also be developed.

This is an exciting opportunity and the response from fishers has already been very positive.

The department will also be exploring opportunities with potential partners who may be interested in matching funding to roll out even more FADs in South East Queensland or more widely.

Other states and territories have already demonstrated success with FADS installed along its east coast, which attract large numbers of dolphin fish. Fisheries Queensland will be working with other agencies to take on board learnings from their program to ensure a cost effective program is rolled out in Queensland.

This investment will help strengthen world-class recreational fishing in Queensland, while giving snapper and pearl perch stocks an opportunity to rebuild.

By encouraging recreational fishers to target species other than snapper and pearl perch, we will ensure our kids and grandkids will be able to enjoy fishing for these iconic Queensland species into the future.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 9

Asked on 1 July 2019

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister update the Committee on the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative and in particular wild dog management? SDS page 8

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

In October last year, I announced a further \$6 million for the construction of cluster fencing in western and southern Queensland. This funding delivers on a 2017 election commitment to provide \$5 million for cluster fencing and is complemented by an additional \$1 million allocated for cluster fencing in the last State Budget.

I was very pleased to announce the successful applicants for this round of the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative on Tuesday 12 March 2019, in conjunction with the Premier and Minister for Trade. Through this initiative, funding is allocated to support regionally agreed cluster fencing arrangements in areas with high wild dog density, as well as other invasive plant and animal control programs across Queensland.

This round of funding targets drought-affected sheep and wool producing areas with cluster fencing projects managed by the Western Downs Regional Council, Maranoa Regional Council, Goondiwindi Regional Council, Southern Downs Regional Council, the Remote Area Planning and Development Board and Southern Queensland Natural Resource Management Group.

These projects will provide for an additional 2000 kilometres of cluster fencing, bringing the total amount of cluster fencing in Queensland to close to 9000 kilometres.

More than \$1 million has also been allocated for projects to tackle invasive plants and animals. The Fitzroy Basin Association has been allocated \$318,000 to carry out an integrated pest management project to control wild dogs, feral pigs, feral cats, *Harrisia Cactus* and *Parkinsonia* in the Dawson and Isaac catchments.

Southern Gulf NRM has been allocated \$553,000 to continue vital Prickly Acacia control in the Flinders River catchment, and Whitsunday Regional Council will receive \$133,400 to deliver more invasive animal control activities in the Whitsunday region.

The Palaszczuk Government has committed \$19.7 million in the last three years to assist regional communities with the construction of cluster fences and the control of

invasive plants and animals. This investment has been complemented with \$13 million of investment by the Federal Government.

The majority of funding has been allocated to assist regional communities with the construction of cluster fencing, and has been targeted in drought affected sheep and wool producing areas with the ultimate goal of bringing large numbers of sheep back to these areas.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative resulted in the construction of nearly 7000 kilometres of fencing, protecting more than 400 sheep-producing properties from wild dogs. Initial data coming out of the completed cluster fence projects indicates that lambing rates and sheep numbers have increased dramatically in most areas, with the Remote Area Planning and Development Board reporting that, as a result of its Round 1 cluster fence projects, lambing rates have increased from 40 per cent to upwards of 80 per cent and sheep numbers have almost doubled in the area, with numbers increasing from 269,000 to nearly 497,000 head.

Queensland Feral Pest Initiative funding has also been provided to employ additional local government officers to support invasive plant and animal control activities in Barcoo, Winton, Maranoa, Barcaldine, Southern Downs and Bulloo local government areas.

In addition, funding through the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative has been provided for a Wild Dog Coordinator Project that is jointly funded by AgForce, Australian Wool Innovation, and Meat and Livestock Australia. Through this project, three Wild Dog Coordinators have been appointed to service the local government areas in Northern, Central-western and South-western Queensland.

The Coordinators aim to deliver effective local and regional wild dog management programs by supporting the development of community-based management groups and improving the capacity of landholders to manage wild dogs through a range of extension activities and field days across the three regions.

Whilst it is early days in the implementation of this project, it has already achieved great successes in increasing landholder participation in coordinated baiting programs and reinvigorating local wild dog committees.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 10

Asked on 1 July 2019

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 3, will the Minister detail the fight against Exotic Fruit Fly in the Torres Strait?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Queensland Government, Federal Government, other states and territories and plant industry organisations have continued to collaborate on the implementation of an annual, proactive program to eradicate exotic fruit flies from the Torres Strait.

Fruit flies can have a major impact on Australia's capacity to trade in domestic and international markets, as they have the potential to infest a wide range of horticultural crops.

The last mainland incursion of Oriental fruit fly (formerly known as the Asian papaya fruit fly) into Queensland in 1995 cost government \$34 million to eradicate over three years.

The Exotic Fruit Fly in the Torres Strait Eradication Program is a key component of Australia's defence against these pests and it has undoubtedly prevented outbreaks of exotic fruit flies on the Australian mainland. The program combines routine early detection surveillance with response activities to prevent the entry and establishment of a number of economically damaging fruit flies on the Australian mainland.

Since 1 July 2015, the eradication program has been nationally cost-shared under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed as the Exotic Fruit Fly in the Torres Strait Response Plan. This means the costs associated with implementing the program are now being shared between industry and all Australian governments, reflecting the benefits that the program delivers nationally to industry.

The National Management Group has recently endorsed the Exotic Fruit Fly in the Torres Strait Response Plan 2018-2021. The program is responding to the fruit fly risk by implementing an integrated approach to their control:

- male annihilation (baits specifically targeting male fruit flies);
- bait spraying on affected Torres Strait islands;
- increased communication within Torres Strait and Cape York communities highlighting the risks associated with exotic fruit flies and the movement restrictions that apply in Torres Strait and Cape York Peninsula; and

- increased monitoring of aircraft and boats travelling between Torres Strait and the mainland.

In the last 12 months, Biosecurity Queensland has conducted 41 visits to 15 islands and installed and removed over 4500 bait blocks.

The total indicative budget for the Response Plan 2018-2021 is \$1,642,000, with Queensland's share being 11.56 per cent of the total budget.

In addition, a Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Biosecurity Strategy has recently been developed in collaboration with regional stakeholders. The Strategy provides a framework for how all regional stakeholders, including government, traditional owners, local residents and visitors to the region can manage biosecurity threats. I released this Strategy in November 2018 when I travelled to Thursday Island. There, I was able to see first-hand the importance of this initiative to these communities and the impact this work will have on protecting our state from biosecurity risks.

Consistent with the Strategy, Biosecurity Queensland will deliver the Exotic Fruit Fly in the Torres Strait Eradication Program to provide significant and enduring biosecurity benefit to the people of Torres Strait, as well as to the rest of Queensland and Australia.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 11

Asked on 1 July 2019

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries capital budget for 2019/20, SDS page 16, will the Minister provide a list of approved projects, including
a) the budget and scope of each project and;
b) the scheduled date of completion (reported in table format)?

ANSWER:

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has two approved major capital expenditure projects and one capital grant project for 2019-20. Details of these projects are provided in the table below.

Project	Scope	Total Project Costs \$	2019-20 Budget \$	Expected Completion
Toowoomba Facilities Upgrade – Stage1	Upgrade and refurbishment of existing facilities at Toowoomba to enhance service delivery and improve operational efficiency	\$9.6 Million	\$1.7 Million	September 2019
Refurbishment of the Tick Fever Centre at Wacol	Required to meet the upgraded Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority standards	\$1.5 Million	\$700,000	August 2020
RSPCA – Capital Grants	Capital grant contributions towards 2 new adoption facilities in North Queensland	\$3 Million	\$914,000	June 2020

Further details of the department's capital expenditure budget of \$19.7 million for 2019-20 are provided in State Budget Paper 3 on pages 24-25.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 12

Asked on 1 July 2019

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 10 of the SDS, under the department's service area of "Fisheries and Forestry" can the Minister outline the following figures in relation to the state's commercial fishing industry (reported yearly 2015-2019):

- a) The number of commercial fishers in the state;
- b) The worth of the commercial fishing industry;
- c) The percentage of licences being used/activated; and
- d) Any data on commercial fishers' overall confidence?

ANSWER:

There are currently 2,108 licensed commercial fishers in Queensland and 1,382 commercial fishing boat licences. Additionally, there are 311 commercial harvest licences that have been issued. Since 2015, as at 1 July each year:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Commercial Fishing Boat Licences	1433	1406	1384	1383	1382
Commercial Harvest Licences	328	327	320	316	311

These figures reflect that net free zones were implemented in 2015 by the Palaszczuk Government, during which time 46 commercial fishing boat licenses were bought back from fishers.

Queensland's commercial fisheries have produced an average of around 18,000 tonnes of seafood per year since 2014, worth almost \$200 million per year in gross value of production.

The Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027 sets out a comprehensive reform plan for the state.

Without these changes, we cannot create a system of management that will ensure the future sustainability of our fisheries resources.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 13

Asked on 1 July 2019

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 10 of the SDS, under the department's service area of "Fisheries and Forestry" can the Minister outline the following figures in relation to the fisheries enforcement (reported yearly 2015-2019):

- a) The number and total value of infringements issued against commercial fishers;
- b) The number and total value of infringements issued against recreational fishers; and
- c) The number of searches conducted by fisheries officers without a warrant?

ANSWER:

In the 2015-16 financial year:

- A total of 414 infringement notices totalling \$130,731 were issued to commercial fishers; and
- A total of 1869 infringement notices totalling \$347,745 were issued to recreational fishers.

In the 2016-17 financial year:

- A total of 427 infringement notices totalling \$141,384 were issued to commercial fishers; and
- A total of 1576 infringement notices totalling \$250,218 were issued to recreational fishers.

In the 2017-18 financial year:

- A total of 625 infringement notices totalling \$185,549 were issued to commercial fishers; and
- A total of 1962 infringement notices totalling \$359,541 were issued to recreational fishers.

In the 2018-19 financial year:

- A total of 520 infringement notices totalling \$126,507 were issued to commercial fishers; and
- A total of 2033 infringement notices totalling \$388,927 were issued to recreational fishers.

Officers from the QBFP have general powers to enter and search vessels, vehicles and places in certain circumstances without a warrant.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 14

Asked on 1 July 2019

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 9 of the SDS, under the Biosecurity Queensland's service area highlight of "wild dog fencing" program, can the Minister please outline the following:

- a) The total amount of funding allocated to new wild dog fencing;
- b) The total amount of funding allocated for farmers and producers to maintain wild dog fencing; and
- c) An itemised breakdown of grants provided through the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative?

ANSWER:

Queensland's sheep industry has been heavily impacted by the threat of wild dogs.

In response to part a) of the question, the Palaszczuk Government has committed \$19.7 million over the past four years to assist regional communities with the construction of cluster fences and the control of invasive plants and animals.

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative resulted in the construction of nearly 7000 kilometres of fencing, protecting more than 400 sheep-producing properties from wild dogs.

I recently announced the successful recipients of Round 3 funding. This funding, which delivers on a 2017 election commitment, will provide for another 2000 kilometres of fencing, bringing to nearly 9000 kilometres the total amount of cluster fencing built in Queensland.

In response to part b), Biosecurity Queensland administers the ongoing maintenance of the Queensland wild dog barrier fence.

The 2018–19 estimated actual for the fence is approximately \$1.9million and is funded 50:50 by the Queensland Government and the local governments from within the area protected by the fence.

In response to part c), an itemised breakdown of grants provided through the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative for wild dog fencing is provided below.

Round	Organisation	Qld Govt Funding (GST excl)	Aus Govt Funding (GST excl)	Total Project Funding (GST excl)
QFPI Round 1	RAPAD	\$ 1,562,500	\$ 3,687,500	\$ 5,250, 000
	Maranoa Regional Council	\$ 275,000	\$ 275,000	\$ 550, 000
	Goondiwindi Regional Council	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 700, 000
	South West NRM Ltd	\$ 1,562,500	\$ 4,437,500	\$ 6,000,000
TOTAL – QFPI Round 1 – Cluster fencing		\$ 3,750,000	\$ 8,750,000	\$ 12,500,000
QFPI Round 2	RAPAD	\$ 2,350,000		\$ 2,350,000
	SWNRM	\$ 2,164,400		\$ 2,164,400
	Maranoa Regional Council	\$ 485,600	\$ 200,000	\$ 685,600
	Goondiwindi Regional Council		\$ 326,500	\$ 326,500
TOTAL – QFPI Round 2 – Cluster fencing		\$ 5,000,000	\$ 526,500	\$ 5,526,500
QFPI Round 3	RAPAD	\$ 2,250,000		\$2,250,000
	Southern Queensland NRM	\$ 1,250,000		\$ 1,250,000
	Goondiwindi Regional Council	\$ 980,000		\$ 980,000
	Maranoa Regional Council	\$ 750,000		\$ 750,000
	Southern Downs Regional Council	\$ 700,000		\$ 700,000
TOTAL – QFPI Round 3 – Cluster fencing		\$ 6,050,000		\$ 6,050,000
Total allocated funding – QFPI – Cluster fencing		\$14,800,000	\$9,276,500	\$24,076,500

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 15

Asked on 1 July 2019

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 8 of the SDS, under the Biosecurity Queensland's service area highlight of "Red Imported Fire Ants" program, can the Minister please outline the following:

- a) How much to date of the total \$411 million from the eradication plan has been spent;
- b) How much will be spent in 2019/20;
- c) The number of hectares that have declared 'fire ant free' since the program began;
- d) The number of charges and convictions issued under the biosecurity act for spreading fire ants; and
- e) The number of employees who have been dismissed or removed from fire ant program?

ANSWER:

On behalf of every government in Australia, the Queensland Government is coordinating a national effort to eradicate fire ants.

- a) How much to date of the total \$411 million from the eradication plan has been spent?

\$81.811 million.

- b) How much will be spent in 2019/20?

The indicative budget for 2019–20 is \$52.344 million.

- c) The number of hectares that have declared 'fire ant free' since the program began?

The Ten Year Eradication Plan specifies that freedom from fire ants will be declared when no fire ants are detected in an area for two years, either by the public; the program's odour detection dogs; remote sensing surveillance; or program staff. This two-year proof-of-freedom period cannot commence until eradication activities are completed in an area. The first eradication treatment under the program is expected to be completed by the end of 2019.

Before the current ten year program commenced, separate incursions of fire ants were eradicated from Yarwun (Gladstone) in 2010 (71 hectares), the Port

of Brisbane in 2012 (8300 hectares), the Port of Gladstone in 2016 (220 hectares) and Brisbane Airport in 2019 (one hectare).

- d) The number of charges and convictions issued under the biosecurity act for spreading fire ants?

Under the current program, there have been no convictions or charges relating to the spread of fire ants to date.

It is difficult to prove that a person has spread fire ants as they spread naturally through flight as well as through the movement of fire ant carriers. New detections are often within flight range of existing infestation. Also, as fire ants are likely to be detected some time after a carrier movement, it is often difficult to satisfy the burden of proof that an offence has occurred.

Enforcement responses are based on a number of factors such as seriousness of the offence, client culpability, and sufficiency of evidence. Responses range from advisory and warning letters, permit cancellation, issuing orders and directions, and prosecution.

The recent introduction of penalty infringement notices is predicted to bring about higher levels of compliance.

- e) The number of employees who have been dismissed or removed from fire ant program?

One.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 16

Asked on 1 July 2019

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 8 of the SDS, under the Biosecurity Queensland's service area objectives of focusing on "invasive plants" and "weeds", can the Minister outline the Government's spending to directly combat the following weeds (reported yearly 2015-2019).

- a) Prickly acacia;
- b) Lantana;
- c) Giant Rat's tail; and
- d) Fireweed?

ANSWER:

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' spending attributable to activities for control of the four requested invasive plants (weeds) is listed below for the financial years 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19.

The department spent just under \$5 million towards these four weeds over the four years.

Invasive plants (weeds)	Financial years				Total
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	
Prickly acacia	\$862,555.10	\$802,173	\$1,287,817	\$537,391	\$3,647,825
Lantana	\$7,515.68	\$63,460	\$71,075	\$21,320	\$160,715
Giant rat's tail grass	\$13,555.88	\$356,693	\$372,401	\$375,630	\$1,115,625
Fireweed	\$4,515.68	\$3,860	\$23,259	\$23,864	\$52,843
Total	\$888,142.04	\$1,226,186	\$1,754,552	\$958,205	\$4,977,008

The amounts do not include any component for head office staff or regional staff who provide advice or otherwise assist landholders, local government and industry to discharge their obligations under the Biosecurity Act.

Weed	Activity	Cost Centres	Actuals 2015/16	Cost Centres	Actuals 2016/17	Actuals 2017/18	Actuals 2018/19
Prickly acacia	Biological control research and agent releases			8100213	86,236.43	202,869.86	212,053.04
				8102298	0	37,749.65	34,566.03
		7-02449-01	19,525.45	8100217	13,745.47	-2.08	0
	Research project – Adaptive management	7-02896-03	177,969.99		0	0	0
	Research project – Decision support	7-02896-01	160,543.98		0	0	0
	Research project - Herbicide application (Part of Project - Wayne Vogler's estimate)	7-02184-01	0	8100237	100,000	100,000	0
		7-02184-02	0				
			0	8102934	0	10,000	10,000
		CC repeated					
	War on Northern Invasive Weeds		0	8102063	134,892.16	86,700.75	44,957.09
	Herbicide registration & permits (Part project Joe Vitelli estimate - 3%)	7-02184-02	4,515.68	8100210	2,358.28	2,137.24	3,517.85
	Provision of printed fact sheets(Est. \$0.33 per factsheet)		0		940.5	363	297
	Disbursement of Grants (QFPI) State		0		\$64,000	\$78,607	\$40,745
	Disbursement of Grants (QFPI) Federal		\$500,000		\$400,000	\$769,392	\$191,255
	HQ & regional costs		0		0	0	0
	Total		862,555.10		\$802,173	\$1,287,817	\$537,391

Weed	Activity	Cost Centres	Actuals 2015/16	Cost Centres	Actuals 2016/17	Actuals 2017/18	Actuals 2018/19
Lantana	Biological control research, agent release and monitoring		0	8100215	45,888.46	43,453.84	0
	(Part project - Wayne Vogler's estimate 10%)		0	8100239	12,248.64	8,834	13,165

	Direct on-ground control (DAF properties)		3,000		1,150	2,500	500
	Herbicide registration & permits (Part project Joe Vitelli estimate - 3%)	7-02184-02	4,515.68	8100210	2,358.28	2,137.24	3,517.85
	Provision of printed fact sheets(Est. \$0.33 per factsheet)		0		1,815	709.5	297
	Disbursement of Grants (QFPI) State		0		0	\$13,440	\$3,840
	Total		\$7,515.68		\$63,460	\$71,075	\$21,320

Finance Comments: Total expenses in 7-02184-02 is \$150522.74 and 3% of this is \$4,515.68. All the figures matches with the supporting documents provided by the business groups.

