



QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT **COMMITTEES**

2025-26 Budget Estimates

Appropriation Bill 2025

Volume of Additional Information

Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee

Report No. 3
58th Parliament, August 2025

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**Pre-hearing Questions on notice and
Responses - *Minister for Customer
Services and Open Data and Minister for
Small and Family Business***

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1

Asked on 18 July 2025

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE
COMMITTEE** ASKED MINISTER FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OPEN DATA AND
MINISTER FOR SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS (HON S MINNIKIN) —

QUESTION

Will the Minister provide an update on what measures are contained within the budget to address Labor's failure to invest in digital & ICT infrastructure?

ANSWER

The Crisafulli Government has established a new Queensland Government Digital Fund (QGDF), providing \$1B over the next four years.

The QGDF will coordinate strategic investments in critical digital and ICT systems to enhance government services for Queenslanders.

The QGDF will bring a whole-of-portfolio view to digital and ICT investments. We also need to maintain and address risks associated with legacy ICT systems and infrastructure, and ensure our solutions and information are cyber secure.

My Department will facilitate administration of the QGDF in partnership with Queensland Treasury and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

It is clear ICT investment over the last 10 years did not keep up with operational and service requirements across the Queensland Government. There has been a significant increase in the number of legacy ICT systems at end of life, and at-risk systems. The absence of a whole-of-government approach to investment in ICT systems has contributed to waste and needless complexity.

The QGDF will ensure greater oversight and efficiency in the implementation of key digital systems and services.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 2

Asked on 18 July 2025

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OPEN DATA AND MINISTER FOR SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS (HON S MINNIKIN) —

QUESTION

Can the Minister advise this committee how the Budget will allow the Crisafulli Government will improve the customer experience for Queenslanders accessing government services?

ANSWER

The Crisafulli Government is investing \$25.1 million as part of the 2025-26 Budget to improve online access to government services for Queenslanders. This funding will support the delivery of a consolidated online services experience, enhancing service delivery and accessibility. As Minister, I am committed to providing accessible, secure, and convenient services across multiple channels, including online, in person, and over the phone, to meet the evolving expectations of Queenslanders.

To enhance the customer experience for Queenslanders, my department is delivering several strategic initiatives, including:

1. Developing Whole-of-Government Platforms
 - Creating unified, customer-centric platforms to deliver services more efficiently.
 - Improving access and enhancing the overall customer experience.
2. Modernising qld.gov.au
 - Revamping the qld.gov.au homepage to make information and services easier to find.
 - Providing better support for Queenslanders during disasters and throughout recovery phases.
3. Expanding the Digital Licence Mobile App
 - Adding new features, including Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) licences.
4. Creating a Gateway to Government Services
 - Streamlining access to government services, enabling Queenslanders to connect with government from the palm of their hand.
5. Piloting New Customer Service Experiences
 - Introducing self-service options for routine transactions (e.g., registration renewals) in service centres.
 - Allowing staff to better focus on assisting customers with more complex needs.
6. Improving Phone Contact Centre Services
 - Ensuring quicker resolution of transport-related enquiries.
 - Implementing a callback option if wait times exceed a few minutes.
7. Expanding Digital Chat Services
 - Enhancing online support with new services, such as SwimStart and PlayOn! sports vouchers, available from July 2025.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 3

Asked on 18 July 2025

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OPEN DATA AND MINISTER FOR SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS (HON S MINNIKIN) —

QUESTION

Could the Minister inform the Committee of his Department's approach to Artificial Intelligence?

ANSWER

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a transformative technology with immense potential to improve the delivery of services to Queenslanders. My Department has adopted a comprehensive approach to AI, focusing on enhancing government services, processes, and efficiency while ensuring the safe and responsible use of data. This approach aligns with the Crisafulli Government's commitment to leveraging advanced technologies for better service delivery and operational outcomes.

My Department is leading several initiatives to integrate AI into government operations effectively and responsibly. These initiatives include:

- Further advancement of QChat, a generative AI-powered virtual assistant.
- In collaboration with the Department of Education, my Department developed Corella, an AI assistant for schools.
 - Corella recently won the 2025 Queensland AIIA iAward for Best Technology Platform, recognising its role in assisting school students.

My Department has also released key policy guidance, including:

- General Guidance on the Use of Generative AI in Queensland Government.
- Foundational Artificial Intelligence Risk Assessment (FAIRA) Framework.

These frameworks provide tools for agencies to assess and mitigate risks, ensuring alignment with the National Framework for the Assurance of Artificial Intelligence in Government.

Robust cybersecurity and governance practices are embedded into AI initiatives, including:

- Proactive threat evaluation and analysis.
- Banning unsafe AI tools, such as DeepSeek, to mitigate risks.
- Publishing the AI Governance Policy, which requires agencies to establish industry-standard processes for overseeing AI use.

These efforts ensure that AI technologies are utilised effectively, securely, and ethically, with the ultimate goal of improving the interactions Queenslanders have with government services.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 4

Asked on 18 July 2025

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OPEN DATA AND MINISTER FOR SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS (HON S MINNIKIN) —

QUESTION

In relation to the key deliverables in the Customer Services, Open Data and Small and Family Business portfolio, can the Minister outline what funding is provided under the Small Business First agenda and the action statement that underpins the new investment?

ANSWER

The Crisafulli Government is backing over 495,000 Queensland small businesses through the Small and Family Business First Action Statement. The Action Statement and the 2025-26 Queensland Budget provided more than \$130 million in new funding over four years to support this important agenda, as outlined in the following table:

Table – Breakdown of new funding

Actions/Election Commitments	Funding
Deliver a new Small Business Concierge	\$10.3 million
Deliver the Regional Business Gateways Program	\$16 million
Implement the Secure Communities Partnership Program	\$40 million
Deliver the Apprenticeship Pilot Program	\$19 million
Invest to deliver small business micro-credentials courses	\$11.5 million
Deliver the Construction Business Advancement Grants	\$8.8 million
Deliver the Professional Care Advancement Grants	\$5 million
Queensland Small Business Commissioner, Red Tape Reduction and delivery of a 5 Business Day On Time, Every Time Payment Guarantee	\$3.109 million
Marketing and Communication	\$0.46 million
Establish the Small and Family Business Innovation Pathway	\$1 million
Small Business Support Network	\$16.801 million
TOTAL	\$131.97 million

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 5

Asked on 18 July 2025

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OPEN DATA AND MINISTER FOR SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS (HON S MINNIKIN) —

QUESTION

In relation to the Small Business First agenda, including over \$130 million over 4 years in funded activities, can the Minister advise what the initiatives the Government will deliver to support for small and family businesses to grow and thrive?

ANSWER

Small businesses have faced immense challenges in recent years. That's why the Crisafulli Government is rolling out practical initiatives to provide targeted support, recognising that no two small businesses are the same.

Key measures include:

- \$16.8 million to extend the Small Business Support Network, a vital program the previous Labor Government planned to cut despite record-high insolvency rates, and three natural disasters this summer.
- Investing \$10.3 million in the Small Business Concierge to help small and family businesses, and their staff, access the right information and support when they need it most.
- \$40 million Secure Communities Partnership Program will deliver practical solutions to deter vandalism, theft, and rising insurance costs, issues ignored by the previous Labor Government.
- A \$19 million pilot program to help small and family businesses hire apprentices, providing direct financial assistance to cover wages.
- Additionally, \$11.5 million will fund micro-credentials to help businesses stay informed and competitive.
- To foster collaboration, \$16 million will establish Regional Business Gateways, connecting local Chambers of Commerce, industry associations, and councils to deliver tailored advice and build stronger networks.
- A \$5 million fund will provide grants of up to \$5,000 for Professional Care Providers, while \$8.8 million will assist construction businesses, including sole traders, with similar grants.

These initiatives are guided by real small and family businesses through my new Small and Family Business Ministerial Reference Group. Together, we are creating an environment where small and family businesses can grow, thrive, and achieve their ambitions.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 6

Asked on 18 July 2025

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE
COMMITTEE** ASKED MINISTER FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OPEN DATA AND
MINISTER FOR SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS (HON S MINNIKIN) —

QUESTION

Will the Minister provide an outline of the delivery of the \$40 million over 3 years to improve community safety and implement crime prevention measures for small and family business?

ANSWER

The Crisafulli Government has allocated \$40 million to the Secure Communities Partnership Program, a new initiative aimed at funding safety and security infrastructure to protect small and family businesses from crime and economic losses.

The program aims to create safer public commercial precincts and business strips, enhancing the operating environment for small and family businesses across Queensland. Examples of eligible measures under this program include the installation of CCTV, bollards, lockable fencing, and enhanced perimeter security.

The program will be delivered in multiple rounds, with additional funding rounds to be announced over the next two years. In Round 1, \$10 million has been budgeted, with local councils able to apply for up to two grants of \$400,000 each. Applications for this round closed on 11 July 2025, with 48 applications received.

Individual businesses and local chambers of commerce are encouraged to collaborate with their local councils to identify suitable locations for projects that enhance safety in public commercial precincts and business strips.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 7

Asked on 18 July 2025

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OPEN DATA AND MINISTER FOR SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS (HON S MINNIKIN) —

QUESTION

I note there are currently 495,000 small businesses in Queensland, can the Minister update on any growth projections in respect to this number as we approach the 2032 Olympics?

ANSWER

The Crisafulli Government is dedicated to fostering an environment where small and family businesses can grow, thrive, and encourage new ventures to open their doors. By 2032, it is estimated that Queensland will have over 615,000 small businesses operating across the state.

The Small and Family Business First Action Statement outlines initiatives designed to support small and family businesses by creating the right operating conditions for growth and success. With a strong focus on reducing costly red tape, streamlining government services and making it easier to do business in Queensland, the Action Statement aims to help establish more than 120,000 new Queensland small businesses over the next seven years.

Below is a forecast of the anticipated growth in the number of small businesses in Queensland.

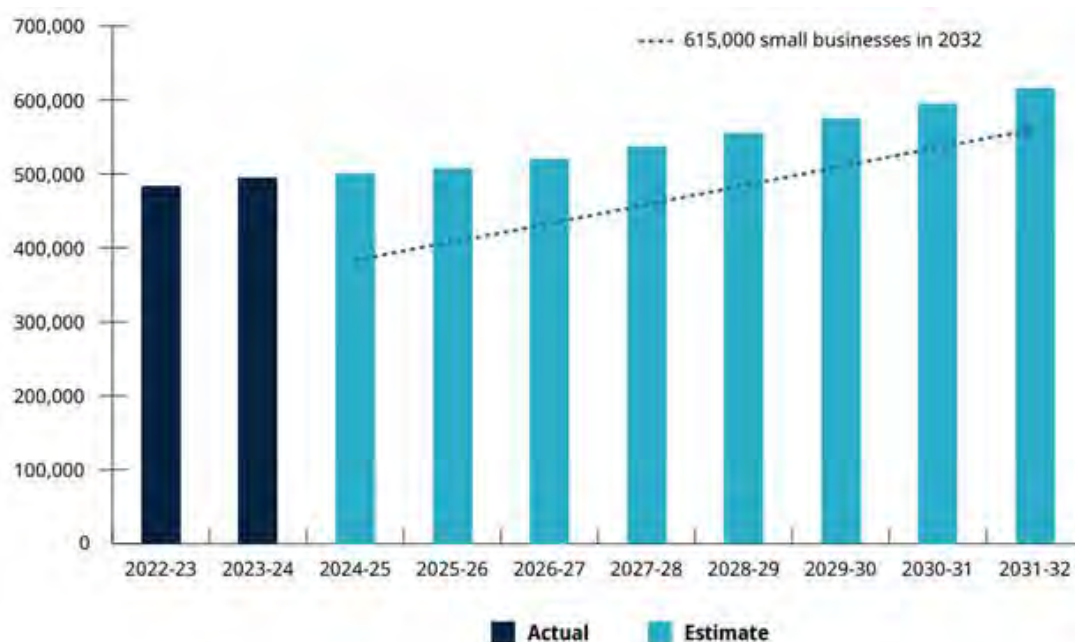


Figure 1. Forecast of small business growth to 2032¹.

1. Actual data series source, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Counts of Australian Businesses, Including Entries and Exits (CABEE Data).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 8

Asked on 18 July 2025

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OPEN DATA AND MINISTER FOR SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS (HON S MINNIKIN) —

QUESTION

Can the Minister provide information on the outcomes of 2025 Small Business Month and how these differ from the approach of the previous government?

ANSWER

In 2025, Queensland Small Business Month adopted a revised approach to deliver tangible support and meaningful outcomes for small and family business owners and their staff. The month also celebrated the vital role of the small business sector in Queensland's economy and communities.

My Department partnered with stakeholders to deliver a range of workshops, clinics, and activities under the theme *Recharge, Renew and Rebuild*. These initiatives were designed to provide practical assistance and guidance to small businesses.

Key highlights of Queensland Small Business Month 2025 included:

- Financial Literacy Workshops
 - Small and family businesses received personalised advice from experts, including small business financial counsellors, rural financial counsellors, business wellness coaches, mentors, cyber advisors, the Business Tax Strategist (Australian Taxation Office), and the Business Concierge team.
- Targeted Recovery Clinics
 - Recognising the impact of severe weather events on small businesses, recovery clinics were held to encourage resilience and provide actionable steps to help businesses get back on track.
- Growth Opportunities
 - The program connected small and family business owners with major commercial delivery partners, focusing on opportunities to supply to government infrastructure projects.
- Regional Engagement
 - The 2025 program expanded its reach further into regional Queensland, including the far west, ensuring businesses in remote areas could access support and resources.

A significant small business networking event was held in Townsville, bringing together local small and family business owners and Crisafulli Government Cabinet Ministers. This event highlighted the importance of the small business sector and included the launch of Round 1 of the \$40 million Secure Communities Partnership Program, which provides funding to prevent crime against small and family businesses.

The Better Local Business grant program also played a key role in the success of Small Business Month, offering \$2,500 grants (up from \$2,000 in 2024) to chambers of commerce, small and family business associations, industry associations and local councils. These grants supported initiatives to address local business concerns, tackle regional challenges and share opportunities.

Queensland Small Business Month 2025 was a resounding success, with 162 events held across May, attracting over 6,000 attendees. This included:

- 26 events led by my Department, focusing on financial literacy, disaster recovery and major project supplier opportunities.
- 48 events funded through the Better Local Business grant program.

As part of the celebrations, I was delighted to attend events across the state, witnessing firsthand the resilience, innovation, and determination of Queensland's small and family business community.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 9

Asked on 18 July 2025

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OPEN DATA AND MINISTER FOR SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS (HON S MINNIKIN) —

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise what support the Government has provided for small and family businesses impacted by the devastating natural disaster events earlier this year?

ANSWER

The Crisafulli Government and Australian Government have committed \$82.1 million in jointly funded Category C and D assistance under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) to support small businesses affected by the North and Far North Tropical Low, Tropical Cyclone Alfred, and Western Queensland floods.

Category B assistance was activated shortly after these disaster events and includes:

- Disaster Assistance Loans of up to \$250,000 to help small businesses recover from physical damage.
- Essential Working Capital Loans of up to \$100,000 to assist businesses in maintaining operations.

Category C grants ranging from \$25,000 for Tropical Cyclone Alfred to \$50,000 for the North and Far North Tropical Low and Western Queensland Surface Trough were offered to eligible small businesses. These grants aimed to support clean-up and recovery efforts, including repairs, debris removal, and the replacement of damaged stock and infrastructure.

In response to the extraordinary scale of the disaster, Category D funding was also provided. This includes:

- Small Business Recovery Assistance Grants.
- Access to financial counselling and mental health support for small business owners.
- A Small Business Support Services Fund, enabling financial counsellors and wellness coaches to refer businesses to specialised services to help manage hardship and aid recovery.

Guidelines for implementing the Category D packages for Tropical Cyclone Alfred and the Western Queensland floods are currently awaiting endorsement from the Australian Government. This approval is required before the delivery of assistance can begin.

Business Recovery Hubs and Departmental Support

In response to the natural disasters earlier this year, my Department provided direct support to small businesses, addressing 1,057 assistance requests.

45 temporary hubs (Community Recovery Hubs and dedicated Small Business Recovery Hubs) were established in disaster-affected regions to provide face-to-face support, advice

and access to recovery services. These hubs included partners such as small business financial counsellors, business wellness coaches, the Australian Taxation Office, Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority, local councils and the Insurance Council of Australia.

Outreach efforts included door-knocking and site visits to 138 businesses, conducted in partnership with local councils. The outreach covered the following areas:

- Tropical Cyclone Alfred 2025 - Hervey Bay, Nerang, Logan Village, Capalaba, Burleigh Waters, Mt Tamborine, Dunwich, Amity Point, Ipswich, Gatton and Rosewood.
- North and Far North Tropical Low 2025 - Cardwell, Ingham, Taylors Beach, Lucinda, Macknade, Halifax, Townsville, Giru, Mission Beach, Tully and Thuringowa.
- Western Queensland Floods 2025 - Charleville, Chinchilla and Roma.

Business Recovery Clinics

During Queensland Small Business Month in May 2025, eight Business Recovery Clinics were held in disaster-affected regions. These clinics provided small and family business owners with the opportunity to meet with experts in person, offering tailored advice and support a few months after the disaster, once initial response efforts had concluded.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 10

Asked on 18 July 2025

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE
COMMITTEE** ASKED MINISTER FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OPEN DATA AND
MINISTER FOR SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS (HON S MINNIKIN) —

QUESTION

Will the Minister provide detail on how he engages with small business stakeholders and tests potential new initiatives and policies, as well as the redesign and improvements of existing programs?

ANSWER

I have established a new Small and Family Business Ministerial Reference Group to ensure the voices of small and family businesses are heard. This group provides a platform for members to share their real-life experiences and insights directly with me and my Department.

Formed in July 2025, the group is currently made up of nine members with extensive experience and expertise in small and family business. These members represent a diverse range of industries and regions across Queensland, ensuring a broad and inclusive perspective.

At the first meeting, held on 22 July 2025, members discussed opportunities and challenges for business growth, as well as ways to improve connections between small and family businesses and Queensland Government programs and services.

As Minister, I have also participated in numerous small business roundtables and events, which have included representatives from peak business and industry associations. These events have provided great insight into the challenges and opportunities for small and family businesses across the state. I have been inspired by the entrepreneurial spirit and resilience of small businesses in Queensland.

These engagements, and the feedback from small and family businesses, will guide and influence every decision I make as Minister, as well as the direction and activities of my Department.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 11

Asked on 18 July 2025

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE
COMMITTEE** ASKED MINISTER FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OPEN DATA AND
MINISTER FOR SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS (HON S MINNIKIN) —

QUESTION

With reference to the SDS, including pages 1, 2 and 7 will the Minister advise the number of (a) contractors and (b) consultants employed or engaged by the department, since 1 November 2024 (or closest reportable date), reported separately by region, type/position and contract value?

