



# QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT **COMMITTEES**

## **2025-26 Budget Estimates – Appropriation Bill 2025 Volume of Additional Information**

Primary Industries and Resources Committee

**Report No. 8**  
**58th Parliament, August 2025**

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**Pre-hearing Questions on notice and  
Responses - *Minister for Natural  
Resources and Mines, Minister for  
Manufacturing, and Minister for Regional  
and Rural Development***

## Estimates Question on Notice

No 1

Asked on Wednesday 17 July 2025

THE **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES, MINISTER FOR MANUFACTURING AND MINERALS, MINISTER FOR REGIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON D LAST)-

### QUESTION:

With reference to page 3 of the SDS, can the Minister provide an update on the Indigenous Land Use Agreements Support Package which was provided with an extra \$7.9 million in the 2024-25 budget, including funding allocations over the last financial year?

### ANSWER:

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development has been allocated a total of \$7.887 million under the Indigenous Land Use Agreements Support Package. This includes:

- An allocation of \$4.2 million, provided to the department over four years from 2024-25, as a contribution of costs incurred by native title groups in the negotiation, authorisation and implementation of Indigenous land use agreements to rectify invalid land grants.
- To assist native title groups with the costs of section 47C agreement-making, an allocation of \$1.576 million was provided to the department over four years from 2024–25, as a contribution of costs incurred by native title groups, for the negotiation, authorisation and implementation of Indigenous land use agreements.
- To support the remaining Deed of Grant in Trust transfers, required under the *Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991* and *Aboriginal Land Act 1991*, an allocation of \$840 000 has been provided to the department over four years from 2024–25, as a contribution of costs to the native title groups in the negotiation, authorisation and implementation of Indigenous land use agreements.
- Additionally, an allocation of \$1.09 million over four years from 2024–25 has been provided for two land officer-equivalents to build capacity and capability in the Registered Native Title Body Corporates for land management in the support of the remaining Torres Strait Island Deed of Grant transfers.
- An allocation of \$247 000 in 2024–25 was provided to the department for the repair and safety works at the former Ngurapai Kazil Childcare Centre, located on Horn Island to allow transfer of the site to the Kaurareg people under the *Aboriginal Land Act 1991*.



## **Estimates Question on Notice**

### **No 2**

**Asked on Wednesday 17 July 2025**

**THE PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES, MINISTER FOR MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR REGIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON D LAST)-

#### **QUESTION:**

With reference to page 2 of the SDS, can the Minister advise any departmental action or funding to support the on-going operation of smelting in Mt Isa?

#### **ANSWER:**

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development's (NRMMRRD) work has been focused on supporting the government's engagement with Glencore regarding the ongoing operation of the smelter and Townsville copper refinery.

The Premier and Minister for Veterans and I have met with Glencore's global CEO Mr Gary Nagle on two occasions. Throughout this term of government, I have had numerous other meetings with senior Glencore officials, all which are identified and disclosed in my diary. Representatives from NRMMRRD and my office are also in constant contact with Glencore. This engagement has been producing results. For example, in May 2025, the Queensland Government announced:

- a commitment from Glencore to allow third-party access to copper tailings at its Mount Isa Mines site.
- Glencore has committed to progressing further consideration of its Black Star open-cut project with feasibility studies already underway.

We are also working closely with the Commonwealth government to support the on-going operation of smelting at Mount Isa. In June this year, the Senator the Hon Tim Ayres, Minister for Industry and Innovation and Minister for Science joined me in a visit to Mount Isa and the Mount Isa Mines smelter. Minister Ayers has publicly recognised any closure of the Mount Isa copper smelter would have a detrimental impact on Australia's sovereign capability and other facilities downstream that rely on the smelter.

Minister Ayres and I, and our offices, are in frequent contact. Officials from both NRMMRRD and the Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science and Resources continue to work closely to find a solution that supports Mount Isa. Since 13 June 2025, NRMMRRD officials have had eight meetings with Commonwealth officials regarding Glencore's operations in Mount Isa.

NRMMRRD has also supported the development of the Queensland Government's confidential offer of support to help protect local jobs and ensure the long-term future of the smelter and associated refinery.

**Estimates Question on Notice**

**No 3**

**Asked on Wednesday 17 July 2025**

THE **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES, MINISTER FOR MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR REGIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON D LAST)-

**QUESTION:**

With reference to page 7 of the SDS can the Minister provide an outline of all the department's limited life programs which ceased during the 2024-25 financial year and the funding which was provided to each of those programs?

**ANSWER:**

The following program was completed during the 2024-25 financial year:

- Frontier Gas Exploration program – total funding of \$21.045 million since 2023-24, of which \$20.961 million was funded in 2024-25.

The above represents those limited life programs where all funding has been finalised in 2024-25 financial year.

## **Estimates Question on Notice**

**No 4**

**Asked on Wednesday 17 July 2025**

**THE PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES, MINISTER FOR MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR REGIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON D LAST)-

### **QUESTION:**

With reference to Budget Paper 3, including page 103, can the Minister provide insight into the work his department has done with Transport and Main Roads to deliver the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program, including a breakdown of projected staffing requirements by (a) trade role (b) projected number required (c) EOI received?