Weed	Activity	Cost Centres	Actuals 2015/16	Cost Centres	Actuals 2016/17	Actuals 2017/18	Actuals 2018/19
Giant rat's tail grass	Biological control research and agent releases		0	8102162	15,000	55,720.25	53,495.51
			0	8102299	71,827.98	57,718.13	33,441.25
	Research project - GRT Management		0	8100240	117,888.41	94,294.95	180,906.21
			0	8102249	0	0	19,585.34
			0	8102255	0	0	13,259.71
	Research project - Control using native pathogens		0	8102300	13,477.69	45,544.55	13,467.42
			0	8102357	0	5,836.10	549.03
			0	8102358	0	2,047.71	53.83
			0	8102359	0	296.37	336.00
			0	8102360	0	1,343.55	7,016.55
			0	8102361	846.65	138.90	48.22
			0	8102362	1,045.32	0.00	3,362.88
			0	8102911	180.67	25,650.57	8,171.45
	Research project - Fluopropanate control		0	8102315	4,106.85	47,224.51	-179.36
			0	8102316	0	25,000.00	25,000.00
			0	8102316	0	25,000.00	25,000.00
	Herbicide registration & permits (Part project Joe Vitelli estimate - 3%)	7-02184-02	4,515.68	8100210	2,358.28	2,137.24	3,517.85
	Direct on-ground control (DAF properties)		9,040.20		7,494.63	7,424.780	3,556.78
	Provision of control information and advice		0	8103277	0	109	9,249.37

	Provision of printed fact sheets(Est. \$0.33 per factsheet)		0		2,574	1,914	792
	Total		\$13,555.88		\$356,693	\$372,401	\$375,630

Finance Comments: Total expenses in 7-02184-02 is \$150522.74 and 3% of this is \$4,515.68. All the figures matches with the supporting documents provided by the business groups.

Weed	Activity	Cost Centres	Actuals 2015/16	Cost Centres	Actuals 2016/17	Actuals 2017/18	Actuals 2018/19
Fireweed							
	Research on other control methods		\$0.00		\$0.00	20,000	20,000
	Herbicide registration & permits (Part project Joe Vitelli estimate - 3%)	7-02184-02	4,515.68	8100210	2,358.28	2,137.24	3,517.85
	Provision of printed fact sheets(Est. \$0.33 per factsheet)		0		1,501.5	1,122	346.5
	Total		\$4,515.68		\$3,860	\$23,259	\$23,864

Finance Comments: Total expenses in 7-02184-02 is \$150522.74 and 3% of this is \$4,515.68. All the figures matches with the supporting documents provided by the business groups.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 17

Asked on 1 July 2019

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 33 of the SDS, under the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) service area summary of managing Farm Debt mediation and restructure, can the Minister please outline the following (reported yearly 2016-2019):

- a) The number of businesses seeking assistance through the Farm Debt Restructure Office;
- b) The number of engagements with the Farm Business Debt Mediation program; and
- c) The number of businesses that are in arrears?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

- a) The numbers of applications received in 2017-18 through the Farm Debt Restructure Office and Farm Business Debt Mediation program can be found in the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority's (QRIDA's) 2017-18 Annual Report.
- b) The numbers of applications received during 2018-19, which will be included in QRIDA's Annual Report to be published later this year, are:
 - Farm Debt Restructure Office – 20 businesses
 - Farm Business Debt Mediation program – 73 matters initiated.
- c) To receive assistance under the Farm Debt Restructure Office, businesses do not have to be in arrears with their financier. The number of businesses receiving assistance who are in arrears with their financier are:
 - 2017-2018 – 3 businesses
 - 2018-2019 – 5 businesses.

For a Mortgagee (financier) to initiate a matter under the *Farm Business Debt Mediation Act 2017*, the farm business must be in default under the mortgage. A Mortgagor (Farmer) can, however, initiate a matter without being in default, but needs to be at risk of default. The number of matters initiated which have resulted from the businesses being in default with their financier are:

- 2017-2018 – 71 matters initiated
- 2018-2019 – 70 matters initiated.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 18

Asked on 1 July 2019

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 27 of the SDS, under the Queensland Agricultural Colleges (QATC) service area reference to "staffing", can the Minister outline the following:

- a) The number of QATC employees that have been given redundancy packages to date;
- b) The number of QATC employees that have been offered new jobs within the department or government; and
- c) How many of these employees are within the Longreach and Emerald regions (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

A QATC Employee Assistance Package (EAP) to deliver support services to all eligible, affected QATC staff has been developed and deployed.

The EAP is assisting all permanent full time and part time employees, long term casual and long term contract employees to develop a new career pathway in locations where there are limited opportunities for employment with specialist skills.

The support provided through the EAP includes two career coaching sessions and a workshop opportunity for each employee, plus financial support for 'job search' to a maximum of \$2,000, retraining and skills to a maximum of \$2,000, as well as special leave and travel assistance to a maximum of \$1,000.

- (a) As at 1 July 2019, no QATC employees had been offered redundancy packages.
- (b) All QATC staff have been invited to apply for an expression of interest to identify a TAFE Queensland (TAFEQ) Talent Pool. TAFEQ is diversifying delivery throughout the state and may have vacancies, both short and long term, for educators in various agriculture related qualification delivery areas. This is a talent pool for future roles as they become available. These positions may be permanent, temporary or casual throughout Queensland. Other registered training organisations including CQU and private RTOs are also considering options for future training and engagement of suitable QATC staff.
- (c) One staff member at Longreach and one staff member at Emerald have been offered new jobs within the department or government. There are currently 16 staff at Longreach and 22 staff at Emerald.

All QATC staff have also been given access to the job opportunity bulletins from TAFEQ, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Department of Environment and Science, the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, and the Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games, and have been supported to make applications for relevant positions.

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 19

Asked on 1 July 2019

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 17 of the SDS, under Agriculture's 2019-20 service area highlight of "drought reform" program, can the Minister please outline the following:

- a) The total costs to the department in the 2018 Queensland Drought Program Review;
- b) An itemisation of the yearly spend over the next four years on the Drought Assistance Package and Queensland Drought Reform; and
- c) A breakdown of the actual expenditure on the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (per individual program and year for 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

- a) The total costs to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) for the 2018 Queensland Drought Program Review was \$203,771.11.
- b) Future budget/expenditure for DRAS is dependent on drought conditions for that financial year.
- c)

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Fodder freight subsidy	\$8,884,063	\$10,297,549	\$2,139,130	\$6,775,824	\$12,177,538
Water cartage subsidy	\$179,571	\$28,212	\$1,146	\$7,068	\$35,977
Returning from agistment freight subsidy	\$525,192	\$524,290	\$1,466,865	\$369,690	\$222,043
Restocking freight subsidy	\$40,856	\$91,837	\$403,389	\$75,957	\$33,310
Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate (EWIR)	\$18,082,346	\$9,716,258	\$3,209,237	\$2,450,294	\$3,688,051
Apiary and Stock Grazing Permits Rebates	\$0	\$0	\$35,000	\$5,000	\$0
Charities and Special Payments	\$387,205	\$640,270	\$1,160	\$154,550	\$222,708
Rural Farm Financial Counsellors	\$244,000	\$266,000	\$325,000	\$333,000	\$341,000
Drought Financial Counselling Service	\$250,000	\$254,000	\$199,000	\$333,000	\$266,000
Small Business Counselling Service	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$360,000
Total	\$28,593,233	\$21,818,416	\$7,779,927	\$10,504,383	\$17,346,627

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 20

Asked on 1 July 2019

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 3 of the SDS, under the departmental overview to be responsive to the state's agri-businesses and communities, can the Minister outline the following in relation to DAF's Turf 'n' Surf:

- a) The total costs for developing and producing the podcast in 2018-19;
- b) The budgeted costs for the podcast in 2019-20;
- c) The number of downloads of the podcast (across all platforms); and
- d) The number of listens to the podcast (across all platforms)?

ANSWER:

The podcasts are produced in-house by the department's media team, using existing staff with no additional FTEs.

During the 2018-19 financial year, the department set up the logistics for broadcasting podcasts including purchasing mixing hardware, audio software licensing and training at the cost of \$2,540 (ex GST).

The budget for the 2019-20 financial year is \$2,110 (ex GST).

Re (c) and (d) – the podcast was launched on the date this question was asked, 1 July 2019.

Answers to questions taken on notice at hearing – 24 July 2019

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**ESTIMATES HEARING
QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

asked on 24 JULY 2019

QUESTION

I refer to the Ignite Employee Recognition Program:

Can the details be provided of the total amount that was spent on promotion, awards, dinners, flights and accommodation associated with the awards night in Townsville?

ANSWER:

The total amount spent on promotion, awards, dinners, flights and accommodation associated with the awards night in Townsville was approximately \$15 000.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES HEARING

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

asked on 24 JULY 2019

QUESTION

In reference to page 5 of the SDS relating to the percentage of the state's water service providers compliant with drinking water regulatory requirements, in this measure it notes that in 2018-19, 94 per cent of the providers were compliant. Every Queenslanders is entitled to compliant drinking water. Will you name those providers that are noncompliant water providers and explain what the government is doing to bring this figure to 100 per cent?

ANSWER:

- The service delivery statement measures the percentage of the state's drinking water service providers that are compliant with the regulatory requirements to have an approved Drinking Water Quality Management Plan, and to submit annual reports and audit reports by statutory due dates.
- It measures service provider compliance with regulatory reporting requirements and so is not a direct measure of their compliance with water quality criteria or the safety of the drinking water itself.
- The target for this measure is 90 percent compliance. This target recognises 100% compliance on providers meeting regulatory deadlines is not reasonable as there are always extenuating circumstances for some providers to not submit reports on the due date.
- Over the 2018-2019 financial year a small number of drinking water service providers became non-compliant through not submitting required reports by the statutory due dates. All of these drinking water service providers are now 100% compliant in relation to this measure. For this reason, there is no basis for naming non-compliant drinking water service providers.
- To encourage and achieve compliance, the department utilises a range of appropriate mechanisms, ranging from education and support activities to provide information and assistance to achieve voluntary compliance with the Act and their Drinking Water Quality Management Plan, through to enforcement activities

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES HEARING

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

asked on 24 JULY 2019

QUESTION

I refer you to page 5 of the SDS which states your target for compliant drinking water service providers for 2019-20 is 90 per cent. Can you explain why it is acceptable that the quality of Queensland's drinking water should actually reduce compared to last year?

ANSWER:

- The service delivery statement measures the percentage of the state's drinking water service providers that are compliant with the regulatory requirements to have an approved Drinking Water Quality Management Plan, and to submit annual reports and audit reports by statutory due dates.
- It measures service provider compliance with regulatory reporting requirements and so is not a direct measure of their compliance with water quality criteria or the safety of the drinking water itself.
- The first reporting period for this measure was 2018-2019 and it has not changed from that time. As a standard, targets for service delivery statement measures are set at the same level for at least a three year period so that trends can be identified and established.
- The target for this measure is 90 percent compliance and recognises that 100 percent compliance for providers to meet regulatory deadlines is not reasonable as there are always extenuating circumstances for some providers to not submit reports on the due date.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES HEARING

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

asked on 24 JULY 2019

QUESTION

Section 1250D(5) in the Water Act, which creates an exemption from the requirement to apply for an associated water licence in limited circumstances where the chief executive is satisfied that certain criteria are met. Can you confirm for us that Adani is the only company or mining lease holder to be exempt from making an associated water licence application under this section?

ANSWER:

Adani Mining Pty Ltd were not exempt from making an associated water licence application.

The application was received on 20 October 2016. It was rigorously assessed and approved with conditions, and in accordance with the requirements of the *Water Act 2000* (the Act), by the delegate in the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy on 29 March 2017.

With reference to section 1250D(5) of the Act, the effect of this section is that an associated water licence application is not subject to public notification if the chief executive of the department is satisfied that the criteria of that section of the Act have been met (for reference, the sections of the Act are outlined below).

This is a transitional provision designed to ensure that projects that have had their underground water impacts assessed through an environmental impact statement (EIS) and were also subject to expert evidence in the Land Court do not have this stage of the process duplicated.

To date, eleven applications have been made for an associated water licence. Of those associated water licence applications, Adani Mining Pty Ltd is the only application that the chief executive of the department decided met the criteria of section 1250D(5) of the Act, and for which a public notice was not required.

Of the eleven applications made, eight associated water licences have been granted by the department, three are still under consideration.

Section 1250D(5) of the Act, it states:

However, section 112(1) and (3) does not apply to the application if -

- (a) the chief executive is satisfied the impacts on underground water in relation to the mining tenure -
 - (i) were assessed in an EIS under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* or the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*; and
 - (ii) were subject to consideration in a Land Court hearing in which objectors led expert evidence on the impacts on underground water, and the Land Court outcome on the mining activities application did not specify any impediments, relating to taking or interfering with underground water, to the granting of the mining activities application; and
- (b) the Land Court outcome mentioned in paragraph (a)(ii) was given before 13 September 2016.

Section 112(1) and (3) of the Act states:

- (1) This section applies if the chief executive is satisfied the application has been properly made and the applicant has given the chief executive any additional information requested for the application.
- (2) However, this section does not apply if -
 - (a) the application is for taking underground water only for domestic purposes or watering stock of a number that would normally be depastured on the land to which the application relates; or
 - (b) the chief executive is satisfied granting the application would be inconsistent with a water plan.
- (3) The chief executive must give the applicant a notice requiring the applicant—
 - (a) to publish the information mentioned in subsection (4), for the period and in the way, stated in the notice given by the chief executive; or
 - to publish a notice that states the application has been made and refers to the information mentioned in subsection (4) and published on the department's website, for the period and in the way, stated in the notice given by the chief executive.
- (4) The information to be published must include at least the following –
 - (a) the location of the proposed taking of, or interfering with, water;
 - (b) where, including on the department's website or on the Queensland Government business and industry portal, copies of the application may be inspected;
 - (c) that written submissions may be made by any entity about the application;
 - (d) a day by which submissions must be made, and the person to whom, and the place where, the submissions must be made.

STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES HEARING

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

asked on 24 JULY 2019

QUESTION

In reference to page 7 of the SDS relating to mineral and energy resource services and specifically referring to gas production and regulation, can the Director-General please outline the regulatory health and safety fees imposed by your department on animal biogas production systems as well as CSG production under the Petroleum and Gas (Safety) Regulation 2018?

ANSWER:

Under the Petroleum and Gas (Safety) Regulation 2018:

- the operator of a facility that produces or processes biogas (including animal biogas) is liable to pay a safety and health fee.

For the 2019-20 year, the fee payable will be \$4,687 **per site**.

- producers of CSG under a petroleum lease are liable to pay a safety and health fee.

For the 2019-20 year, the fee payable will be \$1,599 **per well** noting that a petroleum lease may have multiple wells.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES HEARING

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

asked on 24 JULY 2019

QUESTION

Can you explain to me why Queensland's livestock producers looking to install and operate biogas systems designed to capture methane to use as energy are being charged and held to the same regulatory standard and fees as CSG wells?

ANSWER:

The safety and health fee applying to biogas producers was introduced in 2010.

The safety and health fee covers the costs of regulatory activities relating to safety and health for operating plant, including biogas facilities.

This supports the purpose of the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* to regulate and promote the safety of persons in relation to operating plant.

I refer you to Question taken on Notice No. 8 for the fee comparison.

The regulatory standard that applies to all operators of operating plant is that no person is to be exposed to an unacceptable level of risk.

This regulatory standard reflects the corresponding standard of safety that applies to all persons across all forms of operating plant, including biogas facilities.

The unacceptable risk standard is consistent across all resources industries and reflects every workers' right to return safely home every day.

Documents tabled at hearing – 24 July 2019

Documents tabled at the hearing – 24 July 2019	
1.	Letter to Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy from Emu Swam Dam Pty Ltd/Granite Belt Water Ltd dated 19 July 2019, tabled by Mr Dale Last MP, Member for Burdekin
2.	Article from “Courier Mail”, titled “‘Open Mind’ vow on nuclear power”, tabled by Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning
3.	Social media post paid for by Ms Deb Frecklington MP, Leader of the Opposition and Member for Nanango, tabled by Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning
4.	Pre-hearing Question on Notice No. 15, asked on 1 July 2019 – updated information, tabled by Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries
5.	Letter from Desert Channels Group dated 25 June 2019, addressed to the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries, tabled by Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries
6.	Letter dated 19 June 2019, from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries addressed to Senator the Honourable Bridget McKenzie, Minister for Agriculture, tabled by Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries
7.	“Growing for Queensland” discussion paper, tabled by Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries

Tabled by Dale Last MP.
At SDNRAIDC Estimates Hearing
Date 24 July 2019
Signature [Signature]

19 July 2019

Hon. Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy
PO Box 15216
City East QUEENSLAND 4002

CC Mr. James Purtill, Director General

Dear Minister

Re: Granite Belt Irrigation Project (Emu Swamp Dam).

The project team has had a number of productive meetings with Departmental officials (13 June; 12 July) which have indicated to the Board of the Granite Belt Irrigation Project that the issues identified, by the Department, in the two page addendum to the detailed business case have been either addressed or resolved to the satisfaction of officials at this stage of the project.

The project was particularly heartened that the Department has acknowledged that the pathway identified to secure water allocations can be supported. This coupled with the resolution by the private irrigator investors that they will accept the responsibility for construction cost overruns, and that the project will not proceed if the contracts for the dam and pipeline construction are unable to be obtained within the budgetary allowances identified within the detailed business case should provide the Queensland Government with confidence that any commitment of funds toward the project will be capped at the requested \$13.6 million.

A workshop was conducted on 12 July 2019 where the project made available the entire design team for the dam and pipeline, along with the geotechnical specialists to work through any issues identified by the department. The project has addressed the Department's concerns and is confident that the Department is now satisfied with the robustness of the design, the entire design process (including the independent review process), the adherence of the design and specifications to the applicable Australian standards, and strongly supported by evidence and technical expertise.