ANSWER

The Department of Customer Services, Open Data and Small and Family Business publishes details of awarded contracts, valued at \$10,000 and over (GST inclusive), on the Queensland Government Open Data Portal in accordance with the *Queensland Procurement Policy 2023* and the *Procurement Guidelines: Contract Disclosure*.

This can be accessed at: <https://www.data.qld.gov.au/dataset/dcsodsfb-contract-disclosure-reporting/resource/8d70abfb-0672-4b56-8b45-5d8cfe7aff05>

Details of consultancy engagements are also published on the Queensland Government Open Data Portal in accordance with the *Annual report requirements for Queensland Government agencies*.

There were no consultants engaged by the Department of Customer Services, Open Data and Small and Family Business during the period 1 November 2024 to 30 June 2025.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 12

Asked on 18 July 2025

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OPEN DATA AND MINISTER FOR SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS (HON S MINNIKIN) —

QUESTION

With reference to the SDS, including page 9 regarding the provision of grants and subsidies by the department, can the Minister provide a detail breakdown of grants provided by the department, including for each grant and/or subsidies:

- (a) current name of grant;
- (b) former name of grant (if changed since 1 November 2024);
- (c) date of first round;
- (d) grant amount;
- (e) eligibility criteria (including any changes that have been made since 1 November 2024);
- (f) total amount expended to date;
- (g) total applications for the grant (by financial year since first round);
- (h) total successful applications for the grant (by financial year since first round); and
- (i) current status/round?

ANSWER

Grant programs

(a) Current name of grant	(b) Former name of grant	(c) Date of first round	(d) Grant amount	(e) Eligibility criteria	(i) Current status
Business Growth Fund	N/A	18/05/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Round 3 up to \$50,000• Round 4 \$25,000-\$50,000• Round 5&6 \$50,000-\$75,000	Criteria available on the Business Queensland website: Business Growth Fund Program Business Queensland	Round 6 projects underway
Business Basics	N/A	31/05/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Round 1-5 \$5000• Round 6 \$7500	Criteria available on the Business Queensland website: Business Basics Grants Program Business Queensland	Round 6 projects underway
Business Boost	N/A	30/07/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Round 1&2 \$7,500-\$15,000• Round 3&4 \$10,000-\$20,000	Criteria available on the Business Queensland website: Business Boost Grants Program Business Queensland	Round 3 - 4 projects underway

(f) Total amount expended to date

	Totals for programs
<i>Grant Program</i>	\$ Funding
Business Growth Fund	\$6,958,364
Business Basics	\$31,977,500
Business Boost	\$4,999,483
Total	\$43,935,347

Note: This is based on grants payments expended. There are grant commitments that have been made that are yet to be paid.

(g) Total applications for the grant (by financial year since first round)

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<i>Grant Program</i>	# Apps	# Apps	# Apps	# Apps	# Apps
Business Growth Fund	34	535	130	148	-
Business Basics	3,000	3,419	2,238	102	2,432
Business Boost	-	397	225	209	325

Note: The above table represents the count of full applications received by the submission date. Due to program release dates applications may be submitted in different financial year to approval.

(h) Successful applications per grant program

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<i>Grant Program</i>	# Apps	# Apps	# Apps	# Apps
Business Growth Fund	40	42	28	31
Business Basics	3,195	2,191	10	844
Business Boost	206	173	113	170

Note: Successful applications are based on date of approval and not linked to date of application lodgement, which may be in a different financial year.

Other grants and subsidies

The balance of the funding in the grants and subsidies line item for 2024-25 and/or 2025-26, include the following programs:

- Contributions to other government agencies to implement cyber security protections.
- Better Local Business Grants in support of Small Business Month.
- 2025-26 budgeted programs, such as the Secure Communities Partnership Program and other small and family business programs.
- Palm Island Digital Services Funding Grant Agreement.
- Yarrabah Funding Agreement – Internet services at Yarrabah Digital Service Centre.
- Queensland Government Agent Program subsidies.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 13

Asked on 18 July 2025

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE
COMMITTEE** ASKED MINISTER FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OPEN DATA AND
MINISTER FOR SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS (HON S MINNIKIN) —

QUESTION

With reference to Page 6 of Budget Paper 4 – Budget Measures – will the Minister provide a list of courses to be provided under the “\$11.5 million over 4 years to provide micro-credential courses”, including for each individual micro-credential course the:

- (a) expected start date;
- (b) course name;
- (c) traditional cost of course;
- (d) delivery method and location (i.e., face to face, online); and
- (e) total number of places available?

ANSWER

The Crisafulli Government has committed \$11.5 million over four years to support the delivery of micro-credential planning courses for small businesses. Detail including areas of focus, course content and scheduling, along with other delivery requirements are being developed and negotiated.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 14

Asked on 18 July 2025

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE
COMMITTEE** ASKED MINISTER FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OPEN DATA AND
MINISTER FOR SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS (HON S MINNIKIN) —

QUESTION

With reference to the SDS including pages 1 and 2 and the Small and Family Business Action Statement – will the Minister provide information on the review of the Queensland Procurement Policy, including:

- (a) who is conducting the review;
- (b) when did the review first commence;
- (c) the terms of reference for the review;
- (d) current status of the review;
- (e) dates of any public or community consultation with small businesses on the review;
and
- (f) expected date the findings of the review will be published?

ANSWER

The Queensland Procurement Policy and its review is the responsibility of the Department of Housing and Public Works. This sits under the portfolio of the Honourable Sam O'Connor MP, Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth.

Details about the review and its progress should be directed to Minister O'Connor.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 15

Asked on 18 July 2025

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OPEN DATA AND MINISTER FOR SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS (HON S MINNIKIN) —

QUESTION

With reference to the SDS, including pages 1 and 2, will the Minister advise the total headcount and FTE in the Office of the Small Business Commissioner, broken down by role type, as at the following (or closest reportable) dates:

- (a) 1 November 2024;
- (b) 1 March 2025; and
- (c) 1 July 2025?

ANSWER

Date	Actual Headcount	Actual FTE	Role Breakdown
1 November 2024	14	13.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 x Chief Executive Officer (CEO)• 2 x Senior Officers (SO)• 11 x Administrative Officers (AO)
1 March 2025	13	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 x Chief Executive Officer (CEO)• 2 x Senior Officers (SO)• 10 x Administrative Officers (AO)
1 July 2025	15	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 x Chief Executive Officer (CEO)• 3 x Senior Officers (SO)• 11 x Administrative Officers (AO)

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE
COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 16

Asked on 18 July 2025

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE
COMMITTEE** ASKED MINISTER FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OPEN DATA AND
MINISTER FOR SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS (HON S MINNIKIN) —

QUESTION

With reference to page 2 of the SDS and the *Small Business Support Services Fund* will the Minister advise:

- (a) for previous rounds, the total number of small businesses connected with a service provider under the fund; and
- (b) for future rounds, the estimated number of small businesses to be supported?

ANSWER

- a) From October 2022 to 30 June 2025, 926 businesses had an application approved under the Small Business Support Fund to connect them with a service provider.
- b) In the 2025-26 State Budget, \$4.524 million was provided for the fund over a three-year period. The maximum application value is \$5,000. It is anticipated that the fund will be able to support a similar number of businesses.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 17

Asked on 18 July 2025

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OPEN DATA AND MINISTER FOR SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS (HON S MINNIKIN) —

QUESTION

With reference to page 5 of Budget Paper 4 will the Minister advise for Round 1 of the Secure Communities Partnership Program, to date:

- (a) total applications received;
- (b) Councils that filed applications;
- (c) expected number of projects that Round 1 funding will support; and
- (d) what was the process for determining applicant council eligibility criteria?

ANSWER

The Secure Communities Partnership Program (SCPP) Round 1 closed for applications on 11 July 2025.

- a) A total of 48 applications.
- b) Councils who submitted:

Balonne Shire Council
Barcaldine Regional Council
Brisbane City Council
Bundaberg Regional Council
Burdekin Shire Council
Cairns Regional Council
Cloncurry Shire Council
Cook Shire Council
Douglas Shire Council
Flinders Shire Council
Fraser Coast Regional Council
Gold Coast City Council
Gympie Regional Council
Hinchinbrook Shire Council
Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
Livingstone Shire Council
Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council
Maranoa Regional Council
Mareeba Shire Council
McKinlay Shire Council
Moreton Bay City Council
Mount Isa City Council

Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council
Paroo Shire Council
Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council
Rockhampton Regional Council
Scenic Rim Regional Council
South Burnett Regional Council
Sunshine Coast Regional Council
Toowoomba Regional Council
Torres Shire Council
Townsville City Council
Western Downs Regional Council
Whitsunday Regional Council
Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council
Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council

- c) As the competitive assessment process remains ongoing, it is premature to estimate the number of projects that will be supported in Round 1.
- d) To determine council and project eligibility, a review is performed against the criteria outlined in the SCPP Program Guidelines, which can be found at:
<https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/guidelines-secure-communities-partnership-program/resource/ae8be959-1f07-41fc-8d0f-fdb5174886bb>

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE
COMMITTEE**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 18

Asked on 18 July 2025

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE
COMMITTEE** ASKED MINISTER FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OPEN DATA AND
MINISTER FOR SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS (HON S MINNIKIN) —

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise:

- (a) total number of Small Business Wellness Coaches employed by the Department; and
- (b) total number of Small Business Financial (and Rural) Counsellors employed by the Department?

ANSWER

The Department of Customer Services, Open Data and Small and Family Business does not employ any Small Business Wellness Coaches or Small Business Financial (and Rural) Counsellors.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 19

Asked on 18 July 2025

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE
COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OPEN DATA AND
MINISTER FOR SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS (HON S MINNIKIN) —**

QUESTION

With reference to page 5 of Budget Paper 4 will the Minister provide a breakdown of the \$25.1 million for “Access to Government Services Online”, including:

- (a) services currently not online that will be brought online by the end of the financial year;
- (b) services already online that are expected to be impacted by changes;
- (c) details of any measures of effectiveness that will be used to assess success of any changes; and
- (d) details of timeline for delivery of each involved service, measure or change as outlined in the answers to (a) and (b)?

ANSWER

The Department is currently in the planning and consultation phase for these initiatives and a detailed timeline for the delivery to consolidate the online service experience is still being refined.

The Department is committed to ensuring a comprehensive and well-structured implementation and will provide updates as services and timeframes are confirmed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 20

Asked on 18 July 2025

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE
COMMITTEE** ASKED MINISTER FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OPEN DATA AND
MINISTER FOR SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS (HON S MINNIKIN) —

QUESTION

With reference to page 21 of the SDS will the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of which services have ceased to be provided and where they are now provided from under *“discontinuation of services provided to the Department of Transport and Main Roads”*?

ANSWER

At the request of the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland Shared Services has discontinued the following service provision to the Department of Transport and Main Roads:

- Administration of general ledger, asset and taxation services as they pertain to the Department of Transport and Main Roads.
- Administration of payroll services as they pertain to the Department of Transport and Main Roads.
- Administration of the IT system used by the Department of Transport and Main Roads to administer their finance and payroll activities.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads now administers their own finance and payroll services as listed above.

**Pre-hearing Questions on notice and
Responses - *Minister for Local
Government and Water and Minister for
Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers***

Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee

2025 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND WATER AND MINISTER FOR FIRE, DISASTER RECOVERY AND VOLUNTEERS –

QUESTION:

Public servants are vital to delivering the fresh start Queenslanders deserve. Can the Minister outline whether the former government had adequately funded the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers FTEs?

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government knows the immense value of Queensland's public servants and appreciates their vital work in delivering the Fresh Start this state deserves.

The previous Labor government failed to adequately fund the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers, and left 122 FTEs with temporary funding that was due to end on 30 June 2025.

In response, the Crisafulli Government provided the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers additional funding and FTE supplementation as part of the 2025-26 budget for the 122 FTEs that were due to end on 30 June 2025.

To deliver the Fresh Start Queenslanders voted for, we need the efforts of these crucial public servants that Labor had planned to sack on 30 June 2025.

We are doing what we promised and delivering for Queensland.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE

**Minister for Local Government and Water and
Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 2

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the Crisafulli Government is empowering our frontline fires through comprehensive presumptive workers cover, and is the Minister aware of any alternate approaches?

ANSWER:

When the previous Parliament broadened the insurances included in the Presumptive Legislation Workers' Compensation Scheme, the former Labor Government failed to provide any additional funding to cover the increased associated costs.

This neglect is part of the reason the Crisafulli Government committed to empowering our firefighters with the resources they need to keep Queenslanders safe. This includes funding access to comprehensive workers' compensation. The Crisafulli Government is providing funding of \$73.6 million over five years from 2024-25 and \$15.7 million ongoing to support both paid and volunteer firefighters following a significant expansion of the Presumptive Legislation Workers' Compensation Scheme. This includes \$15.7 million in funding allocated in 2025-26.

The scheme provides critical financial support to injured persons.

Both paid and volunteer firefighters are provided certainty under the *Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003* if they are diagnosed with one of 23 deemed diseases, including cancers, presumed to be work related.

The Crisafulli Government will always support the safety and wellbeing of its paid and volunteer firefighters.

Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee

2025 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 3

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND WATER AND MINISTER FOR FIRE, DISASTER RECOVERY AND VOLUNTEERS –

QUESTION:

Protecting Queensland's waterways is crucial to the state's industry and wildlife. Will the Minister advise how the Crisafulli Government are strengthening Queensland's River Improvement Trusts, and is the Minister aware of any alternate approaches?

ANSWER:

In Labor's 2024-25 Budget Papers, it was clearly outlined that River Improvement Trusts had no allocated funding over the forward estimates.

The Crisafulli Government has committed to long-term funding for river improvement trusts, with a 10 per cent increase beginning 2025–26 providing \$330,000 per annum. Funding certainty will provide trusts with security to enable forward planning and improve the efficiency and the delivery of long-term initiatives that benefit our waterways and surrounding environments.

Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee

2025 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 4

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND WATER AND MINISTER FOR FIRE, DISASTER RECOVERY AND VOLUNTEERS –

QUESTION:

Agriculture Shows are at the heart of our rural and regional communities. Will the Minister advise how the Crisafulli Government is strengthening Queensland's Ag Shows?

ANSWER:

Ag shows are at the heart of Queensland's rural and regional communities. They involve the hard work of thousands of volunteers pitching in to celebrate their local agriculture industry.

It's why the Crisafulli Government delivered the first permanent funding increase for Ag Shows in nearly 20 years, committing an additional \$500,000 to the 2025-26 Show Societies Grants Program (SSGP), a permanent increase bringing the total to \$2.5 million annually.

This increase will assist 129 show societies and affiliated organisations to meet rising operational costs including maintenance and grounds improvements, insurance, utilities and entertainment, which might otherwise impact their ability to continue running annual shows. This initiative also supports Queensland's volunteer sector, especially in rural and regional communities.

Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee

2025 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 5

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND WATER AND MINISTER FOR FIRE, DISASTER RECOVERY AND VOLUNTEERS –

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the Crisafulli Government is empowering Queensland's councils and working with them to deliver vital infrastructure and services across the state?

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government understands that councils know their local communities best and work in an equal and respectful partnership with local governments to deliver for Queenslanders. This means kickstarting infrastructure and service projects with the collaboration of councils to improve liveability across Queensland.

The Crisafulli Government has made the Works for Queensland Program permanent, with \$100 million allocated annually. Works for Queensland empowers councils to assess and address the needs of their communities by delivering priority infrastructure aimed at supporting sustainable local governments and helps Queensland councils maintain progress towards planned infrastructure and services.

We are doing what we promised and delivering for Queensland.

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 6

THE COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND WATER AND MINISTER FOR FIRE, DISASTER RECOVERY AND VOLUNTEERS (HON A LEAHY)—

QUESTION:

Queensland is the most disaster-prone state in Australia. Will the Minister advise how the Crisafulli Government are supporting Queenslanders build more resilient communities through Betterment and similar programs?

ANSWER:

In 2024-25, 17 disasters resulted in 73 of the state's 77 councils being activated for disaster support. Three successive major disasters have tested Queensland's resolve, and I thank everyone involved in disaster response and recovery for their outstanding efforts. The Crisafulli Government will continue to be there for Queenslanders, every step of the way.

It's because of this that the Crisafulli Government committed to strengthen Queensland's ability to not just survive disasters, but thrive in their wake. We promised to commit \$40 million per year towards the Queensland Betterment Fund, and prioritise our state's disaster capabilities.

This commitment is empowering Queensland communities to deliver high priority betterment infrastructure projects to improve the resilience of vital assets like roads, bridges and water infrastructure, against future disaster events.

This will include funding towards raising the Curzon Street Bridge in Rocklea and crucial flood mitigation measures in Laidley.

Betterment funding allows us to invest in more resilient outcomes that provide long term cost savings and reduced disruption for Queensland communities.

As a part of the Crisafulli Government's first budget laying the foundations for the Fresh Start Queenslanders' deserve, we are delivering \$450 million over the next five years to strengthen Queensland for future disaster events by establishing a new Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Program (QRRRP).

The QRRRP will see a significant boost in Betterment funding, while also supporting high priority disaster resilience and mitigation projects, strengthening the resilience of Queensland communities to natural disasters. The new QRRRP provides a holistic approach to making Queensland a stronger, better and safer place to call home.

As part of the response to the significant flooding in North and Far North Queensland earlier this year, the Queensland Government has secured \$205 million in Betterment funding to repair and build more resilience into the Bruce Highway and other key state-owned connection roads, including assets such as Ollera Creek.

In addition, a \$155 million Betterment Program has been established to improve access to western and central Queensland by upgrading essential state-owned roads to a more

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resilient standard, following the devastating Western Queensland floods that began in March 2025.

We are doing what we promised and delivering for Queensland.

Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee

2025 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 7

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND WATER AND MINISTER FOR FIRE, DISASTER RECOVERY AND VOLUNTEERS –

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the Crisafulli Government is supporting Queensland's primary producers with the cost of living?

ANSWER:

Labor's cost of living crisis has left Queensland's primary producers facing rising operations, maintenance and production costs that have devastated rural and regional communities. The Crisafulli Government promised to support our primary producers and give them the voice they say the previous Labor government refused to acknowledge.

The Crisafulli Government has delivered \$50.1 million towards cost-of-living relief for Queensland's farmers, including a 15 per cent discount for eligible irrigators on the prices to be charged by Sunwater and Seqwater.

The Crisafulli Government is also providing fee waivers under the *Water Act 2000* for landholders who are impacted by disaster or drought for the next two years. The annual water licence fee will be waived for landholders in a Local Government Area where a disaster activation is approved or a drought declaration is made.