### **ANSWER:**

The Queensland Government is working with industry to strengthen the rail manufacturing sector and improve productivity in manufacturing rail rollingstock and rail infrastructure in Queensland. The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is responsible for delivering the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program (QTMP). Under the Rail Manufacturing Strategy for Queensland, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development (NRMMRRD) has a role in developing rail manufacturing sector supply chains in Queensland.

In collaboration with TMR, NRMMRRD is working with local manufacturers to uplift their capabilities to compete for work on QTMP and other rail projects. Targeted Lean manufacturing workshops have been delivered to drive productivity and quality improvements at Downer's existing Maryborough facility which builds bogies for QTMP trains and overhauls Queensland Rail's existing fleet.

Companies on the Fraser Coast region such as Allweld Manufacturing are benefitting from manufacturing capability development. Allweld has built the mock-ups of the new rollingstock and have positioned themselves to supply a number of higher tier QTMP suppliers. The department's Wide Bay Manufacturing officers are providing next level Lean transformation workshops to further capitalise on the supply chain opportunities.

NRMMRRD also engages with local businesses to address skill gaps. Training programs to build skills, including Women Who Weld, Leadership and Management and Computer Aided Design, have been delivered in the Fraser Coast region through the department's manufacturing team.

In addition, NRMMRRD works with Manufacturing Skills Queensland, which is establishing a Manufacturing Centre of Excellence in Maryborough, to ensure the necessary skills are being developed to support delivery of the QTMP.

Downer has been awarded the contract to deliver the QTMP to build 65 new six-car passenger trains at a purpose-built manufacturing facility at Torbanlea, in the Fraser Coast region.

Downer requires a blue-collar workforce of nearly 200 people to manufacture the QTMP trains at the Torbanlea facility.

Downer's workforce development plan identifies that it will need approximately 82 people in mechanical trades, 31 in electrical trades, 58 in fabrication, 13 test technicians, two painters and six trades assistants.

Downer will also need more than 100 staff working in white-collar positions at the manufacturing facility. This will include approximately 14 administration, support, planning and scheduling roles, 49 roles in quality, testing and technical specialist's roles, and 42 positions in production and operational management.

In addition to these roles, QTMP will employ at least 22 apprentices and four trainees during manufacturing of the trains at Torbanlea.

Since the Expressions of Interest campaign for jobs at Torbanlea was launched in June 2025, Downer has received more than 400 applications with over 60 per cent of these applications coming from Fraser Coast locals.

## Estimates Question on Notice

No 5

Asked on Wednesday 17 July 2025

THE **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES, MINISTER FOR MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR REGIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON D LAST)-

### QUESTION:

With reference to page 1 of the SDS – *“The department’s purpose is to be the catalyst for stronger regions, economies and partnerships”*, can the Minister advise of any of the department’s grant programs that are being used to stimulate economic growth among regional and rural communities?

### ANSWER:

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development (NRMMRRD) has a strategic objective to enable our industries, stakeholders and customers to build resilient and thriving regional communities. The department administers a number of grant programs and makes grant payments to support regional and rural communities.

Made in Queensland, the Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program, the Manufacturing Energy Efficiency Grant Program (MEEG) and the ReMade in Queensland Program (RiQ) are manufacturing focused grants programs. The MEEG and RiQ programs are administered by NRMMRRD as part of broader whole of government initiatives. These programs support a range of projects that deliver new equipment and systems to build international competitiveness, productivity and innovation. The grants stimulate economic growth in our regional and rural communities, by supporting and growing local businesses along with employment through new job creating investments in our manufacturing businesses.

The new Transforming Queensland Manufacturing grants program is currently being developed and when released will provide manufacturers across Queensland, including regional and remote manufacturers with co-investment funding in equipment and technology. Funded projects will increase capability, capacity and international competitiveness and support and create high-skilled jobs for the future.

Through the Natural Resource Management Expansion Program, the Crisafulli Government has committed \$117.84 million to expanding investment in natural resource management across Queensland from 2024-2025 over the next four years. The \$117.84 million invests in on-ground projects focused on improving land and soil condition, protecting and enhancing biodiversity and supporting healthy coasts and waterways and is open to NRM Regions Queensland and their 11 member organisations. This program will fund multiple on-ground works which will stimulate economic development in regional and rural areas of Queensland. It will do this by creating employment opportunities, as well as opportunities for local businesses to provide services and products as part of project delivery. Healthier land and water resources will also assist our rural landholders to grow their businesses.

The Natural Resources Recovery Program is a grants funding program open to any Queensland based not-for-profit organisation performing natural resource management work. The Natural Resources Recovery Program funds projects investing in land, soil and vegetation to build and maintain stable, productive and resilient landscapes. This program supports Queensland's regional and rural economy by providing regional employment opportunities, supporting local businesses, and upskilling community members.

The Collaborative Exploration Initiative program provides support to minerals explorers to push the frontiers of discovery into deeper and more difficult terrains, and to investigate new opportunities that may not otherwise be supported via traditional funding channels. The program tends to favour base metals explorers, particularly for copper which needs to see major new discoveries made to replace volumes lost from recent or current major copper mine closures. The Collaborative Exploration Initiative stimulates economic growth through contracting of local resources both during exploration and where significant resources are discovered, through the resulting mine. This supports Queensland's rapidly growing role as a supplier of critical minerals to the world.