The project has made a commitment that the experts currently engaged by the project (Mr. Richard Rodd and Mr. David Stewart) to provide independent review and evaluation of the

designs will remain engaged and contracted for the entire design and construction phase and remain involved until the project reaches practical completion and commissioning.

The project also outlined the construction and procurement methodology to departmental officials that has been successfully deployed in at least 12 other dam and irrigational schemes in Australia. This construction methodology and its practitioners has been engaged to deliver the project, 'on time and on budget.' It is this methodology that has given the private investors the confidence to accept the risk of construction cost overruns, but also identifies fixed 'design and construct' contracts which enable a gated project approval. This process also allows for the project to be halted before construction commences if the contracts are unable to be let within the budgetary allowances.

Similarly, the project is currently in possession of the appropriate environmental approvals from the Commonwealth (EPBC Act) and the Coordinator General (EIS extension). As would be expected in a large coordinated project, any changes or alterations to the existing approvals will be progressed in a timely manner but at this stage there are no environmental issues which would preclude the project from proceeding to the next stage of development, subject to the availability of funding.

The governance of the project has been transferred from the Stanthorpe and Granite Belt Chamber of Commerce to two legal entities which have the ability to reflect the public/private nature of the funding sources. As identified by the Department, any future operation of the dam and irrigation scheme will need to be recognised as a 'water entity' under the Water Act 2000. It is not unique for a private sector entity to be recognised as such. The project believes that working with Government, the project will be able to address any future governance issues but that these are not required to be addressed at this stage of the project.

The four issues outlined above have been addressed by the project to the extent that the project is unable to progress without the Government support to move forward and the approval for the Department to commence negotiations in relation to the purchase price of water (Strategic Infrastructure Reserve) and the cost of leasing water (Reserve for Urban Supply and Indigenous Reserve).

The project has commenced negotiations with the Southern Downs Regional Council for their involvement in the project, and sought their agreement to the project leasing water to enable water security for both irrigation and urban supply on the Granite Belt.

The project is also seeking a formal response to the request for funding grant funding to secure the financial viability of the project. Previously the project requested \$18.6 million however the announcement by the Australian Government of \$5 million for road works surrounding the project, now only necessitates the Queensland Government committing \$13.6 million to enable the project to achieve the \$84 million total project cost that was identified in the detailed business case.

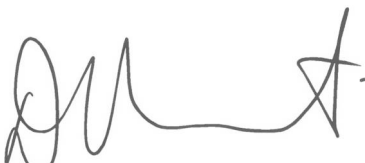
This project has the ability to create 700 new permanent jobs in a regional community with the addition of 250 jobs during construction; provide an annual \$67.9 million increase in gross farm production; increases water availability by 40%; increases production land use by 20% with a new 273 hectares coming under production; and provides the existing production area of 1380 hectares with increased resilience to climate change and certainty of annual food production.

This project has the capacity to address a number of water security issues in a District which is currently experiencing its worst drought on record, not the least of which being the provision of highly reliable water for irrigation purposes to drive further economic development not only in the Stanthorpe Granite Belt district but the entire Southern Downs Region.

The project requests the opportunity to discuss the project with you and a discussion on how the project can benefit your government and the people of Queensland. The future of this project now sits with the Queensland Government.

We look forward to your earliest response.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Hunt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dan Hunt
Chair
Emu Swamp Dam Pty Ltd
Granite Belt Water Ltd



'Open mind' vow on nuclear power

THE Morrison Government will keep an "open mind" on nuclear power plants, even if one was to be located on the Gold Coast, according to Energy Minister Angus Taylor.

But talk of where a power plant would be located has been dismissed as a Labor scare campaign.

It follows LNP senator James McGrath releasing a blueprint for an investigation into a "nuclear economy",

anchored by a nuclear power plant and more uranium mining. It is part of the terms of reference into a nuclear power plant inquiry being championed by Senator McGrath and Hinkler MP Keith Pitt.

Mr Taylor did not rule out a future nuclear power plants, including on the Gold Coast, when asked by Labor yesterday.

"We currently have a moratorium on nuclear power generation in Australia, and the

Government has no plans to change that," he said.

Queensland Labor senator Murray Watt said the LNP needed to say power plants could be built anywhere from Burleigh to Trinity Beach.

Mr Pitt said it was too soon to discuss locations for power plants because the inquiry needed to take place first.

"This is just a Labor scare campaign looking for a letter-box to jump into," he said.

Tabled by Minister Dick
At SDNRAID C Estimates hearing
Date 24 July 2019
Signature [Signature]

3:25

4G

LABOR
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Fi Davis



**David Crisafulli - Broadwater MP with
Deb Frecklington MP in Parliament
House, Brisbane.**

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When the waste tax starts on Monday, the cost of this skip will rise from \$350 to \$580. Most disappointingly, for every \$100 the State Government will now charge Brett to dump it, barely \$10 will go back towards the environment. The rest finds its way to the sticky fingers of government. That's not a waste strategy, it's a revenue strategy.

About This Partnership



About this partnership

Paid for by Deb Frecklington MP

Deb Frecklington MP compensated David Crisafulli - Broadwater MP to share this post. Branded content lets creators partner with brands to promote products or services. [Learn More](#)



**David Crisafulli - Broadwater
MP**

Politician

Unfollow

LNP Member for Broadwater



Deb Frecklington MP

Politician

Unfollow

Wife, mum, leader of the LNP and proud Member for Nanango. I am not a career politician, I got into it because it's the only way to solve big problems.

Tabled by Minister Dick M.P.
At SDNRAIDC Estimates Hearing.
Date 24 July 2019.
Signature [Signature]

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry
Development Committee**

Question on Notice

No. 15

Asked on 1 July 2019

Tabled by Minister Turner M.P.
At SDNRAIDC Estimates Hearing
Date 24 July 2019.
Signature [Signature]

The Committee asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 8 of the SDS, under the Biosecurity Queensland's service area highlight of "Red Imported Fire Ants" program, can the Minister please outline the following:

- a) How much to date of the total \$411 million from the eradication plan has been spent;
- b) How much will be spent in 2019/20;
- c) The number of hectares that have declared 'fire ant free' since the program began;
- d) The number of charges and convictions issued under the biosecurity act for spreading fire ants; and
- e) The number of employees who have been dismissed or removed from fire ant program?

ANSWER:

On behalf of every government in Australia, the Queensland Government is coordinating a national effort to eradicate fire ants.

- a) How much to date of the total \$411 million from the eradication plan has been spent?

\$81.811 million.

- b) How much will be spent in 2019/20?

The indicative budget for 2019–20 is \$52.344 million.

- c) The number of hectares that have declared 'fire ant free' since the program began?

The Ten Year Eradication Plan specifies that freedom from fire ants will be declared when no fire ants are detected in an area for two years, either by the public; the program's odour detection dogs; remote sensing surveillance; or program staff. This two-year proof-of-freedom period cannot commence until eradication activities are completed in an area. The first eradication treatment under the program is expected to be completed by the end of 2019.

Before the current ten year program commenced, separate incursions of fire ants were eradicated from Yarwun (Gladstone) in 2010 (71 hectares), the Port

of Brisbane in 2012 (8300 hectares), the Port of Gladstone in 2016 (220 hectares) and Brisbane Airport in 2019 (one hectare).

- d) The number of charges and convictions issued under the biosecurity act for spreading fire ants?

Under the current program, there have been no convictions or charges relating to the spread of fire ants to date.

It is difficult to prove that a person has spread fire ants as they spread naturally through flight as well as through the movement of fire ant carriers. New detections are often within flight range of existing infestation. Also, as fire ants are likely to be detected some time after a carrier movement, it is often difficult to satisfy the burden of proof that an offence has occurred.

Enforcement responses are based on a number of factors such as seriousness of the offence, client culpability, and sufficiency of evidence. Responses range from advisory and warning letters, permit cancellation, issuing orders and directions, and prosecution.

The recent introduction of penalty infringement notices is predicted to bring about higher levels of compliance.

- e) The number of employees who have been dismissed or removed from fire ant program?

Two.

Tabled by Minister Turner M.P.
At SDNRAIDC Estimates Hearing
Date 24 July 2019.
Signature [Signature]



25 June 2019

The Hon Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries
PO BOX 46
BRISBANE QLD 4001

BY EMAIL: agriculture@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Board and staff of Desert Channels Queensland (DCQ) I would like to thank you for taking the time to meet with Andrew Drysdale (Chair), Leanne Kohler (CEO) and Simon Wiggins (Operations Manager) during your recent visit to Longreach.

The DCQ region is very much an agricultural region and we have in the past, and hope to continue to have a very good working relationship with Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

DCQ works with several sections of QDAF, including grazing systems and Biosecurity Qld.

DCQ has a focus on a wide range of natural asset and agricultural sustainability issues, including weeds and pest animal management. Over many years the number one weed issue for the DCQ region has and continues to be Prickly Acacia.

DCQ's focus on weeds, particularly Prickly Acacia is aimed at achieving rangeland health through weed eradication and improved grazing management practices, leading to increased groundcover and reduction in erosion. Overall landscape health and improved sustainability of the regions natural assets is our mission.

In recent years the community has begun to think that eradication of Prickly Acacia is a serious possibility and we are already seeing through the program that regional and localised eradication is possible. Some properties are Prickly Acacia free for the first time in many generations. This is due, in no small part to the research, development of regulatory tools and continued efforts of DCQ.

We look forward to the ongoing support of Biosecurity Qld in the fight against Prickly Acacia and QDAF in the pursuit of sustainable land management.

Thank you once again.

Andrew Drysdale
Chairman
Desert Channels Queensland

Leanne Kohler
CEO
Desert Channels Queensland

Desert Channels Group ABN 38323082163

incorporating **Desert Channels Queensland Inc, DC Solutions, and Desert Channels Foundation**

PO Box 601 Longreach Q 4730 ph 07 4658 0600 fax 07 4658 0122 email info@dcq.org.au website www.dcq.org.au



CC:

Malcolm Letts
Deputy Director General
Biosecurity Queensland
Mineral House
Floor 2, 41 George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Brett Murphy
Chief of Staff
PO BOX 46
BRISBANE QLD 4001

BY EMAIL: [REDACTED]

BY EMAIL: [REDACTED]

Desert Channels Group ABN 38323082163

incorporating **Desert Channels Queensland Inc**, **DC Solutions**, and **Desert Channels Foundation**

PO Box 601 Longreach Q 4730 ph 07 4658 0600 fax 07 4658 0122 email info@dcq.org.au website www.dcq.org.au



The Hon Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries

Our ref: CTS 16353/19

19 JUN 2019

1 William Street Brisbane 4000
GPO Box 46 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7420
Email agriculture@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Senator the Honourable Bridget McKenzie
Minister for Agriculture
Parliament House
PO Box 6100
Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

I write to you in relation to the letter and attached draft deed for prickly acacia control of 4 April 2019, from your predecessor, the Honourable David Littleproud MP.

I understand that there have been ongoing discussions regarding the details in the deed between our offices, as well as between staff in our respective departments. These discussions were paused during the caretaker period of the recent Federal election and have recommenced as of last week. I would like to confirm with you my commitment to finalising these discussions so that I am able to sign the deed to enable delivery of the program to commence.

Further, I would like to confirm that the initial offer from the Federal Government was of \$5 million in cash to be matched by Queensland's existing and ongoing efforts in weed control. I am confident that we will be able to provide a list of recently, or soon to be approved, weed control projects to satisfy the matching need.

I would like to encourage ongoing discussions between our offices to ensure finalisation and signing of the deed. As always I am happy to discuss the matter if needed.

If you require further information, I encourage you to contact Mr Brett Murphy, Chief of Staff in my office on 3719 7420 or by email at [REDACTED]

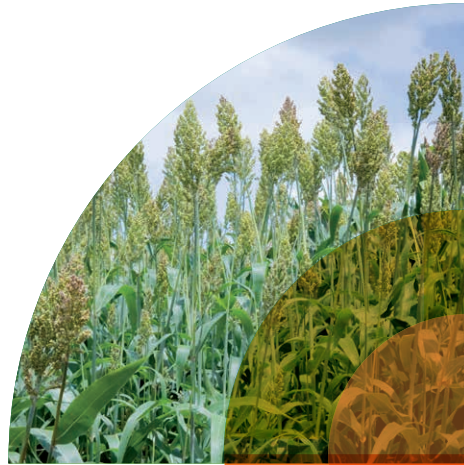
Yours sincerely

MARK FURNER MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries

Tabled by Minister Furner M.P.
At SDNRAIDC Estimates Hearing
Date 24 July 2019
Signature [Signature]

Growing for Queensland

Discussion paper



We acknowledge and pay our respects to the traditional owners and custodians, who for millennia have actively cared for and been nourished by our varied landscapes and seascapes.

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Minister's foreword



The Queensland Government is committed to tackling the challenges of today and tomorrow by creating jobs in a strong economy, keeping Queenslanders healthy, protecting the Great Barrier Reef, and ensuring we are a responsive government.

Queensland has a well-deserved reputation for premium, high-quality agricultural products. Our reputation is growing internationally and there is a rising demand for our clean and green produce. Agriculture and food is regularly highlighted as one of Queensland's strengths, and capitalising on this will mean the sector can make a growing contribution to our prosperity.

For the agriculture and food sector to continue to thrive, change is inevitable. The sector today is very different to the one that supported our community over 130 years ago. A track record of innovation across the sector has significantly lifted productivity over that time. We are seeking to work with industry and interested stakeholders through this discussion paper and engagement process to identify initiatives that will drive change and unleash the potential of our agricultural sector.

I know that many in the sector are doing it tough, dealing with ongoing drought and extreme weather events. It is appropriate to consider our resilience to future events, given that we are likely to experience more of these types of events as a result of a changing climate.

Meeting the challenges of the future requires new ways of thinking. Growing biosecurity risks are a constant threat to livelihoods, and require innovative solutions. Finding new ways to reduce inputs and production costs will improve sustainability and help businesses to stay profitable in a competitive market. We need to ensure that community and international expectations are met around issues such as environmental performance, animal welfare and food safety.

Government can assist by protecting the sector's social licence to operate and key assets such as the Great Barrier Reef. Together, we can identify solutions and opportunities that will benefit the sector and Queensland communities.

I want a rewarding, interesting, profitable and respected future for those who choose a career in agriculture—no matter where they are in the supply chain.

I invite each of you to join me in the conversation. Please share your views and your ideas to drive the growth of a trusted, profitable and sustainable Queensland agribusiness and food sector.

Hon. Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries



An aerial photograph of a lush green agricultural landscape, showing a network of furrows in the soil and a straight dirt road cutting through the fields. The image is positioned on the left side of the page, with a teal vertical bar separating it from the white content area.

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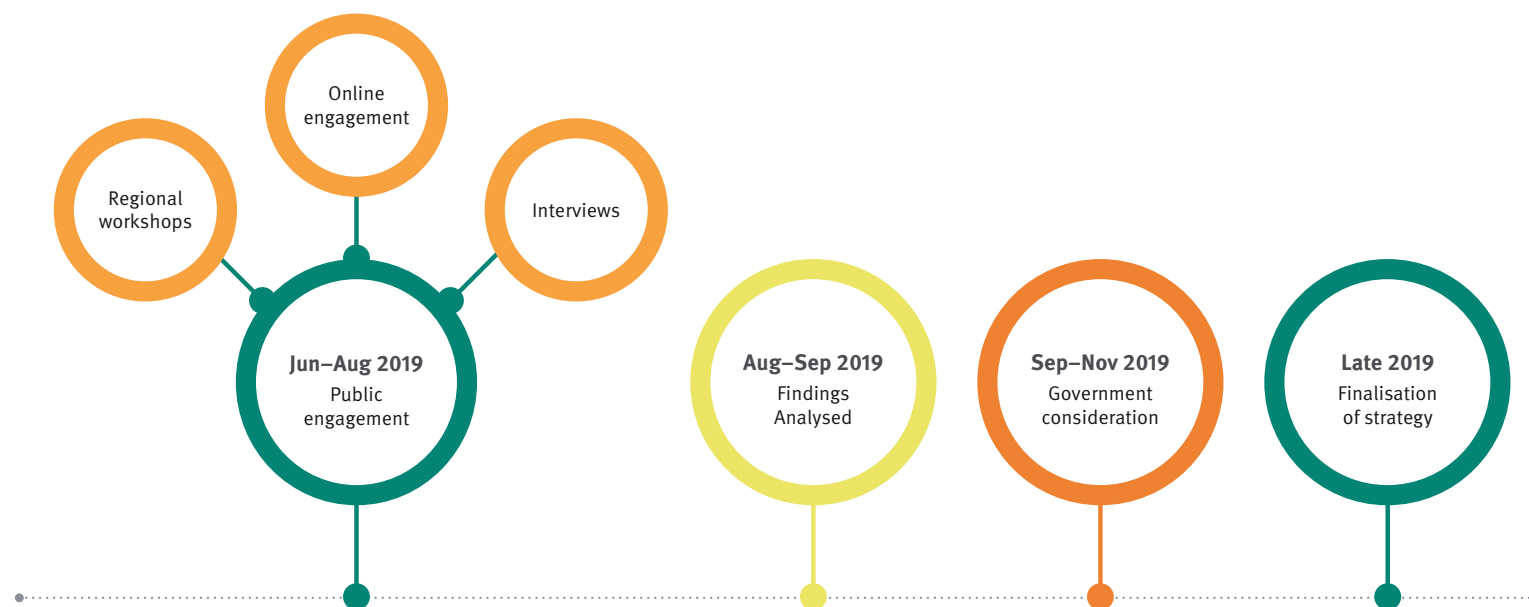


Summary

The Queensland Government is seeking your feedback on the way forward for the agribusiness and food sector in Queensland.

The sector is key to Queensland's long-term prosperity, contributing around \$30 billion to the Queensland economy in 2016–17. The sector continues to grow and employs more than 300 000 people across the state.

Regardless of where you are in the agribusiness and food supply chain, we want to hear from you. We will listen to, and acknowledge, your input and provide feedback on how it has contributed to the development of the final industry development strategy.





Have your say

The Queensland Government is seeking your feedback to inform an industry development strategy for Queensland's agribusiness and food sector.

Questions that relate to specific issues the government would like your feedback on are highlighted throughout this discussion paper. However, you are welcome to provide feedback in addition to these questions.

Please submit your feedback online or via email or post.

Online—complete the online survey at <https://daf.engagementhub.com.au/growing-for-queensland>

Email—email your written submission to Growing4Qld@daf.qld.gov.au

Post—mail your written submission to:

Growing for Queensland

GPO Box 46

Brisbane Qld 4001

Submissions close midnight, Saturday 31 August 2019.