We are also focussed on delivering general water infrastructure across the State to shore up water security and foster economic growth. This includes building the Barlil, Cooranga and Thomson River Weirs, rebuilding Paradise Dam and other critical water infrastructure opportunities. Good planning for population growth and water security will ensure we have the right infrastructure and services in place at the right time. Our water security commitments are being delivered with a clear focus on end-users, affordability and unlocking water for future development. This includes reviewing all of Queensland's 23 Regional Water Plans, having already unlocked over 100,000 MLs of water. We are supporting rural and regional communities and their economic growth, well into the future.

In regard to disaster recovery, more than \$1 billion in extraordinary assistance packages have been made available in response to the 2024-25 disaster season, jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

For primary producers this means:

- \$360 million in Betterment to improve access to northern, western and central Queensland by upgrading essential state-owned roads to a more resilient standard.
- \$177.7 million in Extraordinary Assistance Grants for primary producers.
- \$105 million Exclusion Fence Restitution Program that will provide grants to eligible primary producers to rebuild critical cluster fencing damaged by the floods.
- \$35.78 million Primary Producer Industry Support packages to help farmers with recovery activities, financial counselling and to repair and reinstate damaged wild dog barrier fencing.
- \$13 million Emergency Fodder Support Packages that have kept remaining livestock fed during the aftermath of the floods.

In February 2025, we successfully negotiated with the Commonwealth to expand eligible activities covered by the Exceptional Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants to include removal of damaged crops, plants and trees and purchase of seed, seedlings or trees to immediately resume operations.

We have also broadened the definition of primary production under the DRFA to better account for off-farm income to enable farmers to access more support.

We are doing what we promised and delivering for Queensland.

Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee

2025 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 8

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND WATER AND MINISTER FOR FIRE, DISASTER RECOVERY AND VOLUNTEERS –

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the Crisafulli Government are working in an equal and respectful partnership with Queensland's councils to deliver for Queenslanders, and is the Minister aware of any alternate approaches?

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government have engaged with Queensland's councils and stakeholders, who have revealed that for nearly ten years they have been treated like second-class citizens and neglected by the previous Labor government.

In response, the Crisafulli Government believe in an equal and respectful relationship between the two levels of government, working in partnership with councils to deliver for Queenslanders. We signed the new Equal Partners in Government Agreement (EPIGA) with the Local Government Association of Queensland earlier this year, affirming our commitment to empowering our councils.

The EPIGA formalises a set of principles to guide the relationship between the Queensland Government and local governments. Those principles are:

- Empowered local governments and accountability
- Localised decision making through subsidiarity
- Equality through clearly established jurisdiction
- Minimum intervention from the Queensland Government
- Transparency and consistent governance arrangements
- Compliance requirements to ensure community benefit and local autonomy
- Effective and practical devolution/delegation of responsibilities
- Delivering on funding programs and strategies for financial sustainability
- Guaranteed constitutional recognition

In my ministerial charter letter, I promised to rebuild state and council relations by maintaining a respectful and equal relationship, and the signing of the new agreement affirms my commitment to this promise.

We are doing what we promised and delivering for Queensland.

Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee

2025 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 9

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND WATER AND MINISTER FOR FIRE, DISASTER RECOVERY AND VOLUNTEERS –

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the Crisafulli Government is delivering generational water infrastructure for Queensland, and is the Minister aware of any alternate approaches?

ANSWER:

Engagement with Queensland's water industry and users revealed that for nearly ten years water infrastructure and services have stagnated under the previous Labor government. No new dams were delivered, and the projects that were completed were over time and budget. The previous Labor government left Queenslanders with some of the most expensive water bills in the country.

The Crisafulli Government recognised this, and it's why we delivered almost \$38 million to deliver the Barlil and Cooranga Weirs, five new or raised weirs along the Thomson River, and to progress the business case for the Water for Warrill Project.

We also committed to rebuilding Paradise Dam and delivering water security and affordability to the Wide Bay and Burnett region. The Crisafulli Government, through the Coordinator-General, has directed Sunwater to fast-track early works for the dam.

We are doing what we promised and delivering for Queensland.

Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee

2025 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 10

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND WATER AND MINISTER FOR FIRE, DISASTER RECOVERY AND VOLUNTEERS –

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the Crisafulli Government is securing the future of Paradise Dam for the people of the Burnett and Wide Bay areas, and is the Minister aware of any alternate approaches?

ANSWER:

Under the previous Labor government, water infrastructure projects stagnated and mismanagement led to eye watering cost blow outs. This includes rebuilding Paradise Dam, where costs blew out by over \$3 billion to a staggering \$4.4 billion.

In June 2025, the Crisafulli Government, through the Coordinator-General, directed Sunwater to fast-track early works for the Paradise Dam project. This enabling work is now well advanced, with geotechnical investigations and road upgrades moving ahead.

Sunwater has advised that it will schedule major activities around wet seasons, and ensure customers have a reliable water supply for the duration of the Paradise Dam project. Sunwater will continue to engage with key stakeholders and customers as the project progresses.

We are doing what we promised and delivering for Queensland.

Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee

2025 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 11

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND WATER AND MINISTER FOR FIRE, DISASTER RECOVERY AND VOLUNTEERS –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 2 of the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers SDS and the government's commitment to review all 23 regional water plans in this term of government, will the Minister advise, for each of the 23 regional water plans:

- a) the name of the regional water plan;
- b) the month and year in which the review process commenced or is scheduled to commence;
- c) the month and year in which the following milestones have occurred or are expected to occur:
 - i. Completion of technical assessments and data gathering;
 - ii. Commencement of formal stakeholder consultation;
 - iii. Release of a draft water plan for public comment;
 - iv. Finalisation and gazettal of the revised water plan?

ANSWER:

The Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers has established the Unlocking Water Project to deliver on the Queensland Government's commitment to analyse all 23 regional water plans in this term of government.

Each analysis will review opportunities to increase water availability through modelling and science and consider opportunities to support and improve water trading within the water plan area to make more water available for identified priority areas.

The findings and recommendations for each water plan area will be released in stages throughout this term of government, with four areas expected to be completed by the end of 2025 – Barron, Mitchell, Wet Tropics and Gulf.

A final report is set for release in 2028 to provide overarching recommendations for the whole state and tracking progress on implementing the recommendations from each assessment.

Additional information on each water plan is available on the department's website at <https://www.dlgwv.qld.gov.au/>

Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee

2025 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 12

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND WATER AND MINISTER FOR FIRE, DISASTER RECOVERY AND VOLUNTEERS –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 4 of the SDS, and the Local Government Division within the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers which was transferred from the former Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works, will the Minister provide a list of all local government funding programs and grants administered by the Local Government Division as at 1 November 2024, and for each advise:

- a) whether it is still being delivered;
- b) if not, whether funding has been reallocated and, if so, to which program, initiative or department; and
- c) the total funding allocated in the 2025–26 Budget and across the forward estimates?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government supports Queensland councils to deliver priority infrastructure to meet community needs.

The following grants were administered by the Local Government Division on 1 November 2024 and are still being delivered:

- Works for Queensland, with \$353.23 million in funding allocated in the 2025-26 budget and across the forward estimates.
- South East Queensland Community Stimulus Program, with \$52.383 million in funding allocated in the 2025-26 budget and across the forward estimates.
- Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program, with \$144.497 million in funding allocated in the 2025-26 budget and across the forward estimates.
- Indigenous Councils Funding Program, with \$221.732 in funding allocated in the 2025-26 budget and across the forward estimates.
- Ayr Water Treatment Plant (Stage 1), \$6.123 million in funding allocated in the 2025-26 budget.

- Northern Peninsula Area water supply, with \$500,000 in funding allocated in the 2025-26 budget.

Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program is continuing to be delivered. The following grants were administered by the Local Government Division on 1 November 2024 and now completed:

- The Kenrick Park Masterplan (Stage 1) was delivered.
- The Splash Parks in Mareeba and Douglas Shire was delivered.

Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee

2025 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 13

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND WATER AND MINISTER FOR FIRE, DISASTER RECOVERY AND VOLUNTEERS –

QUESTION:

With reference to the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers SDS, including pages 1 to 3, will the Minister provide a list of all Safe Drinking Water Project (SDWP) assessments completed since November 2024 for each Indigenous Council, including:

- a) the date each assessment was completed;
- b) a summary of any key risks or recommendations identified;
- c) whether the assessment report was provided to Queensland Health, the relevant Indigenous Council, and the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning;
- d) any capital funding allocated for drinking water infrastructure upgrades or new works as a result.

ANSWER:

The Safe Drinking Water Project commenced in December 2016 and concluded in June 2023, under the previous Labor government.

Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee

2025 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 14

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND WATER AND MINISTER FOR FIRE, DISASTER RECOVERY AND VOLUNTEERS –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 47 of Budget Paper 3, will the Minister provide:

- a) The total forecast value of the bulk water capital program over the next 15 years (or longest available period); and
- b) A list of all projects in that program, with for each project:
 - i. Name
 - ii. Estimated total cost
 - iii. Classification as essential (e.g. dam safety, water security, regulatory compliance), economic development (e.g. enabling industrial or agricultural expansion), or both.

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government is focussed on following through on our commitments in addressing future water requirements for further population growth and delivering generational water infrastructure across Queensland that will secure supply and foster economic growth.

There is a large program forecast, with the majority of the program focussed on providing water security for urban and town water supplies across the State to support our growing population as well as upgrading and maintaining our existing dams to ensure they continue to be safe.

To provide the total bulk water capital program over the next 15 years is reliant upon the conclusion of various business cases and analysis and would be an unreasonable diversion of department resources. For the Crisafulli Government's commitments to generational water infrastructure throughout Queensland, I refer the member to Budget Paper 3.

Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee

2025 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 15

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND WATER AND MINISTER FOR FIRE, DISASTER RECOVERY AND VOLUNTEERS –

QUESTION:

With reference to the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers SDS, including pages 2 and 3, will the Minister advise:

- a) the expected month and year for the release of the draft Water Security Plan for public consultation and for its finalisation; and
- b) whether the Water Security Plan will include a strategic water infrastructure plan outlining a programmatic view of the forward bulk water capital program?

ANSWER:

- a) The Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers will complete a consultative process to develop the Water Security Plan. Any consultation activities undertaken will inform the plan to be finalised for government consideration in 2026.
- b) The Water Security Plan will demonstrate the government's commitment to support Queensland's current and future needs for water and growth. It will address planning and building infrastructure to shore up water security.

Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee

2025 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 16

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND WATER AND MINISTER FOR FIRE, DISASTER RECOVERY AND VOLUNTEERS –

QUESTION:

With reference to the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers SDS and page 1 regarding the Queensland Volunteering Strategy Action Plan 2024-2026 (the Plan), can the Minister advise -

- a) how much funding was expended in 2024-25 to deliver the Plan;
- b) what progress was made in 2024-25 in delivering the Plan;
- c) how much funding is allocated in the 2025-26 Budget to deliver the Plan; and
- d) what progress is expected to be made in 2025-26 in delivering the Plan?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Volunteering Strategy Action Plan 2024-2026 referenced in the question does not feature in the SDS.

The Queensland Volunteering Strategy Action Plan 2024-2026 was developed and released by the previous Labor Government, and Labor did not allocate any new funding to support the delivery of the plan. On 11 December 2024, the Crisafulli Government established the Parliamentary Inquiry into Volunteering in Queensland (the Inquiry) to investigate and report on the state of volunteering in Queensland.

During 2025-26, the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers will coordinate the government's response to the Inquiry in close consultation across Queensland Government agencies.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE

Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 17

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Fire Department SDS, including page 5, can the Minister advise, as at 1 July 2024 and at 30 June 2025 (or closest reportable period), listed separately, the number of:

- a) Queensland Fire and Rescue (QFR) FTE professional firefighters (PF) excluding auxiliary firefighters (AF) and recruit firefighters (RF);
- b) QFR FTE PF vacancies (excluding AF and RF);
- c) FTE AF
- d) FTE AF able to respond to an incident;
- e) QFR specific FTE employees (excluding PF);
- f) Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) specific FTE employees;
- g) RFSQ volunteers;
- h) the number of QFD FTE supporting both QFR and RFSQ (excluding PF), by division/area worked; and
- i) the 23 additional budgeted FTE, reported separately by division and position?

ANSWER:

- a) As at pay period ending 30 June 2024, the Queensland Fire and Rescue (QFR) Division had 2,475.09 paid full-time equivalent (FTE) firefighter positions. As at pay period ending 29 June 2025, QFR had 2,663.28 paid FTE firefighter positions.
- b) As at 30 June 2024 QFR had 183 paid FTE firefighter vacancies. As at pay period ending 29 June 2025, QFR had 155 paid FTE firefighter vacancies.
- c) As at pay period ending 30 June 2024 QFR had 186.5 paid FTE Auxiliary Firefighters. As at pay period ending 29 June 2025, QFR had 181.6 paid FTE Auxiliary Firefighters.
- d) The availability of auxiliary firefighters at any one point is variable due to factors such as availability and illness for example.
- e) As at pay period ending 30 June 2024 the QFR Division had 133.08 paid FTE Frontline Support and Corporate employees. As at pay period ending 29 June 2025, QFR had 146.66 paid FTE Frontline Support and Corporate employees.

- f) As at pay period ending 30 June 2024 Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) had 226.71 paid FTE employees. As at pay period ending 29 June 2025, RFSQ had 265.83 paid FTE employees.
- g) As at 30 June 2024 RFSQ had 27,352 volunteers. As at 30 June 2025, RFSQ had 27,652 volunteers. This represents an increase of 300 RFSQ volunteers when compared to last year.
- h) As at pay period ending 30 June 2024 the number of FTE Frontline Support and Corporate employees supporting both QFR and RFSQ (excluding firefighters) was 703.19 and as at pay period ending 29 June 2025 the number of FTE Frontline Support and Corporate employees supporting both QFR and RFSQ (excluding firefighters) was 833.25.
- i) There are 82 new Queensland Fire and Rescue firefighter positions being recruited for in 2025-26 which includes the 23 identified in the budget FTE adjustment.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE

**Minister for Local Government and Water and
Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 18

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Fire Department SDS, including page 5, can the Minister advise for the next 5 years (reported separately by station location and anticipated year of project commencement):

- a) the forward capital works plan for new and upgraded fire and rescue stations; and
- b) the forward capital works plan for new and upgraded rural fire stations?

ANSWER:

I refer the Committee to Budget Paper 3, Capital Statement 2025-26 which outlines the capital works plan for the Queensland Fire Department (QFD) in 2025-26, which includes new and upgraded stations for Queensland Fire and Rescue and Rural Fire Service Queensland.

With respect to forward capital works plans, I am advised by QFD that annual reviews of its infrastructure are conducted, which includes consultation amongst relevant stakeholders, before making decisions regarding future investments.

Each facility's operational needs are assessed using demand data, forecasts and the specific requirements of the community it serves.

Decisions about station locations are based on factors like population growth and the types and frequency of emergencies. QFD regularly reviews its resources to keep up with the changing needs of growing areas and the needs of Queenslanders.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE

**Minister for Local Government and Water and
Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers**

ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 19

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Fire Department SDS, including page 5, can the Minister please advise the appliance replacement forward schedules for Queensland Fire and Rescue and Rural Fire Service Queensland, for the next 5 years (reported separately by service, financial year, station, regional and appliance type)

ANSWER:

This Government has provided funding in the 2025–26 budget to ensure investment in this critical frontline capability. The total budget for this future fleet program to be delivered over the next five years is \$225.65 million. The funding allocation attributes \$85.35 million to Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) and is anticipated to deliver over 280 fire trucks, and \$140.3 million to Queensland Fire and Rescue (QFR) and is anticipated to deliver over 200 fire trucks.

QFR's replacement schedule is indicative only and may change due to operational factors, such as the date the truck was accepted into service, and condition reports. In some instances, it may be appropriate to move or 'cascade' the fleet across the service rather than to replace a truck.

Estimates Pre-Hearing Question on Notice

No. 20

THE COMMITTEE ASKED MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND WATER AND MINISTER FOR FIRE, DISASTER RECOVERY AND VOLUNTEERS (HON A LEAHY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Fire Department SDS, including page 13 and “all-hazard communication and community education awareness campaigns and outreach activities” undertaken by the QRA can the Minister provide (listed separately in table format)-

- a) a list of all activities undertaken by the QRA in 2024-25 and the actual spend for each campaign and activity; and
- b) a list of all activities planned by the QRA in 2025-26 and the planned spend for each campaign and activity?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) delivers a range of community education awareness campaigns, outreach activities and targeted behaviour change campaigns through its industry leading and award winning Get Ready Queensland (GRQ) initiative.

GRQ is an evidence-based, year-round, all-hazards resilience building initiative, supporting Queenslanders to prepare for natural disasters.

In addition to Queensland Government funding, GRQ has secured additional funding sources to extend the reach and impact of the program, foster shared responsibility and unlock additional resources. This includes funding under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), which is jointly funded by the Queensland and Commonwealth governments.

As requested, please find in table format, the following information:

- a) a list of all community education awareness activities undertaken by the QRA in 2024-25:

Activity and spend
‘Weather Doesn’t Plan, But You Can’ Campaign, \$858,977: ‘If It’s Flooded, Forget It’ campaign re-run, \$1,098,015: Get Ready Queensland Week, \$29,603: Online Household Emergency Planning Tool, \$68,440: Tales of the Flood Videos, Personas and Stakeholder Communication Toolkit, \$41,602: Central Queensland Livestock Plan and Stakeholder Communication Toolkit, \$17,927: Resilient Australia Awards (QLD), \$17,704: Community Education Resources for Natural Hazards project for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Project, \$436,764: Get Ready Queensland Council Funding Program, \$1,998,040.

OFFICIAL

- b) Funding spends for the 2025-26 financial year will be dictated by the nature of the disaster season, and as such amounts vary and are yet to be finalised.