The Collaborative Development Program is a new initiative framed with knowledge that not all minerals occur as primary deposits and are companion, or minor components of other ore bodies. These include key critical minerals subject to export bans or limitations by the world's major supplier of critical minerals, China, and include germanium, gallium, antimony and others which are vital for national security and advanced technologies. By demonstrating the viability of reprocessing existing mine waste, the program monetises the remaining value for potential reinvestment into the community, supporting local revenue and longer-term sustainability. It also provides a boost to mining communities by creating employment for local contractors, processing operators, environmental scientists, and service providers in mining towns and regional centres. By mobilising this value through the program, environmental risk and liability is reduced, improving community health and unlocking land for other economic uses.

## **Estimates Question on Notice**

**No 6**

**Asked on Wednesday 17 July 2025**

**THE PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES, MINISTER FOR MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR REGIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON D LAST)-

### **QUESTION:**

With reference to the SDS including page 2 regarding the Transforming Queensland Manufacturing program, can the Minister advise the committee on the funding breakdown of this program, and what KPIs, if any, the Minister has implemented to assess the program's efficacy (separate from the service standards of the department listed on page 5)?

### **ANSWER:**

The \$79.1 funding for the Transforming Queensland Manufacturing grants program will consist of grant funding of \$25 million per year over three years, for a total of \$75 million. This funding will be made available to manufacturing businesses in Queensland through a competitive application basis. The balance of \$4.1 million will be used for program administration.

The program is being developed to launch in late 2025. The \$79.1 million funding includes the election commitment to add an additional \$5 million per year to the Made in Queensland grants program, with the Transforming Queensland Manufacturing grants program replacing the previous Made in Queensland grants program.

KPIs will relate to areas and grant recipients achieving outcomes including new export markets and sales, establishing sovereign capability including supply chains, and job numbers.

**Estimates Question on Notice**

**No 7**

**Asked on Wednesday 17 July 2025**

**THE PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES, MINISTER FOR MANUFACTURING AND MINSTER FOR REGIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON D LAST)-

**QUESTION:**

With reference to page 1 of the SDS, and the Minister's Charter Letter, can the Minister advise the average approval timeframe for the assessment of a mining lease in Queensland for (a) the expansion or development of a coal mine (b) the expansion or development of a gas project, (c) for a critical minerals project?

**ANSWER:**

- (a) For the period of 31 October 2020 until 17 July 2025, the average approval timeframe for the assessment of a mining lease (including expansion or development of coal mines) was three years, 11 months and 7 days.
- (b) For the period of 31 October 2020 until 17 July 2025, the average approval timeframe for the assessment of a petroleum lease (including expansion or development of gas projects) was three years, seven months and six days.
- (c) One new mining lease for a critical minerals project has been granted since the commencement of the Critical Minerals Strategy in June 2023. The approval timeframe for this project was one year, one month and 10 days.



## **Estimates Question on Notice**

**No 8**

**Asked on Wednesday 17 July 2025**

THE **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES, MINISTER FOR MANUFACTURING AND MINSTER FOR REGIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON D LAST)-

### **QUESTION:**

With reference to Budget Paper 3, including page 56 can the Minister provide an update on the status of the Abandoned Mine Lands Program?

### **ANSWER:**

During the 2024–25 financial year, my department invested \$39 million towards managing abandoned resources sites across Queensland.

My department continued to deliver critical water management activities to mitigate the risk of uncontrolled release of mine-affected water on downstream water users and the environment across a number of sites including Baal Gammon, Wolfram Camp, Mount Garnet, Thalanga and Mount Chalmers.

Key projects delivered during the 2024–25 financial year included decommissioning gas wells at the former Linc Energy and former Carbon Energy sites, responding to abandonment of the Mount Garnet and Surveyor-Balcooma mines and the final stages of remediation at the Goondicum ilmenite mine near Monto.

In 2025–26 financial year around \$48.6 million is allocated to the state-wide abandoned mines program. The program includes coordination of the program, critical care and maintenance works, delivery of the capital works program, management of underground coal gasification sites, re-commercialisation opportunities and, projects to address the highest risk aspects within Queensland's abandoned mines.

**Estimates Question on Notice**

**No 9**

**Asked on Wednesday 17 July 2025**

THE **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES, MINISTER FOR MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR REGIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON D LAST)-

**QUESTION:**

In April 2025 the Minister announced that Expressions of Interest for the Double Island tourism lease had opened. Can the Minister please provide an update on the status of this process?

**ANSWER:**

Expressions of interest seeking potential operators of a new commercial lease on the Island opened on 4 April 2025 and closed on 9 May 2025.

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development invited successful tenderers to provide a more fulsome and detailed proposal for the department's consideration. Submissions closed on 18 July 2025 and are currently being evaluated.

**Estimates Question on Notice**

**No 10**

**Asked on Wednesday 17 July 2025**

THE **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES, MINISTER FOR MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR REGIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON D LAST)-

**QUESTION:**

Can the Minister please outline (a) the recruitment process for jobs related to the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program (QTMP) and (b) the number of jobs that will be created as part of QTMP?

**ANSWER:**

Downer has been awarded the contract to deliver the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program (QTMP).

In July 2025, Downer launched an Expressions of Interest campaign to ensure the first intake of workers are ready for when train manufacturing commences at Torbanlea in 2026.

Downer expects to start the first round of interviews in October 2025.