For more information, visit daf.qld.gov.au or call **13 25 23**. For a hard copy of the discussion paper, call 13 25 23.

Information collected during this consultation process may be provided to persons making an application under freedom of information laws. Personal details will not be included or published in any report.



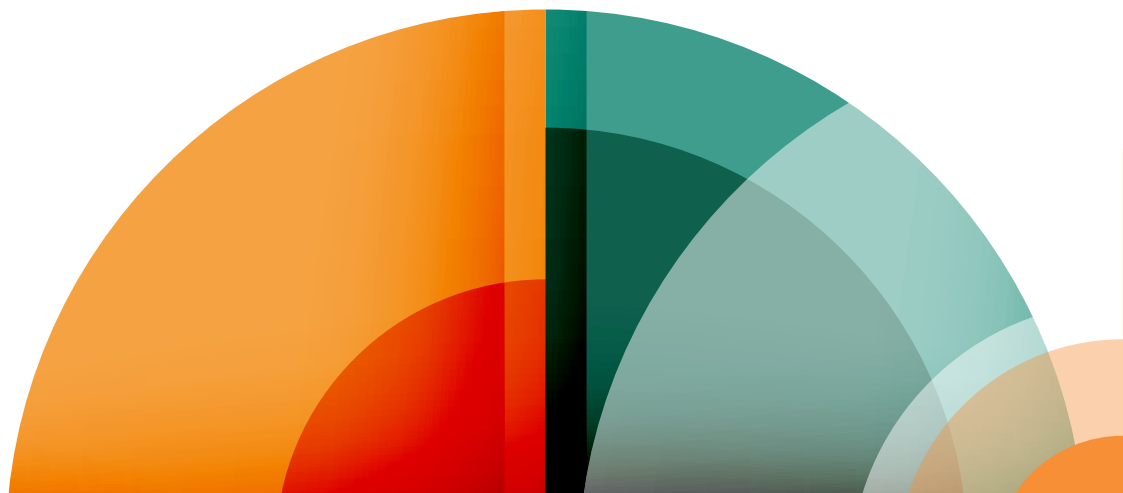


Purpose

The aim of this discussion paper is to trigger a conversation about how we can grow a trusted, profitable and sustainable agribusiness and food sector. We are seeking input from anyone with an interest in the future of the sector, including farmers, stakeholders across the supply chain, and the broader Queensland community. For the purposes of this policy, the sector includes agriculture, fisheries, forestry, food and fibre, and related processing and manufacturing supply chains.

The agribusiness and food sector faces change at an unprecedented scale and pace—from consumer trends, digital disruption and population growth, to the loss of fertile land and climate change. These changes will challenge us to produce more value with constrained resources, while enhancing the sector's contribution to the health, trade balance, prosperity and sustainability of Queensland communities.

The knowledge and ideas gained from this consultation process will inform an industry development strategy that covers what we are doing now, and what we need to do to in the future to maximise the sector's contribution to Queensland's economy, communities and environment.





About the strategy

Vision

Queensland's agribusiness and food sector is high-performing, trusted, profitable and sustainable.

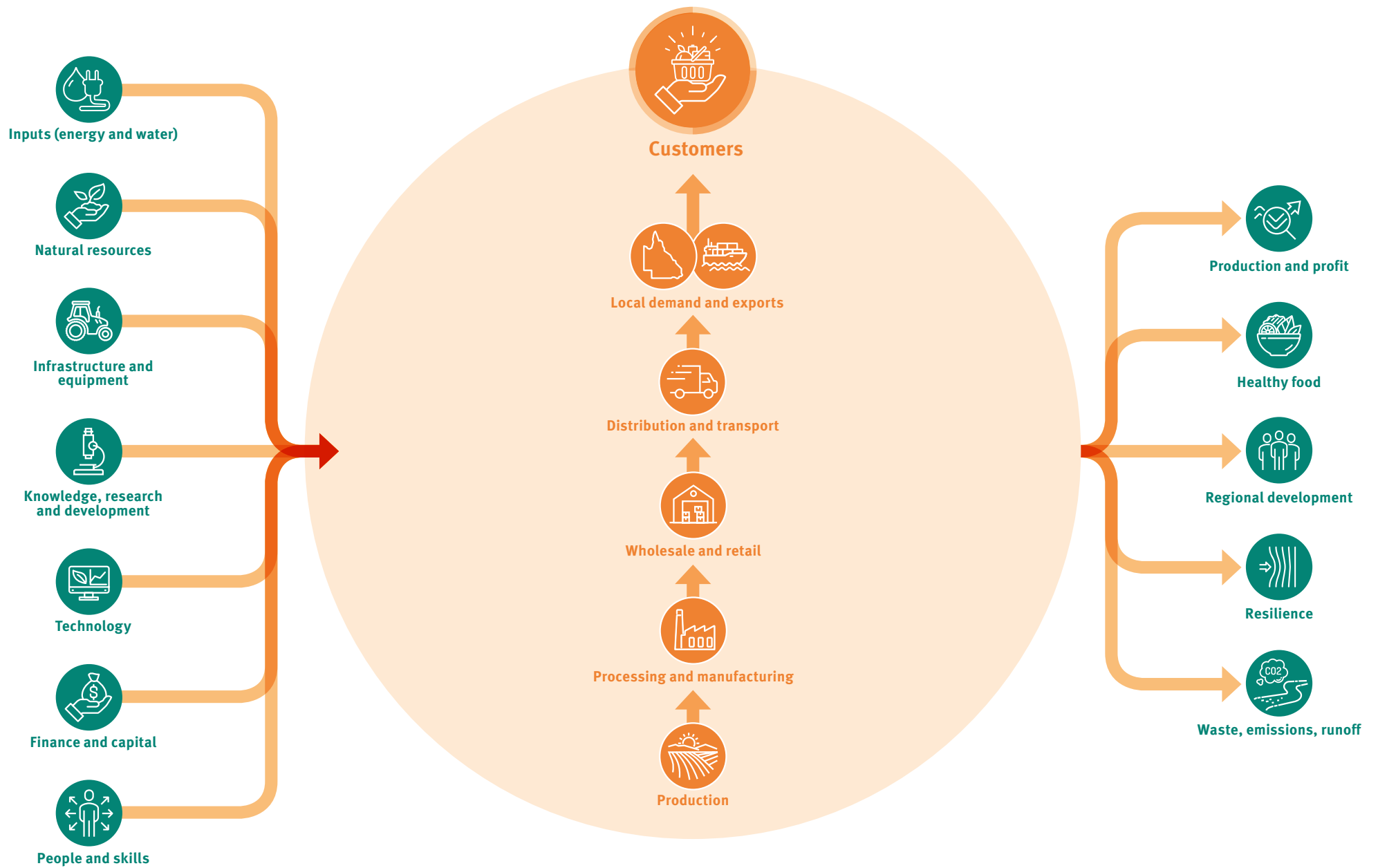
Scope

The final strategy will aim to cover all aspects of industry development and the impacts on, and benefits for, the wider Queensland community and environment. It will consider interests and responsibilities across the Queensland Government, and recognise collaborative and industry-led initiatives. The strategy will focus on actions that can be delivered between 2020 and 2025, which will assist in the transition of the sector to meet challenges and opportunities identified over the longer term.

Government, industry and stakeholders along the supply chain deliver many activities that improve agricultural productivity and sustainability. The intention is to provide an overarching framework that recognises existing government policies, programs and initiatives; broadly evaluates their efficiency and effectiveness; and identifies gaps and emerging priorities to better direct government investment in the sector. The development of the strategy will refer to the outcomes of, but not replicate, recent and ongoing consultation processes led by the Queensland Government. These include fisheries management and aquaculture, the biosecurity system, climate change mitigation, native forestry, trade and investment, and agricultural research, development and extension.

The strategy will consider all factors influencing industry development system-wide across the sector. A key consideration is the role of government to enable industry development through trade and investment attraction, regulatory provisions, market access, supply chain infrastructure, education and training, and fostering innovation.





The scope of the discussion paper and strategy includes the production and supply chain, inputs to the system and the benefits to Queensland

Strategy outcomes

The strategy will identify broad outcomes and opportunities to:

- improve business capability, productivity and profitability of the sector
- improve sustainability and resource management
- support jobs of the future
- build resilience and risk management capability
- drive innovation throughout the supply chain
- ensure Queenslanders have access to affordable, safe and nutritious food
- grow export capacity and add value to the Queensland economy
- promote regional development and communities
- enable diversification into complementary agribusiness activities
- ensure government investment is appropriate, effective and efficient.

The opportunities identified in the final strategy will be used to inform government priorities and investment.

?

- 1 What outcomes are most important to you?
- 2 What improvement would you like to see in relation to these outcomes over the next five years? How would we measure that improvement?



Current government initiatives

There are already many initiatives underway in Queensland and across Australia that relate to the sector and the drivers of change. The strategy will link with these existing initiatives, aim to address critical gaps that have not already been addressed through other mechanisms, and will identify key initiatives that provide multiple outcomes. A detailed list of state and federal strategies and programs is provided in Appendix A.

Major initiatives have included the following:

- The Growing Queensland's Food Exports program encourages sustainable economic development in regional communities by supporting food producers to build their export capability.
- Rural Economic Development Grants contribute to primary production-related economic development and job creation in rural areas.
- The Rural Economies Centre of Excellence is a joint research initiative between the Queensland Government and universities to assist rural economic development and diversification centred on the agricultural food and fibre value chain and related regional industries.
- The *Queensland sustainable fisheries strategy 2017–2027* identifies themes of improved monitoring and research, setting sustainable catch limits, improved stakeholder engagement, environmental risk assessments, resource allocation, harvest strategies, fishing rules and access, responsive decision-making, compliance, and resourcing.
- Land-based marine aquaculture development areas have been identified to promote and grow a sustainable aquaculture industry in Queensland.
- The *Queensland biosecurity strategy—Our next five years: 2018–2023* identifies themes of collaborative governance and leadership, every Queenslanders plays their part, empowered to act, bright ideas and better ways, valuing and building on our investments, and better intelligence systems.
- The *Queensland agriculture and food research development and extension 10-year roadmap and action plan* sets out the government's plans for research, development and extension (RD&E) activity to increase innovation and commercialisation, identify and promote agriculture and food RD&E opportunities, and support the existing sector to grow and develop new business.
- The \$150 million Jobs and Regional Growth Fund (JRGF) is targeted at growing regional economies and creating long-term jobs for Queenslanders. The fund is helping to facilitate private sector projects that create employment and economic growth opportunities in regional areas. JRGF is being effectively utilised to support the growth of regional agribusiness companies with financial support for six proposals since the program commenced in 2017 and has a further 15 under consideration. Applications are assessed against a set of criteria, and the type and level of assistance is determined on a case-by-case basis for both new projects and expansion plans that maximise benefits for regional employment and economic growth.
- The \$500 million Land Restoration Fund aims to facilitate a pipeline of Queensland-based carbon farming projects that generate high-quality carbon offsets with additional environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits for Queensland's land sector.

- Under the *Queensland advanced manufacturing 10-year roadmap and action plan*, Made in Queensland is a \$40 million grants program supporting our manufacturing sector to become more internationally competitive and adopt innovative processes and technologies.
- Advance Queensland is the Queensland Government's vision for the future and investment in a stronger Queensland economy. Funding of \$650 million supports programs that drive innovation, build on Queensland's natural advantages, and help raise Queensland's profile as an attractive investment destination.
- *Building our innovation economy – advance Queensland strategy (draft)* is the government's blueprint for Queensland's future, to drive jobs and solve some of the state's biggest challenges through innovation. The draft innovation strategy provides an opportunity for the agriculture and food industry to recommend new approaches to meet the innovation needs of the industry.
- The Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund (AQIAF) is a financial incentive program that aims to encourage the relocation and establishment of contestable new projects, or reinvestment and expansion of existing operations in Queensland. AQIAF seeks to bring innovative projects to Queensland and help them grow in order to drive job creation, regional growth, increased innovation and technology and supply chain development. Contestable proposals that support innovation and technology in the agribusiness supply chain and food manufacturing sector are a priority for AQIAF support.
- The *Queensland freight strategy – advancing freight in Queensland* sets a shared vision for the state's freight system, outlining a series of commitments that will guide policy, planning and investment decision-making over the next 10 years to give customers greater choice and support economic growth. The strategy supports and informs a range of state, regional and local government strategies and plans, including the *Transport coordination plan 2017–2027*, the integrated framework for transport planning.
- *Advancing trade and investment: Queensland trade and investment strategy 2017–2022* is a plan for cooperation between governments, business, educational institutions and local councils to create jobs for Queenslanders. It aims to use Queensland's natural and acquired strengths to tap into the immense opportunities being created by expanding international markets, positioning Queensland as a magnet for global investment.
- The *Queensland biofutures 10-year roadmap and action plan* aims to grow the bioproducts sector to attract international investment and create regional jobs.

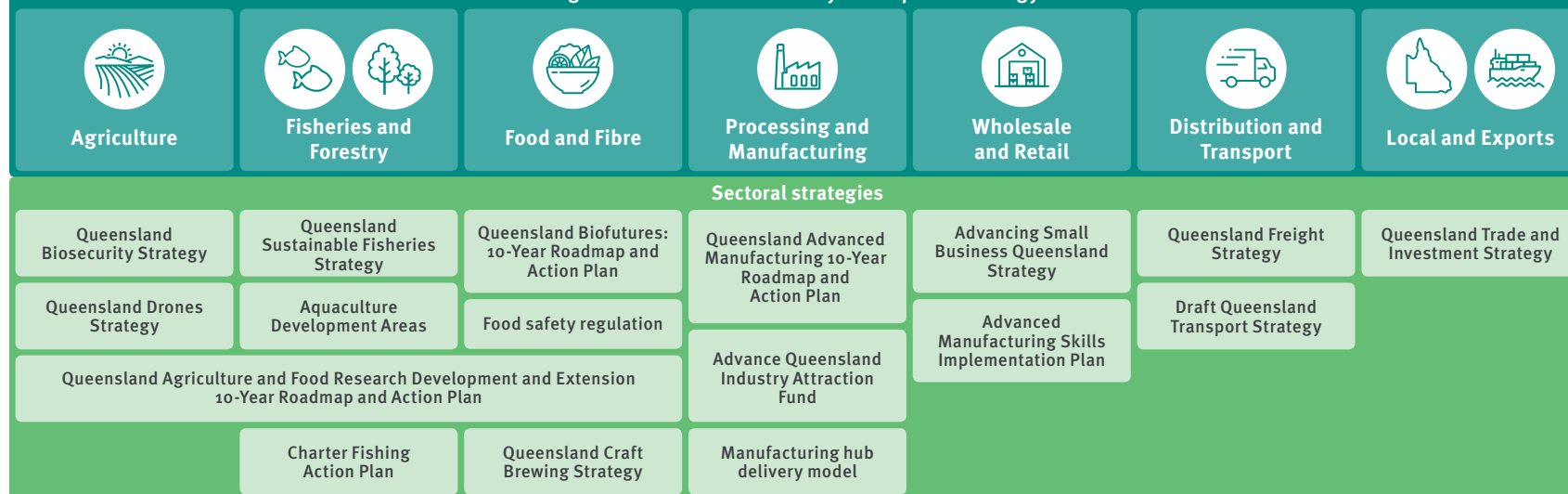
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- 3 What initiatives are delivering most value for you or your industry? What initiatives are not working, and why?
- 4 What are the key gaps that are not currently being addressed, or that require greater focus?

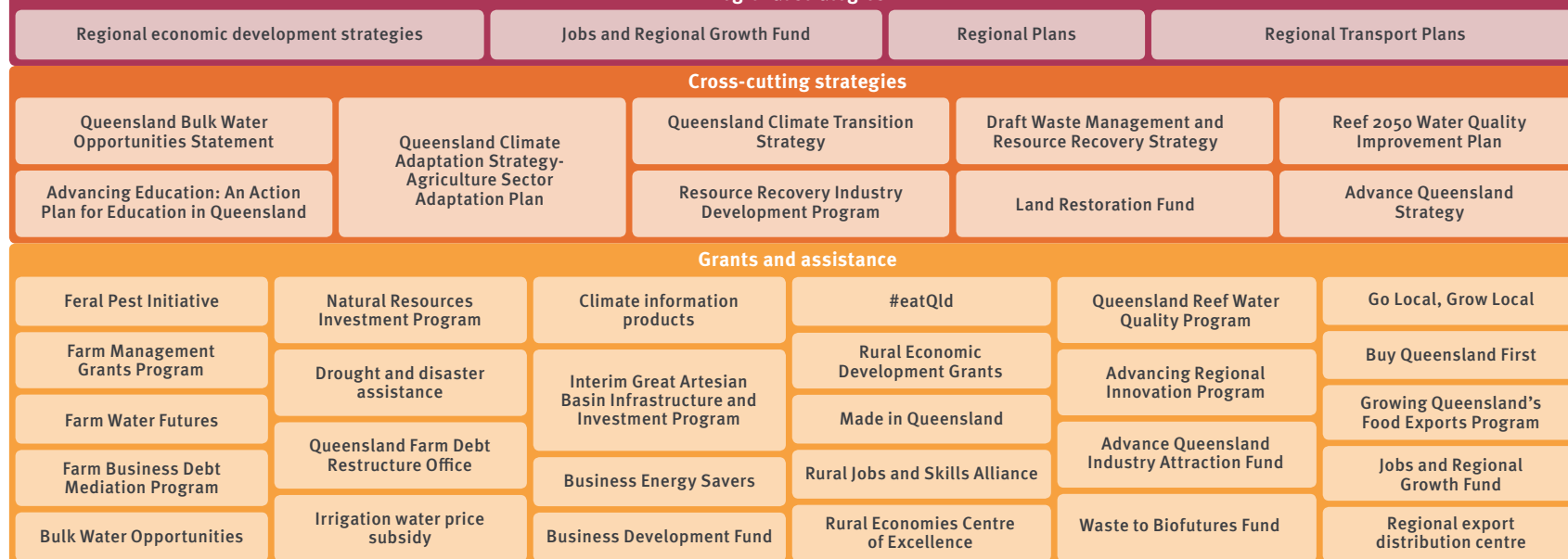


Our Future State: Advancing Queensland Priorities

Agribusiness and food industry development strategy



Regional strategies



There are many government strategies and programs that provide direction and support to the sector

The role of government in agribusiness and food industry development

The strategy will outline government priorities for enabling change in the sector to maximise opportunities and respond to the challenges. Typically, governments invest where there is a clear public good outcome, and where the benefits and outcomes are widely shared across the community over long time frames. Government has an important role in fostering cooperation to promote innovation and learning across organisations and sectors, including business, research and private organisations. Importantly, government has a role in leading collaboration and working with the community, other jurisdictions and partner organisations to meet shared responsibilities. It is also important that the benefits of government action—be they economic, social or environmental—exceed the costs.