Documents tabled at hearing 8 August 2025

1. Document, titled “Cost of Living Action: Lowering Household Bills and Fighting Inflation, Queensland Budget 2024-25, tabled by Joan Pease MP, Member for Lytton
2. Social media post, 3 October 2024, titled “Bree Watson – LNP for Bundaberg”, tabled by Joan Pease MP, Member for Lytton
3. Article, 8 November 2024, ABC News, Cryptography, “Jamie Wilson linked arms with politicians and celebrities, but behind closed doors a business was marred with problems”, tabled by Hon Steven Minnikin MP, Member for Chatsworth
4. Article, 24 October 2024, Courier Mail, “Contractor’s dinner date”, tabled by Hon Steven Minnikin MP, Member for Chatsworth
5. Document, undated, Donations List – LNP, tabled by Joan Pease MP, Member for Lytton
6. Webpage - DiBella Coffee, undated, “Eggs benny economics: What does it really cost for a café to serve you each day?”, tabled by Joan Pease MP, Member for Lytton
7. Article, undated, Clean Energy Council, tabled by Joan Pease MP, Member for Lytton
8. Document, undated, Invoices paid late (Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 2025), tabled by Joan Pease MP, Member for Lytton
9. RTI Document, undated, Queensland Health Ministerial Briefing Note – CAPS3304 HPSP (RTI 7740/25), tabled by Joan Pease MP, Member for Lytton
10. RTI Document, undated, Queensland Health Ministerial Briefing Note – C-ECTF-24/20509 (RTI 7740/25), tabled by Joan Pease MP, Member for Lytton
11. Article, 1 August 2025, Bundaberg Today, “New fire station snub burns”, tabled by Nikki Boyd MP, Member for Pine Rivers
12. Email, 8 January 2025, Queensland Fire Department, Drayton Station opening – welcome country not required, tabled by Hon Mick de Brenni MP, Member for Springwood
13. Email, 7 January 2025, Queensland Fire Department, Drayton Station opening - removal of acknowledgement of traditional owners, tabled by Hon Mick de Brenni MP, Member for Springwoods
14. Email, 8 January 2025, Queensland Fire Department, Drayton Station opening - removal of acknowledgement of traditional owners from plaque, tabled by Hon Mick de Brenni MP, Member for Springwood
15. Email excerpt, undated, email signature templates removing acknowledgement of traditional owners, tabled by Hon Mick de Brenni MP, Member for Springwood
16. Joint Media Statement, 12 February 2025, State Recovery Coordinator appointed to lead flood recovery in the north, tabled by Nikki Boyd MP, Member for Pine Rivers

- 17.** Ministerial Diary – Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers, 1 May – 31 May 2025, tabled by Nikki Boyd MP, Member for Pine Rivers
- 18.** Article, 5 April 2025, Courier Mail, “Stripped in Wake of Flood, tabled by Nikki Boyd MP, Member for Pine Rivers
- 19.** Estimates proof transcript, 5 August 2025, Police and Emergency Services, p 57, tabled by Nikki Boyd MP, Member for Pine Rivers
- 20.** Joint Media Statement, 26 February 2025, Stronger Homes Grant to build back resilience in North and Far Queensland, tabled by Nikki Boyd MP, Member for Pine Rivers
- 21.** Speech, 16 March 2023, Ann Leahy MP, Member for Warrego, Motion of Condolence – Mr VG Johnson, OAM, tabled by Nikki Boyd MP, Member for Pine Rivers
- 22.** Article, 12 October 2024, “LNP’s plan to build a new dam in SEQ as part of major water policy”, tabled by Nikki Boyd MP, Member for Pine Rivers
- 23.** Article, 18 December 2024, ABC Wide Bay, “Queensland Government reveals failed Paradise Dam rebuild will cost \$4.4 billion”, tabled by Nikki Boyd MP, Member for Pine Rivers



QUEENSLAND
**COST OF
LIVING
ACTION**

COST OF LIVING ACTION

LOWERING HOUSEHOLD BILLS AND FIGHTING INFLATION

QUEENSLAND BUDGET 2024-25

Tabled by: Joan Pease MP
At: 9.11am
Date: 8/8/2025
Signature: [Signature]



Queensland
Government



\$1,300

ELECTRICITY BILL SUPPORT

- All Queensland households will automatically receive \$1,300 off their electricity bills in 2024-25. An upfront \$1,000 Cost of Living Rebate from the Queensland Government, and a \$300 rebate from the Australian Government paid quarterly.
- Vulnerable households will continue to receive the \$372 Queensland Electricity Rebate for a total rebate of \$1,672.
- Around 205,000 eligible small businesses will also continue to receive a \$650 credit on electricity bills in 2024-25, co-funded by the Queensland and Australian governments.



50¢

CHEAPER PUBLIC TRANSPORT FARES

- A flat fare of 50 cents per trip will be applied across the state's Translink public transport network for 6 months from 5 August 2024.
- It's expected this initiative will increase public transport patronage and reduce congestion on Queensland's roads in light of a record in net interstate and overseas migration.



20% OFF

DISCOUNTED VEHICLE REGISTRATION

- Car registration costs will be reduced 20 per cent for 12 months.
- This will start appearing on renewal notices sent to car, motorcycle and trailer owners from 5 August 2024.
- The discount will benefit owners of around 5.7 million vehicles.
- The discount equates to almost \$85 for a 4-cylinder private use vehicle for 12 months.



1/2 PRICE

BRISBANE AIRTRAIN DISCOUNTS

- Airtrain tickets to and from Brisbane Airport terminals will be 1/2 price for 6 months from 5 August 2024.
- Ticket prices will be reduced from \$21.90 to \$10.95 for go card and EMV and \$11 for paper tickets when travelling from Central Station to the Airport.

Bree Watson - LNP for Bundaberg's post



Bree Watson - LNP for Bundaberg is in Bundaberg, QLD.

3 October 2024 · 🌐

I was proud to stand alongside [David Crisafulli MP](#) and [Brent Mickelberg MP](#) here in Bundaberg at Network Car and Truck Rentals on the first day of the official election campaign to announce the LNP's \$40 Million Secure Communities Partnership Program. The fund will help businesses targeted by crime upgrade their security.

I'm certain everyone remembers the horrifying crime targeting Network Car and Truck Rentals in February. In the early hours of the morning, small business owner Warren West was threatened with a knife while trying to stop three thieves who stole a four-wheel drive from his truck rental business and set four other vehicles on fire using an accelerant.

\$600,000 to replace the vehicles and repair the damage caused through the incident was just part of the cost's incurred as a result of the appalling crime.

As part the LNP's Making Our Community Safer Plan, the Secure Communities Partnership Program will fund safety measures to deter crime on small businesses. Grants can fund CCTV, safety lighting or alarm systems to prevent crime and minimise compounding costs of crime.

A decade of Labor has left Queensland small businesses struggling under rising costs and falling margins, without support and without a place to turn. Nothing will change unless we change the government next month, Queensland needs a fresh start and the LNP has the Right Plan for Queensland's Future.

[#Bree4Bundy](#) [#bundaberg](#) [#LNP](#) [#therightpriorities](#) [#therightplan](#) [#freshstart](#) [#queensland](#)
[#october26th](#) [#benno4burnett](#)

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[@stephen_bennettmp](#) [@brentmickelbergmp](#)



Tabled by: Joan Pease MP
At: 9.35 am
Date: 8/8/2025
Signature: [Signature]



David Crisafulli promises LNP will deliver a \$40 million dollar fund to help small businesses upgrade their security in Queensland's most marginal seat of Bundaberg, if it wins election. (ABC News: Melanie Vujkovic)

Jamie Wilson linked arms with politicians and celebrities, but behind closed doors a business was marred with problems

By Liam Walsh Cryptography

Fri 8 Nov 2024 at 5:40am



Jamie Wilson (second from right) pictured with Ronan Keating at The Emeralds and Ivy Ball. (Getty Images: Caroline McCredie)

Tech entrepreneur Jamie Wilson was making a splash.

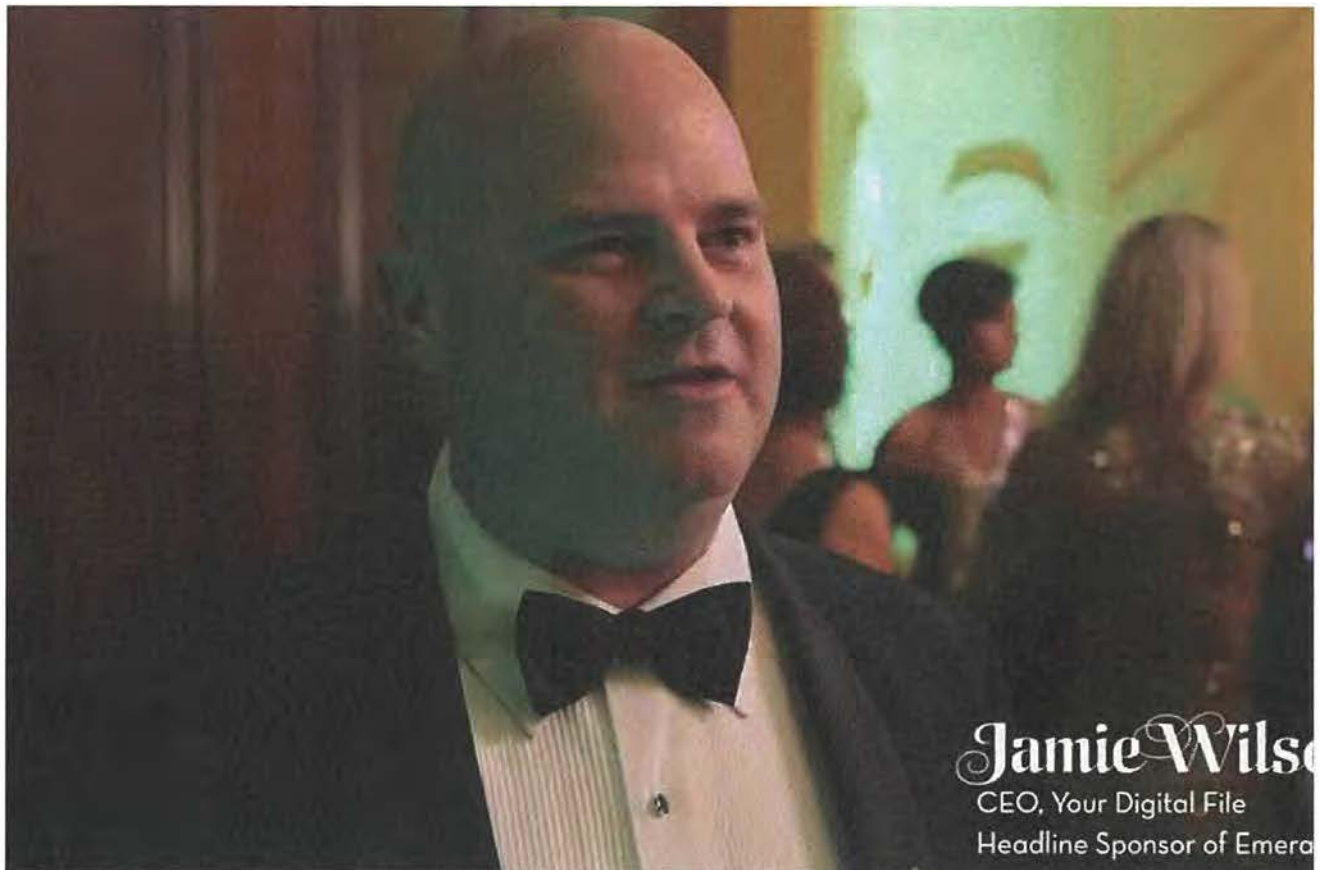
Arm in arm with Boyzone singer and X-Factor judge Ronan Keating, the tuxedo-wearing former accountant grinned amid the spotlight of the Cancer Council fundraising ball.

"I am looking forward to being able to make the most of it, get people behind it," Mr Wilson said that night.

His Brisbane company was the headline sponsor and there to support the charity "for the long term".

Tabled by: Steve Minnifin MP
At: 9.55am
Date: 8/8/2025
Signature: [Signature]

With an entertainer list including singer Dannii Minogue and techno-dance artist Redfoo, the 2014 fundraising Emerald and Ivy Ball in Sydney was a big night on the corporate social calendar.



Behind the glamorous social profile, some problems lie with Jamie Wilson's business. *(Supplied)*

And it was a successful coup for Mr Wilson.

The now 44-year-old founder of cyber-security outfit Cryptoloc has made roads into technology circles and the political sphere.

There's more than \$320,000 in political donations to both sides of politics in the past four years, accolades from state and local government politicians, while Mr Wilson this year was a finalist for the Brisbane Lord Mayor's awards as a businessperson of the year.

And crowning it all is the Cryptoloc business just two months ago being announced as the contractor to deliver a new \$15 million state government cybersecurity plan.

"Cryptoloc's success is testament to Queensland's thriving innovation system," Mr Miles wrote.

Do you know more?

- Contact **Liam Walsh** at walsh.liam@abc.net.au

Just two months ago, Cryptoloc received even better news: the then ALP Small Business Minister Lance McCallum said the state would offer businesses free cybersecurity measures such as data encryption via a \$15 million investment and Cryptoloc had been "chosen to roll out the solution".

Mr Wilson, quoted then as executive chairman, said it was an honour to work with the state.

That announcement came six days after the ATO filed a winding-up action against Your Digital File, and more than a year after the former executive's lawsuit. A spokesman for Mr McCallum said he was unaware of the struggles or that entity itself, and the department had independently awarded the contract.

According to affidavits filed by the former executive, his wages were paid late on roughly eight occasions between June 2022 and November 2022, and he was made redundant due to operational delays two months later.

Mr Wilson did not confirm the dates, but admitted pay was late due to cashflow issues. The remainder of the matter was settled in April.



Mr Wilson personally contributed almost \$50,000 to both sides of state politics between 2020 and June 2022.
(Supplied)

On Wednesday morning, Mr Wilson, this time in a white-collared shirt, was back again in front of his office brick wall, as Your Digital File faced a winding-up application heard online.

Mr Wilson told the court an R&D grant would offset some of the amount owed, and accountants were "doing those numbers".

"This has been a matter with the ATO and I've tried several times to work with them, that's been going on several years," Mr Wilson said. He highlighted COVID and said that "unfortunately trying to grow has been a struggle".

The grant of \$1 million was only half of what the ATO had sought – Mr Wilson argued this included interest but conceded even if the grant came through tomorrow it would not "cover the whole lot". The court ordered the company wind up.

Mr Wilson has not responded to multiple ABC requests for comment. His LinkedIn profile, home to inspirational business videos and messages, once



24 OCT, 2024

Contractor's dinner date

Courier Mail, Brisbane



Page 1 of 3

QUEENSLAND ELECTION '24

Contractor's dinner date

Hayden Johnson

A security company awarded a \$15m contract paid \$2500 to attend a Labor Party dinner with minister Mick de Brenni on the night tenders closed. While there is no suggestion of wrongdoing by Mr de Brenni or the company, the incident has prompted demands to tighten cash-for-access laws. **Report P5**

Tabled by: Steve Munnigan MP
P.T.: 9.55am
Date: 8/8/25
Signature: [Signature]



24 OCT, 2024

Contractor's dinner date

Courier Mail, Brisbane

Queensland
Government

Page 2 of 3

Cash for access concern

Calls for more transparency

Hayden Johnson

A cyber security company awarded a \$15m government contract paid \$2500 to attend a Labor Party fundraising dinner with minister Mick de Brenni on the night tenders for the contract closed.

While there is no suggestion of wrongdoing by Mr de Brenni or the company, the incident has prompted transparency experts to demand an overdue tightening of Queensland's cash-for-access laws by which-ever party forms government on October 27.

Membership of Labor's business roundtable program, linking executives with ministers, costs \$10,000 each year while the LNP's similar program, Solutions Queensland, costs \$25,000.

On September 30, just hours before the government entered caretaker mode, Cryptoloc Technology was named by Small Business Minister Lance McCallum as the successful tenderer to roll out a \$15m government program to boost cybersecurity protections for small and medium-sized businesses.

On July 23, the day tenders for the contract closed, the company paid \$2500 to attend a dinner with Mr de Brenni as part of the Queensland Labor Business Roundtable cash-for-access program.

Despite the company being in the running for a lucrative government contract, detail of its attendance at the dinner – along with some 20 other businesses – was not disclosed in Mr de Brenni's diary because it was a political party event.

"Minister de Brenni was a guest speaker at the Queensland Labor Business Roundtable," spokesperson for the minister said.

Cryptoloc Technology could not be reached for comment before deadline. It has raised renewed questions, however, about the undisclosed contact between ministers and businesses through Labor's business roundtable and the LNP's Solutions Queensland programs.

Cryptoloc Technology donated \$102,735 to Labor and \$60,000 to the LNP since 2021.

Of the donations to Labor,

including \$18,040 on August 2 for a post-budget lunch, annual membership of the Queensland Labor Business Roundtable and "fundraiser with PM".

Griffith University professor and Transparency International Australia chair AJ Brown called on Labor and the LNP to commit to tightening their cash-for-access schemes.

"It's always been one of the great festering holes in any healthy political integrity regime," he said.

"It's cash not just to facilitate access, but to basically curry favour.

"It should appear transparently in ministerial diaries."

Prof Brown said the Labor government and retiring Attorney-General Yvette D'Ath had "done some very good things" for transparency including introducing real-time donations disclosure in 2015.

However, he argued both major parties' cash-for-access programs were about fundraising rather than improving



24 OCT, 2024

Contractor's dinner date

Courier Mail, Brisbane



Page 3 of 3

policy.

"If it's really access for the purposes of influencing public policy and decision making and informing it (cash) shouldn't go to the party, it should not be a fundraiser," he said.

Greens MP Michael Berkman has been a long-time opponent of the major parties, declaring in parliament "cash for access is legalised corruption".