Recruitment and onboarding will be staged to mirror the manufacturing process and operational requirements, with full mobilisation expected to be achieved over a 12-month period.

Downer requires a blue-collar workforce of nearly 200 people to manufacture the QTMP trains at the Torbanlea facility. Fitters, boilermakers and trades assistants will be some of the first to be onboarded at Torbanlea, followed by electrical trades and painters.

Close to another 100 white-collar positions will be required at the manufacturing facility. These roles will include engineering, safety, operations, human resources, management and administrative roles.

During manufacturing of the trains at Torbanlea, QTMP will employ at least 22 apprentices and four trainees.

In addition to the 300 positions at the Torbanlea train manufacturing facility, another 80 positions supporting the delivery of the QTMP will be recruited on the Fraser Coast and across Queensland through Downer's major sub-contractors.

The program also brings with it a pipeline of training and development opportunities. More information on the opportunities available is outlined here:

<https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/103011>

**Estimates Question on Notice**

**No 11**

**Asked on Wednesday 17 July 2025**

THE **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES, MINISTER FOR MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR REGIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON D LAST)-

**QUESTION:**

Can the Minister please outline the timeframes associated with the opening of the (a) Toowoomba Manufacturing Hub (b) Sunshine Coast Manufacturing Hub?

**ANSWER:**

(a) Toowoomba Manufacturing Hub

On 1 July 2025, the establishment of the Toowoomba Manufacturing Hub located at the Toowoomba TAFE Campus was officially announced. Two staff members have been appointed to date and the recruitment for a permanent Hub Manager is currently underway.

The Hub has been operational since March 2025 under the management of an experienced acting Manager, originally operating out of the Tor Street Government building before moving to its present location.

(b) Sunshine Coast Manufacturing Hub

On 21 July 2025, the establishment of the Sunshine Coast Manufacturing Hub was officially announced. The Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development is currently working on finalising a location for the Hub. Recruitment is underway for the Hub Manager and Principal Capability Development Officer roles. The operation of the Sunshine Coast Manufacturing Hub should commence late 2025.

**Estimates Question on Notice**

**No 12**

**Asked on Wednesday 17 July 2025**

THE **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES, MINISTER FOR MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR REGIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON D LAST)-

**QUESTION:**

Can the Minister please advise (a) how many regional forums have been held since 1 November 2024 and (b) the locations for future regional forums?

**ANSWER:**

(a) Since 1 November 2024, I have held two regional forums, in Roma on 5 June 2025 and Emerald on 18 June 2025.

(b) Locations for future regional forums:

- Further Regional Forums will be held across other regional areas of Queensland including North West Queensland, North Queensland, Far North Queensland, Western Queensland and Greater Whitsundays.

## **Estimates Question on Notice**

**No 13**

**Asked on Wednesday 17 July 2025**

**THE PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES, MINISTER FOR MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR REGIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON D LAST)-

### **QUESTION:**

Can the Minister please outline any measures to increase gas exploration in Queensland and attract further investment in the sector?

### **ANSWER:**

Increasing the area available for gas exploration is a key mechanism to attract further investment in the sector and facilitate the discovery of new gas for supply. To ensure new areas are available for gas exploration, nine prospective areas, totalling nearly 17,000 square kilometres, were released for petroleum and gas exploration via a competitive tender on 29 May 2025.

Seven of the nine areas are in the Cooper and Eromanga basins but do not overlap the protected rivers and floodplains of the Channel Country Strategic Environmental Area. This is the first time in a decade that land has been released for gas exploration in this mature gas-bearing region. The remaining two areas are within the Bowen and Surat basins and are subject to an Australian market supply condition, which will ensure any gas produced from these areas is supplied exclusively to the East Coast Gas Market. Tenders for these nine areas close on 7 August 2025.

Through the newly established Resources Cabinet Committee, a range of actions to streamline approvals across the resources sector are progressing. Reducing assessment timeframes assists in driving industry investment in our resources sector. Key amongst these actions is the review of the State's land release process, to reduce inefficiencies and barriers to investment in gas exploration being undertaken by my department. The 2025 Land Release Review consultation paper was released on 28 May 2025, and remains open for feedback until 20 August 2025.

## **Estimates Question on Notice**

**No 14**

**Asked on Wednesday 17 July 2025**

THE **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES, MINISTER FOR MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR REGIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON D LAST)-

### **QUESTION:**

Can the Minister please advise if (a) the new Transforming Queensland Manufacturing Program will be open to small and medium sized businesses and (b) if applicants must come from an area where there is an existing Manufacturing Hub?

### **ANSWER:**

- (a) Small and medium sized manufacturing businesses will be eligible to access grant funding under the Transforming Queensland Manufacturing Program. Small and medium sized businesses are often the powerhouse of our economy and are capable of some incredible innovations. It is often these manufacturers who are agile enough to see opportunities in areas such as emerging export markets or reshoring key technologies. A grant program can make the difference in whether such projects go ahead for businesses of this size. The Transforming Queensland Manufacturing Program intends to support these businesses to grow, continue innovating and make themselves sustainable and strong.
- (b) There will not be a requirement for an applicant to be located in an area where there is an existing Manufacturing Hub. I can confirm that all manufacturers in Queensland, regardless of location or how close they are to a Manufacturing Hub, will be eligible to apply for a grant under our new program.