Government provides an enabling regulatory environment that protects and manages public assets such as Queensland's fisheries, forests and the Great Barrier Reef. The government also regulates and manages water and land assets for sustainable use, as well as establishing and regulating markets in both water and land, offering producers opportunities and flexibility in managing their assets. Government provides large infrastructure, including dams and irrigation infrastructure, which support agriculture and food production. Land-use planning policies and regulation define and protect agriculture as a state interest for its direct and indirect contribution to local and regional economies. Planning policies that protect agricultural resources, enable growth and allow for diversification are critical. Regulation is also essential in managing biosecurity (as a shared responsibility) and protecting community safety and standards through food safety and animal welfare standards.

Government builds capability in individuals and businesses through activities such as research, development and extension, business support programs and information provision. Government undertakes longer term fundamental research, and undertakes and collates research and evidence for public policy development and public-good outcomes. The government also plays a significant role in assisting rural communities and agribusinesses to manage risks and adapt to, and recover from, drought, disasters and extreme events.

The development of the strategy will examine the role of government in enabling industry growth in a way that provides broader community outcomes and contributes to meeting government priorities.

?

- 5 What is the most appropriate role for government in Queensland agriculture? What roles or actions should be left to the private, academic or other sectors?





Understanding Queensland's agribusiness and food sector

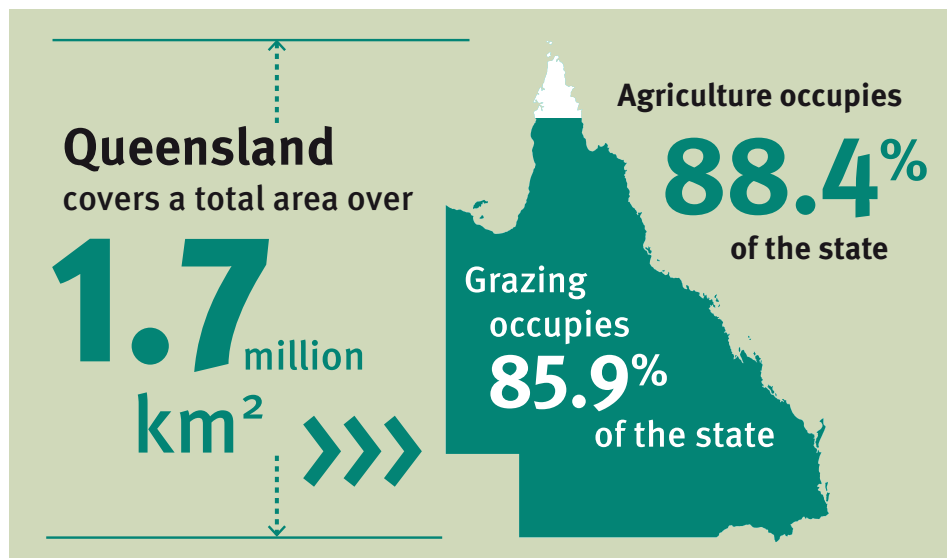
The sector today

The sector is an important contributor to Queensland's economy, employment and communities, particularly in rural and regional areas.

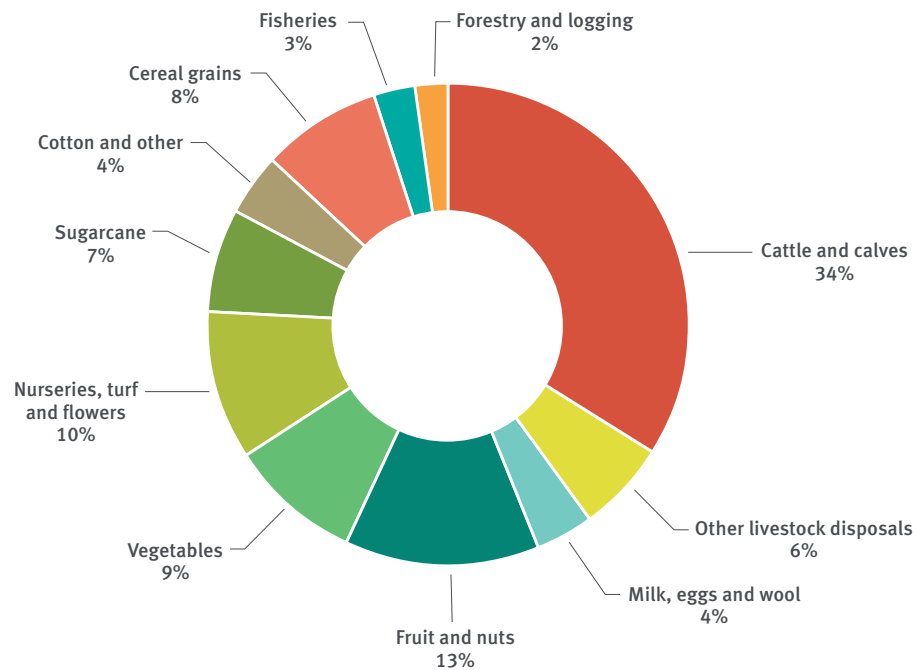
The agribusiness and food sector contributed around \$30 billion to Queensland's gross value of production in 2016–17, supporting regional economies and communities across the state. Queensland agriculture and food exports were valued at approximately \$12 billion in 2016–17.¹ The sector supports over 300 000 jobs across the supply chain, with many of these located in regional and rural Queensland.² Agriculture occupies over 88 per cent of Queensland's land area, and its environmental performance is critical to a sustainable future for the state. The sector supports food supply chains that provide Queenslanders access to affordable and nutritious food, which underpins healthy eating choices. The sector also provides social and cultural opportunities for communities to connect through food, supporting the overall wellbeing, mental and physical health of Queenslanders.

One of the great strengths of the sector is its diversity, due to a wide geographic range, variety of business models and technology, which drives production of hundreds of food and fibre products. New products and entirely new industries can emerge to meet demand in areas of Queensland with suitable growing conditions; the necessary capital, skills and infrastructure; and where it is possible to compete with other producers in Australia or overseas. There is potential for products currently grown in limited quantities to develop into significant industries based on increased consumer demand—for example, avocados were a niche product 30 years ago.

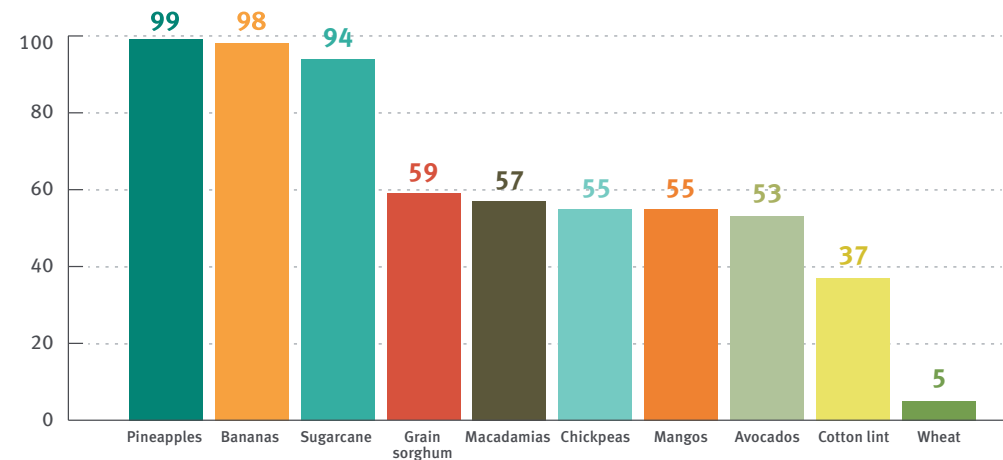




Agriculture in Queensland occupies much of the land area, supports over 300 000 jobs and contributes around \$30 billion to the Queensland economy^{1, 2, 3, 4}



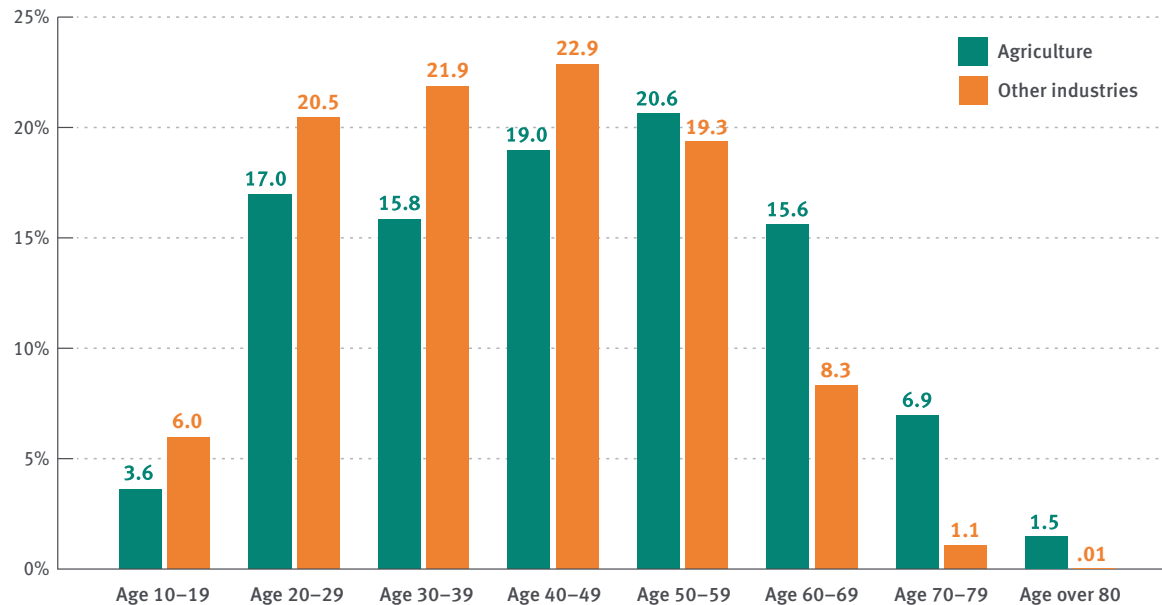
Queensland primary production is diverse; cattle livestock account for 34% of production; fruit and nuts 13%; and nurseries, turf and flowers 10%¹



Queensland produces almost all of Australia's pineapples, bananas and sugarcane, and more than half of Australia's sorghum, macadamias, chickpeas, mangos and avocados^{5, 6}

Annual turnover	Percentage of Broadacre farms	Percentage of output	Rate of return including capital appreciation
Less than \$500 000	70	22	3.7
\$500 000 – \$1 000 000	14	15	4.7
More than \$1 000 000	16	64	7.6

Small farms make up the majority of the number of agricultural businesses, but large farms supply the majority of output, and have the highest rates of return ⁷



People employed in agriculture are generally older than those employed in other industries, with a higher percentage continuing to work after 60 ⁸

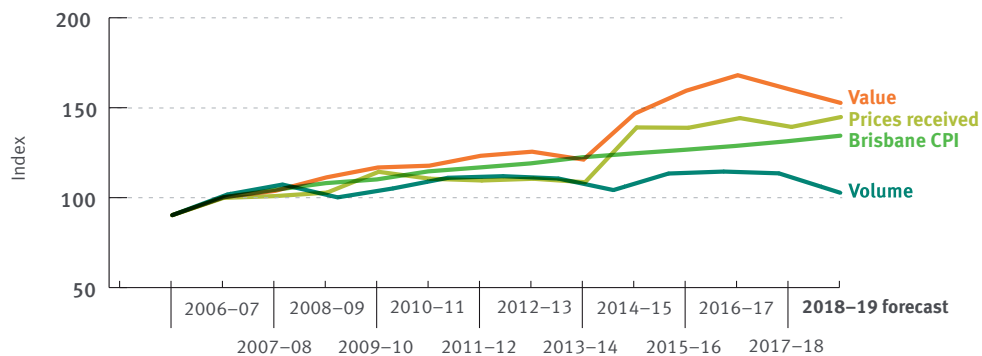


Industry trends and projections

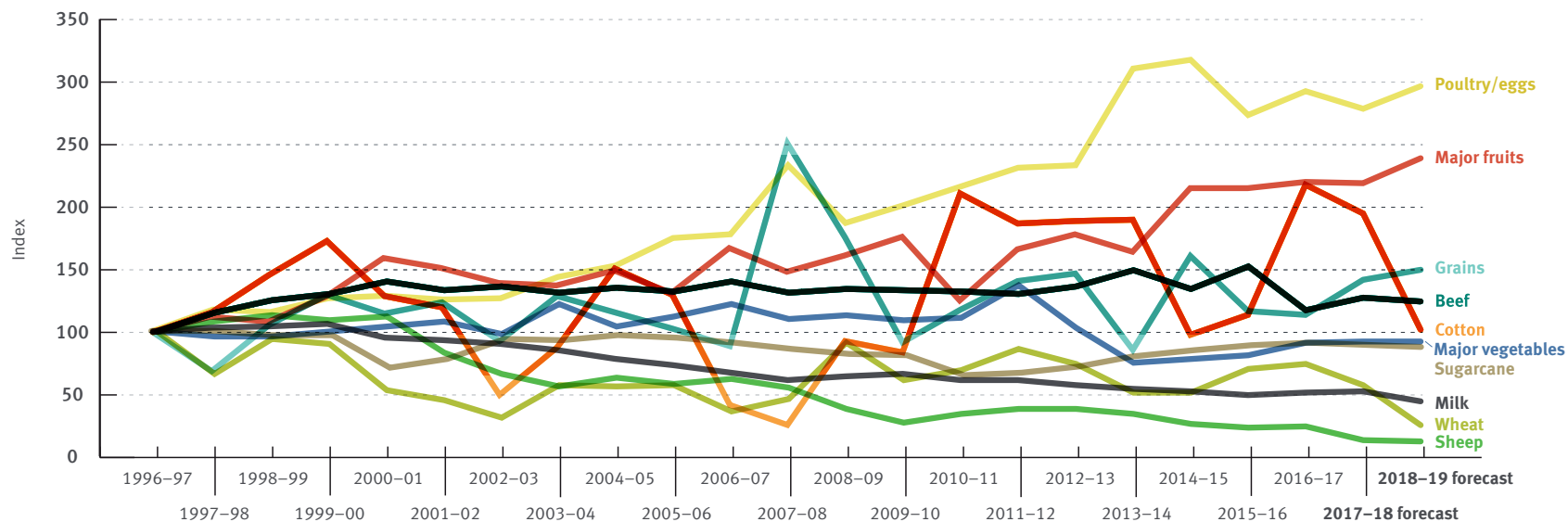
The production and value of the sector in Queensland has increased steadily despite the impacts of extreme weather and drought.

Queensland's agribusiness and food sector has grown steadily in recent years, at an average annual increase of 0.75 per cent in volume and 4.24 per cent in value between 2006–07 and 2018–19.¹ Commodity groups have grown at different rates, with the strongest growth in the poultry/egg and fruit industries; solid growth in cotton, feed grains and beef; and declines in sheep, dairy, wheat/barley and, to a lesser extent, sugarcane and vegetables. Industry trends reflect a number of long-term influences, including:

- rising demand for food and fibre due to global population growth
- reduced prices (in real terms) as growth in supply exceeds growth in demand over the medium- to long-term in some commodities
- changing demand from consumers with higher incomes, particularly in Asia, with an increasing demand for protein, quality, variety, convenience and environmental sustainability, and declining demand for grains
- increasing resource constraints, such as natural resources, labour and capital availability
- above-average productivity growth, driven by innovation, skills, investment, technology, new varieties and supply chain efficiencies
- widening markets due to globalisation and the creation of national markets (e.g. for milk), a reduction in agricultural protectionism and subsidisation in some countries, and increased market access for Australian products.



The prices and value of output from the agribusiness and food sectors has increased steadily since 2006⁴



Growth in volume has varied widely across industries, with some industries experiencing significant growth and others declining¹

These trends are expected to continue, with average growth in the volume of food and fibre production of around 1 per cent per year, and average growth in the value of production of around 3 per cent per year. In the absence of major disruptions in access to global markets or significant climate impacts, the medium-term expected prospects for Queensland are:

- above-average growth in fruit, intensive livestock and beef, aligning with recent trends and expected healthy growth in demand
- close-to-average growth rates in
 - vegetables—in line with recent trends
 - seafood—demand is growing in line with rising incomes globally, and global aquaculture production is meeting much of this increased demand
- cotton—faces significant resource constraints, but is a highly innovative industry with a demonstrated track record of responding to challenges
- less positive prospects for food grains, forestry, milk and sugarcane—there is increasing competition and declining demand for food grains, resource constraints for forestry, competition from interstate suppliers in dairy, and lower demand growth for sugarcane.



Drivers of change

The scale, complexity and rate of change that the sector is experiencing is unprecedented.

The agribusiness and food sector has always responded to change, risk and variability. The biophysical world that the sector relies on is constantly changing, as are input costs, interest rates and consumer demands. It is the speed and uncertainty of the current changes that calls for greater agility.