0 UNRECONCILED 12 RECONCILED 12 TOTAL GIFTS \$0 UNRECONCILED \$24,000 \$RECONCILED \$24,000 TOTAL \$AMOUNT

Donor ⇅		Recipient ⇅	Date Gift Made ⇅	Political donation? ⇅	Gift value ⇅
The Coffee Commune Pty Ltd 	%	Liberal National Party of Queensland 	01-09-2023	NonPolitical	\$2,000.00
The Coffee Commune Pty Ltd 	%	Liberal National Party of Queensland 	01-08-2023	NonPolitical	\$2,000.00
The Coffee Commune Pty Ltd 	%	Liberal National Party of Queensland 	03-07-2023	NonPolitical	\$2,000.00
The Coffee Commune Pty Ltd 	%	Liberal National Party of Queensland 	01-06-2023	NonPolitical	\$2,000.00
The Coffee Commune Pty Ltd 	%	Liberal National Party of Queensland 	01-05-2023	NonPolitical	\$2,000.00
The Coffee Commune Pty Ltd 	%	Liberal National Party of Queensland 	03-04-2023	NonPolitical	\$2,000.00
The Coffee Commune Pty Ltd 	%	Liberal National Party of Queensland 	01-03-2023	NonPolitical	\$2,000.00
The Coffee Commune Pty Ltd 	%	Liberal National Party of Queensland 	01-02-2023	NonPolitical	\$2,000.00
The Coffee Commune Pty Ltd 	%	Liberal National Party of Queensland 	03-01-2023	NonPolitical	\$2,000.00
The Coffee Commune Pty Ltd 	%	Liberal National Party of Queensland 	01-12-2022	NonPolitical	\$2,000.00
The Coffee Commune Pty Ltd 	%	Liberal National Party of Queensland 	01-11-2022	NonPolitical	\$2,000.00
The Coffee Commune Pty Ltd 	%	Liberal National Party of Queensland 	04-10-2022	NonPolitical	\$2,000.00

Tabled by: Joan Pearce MP
 At: 10:15 am
 Date: 8/8/2025
 Signature: [Signature]

0

UNRECONCILED

7

RECONCILED

7

TOTAL GIFTS

\$0

UNRECONCILED

\$10,500

RECONCILED

\$10,500

TOTAL \$AMOUNT

Donor		Recipient	Date Gift Made	Political donation?	Gift value
Di Bella Enterprises Pty Ltd		Liberal National Party of Queensland	06-03-2024	NonPolitical	\$1,500.00
Di Bella Enterprises Pty Ltd		Liberal National Party of Queensland	05-03-2024	NonPolitical	\$1,500.00
Di Bella Enterprises Pty Ltd		Liberal National Party of Queensland	23-01-2024	NonPolitical	\$1,000.00
Di Bella Enterprises Pty Ltd		Liberal National Party of Queensland	13-05-2019	NonPolitical	\$2,000.00
Di Bella Enterprises Pty Ltd		Liberal National Party of Queensland	13-05-2019	NonPolitical	\$2,000.00
Coffee By Di Bella Pty Ltd		Liberal National Party of Queensland	06-03-2017	—	\$1,500.00
Di Bella Enterprises Pty Ltd		Liberal National Party of Queensland	17-02-2016	—	\$1,000.00

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< 1 >

Tabled by: Jean Pease MP
At: 10:17 am
Date: 8/8/2025
Signature: [Signature]

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Eggs benny economics: What does it really cost for a cafe to serve you each day?

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Eggs benny economics: What does it really cost for a cafe to serve you each day?

Jeez, that coffee was expensive."

"How can they charge that much for bacon and eggs?"

"It's absurd that we just paid that price. That a fortune."

JOIN NOW

If those thoughts have ever crossed your mind, breakfast or paying for your morning brew, take a few minutes out of your day to read these reasons why. (Spoiler alert: it's more than just the coffee itself.)

How much money does a cafe actually make?

If you think cafe owners are skimming the profits from a 90-cent cup of coffee charged at \$4.50, think again.

"There is a common assumption from people that cafes are extremely profitable businesses. That whatever goes in the till is what cafe owners are making," says Phillip

Di Bella, industry expert and founder of The Coffee Commune. "But that is just not the case."

As a general rule of thumb, Phillip says when running a cafe you want to be sitting at around 35% wage cost, 25% food cost, 5% utilities, 10% rent and 5% contingency. The remaining 20% is your net profit, which is "what most cafes in the early 2000s were bringing in".

However, these days he says a good operator is lucky to be making a net profit 7%-10%. "And that's if they're working hard in the business."

The rising cost of the cafe industry

So what has changed over the past 10-15 years? Owners are struggling to stay within these margins, with rising costs slowly killing off profits.

"Utilities such as gas and electricity have gone up. Rents have stabilised and in some cases come down. But consumer food costs have not gone up. The price of a dozen eggs is still the same, a loaf of bread, a litre of milk – these are all cafe staples that have not changed. They are the same price now as what they were five years ago. But the cost for those suppliers have. Not only is the cafe making less money, suppliers are making less money."

Darren McGillivray, owner of [Alta Cafe](#) in Brisbane's CBD says over the last 10-15 years cafe costs have become problematic and unmanageable.

"Coffee prices in 15 years have only increased from \$4 to \$4.50. But wages and compounding super go up 2%-3% each year. All utilities have gone up 100% and all government regulated costs (council fees, insurances etc) have increased.

"Our rent has increased 3%-4% every year, and can only be negotiated at a market review every five years. By the time the market review comes around, the rent is already outside of our rent-to-sales ratio. And if you are trading well, the rent usually increases," says Darren.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also had an impact, with Brazilian coffee farmers slowing down prod

uction to drive up the price of raw green beans.

But Phillip says it's labour costs that make up the largest portion of expenses.

"Staffing is the biggest cost base for a small hospitality business," says Phillip. "When you look at the cost of hiring and training staff, in comparison to what people can charge for a cup of coffee, it's really difficult for the industry to stay profitable."

While wages used to be 30%-35% of turnover, they're currently at around 40% of turnover or higher.

"Wages keep going up and up. When you introduce things like time and a half on weekends, which are normal hospitality hours, then you've got dishwashers who are earning \$35-\$40 an hour. That's a big reason why profit margins are so bad now."

And in some cases, coffee is a losing proposition for owners altogether.

"A coffee is priced at \$4.50. Let's say it takes roughly 10 minutes for the barista to take the order, pull a shot of espresso, steam and pour the milk, allowing for any special requests from the customer, all the while entertaining them with company and conversation. If you are paying weekend rates, those 10 minutes of wages are costing you \$5.68, higher than the cost of the coffee itself. And that's before you take into account rent and operational overheads," says Darren.

Penalty rates mean higher prices

Penalty rates were first introduced when the average hospitality wage was around \$8-\$10 per hour. Today, minimum wages sit at about \$26 an hour. And while he agrees with allowances for late nights, Phillip says week end penalty rates are no longer needed.

"It's another example of good intentions but poor execution. The system hasn't evolved and penalty rates need reform."

But Phillip says this is not about lowering wages.

"This is about the cost percentage of wages in comparison to what we can charge for products. If we pay workers penalty rates on weekends, then people must be prepared to pay more for a meal or a flat white.

"If you look at the cost of coffee and a plate of bacon and eggs, these haven't increased in line with penalty rates. If you're going to push heavily for them, you're going to have to be prepared to pay more."

Darren agrees and says not enough people are aware of the correlation between paying workers more wages and cafes charging more on weekends.

"It's the same people who believe workers should be paid more, but don't want to pay any more for their cup of coffee. It is unsustainable to increase super and wages contemporaneously and on a compounding formula."

What consumers can do to support the coffee industry

The simplest answer is to support your local cafe if they increase their menu prices.

"It's not that we want to charge more money – but the market needs to allow us to do so in order to meet our costs," says Darren.

Phillip says all cafe owners have the right to make profit. "But restoring it requires a bit of understanding from customers. Understand why people are closing on public holidays. Understand why you can't get breakfast at your favourite place on a holiday, because the margins aren't there. Often these venues are barely covering costs and people need to know it. You wouldn't turn up to work to make no money, so why should they?"

He adds, "If you can, order a second coffee. Through economies of scale, the second cup of coffee is cheaper for the owner, so if you are sitting down for an hour, using their space and enjoying their wifi, order that second cup."

If you are a coffee lover who loves to visit local coffee shops and try fancy new brews on the weekend, ask yourself if you are willing to pay adequately for it.

And while some coffee drinkers might still obsess over the value for money in their next cup, perhaps the real question we should all be asking ourselves is: "Why is coffee so cheap?"

If you like this article and found it useful, please share it via the buttons below.

Are you a coffee enthusiast looking to join a community of coffee lovers? Do you work in the cafe and hospitality industry and are looking to accelerate your potential? Learn more about [The Coffee Commune](#) and become a member today.

Related news



Phillip Di Bella Appointed to Queensland Small and Family Business Ministerial Reference Group

Jul 14, 2025



Global Trends for Cafes – Accelerator Expo Keynote

Jun 02, 2025



Brewing Sustainability: How Coffee Waste is Reshaping the Future of Cafes and Construction

May 09, 2025



Federal Budget 2025 – What It Means for You

Mar 28, 2025

What are the advantages of benefit-sharing schemes?

Benefit-sharing schemes are best designed in collaboration with the community and can include electricity bill subsidies, equity schemes where a project is part-owned by residents, energy upgrades including rooftop solar installation and home energy efficiency upgrades, school funding, funding for community initiatives, improving community infrastructure or buildings, funding local sporting groups, or scholarship and training opportunities for young people.

Do clean energy projects provide economic benefits for the community?

Local businesses across the supply chain from building supplies, transport and manufacturing to cleaning and catering service providers can benefit from clean energy projects. Hospitality and accommodation providers will see increased traffic as workers spend earnings in local cafes and pubs. Local infrastructure including roads, bridges and telecommunications infrastructure may also be upgraded to support project delivery.

(1) Billions in the bush: Renewable energy for regional prosperity report.


Benefit sharing schemes typically fund local initiatives, neighbourhood groups, local sporting teams or provide training and scholarship opportunities.

Tabled by: Joan Pease MP
At: 10:31 am
Date: 8/8/2025
Signature: [Signature]



	Quarter 3 (Jan - Mar) 2025	Quarter 4 (Apr - Jun) 2025
Department	# invoices paid late	# of eligible invoices
Department of Premier and Cabinet	57	116
Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning	36	22
Queensland Treasury	15	13
Department of Trade, Employment and Training	0	0
Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Rural and Regional Development	10	28
Queensland Health	5343	5426
Department of Justice	82	53
Department of Education	3281	3365
Queensland Police Service	311	426
Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support	26	?
Queensland Corrective Services	119	90
Department of Transport and Main Roads	1484	?
Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers	91	38
Queensland Fire Department	163	157
Department of Housing and Public Works	1733	2062
Department of Primary Industries	122	75
Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism	2	6
Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation	52	49
Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety	57	116
Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games	17	21
Department of Customer Services, Open Data and Small Business	20	34
TOTAL	13021	12097

SOURCE: <https://www.data.qld.gov.au/dataset/?q=on-time+payment&page=1>

Tabled by: Jean Pearce MP
 At: 11:35 am
 Date: 8/8/2025
 Signature: 

BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

1. Queensland Health has developed a new website to give Queenslanders the ability to view hospital performance and wait times of major public emergency departments and minor injury and illness clinics in real-time. The new website, called Queensland Health Open Hospitals, was designed to meet the Government's election commitment to publish transparent real-time hospital data about Queensland hospitals, within 100 days.
2. On 2 February 2025, the Open Hospitals website is scheduled to be published. The URL (<https://openhospitals.health.qld.gov.au>) will direct traffic to the new website from 5.30 am, prior to a public announcement scheduled for 9.30 am.
3. The new website will publish real-time data for the 25 major Queensland public hospital emergency departments and seven minor injury and illness clinics across Queensland for the number of patients waiting and the median waiting time (Attachment 1). Real-time measures are refreshed every 15 to 30 minutes, noting that Permanent Treatment Spaces and 'Historical Average' for Patients Currently Waiting are not 'real-time' measures and are refreshed at longer intervals.
4. Measures on the website have been sourced from Queensland Health emergency departments' clinical systems, with Permanent Treatment Space numbers validated directly with Health Service Chief Executives.
5. Further detail to support the website and measures published, including a list of in-scope facilities, data sources, refresh frequency, and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), will be accessible via a link to the 'About the Data' sub-page (Attachment 2).
6. The website is not intended to provide guidance on which facility to attend in an emergency and will not display data for out-of-scope facilities. To manage consumer risk, the website provides information for additional health services and care options, including calling Triple Zero (000), Virtual Emergency Care Services, 13HEALTH, 'When to go to Emergency', and Healthdirect's 'Online Symptom Checker' and 'Service Finder'.
7. Future design enhancements have been documented for consideration post-go live.

SENSITIVITIES/RISKS

8. The Open Hospitals website is a public-facing platform which attracts public and media attention. A Privacy Impact Assessment was performed on 29 November 2024, for which one 'low' rated risk was identified relating to potential variances between figures published on the new website and the actual experiences of consumers waiting at facilities. Controls have been implemented to manage this risk, including the inclusion of Legal Disclaimers and FAQs.
9. There is a risk that the website does not meet user expectations. Multiple rounds of User Acceptance Testing, Performance Testing and consumer engagement were completed, and website design has been optimised where possible. **Hypercare arrangements are in place from 2 to 17 February 2025, to support any technical or user-related issues following launch**

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. Non-recurrent allocation of \$0.77 million from the Corporately Managed Budget in financial year 2024-25 is associated with implementation of real-time hospital data reporting, including planning, project delivery, consumer engagement, and technical development. To date, website development costs are approximately \$0.6 million. Recurrent fiscal year allocation to support ongoing management and business-as-usual activities is still being determined.

RESULTS OF CONSULTATION

11. On 15 November 2024, a Project Governance Committee was established, holding bi-monthly meetings throughout the initiative with a final go-live decision meeting on 31 January 2025.
12. A Business Reference Group and Technical Working Group met weekly to manage the business operations and technical development aspects of the initiative, respectively.
13. Internal and external stakeholders including the Strategic Communications Branch, Health Consumers Queensland, Legal Services, and other subject matter experts were engaged to inform design decisions, mitigate risks, and develop strategic plans for the launch and ongoing management of the website (Attachment 3).

ATTACHMENTS

14. Attachment 1. Open Hospitals Measure Descriptions
- Attachment 2. Open Hospitals About the Data
- Attachment 3. RT 100 Day Data Project Stakeholder Engagement Register

Tabled by: Joan Pease MP

A.L. 12:05 pm

Date: 8/8/2025

Signature: [Signature]

BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

1. The Premier of Queensland has made the following commitments relating to Queensland Health's performance reporting:
 - 1.1 unlocking transparent real-time hospital data within 100 days;
 - 1.2 providing Queenslanders with the truth about what's happening in Queensland hospitals, as it happens;
 - 1.3 delivering accountability for wait times, the number of patients waiting at Emergency Departments, and how many hospital beds are available; and
 - 1.4 using real-time data to drive resources and frontline staff to where they are needed.
2. Further detail is provided in Attachment 2 and 3.

SENSITIVITIES/RISKS

3. Condensed project timelines restrict ability to amend proposed design prior to scheduled release date. Non-critical design amendments will require deferment following initial go live.
4. Publishing near real time data can help hospitals monitor and respond to increases in patient flow but can also influence patient behaviour. Patients may make misinformed decisions in emergency situations based on perceived waiting times at local health facilities or may misinterpret their closest facility from those displayed.
5. Further detail is provided in Attachment 2 and 3.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. Non-recurrent allocation of \$0.77 million from the Corporately Managed Budget in financial year 2024-25 is associated with implementation of real-time hospital data reporting, including planning, project delivery, consumer engagement, and technical development.
7. Recurrent fiscal year allocation to support ongoing management and business-as-usual activities for the reporting of real-time data is still being determined.

RESULTS OF CONSULTATION

8. Health Consumers Queensland have been engaged in the concept design of the Open Hospitals website to ensure the information is relevant to consumers and easy to understand. Consumers will further be involved in user acceptance testing of the staging platform when the build stage is finalised.
9. Strategic Communications Branch have been consulted in the design of the website to ensure consumer-associated risks can be mitigated. An associated media and communications plan is currently being drafted.
10. Queensland Health legal team are engaged to review website and provide guidance regarding appropriate wording and published disclaimers.
11. Consultation is occurring with jurisdictions who publish similar websites to determine lessons learnt.
12. A Public Reporting Governance Committee was established on 15 November 2024. The committee comprises of members and advisors, including:
 - 12.1. Healthcare Purchasing and System Performance Division;
 - 12.2. eHealth Queensland;
 - 12.3. Office of the First Nations Health Officer;
 - 12.4. Statistical Services Branch;
 - 12.5. Corporate Services Division;
 - 12.6. Clinical Excellence Queensland;
 - 12.7. Clinical Planning & Service Strategy Division;
 - 12.8. Strategy, Policy & Reform;
 - 12.9. Office of the Chief First Nations Health Officer;
 - 12.10. Queensland Ambulance Services;
 - 12.11. Health Consumers Queensland; and
 - 12.12. Hospital and Health Service Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer Representatives.

Tabled by: Joan Pearce MP
 At: 12:07 pm
 Date: 8/8/2025
 Signature: [Signature]

ATTACHMENTS

13. Attachment 1. Open Hospitals Website Concepts – updated 5 December 2024
- Attachment 2. Additional background and issues

NEW FIRE STATION SNUB BURNS

By By Tahlia Facer

Bundaberg Today

Friday 1st August 2025

803 words

Page 7 | Section: NEWS

459cm on the page



New fire station snub burns

By Tahlia Facer

Local firefighters have expressed their safety concerns following the lack of funding for a second fire station in the State Budget, saying employees at the Bundaberg station are over-worked and the region is under-served.

A statement provided to Bundaberg Today said firefighters were disheartened over the omission, following years of growing calls from frontline responders and community advocates.

The absence of needed funding comes after more than two years of sustained efforts to secure resources for the construction of a second full-time fire station in Ashfield to service one of the fastest growing coastal communities in the state.

Between 2023 and 2024 alone, the Bundaberg fireys recorded close to 200 extra emergency responses in the area, taking the total to over 600 incidents per year.

"If there was a station at Ashfield Rd, a crew there would have responded to 612 emergencies last year," a local crew member said.

"The Bundaberg crew went to nearly 1500 incidents as well. So many people are moving here from interstate and so many new housing estates are going in. It's just crazy.

"We've already got the land there, it's a perfect location. We just need the government to allocate some money to build and staff it."

So far in 2025 crews from the Bundaberg station have responded to 801 incidents, and a crew from the proposed Ashfield station would have gone to 371 incidents.

Local crews say this puts response numbers on track to be well in excess of previous years.

Firefighters say the situation is now reaching a crisis point, where the lack of investment in infrastructure and staffing is directly impacting public safety.

"People don't realise just how stretched we are," said one veteran Bundaberg firefighter.



A second Bundaberg Fire Station, proposed to be built at 131 Ashfield Rd, was not funded in the 2025/26 State Budget.

"Our call numbers are rising, and we're being forced to do more and more - all while our facilities fall apart around us. We're not just disappointed by this budget. We're alarmed.

"We've seen call-outs increase significantly year on year, and expecting a single station to carry the load is not only unrealistic - it's dangerous."

The Bargarra region, which already pays an A Class Emergency Services Levy - a category generally assigned to areas that receive 24-hour full time professional emergency coverage - is not afforded that level of service even though it is being paid for.

Instead, protection is provided by an auxiliary/on-call firefighting model.

"Our auxiliaries are great people and they want to help their communities, but they're under real pressure from their day jobs and family commitments," said another QFR member.

"It's getting harder and harder to reliably crew trucks, especially during work hours and that means full-time staff from the Bundaberg station are being pulled further afield to respond, which delays help for people who need it urgently and frequently leaves Bundaberg township unprotected."

Firefighters say a second permanent fire station would provide this coverage, significantly increasing the safety of the community and alleviating this pressure.

As the Bundaberg region continues to grow,

both in population and in complexity of emergency response needs, firefighters are continuing to call for urgent action from the State Government and express the desire to meet with local MPs and community representatives to go over their concerns.