**Estimates Question on Notice**

**No 15**

**Asked on Wednesday 17 July 2025**

THE **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES, MINISTER FOR MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR REGIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON D LAST)-

**QUESTION:**

Can the Minister please outline (a) the selection criteria for projects eligible for NRMQR funding and (b) when work on successful projects will commence?

**ANSWER:**

- (a) My department has published project submission guidelines, outlining the eligibility requirements and the evaluation criteria for projects to receive funding under the Natural Resource Management Expansion Program. The guidelines are available on the Business Queensland website at [www.business.qld.gov.au](http://www.business.qld.gov.au).
- (b) The government announced on 24 January 2025 that \$117.84 million will be dedicated to expanding investment in resource management across Queensland. The Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development has worked closely with NRM Regions Queensland to codesign a framework to implement the program. The program went live on 16 June 2025, allowing project proposals for funding to be submitted. These proposals are currently being evaluated.

Funding is expected to be allocated for approved projects in late August 2025.

As soon as funding agreements between the department and Natural Resource Management organisations are finalised, work on successful projects can commence.



## **Estimates Question on Notice**

**No 16**

**Asked on Wednesday 17 July 2025**

**THE PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES, MINISTER FOR MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR REGIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON D LAST)

### **QUESTION:**

Can the Minister please advise of any direct connections his Office or Department has made to link Queensland resource companies and investors following his Trade Mission to the United States and Canada?

### **ANSWER:**

During the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada 2025 Trade Mission to the United States and Canada, my office and the department facilitated 45 meetings with delegates from the United States, Canada, Japan, European Union, United Kingdom, Australia, and South America.

On return, my department has worked with Queensland resource companies with international investors to advance our critical minerals sector.

Some examples of connections made include:

- Graphinex and Vecco: Linked with the US EXIM Bank (United States), with Graphinex submitting a financing application. Both were connected with US investors, including Warwick Investments, Yorktown Partners, Bank of America, and Orion Resources Partners, with follow-ups advancing.
- EQ Resources: Secured a Letter of Interest from EXIM (United States) for a \$34 million debt facility for the Mt Carbine tungsten project, a key investment step.
- JOGMEC: Linked (Japan) with Queensland companies for joint ventures in rare earths, antimony, graphite, and copper, with a follow-up meeting planned.
- European Commission: Engaged (European Union) to explore critical minerals investment, with a Q3 2025 Queensland business mission invited.
- Blackstone, Fortescue Capital, Hartree Investment Partners: Connected (United States and Australia) to pursue investments in LNG, critical minerals, and energy, with discussions ongoing.
- Newmont: Engaged (United States) for potential copper acquisitions, leveraging its status as the world's largest gold producer.

The trade mission and 45 meetings, particularly with strategic partners like the US EXIM Bank, JOGMEC and the European Union, demonstrate Queensland's global investment appeal, driving economic outcomes for our regions through tangible investor connections.

## Estimates Question on Notice

No 17

Asked on Wednesday 17 July 2025

THE **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES, MINISTER FOR MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR REGIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON D LAST)-

### QUESTION:

Can the Minister outline what steps are being taken to improve safety in the resources sector?

### ANSWER:

Queensland's safety laws require resources companies to commit effort and invest in protecting their workers from harm. Industry must comprehensively assess the risks they expose their workers to and invest appropriately in controlling those risks. Resources Safety and Health Queensland (RSHQ) administers the resources safety and health legislation, which applies to the mining and quarrying, petroleum and gas, and explosives industries.

RSHQ is a risk-based regulator and its compliance and enforcement activities focus on serious harm to people in the resources sector.

RSHQ deliberately adjusts its regulatory activities over time to reflect changing industry activities, safety and health performance, and emerging risks. RSHQ frequently meets with operators, workers and management to help them understand and meet their obligations and enforce compliance when they fail to do so. It also meets with regulators in other jurisdictions to share information, discuss trends and improve regulatory effectiveness.

RSHQ uses its findings from inspections, audits and investigations to publish alerts, bulletins and reports. It holds forums with industry to share safety and health information and promote good risk management practices.

Recently, RSHQ has focused on:

- Providing guidance in relation to industry risks, such as explosives misfires, exclusion zones (line of fire), fall of ground, second means of egress, underground vehicle fires and cementing failures within coal seam gas wells.
- Continuing to support industry with the implementation of changes introduced by the *Resources Safety and Health Legislation Amendment Act 2024* (the Act). The Act focused on addressing recommendations from previous reviews into the resources sector and reducing the rates of serious accidents and fatalities.
- Developing the *Guide to managing the risks of workplace sexual harassment in the Queensland resources industry*, to support industry in meeting its regulatory requirements and uplift workplace culture in alignment with its commitment to harm reduction.

- Engaging in activities aimed at expanding public awareness about relevant safety matters, such as the recent Operation Bright Sky concerning the dangers associated with explosives, which resulted in the voluntary surrender of fireworks and ammunition.
- Continuing campaigns to improve the quality of lung function testing, which is critical for the early detection of occupational lung disease.
- Continuing to expand its occupational hygiene database to include exposure to hazards, such as occupational noise, which will support in knowledge sharing to industry.
- Progressing the roll-out of a new electronic incident reporting system that delivers simplified, centralised and easy to use incident reporting for mines and quarries, making causal analysis and information sharing easier.
- Supporting industry emergency response through deployment of 3D LiDAR scanning to capture highly detailed 3D maps of incident scenes and surrounding environments, enhancing investigation findings and outcomes.

The Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health advises me on safety and health matters through engagement with resources sectors, reviewing and reporting on the performance of RSHQ, and chairing the tripartite statutory safety and health advisory committees for the mining and quarrying sectors. When I was appointed Minister, the role of Commissioner was vacant. I recently appointed Mr Ken Singer as interim Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health to discharge these functions while an independent review of the resources safety and health regulatory framework is undertaken.

I announced this comprehensive review in April 2025 with the objective of determining whether RSHQ, the Commissioner and the supporting advisory committees are structured and functioning in the most effective manner.

To further improve safety in the resources sector, the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025 (the Bill) is currently being considered by this Committee. The Bill will give effect to the Government Election Commitment to re-establish and increase the powers of the Mining Warden's Court to investigate fatal accidents on the state's mine and quarry sites, through a coronial model. The Mining and Resources Coroner will give answers to families who have lost their loved ones and make recommendations to improve safety and health.

## Estimates Question on Notice

No 18

Asked on Wednesday 17 July 2025

THE **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES, MINISTER FOR MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR REGIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON D LAST)-

### QUESTION:

Can the Minister outline how many mining projects or extensions have been approved between 1 November 2024 and 30 June 2025?

### ANSWER:

The department collects data on approvals made for individual resource authorities rather than projects.

Between 1 November 2024 and 30 June 2025, a total of 23 new production leases were approved:

- 9 new mining leases under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*;
  - 3 mining leases to be worked in conjunction with adjoining mining leases for an existing gold mine;
  - 1 mining lease for infrastructure to support an existing mine;
  - 1 mining lease for infrastructure to connect two existing coal mines;
  - 4 for new mineral mining activities for alluvial gold, opal, and other small-scale operations;
- 14 petroleum leases under the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004*;
- Additionally, an application for additional surface area, which follows a similar application process to new mining leases, was approved for an existing coal mining lease to support the future development of that mine.

In the same period, 23 new mining claims were also approved.

During this period there were also 49 mining leases and 202 mining claims renewed.

**Estimates Question on Notice**

**No 19**

**Asked on Wednesday 17 July 2025**

THE **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES, MINISTER FOR MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR REGIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON D LAST)-

**QUESTION:**

With reference to page five of the SDS and “regional development”, what percentage of expenditure will be in the Toowoomba, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, or Greater Brisbane regions?

**ANSWER:**

Taking ‘expenditure’ to mean ‘grant funding distributed’ as per page 5 of the SDS, it is not possible to answer about future expenditure. This will be based on applications received which advance through to funding under our competitive grant programs.

## **Estimates Question on Notice**

**No 20**

**Asked on Wednesday 17 July 2025**

THE **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES, MINISTER FOR MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR REGIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON D LAST)-

### **QUESTION:**

With reference to page one of the SDS, what evidence and modelling has been used to prove that the key deliverable “increase gas supply in Queensland by expanding investment opportunities” will contribute to improved price outcomes for Queensland industrial users who are currently experiencing significant cost pressures, alongside ongoing gas exports?

### **ANSWER:**

No bespoke economic modelling was commissioned given the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission’s (ACCC) quarterly gas inquiry interim reports highlight the link between the supply and demand balance in the East Coast Gas Market and price. For example, the most recent gas inquiry interim report highlights that a tightening supply and demand balance is a key driver behind higher prices. It also highlights that while international Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) pricing is one factor influencing domestic pricing, prices in Queensland track below short-term LNG netback prices. By extension, it is expected that increasing supply to the East Coast Gas Market will put downward pressure on gas prices.

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**Pre-hearing Questions on notice and  
Responses - *Minister for Primary  
Industries***



# Primary Industries and Resources Committee

## Estimates 2025

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### Minister for Primary Industries

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1. With reference to the SDS, including page 10 and staffing service areas – will the Minister provide a breakdown of the (a) position name and (b) location bases of the additional funded FTEs in the budget for “Queensland Biosecurity Services”?

#### Answer:

The Department of Primary Industries is taking a phased approach to recruitment to ensure strategic engagement of officers in line with biosecurity risks at a regional level. Phase 1 of recruitment is underway as part of the Crisafulli Government’s commitment for 100 additional biosecurity officers over this term of government.

Three Regional Biosecurity Leads have been recruited and are working closely with local governments and regional organisations of councils across the three regions to determine the biosecurity risks and priorities to inform the strategic recruitment of additional biosecurity officers in these regions.

The following biosecurity positions have been recruited to or currently being recruited to (as at 22 July 2025):

- Regional Biosecurity Lead North, Cairns - Hired
- Regional Biosecurity Lead Central, Biloela - Hired
- Regional Biosecurity Lead South, Toowoomba - Hired
- Regional Biosecurity Senior Executive Officer (North), Cairns - Hired
- Regional Biosecurity Senior Executive Officer (Central), Biloela - Hired
- Regional Biosecurity Senior Executive Officer (South), Toowoomba - Hired
- Regional Biosecurity Senior Support Officer (North), Cairns - Hired
- Regional Biosecurity Senior Support Officer (Central), Biloela - Hired
- Regional Biosecurity Senior Support Officer (South), Toowoomba - Hired
- Principal Operational Veterinarian, Cairns - Hired
- Operational Veterinarian, Charleville - Hired
- Operational Veterinarian, Cairns - Hired
- Biosecurity Support Officer, Toowoomba - Hired
- Principal Biosecurity Officer, Charleville - Actively Recruiting
- Senior Biosecurity Officer, Charters Towers - Actively Recruiting
- Principal Policy Officer, regional location TBD - Actively recruiting
- Policy Officer, regional location TBD - Actively Recruiting
- Principal Policy Officer, regional location TBD - Actively Recruiting





## Primary Industries and Resources Committee Estimates 2025

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### Minister for Primary Industries

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2. With reference to the SDS including page 1, can the Minister outline the associated costs of the recent renaming of the Department of Primary Industries from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, broken down by line item (or specific costs)?