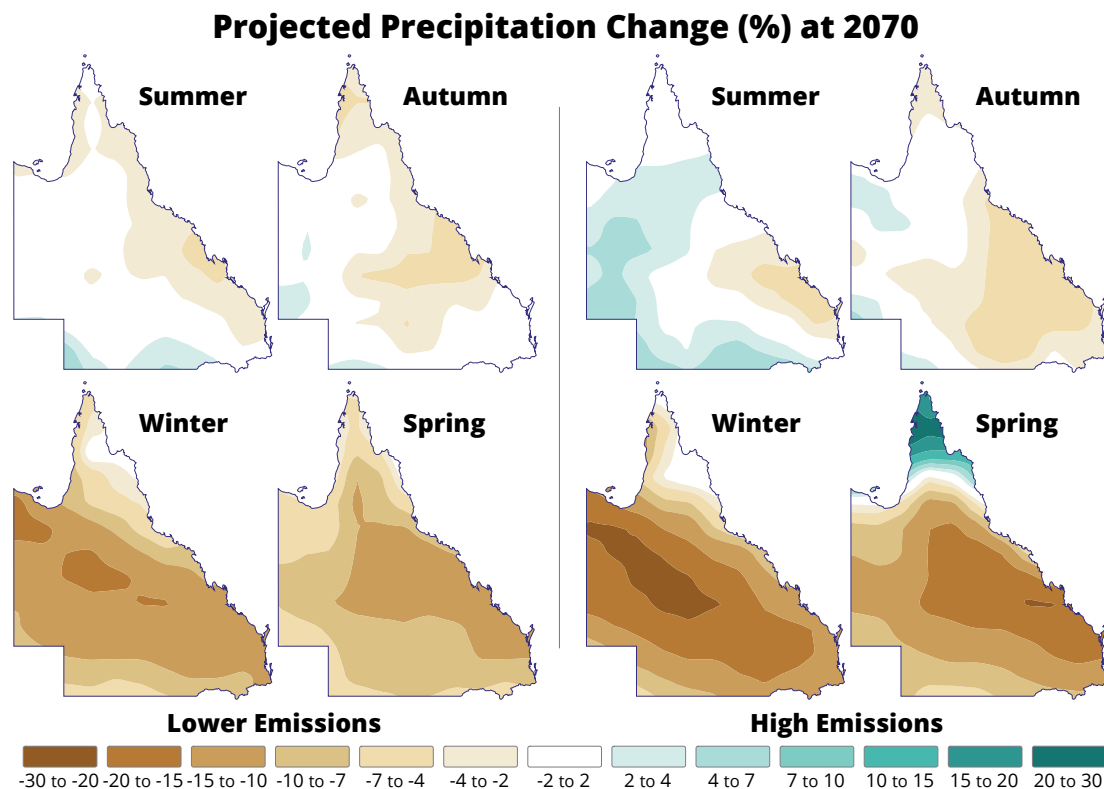
Continuing to implement a business-as-usual approach presents enormous risk, as it would fail to deal with potentially devastating disruptions that could impede sustainable inclusive growth and prosperity. Government has a role in enabling industry to transition to new ways of operating that maximise opportunities and mitigate risks. This role could include regulatory provisions, trade and investment attraction, market access, supply chain infrastructure, education and training, research and development, and fostering innovation.

Climate change

Queensland's climate is changing, along with our ability to grow food and fibre. The sector is in a critical transition phase leading to a future of greater adaptability, emissions reduction and carbon management.

Global warming is forecast to reach 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels between 2030 and 2052 if current trajectories continue.⁹ We are already experiencing the effects of climate change, with 2018 being Queensland's fifth-warmest year and Australia's third-warmest year since records began in 1910. Since 2005, Australia has experienced nine of its ten warmest years. Queensland has also recently experienced multiple extreme weather events—cyclones, extreme rainfall, flooding, heatwaves, severe thunderstorms, prolonged rainfall deficiencies and, for the first time, catastrophic bushfire conditions.¹⁰ Changes to our climate will include an increase in the frequency and severity of disasters and extreme events, an increase in the variability of rainfall, increased temperatures (including more days over 35 °C), and rising sea levels.⁹

The agribusiness and food sector is highly exposed to climate change risks due to its dependence on weather and water availability. Growing ranges, seasons, varieties and types of animals and plants, harvest times and product availability are all likely to change. It is likely that there will be more interruptions to supply as a result of natural disasters and extreme weather events. The location and spread of agricultural pests and diseases will shift, presenting new challenges for producers. Building resilience to extreme events and natural disasters, and adapting to shifts in climate, will be essential to maintain productivity. However, the sector has proven to be highly adaptable and innovative.



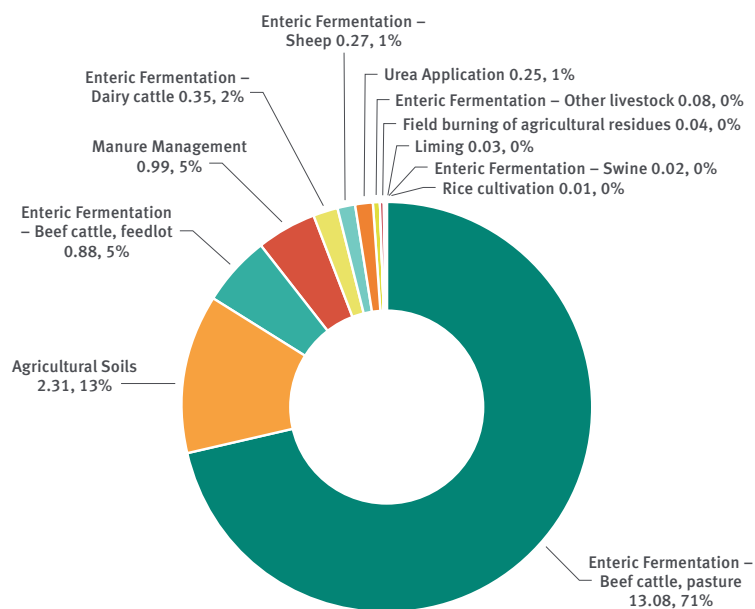
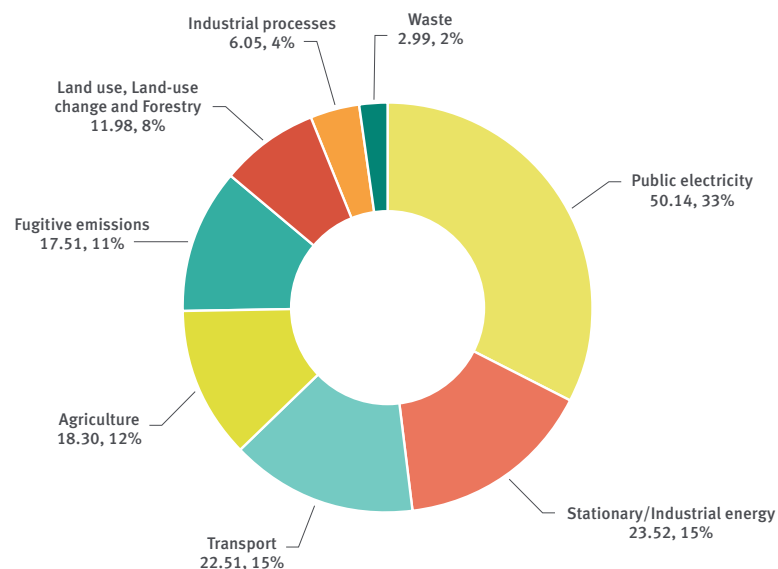
Winter and spring are predicted to become significantly drier by 2070 under both low and high emission scenarios¹¹

Pathways to a climate resilient Queensland: Queensland climate adaptation strategy 2017–2030 and the associated *Queensland climate adaptation strategy: agriculture sector adaptation plan* outline a way forward. Forecasting changes and proactively building resilience to reduce impacts will be the most robust approach. By better managing climate risks, businesses may identify opportunities to innovate and develop new markets for resilient production systems, business models and technologies. The Queensland Government has delivered a range of online climate information products, including [regional climate change impact summaries](#), the '[Climate Change in Queensland](#)' map application and new high-resolution climate projection data for Queensland.

With around one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions attributed to global agriculture and food supply chains, it is clear that the sector's challenge is to mitigate and adapt. The sector has the potential to further reduce emissions and increase carbon storage.

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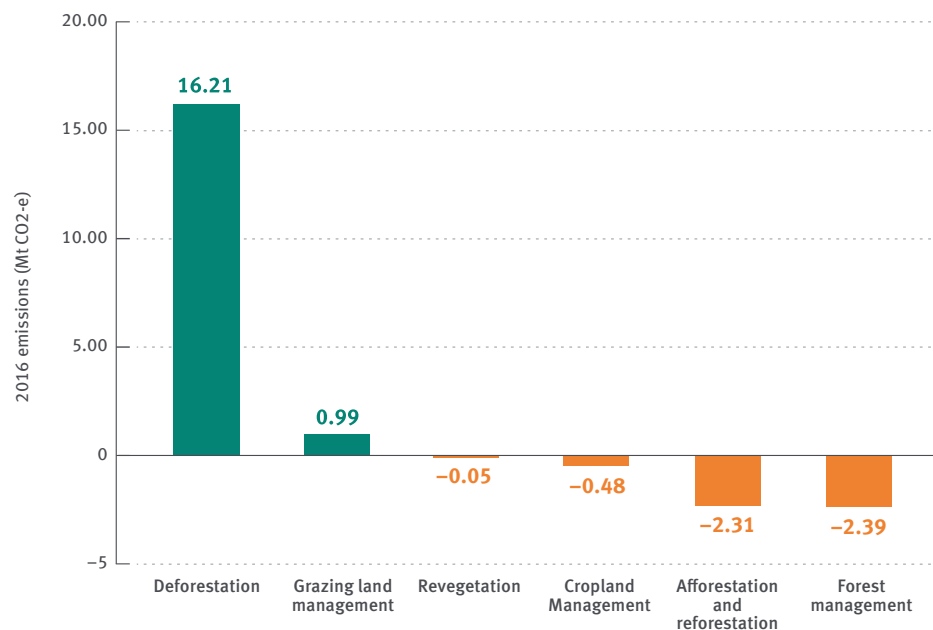
- 6 How have you experienced impacts of climate change in relation to agriculture and food? How have you adapted or acted to reduce emissions?
- 7 What are the key opportunities to reduce emissions in the sector and increase carbon management on the land?



Most of Queensland's greenhouse gas emissions arise from the energy sector, but agriculture contributes 12 per cent of Queensland's emissions—the main sources of agricultural greenhouse gas emissions are fermentation and deforestation¹⁶

Pathways to a clean growth economy: Queensland climate transition strategy sets out the approach to transition to a clean growth economy. It includes a commitment to achieve zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, with an interim target of at least a 30 per cent reduction on 2005 levels by 2030, and a target to generate 50 per cent of Queensland's energy from renewable sources by 2030.¹²

The Queensland Government is also investing \$500 million in a Land Restoration Fund, which will seek to facilitate carbon farming projects that generate high-value offsets with additional environmental, cultural, social and economic benefits. Already, Queensland's carbon farming sector is worth around \$1 billion in existing contracts^{13, 14} and could be worth up to \$8 billion by 2030.¹⁵



Land use change emissions are largely a result of land clearing, with a small contribution from clearing regrowth for grazing. Revegetation activities and cropland management sequester carbon (shown as negative emissions)¹⁶



Case study



Towards a circular economy in Far North Queensland

MSF Sugar's Biorefinery Project on the Atherton Tableland in Far North Queensland is providing a window into a circular economy of the future. Combining locally grown sugarcane with the emerging crop blue agave, the biorefinery will use enhanced sugar mill infrastructure to not only extract sugar, but turn by-products into biofuel and renewable base-load electricity all year.

Utilising renewable, plant-based feedstock to produce energy reduces greenhouse gas emissions by re-circulating carbon rather than extracting it from coal and oil. As a desert plant, blue agave has already adapted to a future drier and hotter climate. Blue agave will be harvested in the sugarcane off-season, establishing year-round supply to the biorefinery to increase infrastructure usage, improve financial viability, provide year-round jobs and provide a continuous supply of base-load power. The Queensland Government has supported the project through the Biofutures Acceleration Program.

Case study



Climate-ready Queensland strawberries

To maintain long-term strawberry productivity and ensure Queenslanders continue to have access to local, high-quality and healthy strawberries for their breakfasts, lunchboxes and desserts, Queensland Government scientists are working with industry to breed new climate-resilient strawberry varieties.

In a future climate, strawberries will need to be adapted to higher temperatures and higher carbon dioxide concentrations. Queensland Government research is testing whether a smaller leaf area and more photosynthesis per leaf area will provide higher yields. Decreases in leaf area may reduce the plant's water loss through the leaves in a warmer climate and allow the plant to direct more energy to growing fruit. Increasing the plant's ability to absorb elevated amounts of carbon dioxide also shows promise in maintaining productivity. The temperature resilience of potential new varieties emerging from the breeding program is being assessed through extensive production trials across a range of climatic regions throughout Australia.



Digital revolution

Digital technologies are rapidly changing the way agribusiness and food supply chains operate, shaping the jobs of the future and offering enormous potential for productivity and efficiency gains.

Digital technologies are transforming the agribusiness and food sector, with many Queensland agribusinesses embracing emerging digital technologies. This has resulted in an explosion in the volume of data collected, analysed and shared across the supply chain, enabling improved, efficient and more intelligent operations.

The farm of the future will be a hyperconnected web of assets transmitting business intelligence in real time. Biological and physical assets will be precisely controlled and monitored to produce sustainable and more productive farms. Traceability of provenance (origin), gene editing, automation, precision agriculture, protected cropping, and the export of agtech knowledge and expertise are potential growth areas.

Economic modelling has identified that implementing digital technologies across the sector could lift the gross value of Australia's agricultural production (also including forestry, fisheries and aquaculture) by \$20.3 billion—a 25 per cent increase on 2014–15 levels.¹⁷

Government has a key role in enabling the development of a smart, digital farming innovation system in Queensland. This includes facilitating the adoption of digital technologies, and developing and attracting new agtech businesses to Queensland. The digital revolution is high cost for high gain, and collaborations and partnerships are critical in the coming years. Queensland's digital future relies heavily on the reliability and coverage of its connectivity networks, such as voice, data and the Internet of Things.

?

- 8 What is your experience of adopting digital technology? What was your motivation for the change, how did it happen, what helped or hindered the change?
- 9 How can we accelerate adoption of digital technology in the sector?



Internet of things (IoT)

The system of related devices, sensors, computers, and apps that share data over a network. For example, multiple sensors providing data to an app that provides information on the field.



Intelligent apps

Apps that can use historical and real-time data to make predictions and decisions to deliver personalised user experiences.



Robotics

Technologies that can substitute for human actions. For example, robots that target and spray individual weeds.



Autonomy

Technology that can function according to a set of rules, without constant human control. For example, driverless vehicles.



Artificial intelligence (AI)

Artificial intelligence is an umbrella term for a range of technologies that allow machines to perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence. This can include robotics, machine learning, speech recognition and other technologies like remote monitoring of the growth of crops.



Sensors

Different types of sensors are continually evolving. Using sensors and the data they collect could help deliver benefits through improved crop and livestock yields; reduced waste and livestock mortality; automation of farm operations; and maintenance and labour cost savings. Some current sensors include soil moisture / nutrition, positioning, weather data and water storage levels.



Blockchain

Blockchain technology is a distributed secure database, a digital ledger that provides a way for value to be permanently recorded. This continuously growing list of chronologically ordered records is accepted by a method of consensus and secured via cryptography.

This 'value' is not limited to monetary transactions—it also applies to assets, property titles, the rights to a song, a vote, and even a person's identity—and its application extends far beyond the realm of financial services.



Case study

Firing up a blockchain revolution

Supported by the Advance Queensland's Ignite Ideas Fund, Ditterich Agriculture's AgriChain project has reached commercial reality, bringing a fully automated agricultural commodity analysis, storage, logistics and trading platform using blockchain technology to market. In the context of the agri-food supply chain, blockchain enables trusted and efficient supply chain transactions using digital technology. Blockchain technology enables this through a distributed network of computers, called 'nodes', to ensure transactions, contracts, freight movements and the entire supply chain are traceable, validated and secure. Security is a key factor of blockchain technology, as once information is stored in this system, it can never be falsified. This technology has rapidly matured into a business reality for many, as trading partners, consumers and regulators demand systems that can demonstrate provenance, traceability and security of information across the supply chain. AgriChain is operating now, connecting global buyers to growers in Australia in a safe environment that increases market access and exports, and will increase grower margins.

Global connections

Increased globalisation presents both risks and opportunities for the sector. Global demand is increasing, but so is competition. Queensland industries are trade-exposed, and maintaining trade relationships is critical to capitalising on opportunities and managing volatility. Global connections also bring biosecurity risks.

Queensland's agri-food industries supply domestic and global markets, with growth potential primarily focused on high-quality, value-added products. Some commodities (such as dairy and most fruit and vegetables) are produced primarily for the Australian market, some (such as beef) are produced for both the domestic and export markets, and others (such as sugar, grains and cotton) are highly export-oriented. Export opportunities are growing, with increased demand from emerging markets—even for some commodities that are currently oriented toward the domestic market.

These global opportunities rely on the competitiveness of industries accessing pathways for fair and free trade, strong biosecurity, and traceability systems that can enable a transparent and accountable supply chain. Export business models are capital-intensive and, in many cases, rely on both domestic and international sources of investment.

Globally, some trade growth is expected over the medium term¹⁸, underpinning a positive outlook for Queensland's agri-food industries. Risks include an increased chance of agricultural protectionism and subsidisation, and heightened competition in some markets. While major countries such as China, India and Indonesia have large populations, and are therefore major markets for food and fibre products, they also have a comparative advantage in lower costs for labour and logistics. Queensland can therefore expect more competition as these countries increasingly specialise according to their comparative advantages.

Increased specialisation will also impact Australia's supply chain networks, logistics and investment. Supply chains are becoming increasingly globalised, with this trend expected to continue. As food and fibre products become more varied and complex, they will increasingly be sourced from multiple locations according to comparative advantage. *Advancing trade and investment: Queensland trade and investment strategy 2017–2022* aims to use Queensland's natural and acquired strengths to tap into the immense opportunities created by international markets. Modern traceability systems that secure trust from export markets with biosecurity, food fraud and food safety issues are required to maintain the credibility of Queensland's 'clean and green' reputation.

With increasing globalisation and trade, biosecurity risks are rising. As people and products move frequently and quickly around the world, they bring exotic pests and diseases with them. In 2017–18, Queensland responded to 48 exotic pest and disease incidents—and this rate is likely to continue to increase. Along with existing incursions, major biosecurity threats have the potential to disrupt industry productivity, market access and reputation, impact the environment and alter our way of life. The *Queensland biosecurity strategy—our next five years: 2018–2023* sets out a new approach to maintain the resilience of Queensland's biosecurity system, based on shared responsibility and the general biosecurity obligation.