Bundaberg MP Tom Smith was critical of the lack of funding allocated to the second fire station, saying the Crisafulli Government had failed the frontline.

"They have prioritised Olympic events over community safety and our hard-working firefighters," Mr Smith said.

"Last year, Stephen Bennett falsely claimed that he had delivered the new Fire Station land funded by the Labor Government.

"Now, the embarrassed Member for Burnett has gone missing and refuses to say why funding was not included, or answer questions from our local firefighters.

"Every day the LNP delay the construction of a second fire station in Bundaberg is a day they put the future of community safety at risk."

But the Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers Minister Ann Leahy said Labor had left a decade of budgets "riddled with black holes and blow outs".

"The Crisafulli Government is engaging directly with frontline crews and QFD to deliver the right station with the right resources," Ms Leahy said.

The Fire Minister did not respond to questions regarding a timeline for the funding of a second Bundaberg station.

Burnett MP Stephen Bennett echoed the Minister's sentiment saying Labor had failed to deliver on all their infrastructure promises.

"Labor had no real plan for the fire station, no budget, no consultation with firefighters, and no regard for operational needs," Mr Bennett said.

"We've already stepped in to save the new Bundaberg Hospital and Paradise Dam, and we'll do the same for the fire station."

Tabled by: Nikki Boyd MP
At: 1:11pm
Date: 8/8/2025
Signature: [Signature]

Wanda Kropp

From: Yolanda Booth
Sent: Wednesday, 8 January 2025 12:02 PM
To: Mark Stuart
Subject: Drayton Fire & Rescue Station Plaque
Attachments: RE: Traditional owners of sites under construction

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi AC Stuart,

Further to our discussion earlier today, please see below email thread together with attached email received from the Queensland South Native Title Service.

Due to the Traditional Owners for Drayton being underdetermined, can you please confirm a Welcome to Country is not required at the event of the Drayton Station Opening?

In addition, requesting approval to provide an apology to Geneene Meijer, who was booked earlier today to do the Welcome to Country?

Kind Regards,


Yolanda Booth
Executive Officer
QFR Regional Operations - Southern Region
Queensland Fire Department
P 07 3094 6603 M 



QFD acknowledges and recognises Traditional Owners as custodians of the lands where we work together with the communities of Queensland. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestors of these lands, their spirits and their legacy.

From: QFES State Capital Works
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 11:53 AM
To: Yolanda Booth
Subject: FW: Approval for Drayton Fire & Rescue Station Plaque

FYI re plaque.

Tabled by: Mick de Brenni MP
At: 1:14 pm
Date: 8/8/2025
Signature: 

Wanda Kropp

From: Yolanda Booth
Sent: Wednesday, 8 January 2025 1:09 PM
To: geneene.m@gmail.com
Subject: FW: Invite - Drayton Fire and Rescue Station Official Opening
Attachments: Invitation - Drayton FRS Official Opening.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good Afternoon Geneene,

As discussed, please accept our apology for this invitation.

Due to the advices received a Welcome to Country will not be required at this event.

Kind Regards,

Yolanda Booth
Executive Officer
QFR Regional Operations - Southern Region
Queensland Fire Department
P 07 3094 6603 M 



QFD acknowledges and recognises Traditional Owners as custodians of the lands where we work together with the communities of Queensland. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestors of these lands, their spirits and their legacy.

From: SR.AC.QFR
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 11:31 AM
To: Geneene Meijer
Subject: Invite - Drayton Fire and Rescue Station Official Opening

Dear Geneene,

Assistant Commissioner Mark Stuart is pleased to invite you to attend the official opening of the Drayton Fire and Rescue Station.

Your official Invitation is attached.

Please RSVP to Sharon Frijters at SR.AC.QFR@qfes.qld.gov.au or call [REDACTED] by Wednesday 15 January 2025 to confirm your attendance.

Kind Regards,

Yolanda Booth

Executive Officer

QFR Regional Operations - Southern Region

Queensland Fire Department

P 07 3094 6603 M [REDACTED]



QFD acknowledges and recognises Traditional Owners as custodians of the lands where we work together with the communities of Queensland. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestors of these lands, their spirits and their legacy.

FUNCTION NAME: Drayton Fire and Rescue Station Official Opening

- 1 55pm The Honourable Patrick (Pat) Weir MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland and Member for Condamine arrives at Drayton Fire and Rescue Station, 32 Cambooya Street, Drayton.
- Parking arrangements – Parking is available at the station, however limited. There will be signed parking spots for Members of Parliament who require parking. Mr Speaker will be greeted by Mr Stephen Smith, Commissioner, Queensland Fire Department who can be contacted on [REDACTED]
- 2 00pm MC, Inspector Chris Martial, Area Commander, Toowoomba Command, Queensland Fire and Rescue to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land, welcome attendees, acknowledge distinguished guests and provide an overview of function.
- 2 05pm MC to invite Mr Stephen Smith, Commissioner to address guests.
- 2 06pm Commissioner Smith to address function (approximately 5 minutes)
- 2 12pm MC to thank Commissioner Smith and invite the Honourable Patrick (Pat) Weir MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland and Member for Condamine to address function.
- 2 13pm The Speaker to address function (approximately 5 minutes).
- 2 19pm MC to thank The Speaker and invite Mr Trevor Watts MP, Member for Toowoomba North to address function.
- 2 20pm Mr Watts to address function (approximately 5 minutes).
- 2 26pm MC to thank Mr Watts and invite The Speaker to officially open the station.
- 2 28pm The Speaker to officially open the station.
Mr Watts and Commissioner Smith to join The Speaker for the unveiling of the plaque and photo opportunity.

Commented [CM1]: Pending title & position from QFR SR.

Commented [CM2]: Regina, may I have your advice please considering the MO's decision for the plaque.

Commented [RO3]: Chantelle - advice was they can do an acknowledgement however not able to have any welcome to country by an elder performed.

Commented [CM4]: Regina shall we remove this as The Speaker is the Minister's official representative?

Commented [RO5]: We had Minister and local MP speak at the Caloundra South opening. Not sure if there is any right or wrong here

Commented [CM6]: Regina, I haven't heard of both handing over keys & unveiling the plaque, shall we remove the reference to the keys?

Commented [RO7]: I would remove reference to the keys - we usually reserve this for an appliance handover. Just unveil the plaque.

Classified as OFFICIAL

Jane Houston (she/her)
Executive Director
Strategy Directorate
Queensland Fire Department
P 07 3635 2588 M 



QFD acknowledges and recognises Traditional Owners as custodians of the lands where we work together with the communities of Queensland. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestors of these lands, their spirits and their legacy.

From: Jane Houston
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 5:13 PM
To: Steele Davies <Steele.Davies@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Approval for Drayton Fire & Rescue Station Plaque


Hi Steele,

Thank you for checking in on this one. I have spoken with Angus and advised of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Policy Action Plan 2023-25. He was aware of the policy and has reaffirmed the Minister's position to remove the Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners in locations where the traditional owners are undetermined.

With thanks
Jane

Jane Houston (she/her)
Executive Director
Strategy Directorate
Queensland Fire Department
P 07 3635 2588 M 



Tabled by: Mick de Brenni MP
At: 1.16pm
Date: 8/8/2025
Signature: 



QFD acknowledges and recognises Traditional Owners as custodians of the lands where we work together with the communities of Queensland. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestors of these lands, their spirits and their legacy.

From: Steele Davies
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 12:08 PM
To: QFD Executive Services <ExecutiveServices@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Approval for Drayton Fire & Rescue Station Plaque

Good morning Chantelle,

The Minister's Office has provided the below feedback and I have modified the plaque template (attached) to incorporate changes.

Thanks
Steele

Inspector Steele Davies

Ministerial Liaison Officer
Cabinet, Executive & Ministerial Services
Queensland Fire Department
1 William Street, Brisbane
M: [redacted] **E:** steele.davies@fire.qld.gov.au
Web: www.fire.qld.gov.au



Tabled by: Nick de Brenni MP
At: 1.21 pm
Date: 8/8/2025
Signature: [Signature]

QFD acknowledges and recognises Traditional Owners as custodians of the lands where we work together with the communities of Queensland. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestors of these lands, their spirits and their legacy.

From: Angus McCaffrey <Angus.McCaffrey@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 12:56 PM
To: Steele Davies <Steele.Davies@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Ian Andrew <Ian.Andrew@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Cathy Knapp <Cathy.Knapp@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Approval for Drayton Fire & Rescue Station Plaque

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Queensland Fire & Emergency Services. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hey Steele,

Could you please remove the acknowledgement – I don't think it's appropriate where areas are undetermined.

Cheers,
Angus

From: Steele Davies <Steele.Davies@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 11:57 AM
To: Angus McCaffrey <Angus.McCaffrey@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Ian Andrew <Ian.Andrew@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Cathy Knapp <Cathy.Knapp@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Approval for Drayton Fire & Rescue Station Plaque

Hello Angus and Ian,

In preparation for the Drayton QFR Station opening, I am seeking approval for the attached proposed plaque.

Note with respect to the Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners, QFD have included the non-specific acknowledgement as the area is undetermined at this time.

If you could provide approval ASAP to allow adequate time for the plaque to be developed.

Thanks
Steele

Inspector Steele Davies

Ministerial Liaison Officer
Cabinet, Executive & Ministerial Services
Queensland Fire Department
1 William Street, Brisbane
M: [REDACTED] E: steele.davies@fire.qld.gov.au
Web: www.fire.qld.gov.au

Wanda Kropp

From: QFD Executive Services
Sent: Monday, 13 January 2025 4:30 PM
To: Corro QFR SR
Cc: QFD Executive Services
Subject: FW: Approval for Drayton Fire & Rescue Station Plaque
Attachments: Drayton FRS Plaque MO response.doc
Categories: Lucretia to action

Good afternoon Yolanda

Attached is the plaque approved by the Minister's office.

I understand conversations have occurred at ED level re the Minister's office decision to remove any reference to the Traditional Owners (include the generic line usually used when there is no Native Title determination). Executive Services has been advised that the attached the plaque to be used as it's "The decision of the Government of the day".

Kind Regards

Chantelle Marsh
Senior Correspondence Officer | Executive Services
Strategy Directorate
Queensland Fire Department
P 07 3635 3082 M [REDACTED]



From: Steele Davies <Steele.Davies@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 4:07 PM
To: QFD Executive Services <ExecutiveServices@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Cathy Knapp <Cathy.Knapp@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Paul Vink <Paul.Vink@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Approval for Drayton Fire & Rescue Station Plaque

Hi Chantelle,

Verified with the Minister's Chief of Staff, who confirmed to not acknowledge the traditional owners.

Thanks
Steele

Inspector Steele Davies

Ministerial Liaison Officer
Cabinet, Executive & Ministerial Services

It is important to note that you don't have to rush to change things or retrospectively change completed documents.

- If you are publishing a new document externally to stakeholders or the website you can do a like for like swap of the Maroon COA to the Blue COA. Access the blue COA [here](#).
- If you are creating an internal document – continue to use the current templates on Gateway until new ones are available.
- If you are in doubt, contact [corporate.comms@\[REDACTED\].au](mailto:corporate.comms@[REDACTED].au) with your example and seek advice from the Communications team on how to comply.

Templates

The [REDACTED] Visual Identity Guidelines and Branded Templates are currently being updated and will be available soon.

Email Signatures

We will be issuing new Email Signature templates for each service during the week starting 23 June. There is a strict directive to follow the template in full. Departments are no longer permitted to add additional departmental branding elements such as the First Nations acknowledgment with our Together Artwork.

Tabled by: Michelle Brennan, MP
At: 1:26pm
Date: 8/8/2025
Signature: [Signature]

Delivering for Queensland

There are still considerations being made for the department on how to apply the 'Delivering for Queensland' wordmark and we'll issue more information when it becomes available.

Tabled by: Nikki Boyd MP
At: 2:05 pm
Date: 8/8/2025
Signature: _____

Media Statements (/)[Subscribe \(/Subscribers/Create\)](#)[Help and Support \(/Help\)](#)

Published Wednesday, 12 February 2025 at 12:47 PM

**JOINT STATEMENT****Premier and Minister for Veterans**
The Honourable David Crisafulli**Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers**
The Honourable Ann Leahy**JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT: State Recovery Coordinator appointed to lead flood recovery in the north****JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT: State Recovery Coordinator appointed to lead flood recovery in the north**

- The Crisafulli Government has appointed Andrew Cripps as State Recovery Coordinator in response to the north Queensland flood event.
- Mr Cripps will work closely with Queensland Reconstruction Authority CEO Major General Jake Ellwood to lead recovery in the north.
- Born and raised in Tully, Mr Cripps is a strong advocate for the region and well versed in the needs of communities and councils.

The Crisafulli Government has appointed Andrew Cripps as the State Recovery Coordinator to spearhead the recovery efforts in north Queensland following the devastating flood event.

A generational north Queenslander, Andrew Cripps was born and raised in the farming town of Tully and brings a wealth of local knowledge, government experience and leadership to the role.

As Queensland's State Recovery Coordinator, Mr Cripps will be responsible for identifying the specific recovery needs of impacted communities, providing strategic advice to government agencies, regular updates about recovery operations, and leading the development of a State Recovery Plan.

Mr Cripps will work closely with Queensland Reconstruction Authority CEO Major General Jake Ellwood, providing leadership, coordination, direction and advice for the delivery of recovery efforts in impacted communities.

Premier David Crisafulli said Mr Cripps would ensure a strong coordinated response to help regional communities rebuild as quickly as possible.

"This flood event has left a trail of destruction across the north – devastating homes, businesses and critical infrastructure," Premier Crisafulli said.

"The road to recovery is a long one, but one that requires strong leadership and local experience.

"This recovery isn't just about rebuilding; it's about building back stronger than ever and our government is up to the challenge of delivering that."

Minister for Disaster Recovery Ann Leahy said Mr Cripps will take charge of the operation and work hand-in-glove with impacted communities.

"Recovery will be complex. It's going to take time. But Andrew's understanding of the north and the communities means he is perfectly placed to deliver what's needed on the ground," Minister Leahy said.

"His extensive experience supporting councils and serving Queenslanders will be invaluable as we continue to face the challenge of this disaster head on.

"The government stands by all Queenslanders suffering the devastating impacts of this flood event, and together we'll keep working every day to see this recovery through."

Andrew Cripps said he was determined to deliver real outcomes for impacted communities.

"This serious flood event has had a significant impact on communities and industries across north Queensland and the recovery process will no doubt be lengthy and difficult," Mr Cripps said.

"As a proud north Queenslander, I had no hesitation in accepting the Premier's request to serve in this role and build on the strong response that local, district and state disaster management groups have undertaken to date.

"I look forward to working with Major General Ellwood and the QRA, the Premier and his Ministers and local communities across the impacted regions to deliver an effective recovery effort in a timely fashion."

Queenslanders seeking information on disaster assistance can visit www.qld.gov.au/disasterhelp (<https://www.qld.gov.au/disasterhelp>).

ENDS**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Premier Crisafulli: Jordan Fabris 0416 198 814
Minister Leahy: Michael Howard 0400 002 676



Ministerial Diary¹
**Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire,
Disaster Recovery and Volunteers**

The Hon Ann Leahy MP

1 May 2025 – 31 May 2025

Date of Meeting	Name of Organisation/s or Person/s	Purpose of Meeting
1 May 2025	Members of Parliament	Parliament Sitting
1 May 2025	Her Excellency the Hon Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland Invited Ministers	Executive Council
1 May 2025	Hon David Janetzki MP Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership Hon Ros Bates MP Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training Ministerial staff	Meeting Portfolio Matters
1 May 2025	Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Councils (WBBROC) Chair Cr Helen Blackburn Bundaberg Regional Council Mayors and Chief Executive Officers as members Government Ministers WBBROC staff	Meeting Local Government
1 May 2025	Mayor Daryl Sexton Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council CEO Richard Wright Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council	Meeting Local Government

¹ Does not include personal, electorate or party-political meetings or events, media events and interviews and information contrary to public interest (e.g. meetings regarding sensitive law enforcement, public safety or whistleblower matters).