**Answer:**

The Department of Primary Industries has not incurred any additional expenses related to the departmental name change. No payments have been made to external suppliers specifically for this purpose.

The transition has been managed with minimal cost and impact, with any associated expenses absorbed within existing departmental budgets.

Implementation of the name change has required staff time to update a range of internal systems and services. This work has been carried out using existing departmental resources as part of normal business operations without the need for additional funding.



## Primary Industries and Resources Committee Estimates 2025

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### Minister for Primary Industries

3. With reference to the SDS including page 2 and the commitment of increasing primary production output to \$30 billion by 2030, can the Minister provide:
- the specific industries included in the output goal;
  - their current output (as of June 2025 or nearest recorded date); and
  - direct investment by the department for each specific industry for financial year 2025/26?

**Answer:**

- All primary industries, including associated first-round processing sectors, are included in the \$30 billion by 2030 output goal.
- As published on [www.dpi.qld.gov.au/datafarm](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/datafarm) at 30 June 2025, the Queensland primary industries gross value of production forecast for 2024-25 is \$24.48B.
- It includes the following:

Sector	Subsector	Value	Sector	Subsector	Value
Crops	Total	\$9.22B	Livestock	Total	\$9.16B
	Grains	\$1.40B		Cattle & calves	\$7.07B
	Fruit and nuts	\$1.86B		Poultry	\$715.76M
	Vegetables	\$1.37B		Milk (all purpose)	\$253.00M
	Industrial crops	\$2.63B		Pigs	\$475.44M
	Oilseeds & pulses	\$886.55M		Eggs	\$389.57M
	Lifestyle horticulture	\$1.08B		Wool	\$84.17M
Fisheries and Forestry	Total	\$765.53M		Other livestock	\$77.99M
	Aquaculture	\$270.00M		Sheep and lambs	\$92.00M
	Fisheries	\$251.53M			
	Forestry	\$244.00M			
Processing	Total	\$5.34B			
	Cotton ginning	\$113.83M			
	Timber processing	\$486.00M			
	Meat processing	\$3.23B			
	Seafood processing	\$91.08M			
	Sugar processing	\$917.19M			
	Milk & cream processing	\$133.50M			
	Fruit & vegetable processing	\$271.47M			
	Flour mill & feed processing	\$97.82M			

- The 2025-26 Budget for the Department of Primary Industries is \$817.2M, which will support all industries.





## Primary Industries and Resources Committee Estimates 2025

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### Minister for Primary Industries

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4. With reference to the SDS including page 12 – “a planned reduction in various limited life projects that are nearing completion including the implementation of Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy”, can the Minister (a) provide an update on the status of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy, and (b) what new funding has been provided to support both commercial and recreational fishing sectors?

#### Answer:

I note that in their final budget, the former Labor government ceased the limited life funding for the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy, including no further funding identified in the forward estimates. I further note that the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy is now largely finished – except for the development of harvest strategies for the Gulf of Carpentaria and Rocky Reef fisheries, and the development of a resourcing strategy based on a beneficiary-pays system.

The management of Queensland’s fisheries, including the development of the two outstanding harvest strategies, has now transitioned to core business.

The Crisafulli Government has committed to supporting Queensland's commercial and recreational fishing sectors by only legislating scientifically backed changes to regulation, with compulsory regulatory impact statements, and fairly compensating all fishers for any changes required.

Queensland’s commercial fishing industry is an integral component of our coastal communities and will play a key role in achieving the Crisafulli government’s goal of increasing the value of Queensland’s primary industries to \$30 billion by 2030.

To help support the commercial fishing industry in the achievement of this goal, the Queensland Seafood Industry Association has been given a major boost with a \$600,000 investment over 4 years to help co-design and co-deliver a future focused strategy and action plan to rebuild the industry.



# Primary Industries and Resources Committee

## Estimates 2025

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### Minister for Primary Industries

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5. With reference to the SDS, including page 3 – “enabling primary producers to prosper”, can the Minister outline what the Department is doing to support the Queensland Dairy Industry, and whether any specific funding has been allocated to the industry in the 2025-26 budget?

**Answer:**

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) undertakes a range of initiatives in support of the Queensland Dairy Industry, aimed at improving the productivity, sustainability and profitability for dairy farmers, including:

- Undertaking research and development to develop innovative technologies and practices, along with extension services to help farmers adopt best practice.
- Supporting biosecurity and animal health
- Offering drought and disaster support to farmers impacted by natural disasters
- Collaborating with industry to address industry challenges
- Advocating for Queensland dairy farmers, including in policy settings.