Case study



Queensland mangoes shared with the world

Queenslanders love their mangoes and want to share them with the world. The Kensington Pride mango flavour is unique to Australia and forms the basis of most of our old and new mango varieties. The Calypso mango, developed by the Queensland Government, is exported to 10 countries and attained an export market value of \$1.24 million in 2018–19. The Queensland Government has also supported leading industry businesses, such as Manbulloo, to capitalise on growing mango exports. Under the Queensland Government's Asian Markets for Horticulture Initiative, Global Markets Initiative and Growing Queensland's Food Exports programs, Manbulloo has increased mango exports throughout Asia, the Middle East, the United Kingdom, Europe, the United States and Canada. Manbulloo has been able to establish sustainable export market growth through a better understanding of markets and their chains using value chain analysis.

Resource constraints

Natural resources are increasingly constrained. Creating more value from sustainable and responsible management of natural assets is essential to our collective future.

Agriculture is dependent on critical inputs, including clean water, energy, labour, healthy soil and the availability of suitable land. Competitiveness and sustainability rely on creating value in the most efficient and responsible ways possible. Input costs are expected to increase, and natural resources are finite and constrained.

Farmers and agribusinesses manage the majority of Queensland's landscapes—occupying 88.4 per cent of the land area. About 14 per cent of Queensland is classified as suitable for cropping, and high-value agricultural land uses are undertaken on less than 3 per cent. Australian soils are fragile, nutrient-poor and degrading due to multiple processes,¹⁹ and have declining carbon stocks.²⁰ Since 1999, over 35 000 hectares of Queensland's best agricultural land has been converted to other land uses, particularly urban uses and resource activities.^{21, 22} Ongoing loss of agricultural land poses a challenge for increasing productivity and investor confidence in the face of climate change and other resource constraints.

Managing native vegetation (e.g. through private native forestry) has the potential to provide local sources of timber, diversify farm income, support biodiversity, stabilise soil and store carbon. There has been a significant Queensland Government investment in programs to improve farm management practices above minimum standards to maintain and restore the productive capacity of the land and minimise off-site impacts. The Queensland Reef Water Quality Program and Drought and Climate Adaptation Program both provide information, funds and resources to help producers improve farm management by reducing inputs and run-off from farms, building resilience and adaptability, and improving productivity and business management.

Energy and water are significant input costs, particularly for irrigated agriculture, aquaculture, first-stage processing, and manufacturing. Input costs can be reduced by investing in efficiency measures, utilising renewable energy or redesigning business models. Protected cropping (growing under cover) offers the potential to increase nutrient and water-use efficiency and productivity, reduce waste, expand seasonal availability for local and export markets, increase resilience to disruptive weather events, and reduce transport costs and associated greenhouse gas emissions. Urban vertical farms offer the potential to intensify production close to the point of sale or transport, while reducing impacts of climate and weather. Integrated pest management is reducing the need for chemical control of pests and weeds.

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- 12 What is important to you in relation to improving sustainable management of natural resources?
- 13 How can we make the most of opportunities that arise from improving environmental outcomes, and build on Queensland's 'clean and green' image?

Case study



Paddock to plate in the South Burnett

HighBrit Beef runs a paddock to plate business in the most holistic sense. Using regenerative and ethical practices and a direct-to-consumer business model, and inviting consumers to open days and longtable lunches, HighBrit Beef is transforming the traditional beef production model and responding to strong consumer and community signals.

From the foothills of the Bunya Mountains, this small family farm is a leading example of business foresight to better connect with consumers on a platform of trust, sustainability and quality. Starting with the fundamentals of good beef, soil and grass, and the learnings from the Grazing Best Management Practice program, the Douglass family operates the property using regenerative practices with minimal chemical inputs to ensure the highest quality pasture is available for their cattle. Combined with a long-term program of strategic reforestation supported by former Caring for our Country funding, the property is on a journey of continuous improvement towards a more productive, resilient and biodiverse future.

The cattle are processed at a small local abattoir and butchered at a nearby facility leased by the business. This allows HighBrit Beef to have ultimate control over its supply chain, and positions the products in a high-value, branded market niche with quality and provenance assured for its customers. HighBrit is also open to the public through farm open days and longtable lunches, supported and promoted through a strong online presence and involvement in the community.



Transforming operations to re-use nutrients, carbon, energy, water or materials that would otherwise be wasted (a circular economy or closed loop system), improves both business and environmental sustainability, and reduces impacts on other assets and industries. Recirculating aquaculture minimises water intake and discharge, and helps to reduce biosecurity risks. Queensland's sugar mills produce bioenergy through cogeneration using sugarcane bagasse, which in turn offsets their energy requirements and provides an additional income stream. Bioenergy generation in intensive animal industries is delivering reductions in energy costs. Organic soil amendments made from on-farm or supply chain wastage reduce the need for chemical fertilisers and improve soil health. Value-adding to unsaleable food through processing and packaging is reducing food wastage and increasing productivity and profitability.

Plastic use across the supply chain, from production to packaging, is a key focus area. Demand for bioplastics and nanocellulose products continues to grow as consumers and governments look for alternatives to conventional plastics. The Queensland Government is developing a plastic pollution reduction plan that will identify and prioritise actions to reduce plastic pollution.



Case study



Value creation in the Queensland Murray–Darling Basin

Irrigators of the Queensland Murray–Darling Basin in southern Queensland are working with the Queensland Government to expand into high-value horticulture, driven by the need to use precious water resources for the highest agricultural value. Annual vegetables and perennial fruits and nuts are already being grown within the region at lower volumes, and show enormous potential for further expansion. For example, with a reduced irrigation allocation, AJD Farming are diversifying their broadacre cropping operation into pumpkins, extracting higher returns for each litre of water. This has benefits for the local economy, with greater inputs required from local agribusinesses, increased labour requirements for the production of horticulture, and potential opportunities for local processing and value-adding.

Consumer demand

Consumer trust is fundamental to the sector. Convenience, provenance, food safety, ethics, sustainability and nutrition are influencing purchasing decisions and demand.

The consumer is the ultimate driver of the food and fibre value chain, and the system must shift in line with their needs and expectations. Consumer trust, combined with budget considerations, ultimately drive decision-making.

As Queensland is a relatively high-cost producer with a reputation for high-quality, trusted products, there are opportunities in expanding high-value export markets in areas where consumers are willing to pay a premium price for premium products. Confidence in food safety and provenance systems is becoming increasingly important, particularly for high-value products. While domestic growth is crucial for industry, it does not offer the same degree of industry growth potential as the number of increasingly wealthy and discerning consumers in other markets.

The sector will need to be agile and proactive in its focus on consumers and the community to be profitable and respected. There are emerging trends for new uses of food and fibre products (e.g. biofuels, waste products and innovative timber products) and minimally processed food (e.g. peeled, pre-cut and ready-to-eat foods, juices, syrups, and frozen products). New ways of reaching consumers through ecommerce and direct-to-consumer business models are expanding, along with diversification into agricultural and food tourism and volunteerism.

There is growing demand for food tourism globally. From a farmer's perspective, it's about transforming an experience into a product and creating a more direct connection between the primary producer of food and the consumer. For some Australian regions, expenditure by agritourists is a major driver of economic activity.

The Queensland Government is seeking to improve the health of Queenslanders through promoting food safety, helping agribusinesses develop food and technologies that increase nutrition, and delivering preventative health programs that empower people to make healthy choices and create healthier places where we live, learn, work and play.

?

- 14 What changes have you experienced in consumer demand, and how have businesses and industry responded?
- 15 How can we respond to changing consumer preferences and promote consumption of healthy, safe Queensland foods?





Case study

Taking the pulse

Consumers are signalling an increasing demand for plant-based products on the grounds of sustainability and nutrition, along with increasing demand for products that are gluten-free and allergen-free. This lays the foundation for a growing pulse and alternative grains industry, and Queensland is well placed to expand into these markets.

When consumed as part of a balanced diet, pulses and alternative grains like sorghum offer a great source of protein, dietary fibre and micronutrients. Pulses and sorghum are also an excellent rotation crop as they diversify production, grow under water-efficient 'dry-land' conditions and, in the case of pulses, fix nitrogen in the soil and reduce the reliance on fertilisers. This combination of factors has the ability to greatly enhance grower viability, improve environmental outcomes and support consumer health.

Woods Foods, based in Goondiwindi and formed in 2012, is one company capitalising on these opportunities. Woods Foods is delivering high-quality ingredients for the food manufacturing sector, such as a range of gluten-free pulse and sorghum-based food products.

Case study



Accelerating regional food business

The FNQ Food Incubator is a Queensland Government-supported initiative that brings together local food experts and innovators in a central manufacturing hub to support regional food businesses. Modern industry-specific resources and low-cost, low-risk, shared-use commercial kitchens and food manufacturing and packaging facilities allow emerging food and beverage businesses to test ideas, rapidly acquire and share learnings, iterate and ultimately manufacture quality consumer products. From Cairns, west to Mount Isa, south to Townsville and north to Thursday Island, the incubator showcases the region through products such as handmade chocolates, artisan ice-cream, native jams, coffee, chilli sauce, kombucha and wine.



People and communities

Changes to demographics, technology adoption and evolving business models are shaping the jobs of the future.

Agriculture is a significant employer in Queensland, employing over 114 000 people in production, processing and manufacturing, and an additional 224 000 in food and beverage services, retail and wholesale.² More broadly, the agri-food system is integral to Queensland's social fabric. From cities to remote rural towns, from farmers' markets to restaurants, people are at the heart of a system that supports their overall health and wellbeing.

Jobs in the sector are distributed across Queensland, with larger numbers employed in coastal centres. However, the sector provides a higher share of regional jobs in western areas and a few coastal towns. In these areas, agriculture is a critical contributor to supporting regional populations and communities, and changes in agricultural productivity and employment have significant flow-on effects to the community as a whole.

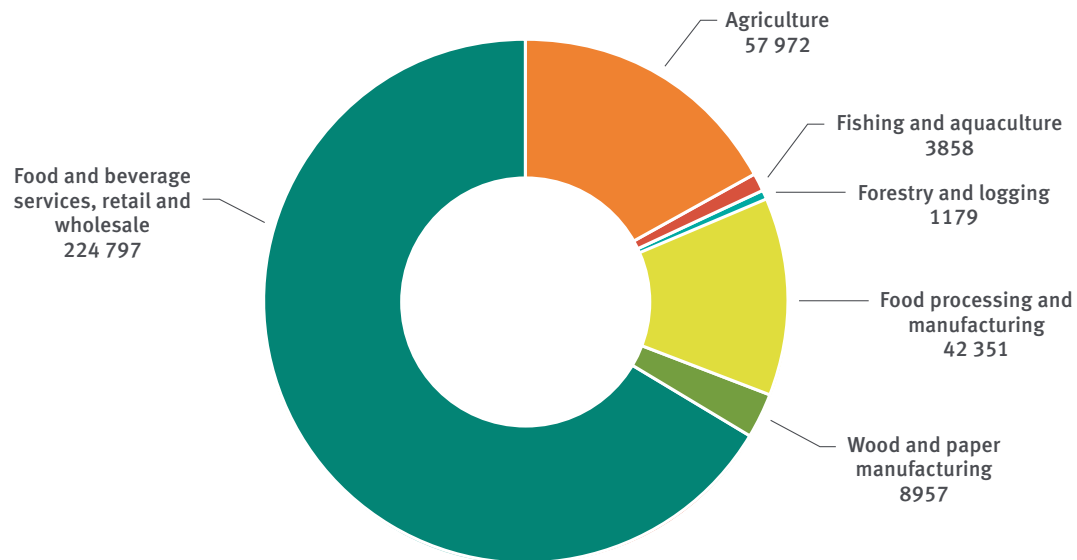
There are likely to be changes to the jobs required across the supply chain, with a reduction in labour and packing due to increased automation. This will create new highly skilled jobs that require high levels of training and education. Diversification of agribusiness into other areas of the economy, such as tourism and carbon farming, can create new employment opportunities in regions. Tourism products and experiences may also supplement the local workforce. There may be increased employment opportunities in technology, engineering, and knowledge and creative services closer to population centres, and digital connectivity will be central in delivering these opportunities.

Key issues facing the sector are demographics, distance and labour costs. The agricultural workforce is older than the general workforce—the average age of a Queensland farmer is 57. The demographics of the processing and manufacturing workforce is generally similar to the general workforce.⁵ The vast majority of farm businesses are small to medium family-owned enterprises, which have strengths in low costs, high expertise and strong family legacy. Challenges to this traditional model include lack of capital to increase productivity, high debt, market access and supply chain capabilities. Succession planning is critical to ensure a transition to the next generation workforce.

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- 16 What changes have you seen in relation to the nature of work in the sector, and how have these affected you, your business or community? What further changes are you anticipating and how might you respond?
- 17 What can we do to prepare for changes in the sector and the impacts on jobs, businesses and rural communities?





Number of people employed through the agriculture and food supply chain

Alternative business models also play a role. Family businesses are looking to expand through joint ventures across the supply chain, and through sale and leaseback arrangements with investment trusts. Diversification can provide additional, sustainable value that underpins the viability of the agricultural practice and contributes to the local and regional economy. Agritourism and food tourism are part of the rural and agricultural landscape, and can be a strategy for growth and improving the resilience of individual businesses or rural communities. Examples include farm-stay and bed and breakfast developments, as well as high-quality food, beverage and regional cuisine-based enterprises and festivals. These experiences may also add value to traditional food and fibre products, often at a premium price.

The Queensland education, skills and training system, combined with industry capacity to attract, retain and upskill the workforce, is key to positioning the sector for the future. There is an important role for school education in connecting students with career opportunities, and in grounding learning of science, technology, engineering, business and mathematics subjects in the context of the agri-food sector.

The challenge is to ensure that employment in the sector is inclusive, fair and supports business competitiveness as well as regional and rural communities.





Case study

A big deal for family business

The Camm family, through the Camm Agricultural Group (CAG), was looking to reduce debt, find capital to invest in lifting productivity, and help facilitate an inter-generational transfer of assets and management. In 2017, CAG signed a \$72 million deal with Rural Funds Group (RFG) to sell three cattle properties under a sale and leaseback arrangement, with CAG retaining management rights for the properties for 10 years and ownership of all stock and plant on the properties. Additional funds were provided by RFG for infrastructure upgrades on the properties and for CAG to purchase additional cattle to be owned by RFG. This deal has solved a number of issues facing the pastoral industry in particular, and has meant a family-owned agricultural business can evolve to remain competitive and pass on the legacy to the next generation.





Case study



From farmer to fitness guru— Joy McClymont's mission to motivate through virtual fitness

Joy McClymont's goal is to increase Australians' awareness of where their food comes from, and help people across rural and remote communities to combine high-quality healthy food with fitness to support a healthy lifestyle. Producing top-quality food and fibre has always been front and centre of the McClymont family's business model. However, in recent years, this has broadened into an innovative online Off the Track Training program helping people to achieve their health goals, no matter where they live, without the need of a gym or other high-tech equipment. Ingenuity and resilience have allowed this rural family to make the most of what can be challenging circumstances, diversify farm income and improve the lives of Queenslanders to build happier, more viable rural communities.



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Appendix A: Government food and agribusiness commitments

Strategy/initiative	Year	Description
Queensland Government		
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries		
Aquaculture development areas https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/fisheries/aquaculture	2019	Identifies six priority areas suitable for aquaculture: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sleeper Log Creek/Leichhardt Creek (Townsville City Council) 2. Abbot Bay/Good Fortune Bay (Whitsunday Regional Council) 3. Bloomsbury (Mackay Regional Council) 4. Rockhampton/Casuarina Creek (Rockhampton Regional Council) 5. Rockhampton/Raglan Creek (Rockhampton / Gladstone Regional Council) 6. Gladstone/Calliope River (Gladstone Regional Council)
<i>Charter fishing action plan: 2018–2021</i> https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/fisheries/sustainable/sustainable-fisheries-strategy/charter-fishing-action-plan	2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of the sector • Improved engagement and consultation • Enhancing industry standards and streamlining requirements • Developing regional tourism potential
Disaster assistance—drought https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/agriculture/disaster-recovery/drought	2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over \$670 million in assistance since 2013 • A \$21 million Drought and Climate Adaptation Program • Rent relief
Disaster assistance—other https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/agriculture/disaster-recovery/natural-disaster/declared-areas	ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint federal/state Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants program • Rent relief • Beef Industry Recovery Concessional Loans • Flood Freight Subsidy Restocking and Agistment Scheme • Biosecurity Entity Registration Fee Exemptions • Industry recovery officers and financial counsellors to help farm businesses

Strategy/initiative	Year	Description
#eatqld Ministerial statement http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2019/3/17/eatqld--a-world-of-flavour-from-the-state-of-delicious Woolworths partnership https://www.woolworths.com.au/shop/discover/fresh-food-kids/discoverytours	2019	Ministerial-led marketing campaign to promote Queensland food, promote healthy eating in children and support local businesses, especially rural agribusinesses recovering from disaster
Growing Queensland's Food Exports program https://www.business.qld.gov.au/starting-business/advice-support/grants/food-exports	2017	Encourages sustainable economic development in regional communities by supporting food producers to build their export capability
<i>Queensland agriculture and food research, development and extension 10-year roadmap and action plan</i> https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/qld-agriculture-and-food-research-development-and-extension-roadmap/resource/5ab53e3a-b245-4271-aefc-774fcc560765	2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase innovation and commercialisation • Identify and promote agriculture and food research, development and extension opportunities • Support existing sector to grow and develop new business
<i>Queensland biosecurity strategy—our next five years: 2018–2023</i> https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/queensland-biosecurity-strategy-2018-2023/resource/408b8459-dfd5-4785-913c-a9b3d23a0ee2	2018	Themes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collaborative governance and leadership • every Queenslander plays their part • empowered to act • bright ideas and better ways • valuing and building on our investments • better intelligence systems
Queensland Feral Pest Initiative https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/invasive-plants-animals/animals/qld-feral-pest-initiative	2015	More than \$32 million for the construction of cluster fencing since 2015 to protect farmland from wild dogs and invasive pests
<i>Queensland sustainable fisheries strategy 2017–2027</i> https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/queensland-sustainable-fisheries-strategy/resource/319c7e02-f07b-4b2e-8fd5-a435d2c2f3c9	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved monitoring and research • Setting sustainable catch limits • Improved stakeholder engagement • Environmental risk assessments • Resource allocation • Harvest strategies • Fishing rules and access • Responsive decision-making • Compliance • Resourcing
Rural Economic Development Grants http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/current-programs/rural-economic-development-grants	2018	Rural Economic Development Grants are available to fund projects that contribute to primary production-related economic development and job creation in rural areas

Strategy/initiative	Year	Description
Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance https://www.qff.org.au/projects/rural-jobs-skills-alliance/	2015	Engage with education and training sectors to support agriculture producers and supply chain on workforce matters
Department of Environment and Science		
<i>Draft waste management and resource recovery strategy</i> https://www.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/94060/qld-draft-waste-mgmt-resource-recovery-strategy.pdf	2019	Managing waste, recovering more materials and gaining more value from recovered materials
Land Restoration Fund https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/climate/climate-change/land-restoration-fund/about	2019	The Queensland Government's \$500 million Land Restoration Fund aims to expand carbon farming in the state by supporting land sector projects that deliver clear environmental and economic co-benefits
<i>Pathways to a clean growth economy: Queensland climate transition strategy</i> https://www.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/67283/qld-climate-transition-strategy.pdf	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 50% renewable energy target by 2030 • Zero net emissions by 2050 • At least 30% below 2005 levels by 2030
<i>Pathways to a climate resilient Queensland: Queensland climate adaptation strategy 2017–2030</i> https://www.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/67301/qld-climate-adaptation-strategy.pdf	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation and resilience to address risks and opportunities of climate change • Includes sector adaptation plans
<i>Queensland climate adaptation strategy: Agriculture sector adaptation plan</i> https://www.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0027/67626/agricultural-sector-adaption-plan.pdf	2017	Stocktake of current adaptation activities and resources in Queensland's agricultural sector, barriers, gaps and needs.
Department of Environment and Science, and Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy		
Climate information products Regional climate change impact summaries Climate Change in Queensland Queensland Future Climate Dashboard	Ongoing	Climate information products assist governments and businesses to understand future climates and their potential impacts
Department of Housing and Public Works		
'Buy Queensland first' food and beverages http://www.hpw.qld.gov.au/Procurement/ProcurementStrategy/BuyQLD/Pages/default.aspx	2018	A commitment under the Queensland Procurement Strategy 2018, the government will prioritise a 'Buy Queensland first' approach for food and beverages at government events and corporate functions. Delivery of the commitment is supported by a Queensland Government Food and Beverage Supplier Directory that lists suppliers and caterers with a physical presence in Queensland who also employ Queenslanders.