Tabled by: Nikki Boyd MP
At: 2.10 pm
Date: 8/8/2025
Signature: [Signature]

	Terry James MP Member for Mulgrave Ministerial staff	
2 May 2025	David Arnold Chief Executive Officer Remote Area Planning and Development Board Sean Dillon MP Assistant Minister for Primary Industry Development, Water and Western Queensland Ministerial staff	Meeting Portfolio matters
2 May 2025	Ministerial staff	Meeting
3 May 2025	Wallumbilla Show Members of the Community	Event
4 May 2025	St George Show Members of the Community	Event
6 May 2025	A/Director-General Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers Commissioner Queensland Fire Department Ministerial staff	Pre-Cabinet Brief
6 May 2025	Ministerial staff	Meeting Portfolio Matters
6 May 2025	Hon Tony Perrett MP Minister for Primary Industries Hon Dale Last MP Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development Ministerial and departmental staff	Meeting Portfolio Matters
6 May 2025	Commissioner Queensland Fire Department Ministerial staff	Meeting Fire
6 May 2025	Cabinet Ministers	Cabinet Meeting
6 May 2025	Cr Fiona Cunningham Brisbane City Council Michael Kucera Brisbane City Council	Meeting Local Government

	Other Brisbane City Council staff	
	Ministerial staff	
6 May 2025	Juliette Wright Givit	Meeting Volunteers
	Ministerial staff	
7 May 2025	Commissioner Queensland Fire Department Ministerial and departmental staff	Meeting Fire Budget
7 May 2025	Queensland Fire Department International Women's Day	Event
	Commissioner Queensland Fire Department	
	Invited guests	
	Ministerial staff	
7 May 2025	A/Director-General Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers	Meeting Local Government, Water and Volunteers
	Ministerial and departmental staff	
7 May 2025	Right to Information	Meeting
	Ministerial and departmental staff	
7 May 2025	Ros Bates MP Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training	Meeting Portfolio Matters
	Ministerial staff	
8 May 2025	Commissioner Queensland Fire Department	Meeting Fire Budget
	Ministerial and departmental staff	
8 May 2025	A/Director-General Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers	Meeting Local Government, Water and Volunteers Budget
	Ministerial and departmental staff	
8 May 2025	David Wilson President, Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies Inc	Meeting Local Government
	John Brent OAM Honourary Treasurer	
	Rowan O'Hara Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies Inc	
	Darren Zanow Zanow Group	

	Ministerial staff	
8 May 2025	A/Director-General Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers Ministerial and departmental staff	Meeting Local Government, Water and Volunteers Budget
9 May 2025	Roma Show Members of the Community	Event
10 May 2025	RSL Mitchell Sub-Branch Facilities Bill Whitburn OAM Vice President of RSL Qld Cr John Birkett Maranoa Regional Council Darryl Betzien President of the Mitchell RSL Sub- Branch Members of the Mitchell, Roma and Charleville RSL Sub-Branches	Event
12 May 2025	A/Director-General Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers Commissioner Queensland Fire Department Ministerial staff	Pre-Cabinet Brief
12 May 2025	Ministerial staff	Meeting
12 May 2025	Justin Choveaux Rural Fire Brigades Association Queensland (RFBAQ) Ian Pike President (RFBAQ) Ministerial staff	Meeting Fire
12 May 2025	Hon Tony Perrett MP Minister for Primary Industries Hon Dale Last MP Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development Ministerial and departmental staff	Meeting – Portfolio matters
12 May 2025	Cabinet Ministers	Cabinet Meeting
12 May 2025	Janelle Poole MP	Meeting Water

	<p>Assistant Minister for Community Safety, Defence Industry, Veterans and North Queensland</p> <p>Peter Lindsay North Queensland Water Task Force Other North Queensland Water Task Force staff</p> <p>Burdekin Electorate Office staff</p> <p>Ministerial staff</p>	
12 May 2025	<p>Andrew Chesterman</p> <p>Ministerial staff</p>	Meeting Red Tape Reduction
13 May 2025	<p>A/Director-General Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers</p> <p>Ministerial and departmental staff</p>	Meeting Local Government, Water and Volunteers Budget
13 May 2025	<p>Jake Ellwood Chief Executive Officer Queensland Reconstruction Authority</p> <p>Colonel Justin O'Connor (retired) Southeast Queensland State Recovery Coordinator</p> <p>Peter Matic Southeast Queensland State Recovery Coordinator</p> <p>Ministerial staff</p>	Meeting
13 May 2025	<p>Glenn Stockton Sunwater</p> <p>Lisa Caffrey Sunwater</p> <p>Ministerial staff</p>	Meeting Water
13 May 2025	<p>Jake Ellwood Chief Executive Officer Queensland Reconstruction Authority</p> <p>Stuart MacKenzie OAM Western Queensland Surface Trough and Associated Flooding State Recovery Coordinator, Queensland Reconstruction Authority</p> <p>Chief Superintendent Troy Pukallus Western Queensland Surface Trough and Associated Flooding State</p>	Meeting Disaster Recovery

	Recovery Coordinator, Queensland Reconstruction Authority	
	Ministerial staff	
14 May 2025	Cabinet Budget Review Committee (CBRC) Members A/Director-General Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers Ministerial and departmental staff	Meeting CBRC
14 May 2025	Commissioner Queensland Fire Department Other Queensland Fire Department staff	Meeting Fire
14 May 2025	CBRC Members Commissioner Queensland Fire Department Ministerial and departmental staff	Meeting CBRC
15 May 2025	Invited attendees Members of the Community	Meeting – Parliamentary Committee Hearing - Volunteering
15 May 2025	Trevor Watts MP Member for Toowoomba North James Lister MP Member for Southern Downs Mayor Geoff McDonald Chair Darling Downs and South West Queensland Council of Mayors (DDSWQ CoM) Council of Mayor members Other invited guests and observers	Event – Afternoon Tea
15 May 2025	DDSWQ CoM Invited guests	Meeting - Dinner
16 May 2025	Trevor Watts MP Member for Toowoomba North James Lister MP Member for Southern Downs Mayor Geoff McDonald Chair Darling Downs and South West Queensland Council of Mayors	Meeting

	<p>Darling Downs and South West Queensland Council of Mayors (DDSWQ CoM)</p> <p>Council of Mayor members</p> <p>Other invited guests and observers</p>	
16 May 2025	<p>Andrew Cripps North and Far North Tropical Low State Recovery Coordinator, Queensland Reconstruction Authority</p> <p>Drew Alexion Principal Advisor North and Far North Tropical Low State Recovery Coordinator and Deputy State Recovery Coordinator, Queensland Reconstruction Authority</p> <p>Ministerial staff</p>	Meeting Disaster Recovery
16 May 2025	<p>A/Director-General Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers</p> <p>Ministerial and departmental staff</p>	Meeting Portfolio Matters
16 May 2025	<p>Hon David Crisafulli MP Premier and Minister for Veterans</p> <p>Hon Tony Perrett MP Minister for Primary Industries</p> <p>Hon Dale Last MP Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development</p> <p>A/Director-General Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers</p> <p>Ministerial and departmental staff</p>	Meeting Portfolio Matters
19 May 2025	<p>A/Director-General Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers</p> <p>Commissioner Queensland Fire Department</p> <p>Ministerial staff</p>	Pre-Cabinet Brief
19 May 2025	<p>Hon David Crisafulli MP Premier and Minister for Veterans</p>	Meeting Portfolio Matters

	Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations Ministerial staff	
19 May 2025	Commissioner Queensland Fire Department Ministerial staff	Meeting Fire
19 May 2025	Cabinet Ministers	Cabinet Meeting
19 May 2025	Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise May Enterprise Evening Invited guests	Event
20 May 2025	Members of Parliament	Parliament Sitting
20 May 2025	Emily Carrigan A/Deputy Director-General Local Government Ministerial and departmental staff	Meeting Local Government
20 May 2025	A/Director-General Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers	Meeting Pre-Brief Tourism Cabinet Committee
20 May 2025	Commissioner Queensland Fire Department Ministerial and departmental staff	Meeting Portfolio Matters
20 May 2025	Amelia Shaw Woolworths Sophie Hobden Woolworths Ministerial staff	Meeting
21 May 2025	Invited Cabinet members	Meeting Tourism Cabinet Committee
21 May 2025	Mayor Greg Campbell Cloncurry Shire Council Ministerial staff	Meeting Local Government
21 May 2025	Dr Rolf Gomes Founder and Cardiologist, Heart of Australia Michael Todd Government Relations, Heart of Australia – Registered Third Party Lobbyist Ewan Wylie	The Development or Amendment of a Government Policy or Program Topics for discussion: 1. Heart of Australia Update 2. Hear from Hon Ann Leahy MP on behalf of

	<p>Head of Business Development, Heart of Australia</p> <p>Ian Andrew Policy Advisor Minister Ann Leahy Office</p>	<p>Thargomindah and nearby communities</p> <p>3. Outline Heart of Australia opportunity for Queensland-wide framework that would support these communities</p> <p>4. Outline next steps.</p>
21 May 2025	<p>Midwest Water Alliance Meeting</p> <p>Mayor John Wharton Richmond Shire Council</p> <p>Mayor Kate Peddle Flinders Shire Council</p> <p>Other Local Government staff</p> <p>A/Director-General Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers</p> <p>Ministerial and departmental staff</p>	Meeting Water
21 May 2025	<p>Kate Peddle Mayor Flinders Shire Council</p> <p>Eddie Jackson Chief Executive Officer Flinders Shire Council</p> <p>Ministerial staff</p>	Meeting Local Government
21 May 2025	Members of Parliament	Parliament Sitting
21 May 2025	<p>Surf Life Saving Qld Parliamentary Friends Function</p> <p>Invited guests</p> <p>Members of Parliament</p>	Event
22 May 2025	Members of Parliament	Parliament Sitting
22 May 2025	<p>A/Director-General Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers</p> <p>Ministerial and departmental staff</p>	Meeting Local Government, Water and Volunteers
22 May 2025	<p>Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and</p>	Event Working Lunch

	<p>Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations</p> <p>Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner Brisbane City Council Chair</p> <p>South East Queensland Council of Mayor members</p> <p>Ministerial and departmental staff</p>	
22 May 2025	<p>Robbie Katter MP Member for Traeger</p> <p>Cameron Parker Parliament Chief of Staff to Robbie Katter MP</p> <p>Ministerial staff</p>	Meeting Water
22 May 2025	<p>Hon Dale Last MP Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development</p> <p>Electorate Office staff</p> <p>Ministerial staff</p>	Meeting Water
23 May 2025	<p>Hon David Crisafulli MP Premier and Minister for Veterans</p> <p>Cabinet Ministers</p> <p>McKinnon Institute</p>	McKinnon Institute Seminar
23 May 2025	Ministerial staff	Portfolio Issues
23 May 2025	<p>Bryson Head MP Assistant Minister Regional Development, Resources and Critical Minerals</p> <p>Zena Ronnfeldt</p> <p>Ministerial staff</p>	Meeting Water
25 May 2025	<p>Hon Dale Last MP Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development</p> <p>Commissioner Queensland Fire Department</p>	Event - Nome Rural Fire Brigade Handover

	Ministerial, departmental and Electorate office staff	
25 May 2025	Hon Dale Last MP Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development Commissioner Queensland Fire Department Ministerial, departmental and Electorate office staff	Event - Ayr Appliance Handover
25 May 2025	Hon Dale Last MP Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development Commissioner Queensland Fire Department Ministerial, departmental and Electorate office staff	Site Visit - Ayr Fire and Rescue Station
25 May 2025	Hon Dale Last MP Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development Invited Irrigators Ministerial, departmental and Electorate office staff	Lunch with Irrigators
25 May 2025	Invited guests	Event - Afternoon Tea - Community Cabinet
25 May 2025	Charter Towers Regional Council Cr Liz Schmidt Cr Kate Hastie A/Director-General Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers Jake Ellwood Chief Executive Officer Queensland Reconstruction Authority Ministerial staff	Deputation Meeting
25 May 2025	Volunteering North Queensland Margie Ryder Rob Burnie	Deputation Meeting

	<p>A/Director-General Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers</p> <p>Jake Ellwood Chief Executive Officer Queensland Reconstruction Authority Ministerial staff</p>	
25 May 2025	<p>Herbert River Improvement Trust</p> <p>Wally Skinner Brett Langtree</p> <p>A/Director-General Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers</p> <p>Jake Ellwood Chief Executive Officer Queensland Reconstruction Authority Ministerial staff</p>	Deputation Meeting
25 May 2025	<p>Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council</p> <p>Michael Bissell</p> <p>A/Director-General Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers</p> <p>Jake Ellwood Chief Executive Officer Queensland Reconstruction Authority Ministerial staff</p>	Deputation Meeting
25 May 2025	<p>Burdekin Shire Council</p> <p>Pierina Dalle Cort Matthew Magin</p> <p>A/Director-General Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers</p> <p>Jake Ellwood Chief Executive Officer Queensland Reconstruction Authority Ministerial staff</p>	Deputation Meeting
25 May 2025	<p>Townsville Golf Club</p> <p>Simon Ormes</p>	Deputation Meeting

	<p>A/Director-General Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers</p> <p>Jake Ellwood Chief Executive Officer Queensland Reconstruction Authority</p> <p>Ministerial staff</p>	
26 May 2025	<p>Small Business Month Coffee Chamber of Commerce Invited guests</p>	Event
26 May 2025	<p>A/Director-General Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers</p> <p>Commissioner Queensland Fire Department</p> <p>Ministerial and departmental staff</p>	Meeting Pre-Cabinet Briefing
26 May 2025	<p>Cabinet Ministers</p> <p>North Queensland Regional Organisation of Council</p> <p>Alf Lacey Mayor Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council</p> <p>Raymon Jayo Mayor, Hinchinbrook Shire Council</p> <p>Pierina Dalle Cort Mayor, Burdekin Shire Council</p> <p>Ann-Maree Greaney A/Mayor, Townsville City Council</p> <p>Invited members</p>	Meeting – North Queensland Regional Organisation of Council
26 May 2025	Cabinet Ministers	Cabinet Meeting
26 May 2025	<p>Hon Tim Nicholls MP Minister for Health and Ambulance Services</p> <p>Cancer Council staff</p> <p>Ministerial staff</p>	Site visit Cancer Council Queensland
26 May 2025	<p>Troy Clive Senator Susan McDonald's Office</p> <p>Senator Susan McDonald staff A/Director-General</p>	Meeting Water

	Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers Ministerial staff	
26 May 2025	Ann-Maree Greeney A/Mayor Townsville City Council Joe McCabe Chief Executive Officer Townsville City Council A/Director-General Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers Ministerial staff	Meeting Local Government
27 May 2025	Catherine Piggott Secretary Central Highlands Ratepayers Association Other Central Highlands Ratepayers Association staff A/Director-General Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers Ministerial staff	Meeting Local Government
27 May 2025	Ministerial staff	Meeting Portfolio Issues
27 May 2025	Commissioner Queensland Fire Department Ministerial and departmental staff	Meeting Fire
27 May 2025	Ministerial staff	Meeting Portfolio Issues
27 May 2025	Andrew Colvin AO APM Chief Executive Officer Australian Red Cross Other Australian Red Cross staff Ministerial staff	Lunch
27 May 2025	Hon Brent Mickelberg MP Minister for Transport and Main Roads Hon Amanda Camm MP Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence Alison Smith	Event Queensland Disaster Management Conference with Local Government Association of Queensland

	<p>Chief Executive Officer Local Government Association of Queensland</p> <p>Invited guests</p> <p>Ministerial and departmental staff</p>	
27 May 2025	<p>Hon Tony Perrett MP Minister for Primary Industries</p> <p>A/Director-General Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers</p> <p>Industry Members of Council</p> <p>Ministerial and departmental staff</p>	Meeting Agriculture, Energy and Water Council
27 May 2025	<p>Alison Smith Chief Executive Officer Local Government Association of Queensland</p> <p>Invited guests</p> <p>Ministerial staff</p>	Event Queensland Disaster Management Conference with Local Government Association of Queensland
28 May 2025	<p>Will Speirs Qld President Australian Water Association</p> <p>Natalie Muir Vice President and Regional Director Australian Water Association</p> <p>Ministerial staff</p>	Meeting Water
28 May 2025	Ministerial staff	Meeting Portfolio Matters
28 May 2025	<p>Adrienne Ward Chair Gladstone Area Water Board</p> <p>Darren Barlow Chief Executive Officer Gladstone Area Water Board</p> <p>A/Director-General Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers</p> <p>Ministerial and department staff</p>	Meeting Water
28 May 2025	<p>Sally O'Neil Mayor Barcoo Shire Council</p> <p>Tiffany Dare</p>	Meeting Queensland Reconstruction Authority

	<p>Chief Executive Officer Bulloo Shire Council</p> <p>Justin Hancock Chief Executive Officer Quilpie Shire Council</p> <p>Jake Ellwood Chief Executive Officer Queensland Reconstruction Authority</p> <p>Stuart McKenzie Western Queensland State Recovery Coordinator</p> <p>Ministerial and departmental staff</p>	
29 May 2025	<p>QFF Ag and Innovation Breakfast</p> <p>Hon Tony Perrett MP Minister for Primary Industries</p> <p>Invited guests</p> <p>Ministerial staff</p>	Event
29 May 2025	<p>QFF Ag and Innovation Field Day</p> <p>Hon Tony Perrett MP Minister for Primary Industries</p> <p>Invited guests</p> <p>Ministerial staff</p>	Event
29 May	Ministerial and departmental staff	Meeting Water staff Mareeba
29 May	Ministerial and department staff	Meeting Water and Local Government staff Cairns

Registered lobbyists are required to provide the Integrity Commissioner with information about lobbying activities carried out by them. This information is publicly available on the Integrity Commissioner's website at: <https://lobbyists.integrity.qld.gov.au/ContactLog.aspx>

STRIPPED IN WAKE OF FLOOD

TAYLAH FELLOWS, CHRISTOPHER BURNS

Disaster Recovery Minister Ann Leahy has been stripped of her community recovery responsibilities following a severe weather season that saw the state rocked by cyclone Alfred and ex-tropical cyclone Dianne.

Government documents published on Friday show the words "Community Recovery" omitted from Ms Leahy's ministerial responsibilities.

Premier David Crisafulli has handed the responsibility to Families, Seniors and Disability Services Minister Amanda Camm.

The decision was made on Tuesday.

A government spokesman on Friday said the responsibility transfer between ministers separated community and infrastructure recovery efforts.

"This machinery of government change formalises recent recovery activity, delineating social and community recovery from infrastructure recovery," he said.

The opposition criticised Ms Leahy for being absent during TC Alfred when she did not appear beside Mr Crisafulli in daily media updates.

On Friday, Deputy Opposition Leader Cameron Dick called Ms Leahy a "dud minister". "She has already been demoted after less than six months," he said.

"Amanda Camm had to hold Ann Leahy's hand through community recovery the entire summer – this move was only a matter of time. The question now is who's next to go."

Ms Camm, asked on Friday why she was taking over the key disaster response responsibility, said she already oversaw vulnerable cohorts in her own portfolio and it made sense for her to have visibility of whole communities after disaster events.

"The community recovery function that sits within the Department of Communities was moved over to Minister Leahy, that's now come back to me as part of the minister for families and community recovery," she said.

“From a human services perspective, whether it’s domestic and family violence, child safety, seniors, disabilities, all of those other areas of my portfolio, there is always vulnerable cohorts of people that exist within a community, and I can have visibility of all of that, particularly on the back of the disaster, and we can better recover.”

A government spokesman said the responsibility transfer between ministers separated community and infrastructure recovery efforts.

Ms Leahy held a press conference alongside Primary Industries Minister Tony Perrett at Charleville’s airport on Friday while touring flood affected communities within her electorate.

They said 120 disaster impact surveys had been submitted to the department in the wake of 150,000 livestock reported killed or missing from floods.

Commissioner Chelepy: As the State Disaster Coordinator, I can advise that it is an absolute priority for us to pre-position our assets and additional personnel because as the event moves around, we do not know where we are going to get cut off or where we will have restricted access. That is coordinated through a forum called the State Disaster Coordination Group, which sits underneath the Queensland Disaster Management Committee. The State Disaster Coordination Group is made up of all of our state response agencies and is coordinated through operational level staff at that location.

I can advise that the following resources were pre-positioned during the 2024-25 high-risk weather season disaster events. We pre-positioned additional SES and QPS officers to support local operations to ensure that BAU was maintained and to conduct doorknocks advising of impending events and potential impacts. In some of those instances we conducted those doorknocks on two to three occasions in the same location. This also enables the safe and continuous management of evacuation centres in the impacted areas pre, during and post events.

Our energy assets—and I really take my hat off to Energy Queensland; they staged generators, fuel pods, trucks, communication devices and auxiliary equipment to facilitate the prompt employment to impacted communities as well as significant resourcing, ultimately minimising our power outages and our communication disruptions. Energy also pre-positioned field crews with additional resources from regional depots. This included additional crews and Starlink communications being pre-positioned in potentially impacted areas not only to minimise the loss of power and communications but also to ensure the rapid restoration.

Our mobile telecommunications, both Telstra and Optus, part of our state disaster coordination group, conducted site preparations and predeployment of staff, generators, fuel pods and resources in our potentially impacted areas, again, not only to minimise the loss of communications but to enable the rapid restoration. The Queensland Fire Department, as they always do, were on the front foot and predeployed swiftwater rescue teams along with the SES flood boat operating teams to likely impacted areas to conduct rescues, support isolated communities and to support vulnerable communities. Of course, through the SES we predeployed hundreds of thousands of sandbags, which were prepared and provided to communities in preparation for the rising floodwaters. It was a mammoth effort by the chief officer and his team to deploy the number of sandbags we deployed around the state last year. I do not think we have ever deployed that number before. Due to that volume, federal government assistance was provided for that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will turn now to non-government questions.

Ms BOYD: My question is to the minister. Who is the chair of the Emergency Volunteers Advisory Forum?

Mr PURDIE: In terms of the volunteer group that you spoke about before coming under Ann Leahy and the work that we are doing in relation to those volunteers moving forward and the volunteer parliamentary inquiry in relation to people on the board and who the current chair is, I am happy to throw to the State Disaster Coordinator to give you that information.

Commissioner Chelepy: Thank you, Minister. Member, as per my previous response, the EVAF is currently under review as to where it most appropriately sits. I have personally briefed the minister, engaged with the Minister for Volunteers and engaged with Volunteering Queensland, and the question that we are trying to determine at the moment is where it is best sat. Is the ministerial level the best location for that to sit or is it best to be driven through high-level government officials? That has been under review pretty well post the minister coming in and me providing him the first briefing, and that is yet to be determined.

Ms BOYD: Am I to understand, then, Acting Commissioner, that the role of the chair is vacant or there is an incumbent in that role?

Commissioner Chelepy: The current committee have not met because it is under review, member. It has not been dissolved, but we have not actioned it because my briefings to the minister are that it is best to determine where it will provide the best effectiveness moving forward, given the change in our emergency volunteer landscape and, again, the work that we do with Volunteering Queensland. Is it best to be driven at ministerial level or is it best to be driven at senior official level?

Ms BOYD: Acting Commissioner, what is the name of the chair of the Emergency Volunteers Advisory Forum?

Mr HUNT: Mr Deputy Speaker, point of order: this is the third question on this subject. I think the acting commissioner has given a fulsome response and I am clear where that body sits at the moment. I think he has provided an answer to that question and it is bordering on repetitive at the moment.

Tabled by: Nicki Boyd MP
 At: 2.55pm
 Date: 5/8/2025
 Signature: AK



Speech By
Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2023

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Johnson, Mr VG, OAM

Ms LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (10.18 am): It is a great privilege to contribute to the condolence motion for Vaughan Johnson OAM, former deputy mayor of the Quilpie shire, former member for Gregory and former minister for transport and main roads. I acknowledge Robin, Monique, Michael and Tanya, their partners and extended family who are here today. I extend my condolences to you all and those of the former member for Warrego who served many years in this House with Vaughan Johnson. Vaughan was a larger than life character and so many of us were privileged to know him. Two weeks ago I was on Palm Island with former mayor Alf Lacey. Alf was unable to make Vaughan's funeral and asked me to pass on his condolences to Vaughan's family, which I said I would do in this condolence motion.

Vaughan loved his family and the people of the bush. He loved his football, which was an integral part of his pre-parliamentary life. He was a boy from the bush who built roads in the city. As the minister for transport and main roads, he oversaw the addition of lanes to and the rebuilding of the M1. There are countless mayors and councillors who have recounted to me the roads that were maintained and sealed while he was in charge of the portfolio. Earlier I heard some recount his dislike of flying, but that was not the only reason that he drove endless kilometres around Queensland. He wanted to know about the state of Queensland's roads so he drove them and he knew them well. I would find him in a roadhouse at Miles, somewhere out at Thargomindah and in various other places around Queensland.

Vaughan also got up to some antics and some practical jokes. It was that sense of fun that made his character what it was. It started at an early age. There is a story about a local priest in Quilpie, a goat, Vaughan Johnson and his mates. Do not worry, Mr Speaker: it is parliamentary.

Years ago, when Vaughan was a young bloke in Quilpie, he and two mates tied a goat to the bell of the Anglican Church at about two o'clock in the morning. Then they let the goat go. Of course, the goat walked out to the end of the rope and the bell rang. Vaughan and his mates went up the road to watch the reaction of the local priest. The priest came out and tried to catch the goat, but he was not much of a stockman. Every time he tried to catch the goat, it ran to the end of the rope and rang the bell. This continued for some time with the church bell chiming away at two o'clock in the morning. The bell ringing woke the whole town of Quilpie. Vaughan and his mates were highly amused. Quilpie has never forgotten Vaughan Johnson.

In this very chamber Vaughan kept up the antics. Vaughan sat next to Ian Walker, the former member for Mansfield. Vaughan loved to play practical jokes on Ian whilst he was speaking. On one occasion, Vaughan poured a glass of water into Ian Walker's shoe whilst he was speaking in full flight.

Tabled by: Nikki Boyd MP

Another story involved Vaughan Johnson, Howard Hobbs and Santo Santoro. Vaughan and Howard sat either side of Santo in the chamber. They both had a hold of Santo's coat-tails and held him down so that he could not make the jump to call Mr Speaker and, subsequently, missed his speaking spot. Afterwards, Santo gave both of them a lecture on their breeding.

Vaughan had some sayings that he used regularly like 'you're one pink feather short of being a real galah' or 'there's a few roos short in the top paddock'. He was certainly not vanilla.

Not long after I was elected, I was told that Vaughan wanted to give me some advice that I needed in relation to being a member of parliament. I thought, 'Well, this is going to be interesting.' I had to promise him that I would look after Lachie Millar, the member for Gregory. That is some task.

Honourable members interjected.

An honourable member: It's a work in progress.

Mrs Frecklington: How are you going?

Ms LEAHY: I take the interjection: it is a work in progress. One thing is for sure: Vaughan's legacy will continue for many years to come and his handshake will be remembered by all those who met him. May he rest in peace.

LNP's plan to build a new dam in SEQ as part of major water policy

Premier Steven Miles has labelled the LNP's new dam proposal as "extraordinary" and questioned whether the party was considering revisiting the controversial Traveston Dam proposal.

Madura McCormack and Taylah Fellows

4 min read

October 12, 2024 - 10:07AM



David Crisafulli plans to build a dam in the southeast if elected. Picture: File

A dam is on the cards for southeast Queensland under an LNP water plan that has categorically ruled out building new desalination plants or recycled water schemes.

But Queenslanders won't know where a new dam could be built or how much it could cost until the region's water plan—along with 22 others across the state—are reviewed in the first term of an LNP government.

Opposition Leader David Crisafulli and Opposition water spokeswoman Deb Frecklington launched the LNP's water security plan in Longreach, against the backdrop of the mighty Thomson River, on Saturday.

Mr Crisafulli said the LNP was "putting a flag in the ground" to declare the Opposition wanted Queensland to get back to an era "when we were proud to build dams in this state".

Tabled by: Nikki Boyd MP
At: 4.37 pm
Date: 8/8/205
Signature: [Signature]

The latest SEQ water plan, released by the government in 2023, warned the region needed a new drinking water source by 2035 amid a population boom.

And with the LNP ruling out new desalination plants or recycled water schemes, Mr Crisafulli confirmed a new dam in the southeast was on the cards.



Opposition energy spokeswoman and Nanango MP Deb Frecklington, Leader of the Opposition David Crisafulli, and LNP candidate for Gregory Sean Dillon, on the campaign trail in Longreach. Picture: Liam Kidston.

This is despite Seqwater, in the 2023 plan, warning changing rainfall patterns due to climate change meant less reliable supply from existing dams in the future.

“We are talking about a long-term water security plan for this state to deliver immediate opportunities for agriculture and for people in some of those regional communities, and a long term plan to use the capacity that’s in the system and build water security,” Mr Crisafulli said.

“And I believe that’s the best thing, not only by the environment, I think it’s the best thing financially as well.

"I do not believe the option of desalination or recycled water is anywhere as efficient, as acceptable, or as visionary as building dams."

The state government's plan, outlined last year, was to forge ahead with a desalination plant in the southeast—the cost and location of which will be dependent on a detailed business case due by the end of 2024.

The Queensland Conservation Council denounced the LNP's dam proposal as an "impractical expensive idea that will fail to deliver water security" while impacting the health of rivers and waterways.

"A proposal for a new dam in southeast Queensland appears to be a poorly thought out re-heat of a previously failed policy. We don't need Traveston Dam 2.0. It's a recipe for environmental harm and community division," QCC director Dave Copeman said.

Premier Steven Miles called the LNP's "extraordinary" and questioned whether the party was considering revisiting the controversial Traveston Dam proposal.

The Traveston Dam project, a plan to build a 161,000 mgL catchment along the Mary River was scrapped in 2009 due to the likelihood of unacceptable impacts on native threatened species.

The debacle cost Queensland more than \$318m after the government was forced to sell back hundreds of properties bought to make way for the project.

Mr Miles on Saturday said the best location for a dam in South East Queensland was still Traveston.

"The LNP have announced a new dam for South East Queensland, but won't tell Queenslanders where that dam will be," he said.

"We can only assume that they intend to revisit that (Traveston Dam) proposal."

Water Minister Glenn Butcher said the LNP's policy was "undercooked and totally underfunded".

"No detail, no costings, no location for a new water source for the southeast," he said.

“Our funding remains on the table and we will work with the federal government once the business case process is complete.”

The Premier said the government was not considering any additional water recycling plants.

But Mr Crisafulli said dams were the best long-term asset.

“They provide generational infrastructure,” he said.

“They act as flood mitigation... the long-term benefit of flood mitigation is what it does to insurance premiums, what it does for the ability to lower cost of repairs after a flood.”

The LNP’s water security plan includes a promise to review all 23 regional water plans by October 2028.

It has promised to “urgently embark” on a review of water sources for southeast Queensland.

Three shovel-ready major water projects would also be built at a total cost of \$126m.

This includes a \$90m 10,000ML weir on the Boyne River south of Mundubbera, the 3000ML Barlil Weir on Barambah Creek northwest of Murgon for \$28m, and \$7m for five new or upgraded weirs along the Thomson River in Longreach.



Enoggera Dam is one of Eight Dams operated by SEQ Water. Picture David Clark

Seqwater, in its latest water security blueprint released in 2023, noted the region had enough spare supply to manage through dry periods under current levels of demand.

But the report also called for “vigilance” to ensure SEQ was “well prepared for future change including population growth, as well as threats to water supply arising from prolonged drought events or climate change”.

“Climate change research suggests SEQ will see an increase in the annual average temperatures and levels of evaporation, as well as potential impacts to the volumes of inflows into dams,” the report stated.

“This means that climate change may materially reduce the volume of water that is available from the system of existing bulk water sources.

“It is therefore prudent to start planning now for a new major enhancement, particularly given climate change might mean SEQ is not able to rely on dams as much in the future.”

Southeast Queensland currently has one desalination plant on the Gold Coast.

The Western Corridor recycled water scheme, which has its two ends in the Somerset region and Brisbane, supplies purified water to industrial customers to make electricity.

But it is also activated for drinking water supply when the SEQ water grid storage levels drop below 40 per cent as a result of severe drought.

Purified recycled water is used for drinking supply across the world, including Singapore, Belgium, and parts of the United States including California.

Queensland Government reveals failed Paradise Dam rebuild will cost \$4.4 billion

By Nikki Sorbello and Grace Whiteside

ABC Wide Bay Water

Wed 18 Dec 2024 at 4:30pm



▶ Watch 45s

Failed Paradise Dam will cost at least \$4.4 billion to rebuild. (Supplied: Sunwater)

In short:

The Queensland Government says at least \$4.4 billion will be needed to build a new wall for Paradise Dam.

The former state and federal governments had previously committed \$1.2 billion for wall restoration before discovering it could not be repaired.

What's next?

Tabled by: Nikki Boyd MP
At: 5:07 pm
Date: 8/8/2025
Signature: [Signature]

A detailed business case for the work is expected to be completed at the end of next year.

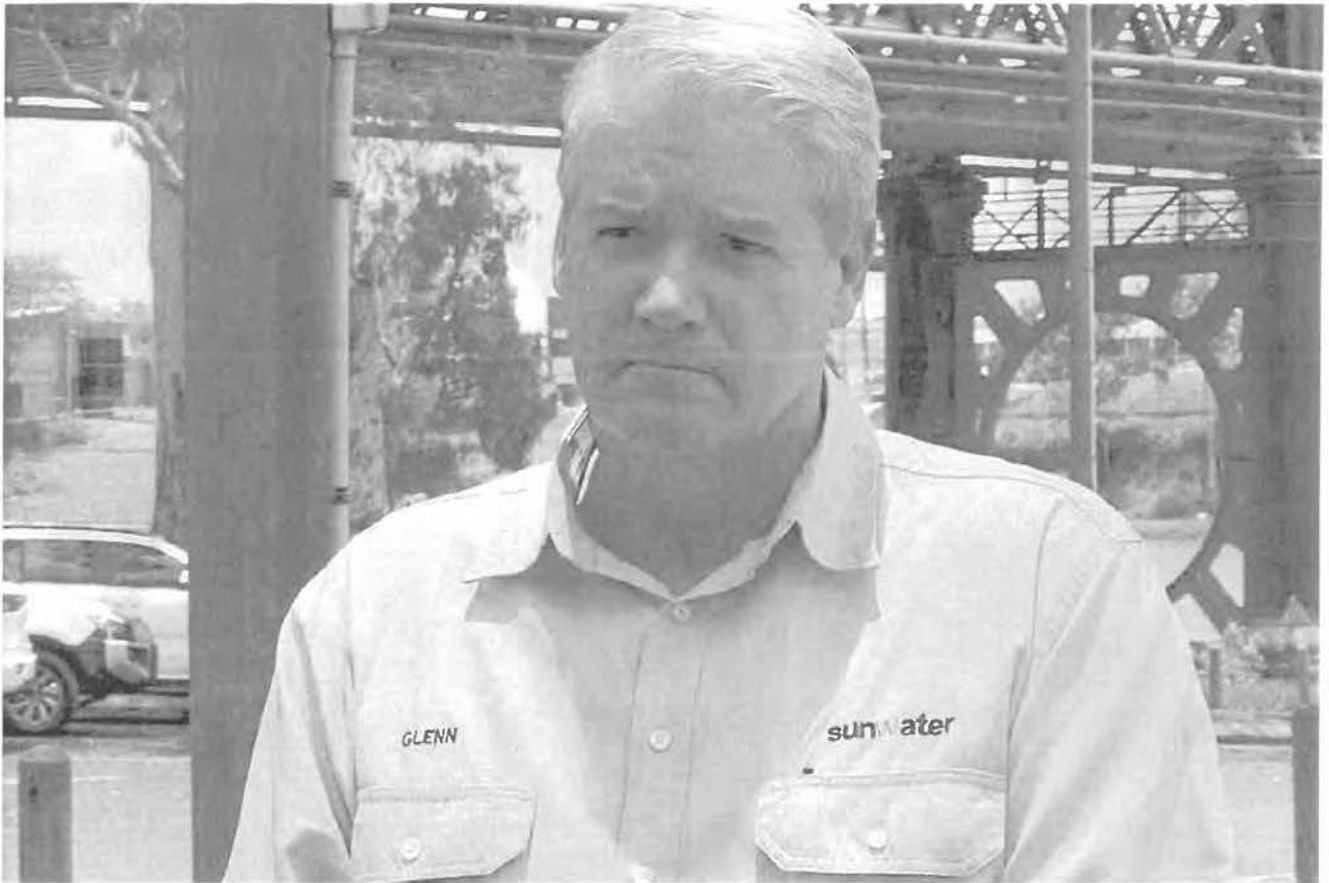
Queensland's failed Paradise Dam will cost at least \$4.4 billion to rebuild, the state government has revealed for the first time.

Water Minister Ann Leahy said dam operator Sunwater had provided the estimate, despite the full design for the rebuild not being complete.

Sunwater chief executive Glenn Stockton said further cost increases could not be ruled out.

"As we work through the design we will refine our way through that [cost] and provide advice to the state," Mr Stockton said.

He said the completed detailed business case, which sets out the full cost and timeline for the project, is expected to be delivered by the end of next year.



Glenn Stockton says work to build a new Paradise Dam wall will cost at least \$4.4 billion. (ABC Wide Bay: Nikki Sorbello)

Cost of Paradise

Major damage to the 300,000 megalitre dam, south-west of Bundaberg, was caused by severe flooding in the region in 2013.

Safety work to lower the dam wall by 5.8 metres started in 2020, with both the then Labor state government and federal government committing to restoring the wall once it was made safe.

But in January this year further engineering work revealed there were "too many issues" with concrete in the structure, and Sunwater instead recommended the wall be wholly replaced.



Damage to the wall of Paradise Dam, near Bundaberg, from flooding in 2013. (ABC News)

Mr Stockton said 15 per cent of the new dam wall's design was complete so far, which allowed them to project the estimated cost.

He said quantity and access to the materials required and the size of the workforce needed for the "extensive nature and scale of the project" were reflected in the \$4.4 billion price tag.

"That [price] will allow us to deliver the wall to design standards and to achieve contemporary safety standards," he said.

"To provide for community safety and provide for that water security fundamental to the success of the Bundaberg Region."



A new wall will be built in front of the current Paradise Dam wall. (ABC Wide Bay: Johanna Marie)

Farmers want project prioritised

The water storage is critical for the security of the region's extensive agricultural industry, which is a significant economic driver in the region.

Bundaberg irrigator Judy Plath has been fighting for more water security since the dam wall was lowered.

"With the cost of everything these days, infrastructure projects are getting more and more expensive by the minute, and it's not surprising at all that such a major project is going to cost that kind of money," Ms Plath said.

"If we don't have a full-size Paradise Dam capturing water when it comes down the river during these wet times, this region will be facing serious economic losses if irrigators run out of water."



Bundaberg irrigators, like Judy Plath (middle), have been concerned about the region's water security since Paradise Dam was lowered in 2020. (ABC Wide Bay: Nikki Sorbello)

Ms Plath urged the new state government to prioritise the rebuilding project.

"We will be keeping a close watch on this project to ensure that the new state government moves ahead quickly with the rebuild and prioritises this project as vital to the economic future of Queensland," she said.

Commitment to rebuild

The state and federal governments had previously pledged \$1.2 billion for the remediation works before it was discovered the wall needed to be replaced.

Minister Leahy said the state government, which was elected in October, was still committed to the project.



Ann Leahy says she is concerned by the \$4.4 billion figure. (ABC Southern Queensland: Georgie Hewson)

"I'm very concerned about that figure, that's a lot of money for taxpayers," Ms Leahy said.

She said she had been in discussions with her federal counterparts about the cost.

In a statement, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water said it had not yet received a proposal for additional funding for the project.

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