Strategy/initiative	Year	Description
Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games		
<p>Advance Queensland https://advance.qld.gov.au/</p> <p>Building our innovation economy: Advance Queensland strategy (draft) https://advance.qld.gov.au/innovation-strategy</p> <p>Deadly Innovation program</p>	2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinvigorating science, research and innovation to help create the knowledge-based jobs of the future • Positioning Queensland as a place for industry to collaborate with entrepreneurs, universities, business and government to turn great ideas into commercial products and job creation • Boosting our entrepreneurial culture • Helping make Queensland an investment destination • Opportunities for small business to collaborate and build on their innovation and ideas
Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy		
<p>Business Energy Savers Program—an extension to Energy Savers Plus Program https://www.business.qld.gov.au/running-business/energy-business/energy-saving/business-energy-savers</p>	2018	Under the Affordable Energy Plan, the program provides free energy audits for agricultural customers and large business customers, and co-contributions to fund energy efficiency upgrades. It includes a three-year extension of the existing Energy Savers Plus Program (for agricultural businesses) and the Large Customer Adjustment Program (for large electricity users).
Farm Water Futures—grant program	2019	Partnering with industry (Queensland Farmers' Federation) and its member organisations, this funding provides the sector with real hands-on experience and confidence to deliver practical solutions to reduce water costs and boost on farm productivity. This model will see the irrigator groups receiving funding to support the on-ground adoption of rural water use efficient activities, while working towards a self-sufficient funding model over a three-year period.
<p>Interim Great Artesian Basin infrastructure Investment Program https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/water/rural-assistance/igabiip</p>	2018	Water saving through repair of uncontrolled bores and replacement of bore drains with pipeline reticulation systems
<p>Irrigation water price subsidy https://budget.qld.gov.au/files/BP2-2018-19.pdf</p> <p>Seqwater and SunWater irrigation pricing https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/water/industry-infrastructure/pricing/irrigation</p>	2000	<p>The government sets the prices charged by Sunwater and Seqwater to supply water for irrigation. The government's key policies are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gradually increase prices to the point where prices recover the irrigation share of the scheme's operating, maintenance and refurbishment costs • exclude irrigators from paying any share of the initial costs of building those assets constructed before 2000 • provide community service obligation payments to Seqwater and SunWater from the Queensland budget where it is necessary to give the operators additional revenue to meet the operating, maintenance and refurbishment costs to supply water for irrigation.

Strategy/initiative	Year	Description
Natural Resources Investment Program https://www.dnrme.qld.gov.au/land-water/initiatives/major-investment-natural-resource-management	2018–2022	Funding of \$61 million over four years (including specific funding for Great Barrier Reef water quality) to ensure Queensland’s natural land and water resources are managed sustainably
Queensland bulk water opportunities statement https://www.dnrme.qld.gov.au/land-water/initiatives/bulk-water-statement	2018	Framework to support better use of existing bulk water infrastructure and planning and investment for new infrastructure
Department of the Premier and Cabinet		
Queensland drones strategy https://www.premiers.qld.gov.au/publications/categories/plans/assets/qld-drones-strategy-2018.pdf	2018	Taking advantage of new and emerging opportunities to become a leader in drone technology and application
Department of Employment, Small Business and Training		
Advancing small business Queensland strategy 2016–20 https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/advancing-small-business-queensland/resource/93b03880-e1f7-41d4-9127-56244ef5e4bc	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted support for small businesses to get a better start, survive the tough first four years, increase their digital capabilities and reach their ambitions to grow and employ • A more coordinated approach to deliver services and connect small businesses to opportunities • Strengthened support for regional small businesses • Increased collaboration and connectivity between government and key stakeholders • Stronger advocacy for small business
Go Local, Grow Local https://www.business.qld.gov.au/starting-business/advice-support/support/small-business/go-local	2019	The ‘Go Local, Grow Local’ initiative aims to help Queensland businesses promote their products and services, and encourages Queenslanders to support small businesses in their community by shopping locally. It also supports communities affected by natural disasters. Queensland small businesses were recently hit hard by flooding.
Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning		
Queensland Made	2017	The Government has committed to implement a comprehensive strategy to protect jobs in the meat processing industry and upskill the workforce through the Jobs and Regional Growth Fund and Regional Skills Investment Strategy.
Manufacturing hub delivery model: Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/resources/brochure/manufacturing-hub-delivery-model.pdf	2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cairns—food manufacturing incubator • Townsville—food transformation through advanced manufacturing • Rockhampton—food product innovation • Business development programs • Skills development and training programs • Awareness of advanced manufacturing

Strategy/initiative	Year	Description
<p><i>Queensland advanced manufacturing 10-year roadmap and action plan: invested in Queensland manufacturing</i> https://www.dsdmip.qld.gov.au/resources/plan/advanced-manufacturing-roadmap-full.pdf</p> <p>Made in Queensland http://www.dsdmip.qld.gov.au/industry-development/made-in-queensland.html</p>	2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing the adoption of leading-edge design, innovation, technologies, processes and practices Driving the ongoing development of a highly skilled workforce Showcasing the opportunities and achievements of Queensland's advanced manufacturing industry Supporting regional manufacturing and manufacturing growth sectors across Queensland
<p><i>Queensland biofutures 10-year roadmap and action plan</i> https://statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/resources/plan/biofutures/biofutures-10yr-roadmap-actionplan.pdf</p>	2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide direct support for specific industry development initiatives Identify and promote the opportunities available for investment Provide strong leadership for an attractive environment for investment
<p><i>Queensland craft brewing strategy</i> https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/industry-development/queensland-craft-brewing-strategy.html</p>	2018	<p>The strategy seeks to maximise benefits to the state through job creation, enhanced local communities, increased investment and regional growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> priority 1—investing in people and infrastructure priority 2—improving access to markets priority 3—appropriate regulation and planning
<p>Resource Recovery Industry Development Program https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/industry-development/resource-recovery-industry-development-program.html</p>	2018	<p>Local governments, established businesses, not-for-profits and consortia looking to employ proven technologies for resource recovery can apply for funding and other support to improve existing operations or bring significant new facilities to Queensland. These operations or facilities can be along the entire supply chain from collection and transfer to sorting and remanufacture, as well as waste to energy.</p>
<p>Queensland Waste to Biofutures Fund https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/industry-development/queensland-waste-to-biofutures-fund.html</p>	2018	<p>The Queensland Waste to Biofutures Fund provides \$5 million in 2019 to support the development of waste to biofutures projects in Queensland. The fund provides targeted grants for pilot and demonstration or commercially scalable projects in Queensland that use conventional waste streams or biomass to produce bioenergy, biofuels and high-value bioproducts.</p>
<p>Jobs and Regional Growth Fund http://dsdmip.qld.gov.au/jobs-and-regional-growth-fund/industry-development/jobs-and-regional-growth-fund.html</p>	2017	<p>The \$150 million Jobs and Regional Growth Fund (JRGF) is targeted at growing regional economies and creating long-term jobs for Queenslanders. The fund is helping to facilitate private sector projects that create employment and economic growth opportunities in regional areas.</p> <p>JRGF is being effectively utilised to support the growth of regional agribusiness companies with financial support for 6 proposals since the program commenced in 2017 and has a further 15 under consideration.</p> <p>Applications are assessed against a set of criteria, and the type and level of assistance is determined on a case-by-case basis for both new projects and expansion plans that maximise benefits for regional employment and economic growth.</p>

Strategy/initiative	Year	Description
Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/industry-development/advance-queensland-industry-attraction-fund.html	2016	<p>The Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund (AQIAF) is a financial incentive program that aims to encourage the relocation and establishment of contestable new projects, or reinvestment and expansion of existing operations in Queensland.</p> <p>AQIAF seeks to bring innovative projects to Queensland and help them grow in order to drive job creation, regional growth, increased innovation and technology and supply chain development. Contestable proposals that support innovation and technology in the agribusiness supply chain and food manufacturing sector are a priority for AQIAF support.</p>
Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, and Department of Agriculture and Fisheries		
Regional Export Distribution Centre https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/industry/regional-export-distribution-centre-pilot.html	2018	<p>\$10 million has been committed from the Jobs and Regional Growth Fund to support a regional export distribution centre pilot. Funding will support business cases development and, if viable, construction. Following a competitive selection process, Wagner Group Holdings from Toowoomba and Air Freight Handling Services from Cairns are preparing business cases.</p>
Department of Transport and Main Roads		
<i>Queensland freight strategy: advancing freight in Queensland</i> https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/business-industry/Transport-sectors/Freight/Queensland-freight-strategy-advancing-freight	2019	<p>The Queensland Government is committed to building a freight system that is integrated, resilient and safe, now and into the future. The freight strategy sets a shared vision for the state's freight system, outlining a series of commitments that will guide policy, planning and investment decision-making over the next 10 years to give customers greater choice and support economic growth. The strategy supports and informs a range of state, regional and local government strategies and plans, including the <i>Transport coordination plan 2017–2027</i>, which is the Queensland Government's integrated framework for transport planning.</p>
Regional transport plans https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/About-us/Corporate-information/Publications/Regional-Transport-Plans	2019	<p>The Department of Transport and Main Roads is working with state and local governments and other key stakeholders throughout Queensland to develop a series of regional transport plans. These plans will guide the planning of an efficient and responsive transport system in Queensland over the next 15 years.</p>
<i>Draft Queensland transport strategy: our 30-year plan for transport in Queensland</i> www.tmr.qld.gov.au/QueenslandTransportStrategy	2019	<p>All aspects including public transport, infrastructure and supporting future modes of transport</p>
Department of Education		
Advancing education: An action plan for education in Queensland Schools of the future	2017	<p><u>Advancing education</u> is a plan that will see us take our world-class education system further and prepare our students for the challenges of tomorrow.</p> <p><u>Schools of the future</u> is a strategy to support science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education in Queensland state schools, and includes building teacher capability to transform STEM teaching and engage more students.</p>

Strategy/initiative	Year	Description
Queensland Health, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Safe Food Production Queensland and local governments		
Food safety regulation, policy and programs	Ongoing	<p>Queensland Health, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and Safe Food Production Queensland work cooperatively to develop and implement policy and legislation relevant to food safety, in the context of the binational food regulation system overseen by the Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation.</p> <p>The main purposes of the Food Act 2006, implemented by Queensland Health and local governments, are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure food for sale is safe and suitable for human consumption • prevent misleading conduct in relation to the sale of food • apply the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code. <p>The main objects of the <i>Food Production (Safety) Act 2000</i>, implemented by Safe Food Production Queensland, are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure the production of primary produce is carried out in a way that makes the produce fit for consumption and maintains food quality • provide for food safety measures for production of primary produce consistent with other food safety laws. <p>Some aspects of the <i>Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966</i> and the <i>Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988</i>, administered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries – Biosecurity Queensland, are also relevant to food safety and product integrity.</p>
Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority		
Farm Business Debt Mediation program http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/fbdm	2017	An efficient and equitable way for farmers and mortgagees to attempt to resolve matters relating to farm business debts. Mediation is required before mortgagees can take possession of a property or other enforcement action under a farm mortgage.
Farm Management Grants program http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/current-programs/farm-management-grants	2017	To assist farming families with rural succession
Queensland Farm Debt Restructure Office http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/9187/FDRO-Flyer.pdf	2018	Provides primary producers experiencing financial distress with access to independent expert financial information and analysis of their farm business

Strategy/initiative	Year	Description
Tourism and Investment Queensland		
<i>Advancing trade and investment: Queensland trade and investment strategy 2017–2022</i> https://www.tiq.qld.gov.au/download/business-interest/invest/trade-investment-strategy-TIQ.pdf	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on our strengths • Further diversify our economy • Target key markets • Build export capabilities • Foster export opportunities • Facilitate investment • Promote investment in infrastructure • Pursue investment in innovation • Support regional growth
Australian Government and Queensland Government		
<i>Reef 2050 long-term sustainability plan</i> <i>Reef 2050 water quality improvement plan 2017–2022</i> Queensland Reef Water Quality Program https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/coasts-waterways/reef/reef-program	2017–2022	The Queensland Reef Water Quality Program provides over \$261 million over five years to address water quality impacts affecting the Great Barrier Reef. The Queensland Reef Water Quality Program delivers activities as part of implementing the <i>Reef 2050 water quality improvement plan 2017–2022</i> , which supports the water quality theme of the <i>Reef 2050 long-term sustainability plan</i> . The Reef 2050 water quality improvement plan addresses all land-based sources of water pollution (including run-off from urban, industrial and public lands), while recognising that the primary source of nutrients, fine sediments and pesticides is diffuse source pollution from agriculture. Projects funded under the program aim to improve water quality by applying minimum practice standards, supporting industries and communities to build a culture of innovation and stewardship, and restoring catchments by improving or repairing streambanks, gullies, riparian vegetation and wetlands.
Australian Government		
<i>Agricultural competitiveness white paper</i> https://agwhitepaper.agriculture.gov.au	2015	A \$4 billion investment over five priority areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fairer go for farm businesses • Building the infrastructure of the 21st century • Strengthening our approach to drought and risk management • Farming smarter • Accessing premium markets
<i>Our north, our future: white paper on developing northern Australia</i> https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/our-north-our-future-white-paper-on-developing-northern-australia	2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A trade and investment gateway • A more diversified northern economy • Indigenous entrepreneurship and businesses • World-class infrastructure • Water infrastructure investment • Research and innovation

Strategy/initiative	Year	Description
Climate Change Authority		
<i>Reaping the rewards: improving farm profitability, reducing emissions and conserving natural capital</i> http://climatechangeauthority.gov.au/sites/prod.climatechangeauthority.gov.au/files/files/2018%20Reaping%20the%20Rewards/Final%20Report%20-%20Reaping%20the%20Rewards.pdf	2018	Research report that explores ways to improve agricultural profitability, reduce emissions and conserve the natural environment
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources		
<i>Accelerating precision agriculture to decision agriculture: enabling digital agriculture in Australia</i> https://www.crdc.com.au/sites/default/files/CRD18001-001%20CRDC%20P2D%20Report%20low%20res.pdf	2017	The current state of digital technology in Australian agriculture and what is required
<i>Agricultural innovation—a national approach to grow Australia’s future</i> http://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/innovation/vision-for-agricultural-innovation	2019	Opportunities to enhance innovation in agriculture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengthening leadership for strategic direction, but also for improving connections, collaboration, and culture • balancing funding and investment to solve short-term challenges as well as targeting transformational and cross-commodity outcomes • establishing world-class innovation practices, including disruptive thinking, ambition and entrepreneurship to maximise opportunities from our investments • strengthening the regions to maximise innovation uptake and provide regions with a greater role in national priority-setting • establishing the next generation innovation platform for our data, physical infrastructure, and regulatory environment
Department of Environment and Energy		
<i>National food waste strategy: halving Australia’s food waste by 2030</i> https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/4683826b-5d9f-4e65-9344-a900060915b1/files/national-food-waste-strategy.pdf	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy support—establishing a National Food Waste Baseline and methodology to measure progress against our goal, identifying areas to target investment, establishing a voluntary commitment to reduce food waste, enabling legislation to better support food waste reduction and repurposing • Business improvements—identifying areas for improvement, supporting technology adoption, encouraging collaboration, normalising food waste considerations into business practices • Market development—identifying food waste composition and nutritional value to develop new markets, encourage innovation, connecting food waste sources to users • Behaviour change—changing consumer behaviour, engaging the workforce on food waste

Strategy/initiative	Year	Description
Infrastructure Australia		
<i>Infrastructure priority list</i> https://ia-priority-production.herokuapp.com/pdf	2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority projects—inland rail • High priority initiatives—regional road network safety improvements, national freight and supply chain strategy, Port of Brisbane dedicated rail freight connection • Priority initiatives—Advanced Train Management System implementation on the interstate rail network, Cunningham Highway–Yamanto interchange to Ebenezer Creek, Warrego Highway east corridor improvements, Bruce Highway upgrade, Port of Gladstone land and sea access upgrade, Mount Isa–Townsville rail corridor, Lower Fitzroy River water infrastructure development
National Farmers' Federation		
<i>2030 roadmap: Australian agriculture's plan for a \$100 billion industry</i> https://www.nff.org.au/get/6175.pdf	2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry values: smart, profitable, sustainable, unified • Five pillars—customers and the value chain, growing sustainably, unlocking innovation, people and communities, capital and risk management

Notes:



Growing for Queensland – Discussion paper

Complete the online survey at
daf.engagementhub.com.au/growing-for-queensland