Specific examples of Departmental support for the Queensland dairy industry include:

- an additional \$51.9 million over four years in the 2025-26 Budget to support primary industries through the Farm Business Resilience Program (FBRP), the Regional Drought Resilience Program (RDRP) and Drought Preparedness Grants, which include support for the dairy industry.
- C4Milk program, a jointly funded initiative with Dairy Australia, is developing high performance forage feed systems that increase forage intake and reduce feed related costs. In 2025-26, DPI will invest \$1.206 million in this project.
- Queensland Dairy Accounting Scheme with Dairy Australia, is improving the understanding of dairy business profit drivers among advisors and dairy farmers. In 2025-26, DPI will invest \$241,633.
- DPI is funding eastAUSmilk with \$135,000 in 2025-26 for an eastAUSmilk officer to extend efforts under the Dairy Farmers Technology Uptake Program.

In addition to the above, Queensland’s dairy industry is an integral component of primary industry sector and will play a key role in achieving the Crisafulli government’s goal of increasing the value of Queensland’s primary industries to \$30 billion by 2030.





## Primary Industries and Resources Committee Estimates 2025

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### Minister for Primary Industries

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6. With reference to the SDS, including page 2 – “\$88.2 million over 4 years to implement a strengthened Shark Control Program”, can the Minister provide detail on the scientific research of the department that prompted the decision to expand the Shark Control Program?

**Answer:**

The increased investment into the Shark Control Program (the Program) is being delivered following the Crisafulli Government’s consideration of the KPMG Shark Control Program Evaluation Report (the KPMG Report), which included input from scientific experts, Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ), and Local Government. The KPMG Report is publicly available at [www.dpi.qld.gov.au/news-media/campaigns/sharksmart/program/about/shark-management-plan](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/news-media/campaigns/sharksmart/program/about/shark-management-plan).

The KPMG Report considered a range of matters, including: To avoid human-shark interactions (fatal and non-fatal); To minimise negative impacts on marine ecosystems; To protect Queensland’s Tourism industry; To comply with legislative requirements.

The purpose of the Program is set out in section 3 of the *Fisheries Act 1994*. Through the release of the *Queensland Shark Management Plan 2025–2029*, the Crisafulli Government reaffirmed the purpose of the Program is to reduce the risk of shark attacks at specific beaches across the state. Further, while the Program will seek to minimise negative impacts on marine ecosystems, this is not a purpose of the program.

The Crisafulli Government has accepted all recommendations which support the purpose of the Program.

In particular, the KPMG Report “*found that there is a continued need for the Program to operate due to the significant threats to human safety that could arise in its absence*” (page 1) and “*found that the Program has contributed to the preservation of human life and injury avoidance since its inception in 1962*” (page 4). The KPMG Report further states “*The literature indicates that Operations have likely had some effect in reducing shark bites since the implementation of nets and drumlines, with substantially lower shark bite incidences and fatalities recorded at beaches with SCP gear—only two fatalities have occurred at SCP-protected beaches since the Program’s inception, despite such locations having the highest beach activity and populations which have grown significantly since 1962.*”

The KPMG Report also found: catch alert drumlines had a 53 percent smaller target shark catch (page 66); Tiger and Bull sharks caught on catch alert drumlines were smaller compared to those caught on traditional drumlines (page 67); catch alert drumlines had a high frequency of false alerts and a high incidence (51.5 percent) of marine animals failing to activate the satellite buoy when hooked (page 64); and it remains unclear whether catch alert drumlines maintain the same level of beach safety as traditional operations given the potential for released sharks to return to the beach post-capture (page 47).





# Primary Industries and Resources Committee

## Estimates 2025

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### Minister for Primary Industries

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7. With reference to the SDS, including page 3, “enabling primary industries prosperity”, can the Minister detail any work the department has done with the Department of Resources regarding the use of agricultural land by third parties and resources stakeholders?

**Answer:**

While Queensland has vast lands and waters, the most fertile and productive areas are under intense competition from housing, energy, mining, infrastructure and other industries. As the population expands, there will always be competing needs across the economy, society and environment, and a requirement for balanced land and sea use.

Land and sea use planning that safeguards prime agricultural land and waters for primary production, is fundamental to attracting investment into primary industries, and underpins Queensland’s ability to feed and house its population and to provide economic prosperity to regional communities.

This is one of the six key priorities identified in the draft *Primary Industries Prosper 2050* blueprint and will be crucial in achieving the Crisafulli government’s goal of increasing the value of Queensland’s primary industries to \$30 billion by 2030.

The Department of Primary Industries is working with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development to actively address matters regarding the use of agricultural land by third parties and resource stakeholders.

Key areas of focus include:

- Ensuring future statutory regional plans are responsive to land use pressures and align with the Queensland Government’s land use priorities.
- Contributing to the 2025 Land Release Review to ensure landholders and primary industries’ interests are considered in decisions regarding land exploration, production, and commercialisation.
- Participating in a Subsidence Pilot Project to evaluate the impacts of coal seam gas-induced subsidence on prime agricultural land.

These efforts aim to balance land-use demands while safeguarding the interests of Queensland’s primary industries and the broader community.



## Primary Industries and Resources Committee Estimates 2025

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### Minister for Primary Industries

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8. With reference to the SDS, including page 2 and the landmark Queensland Timber Action Plan, can the Minister advise what volumes of wood have been extracted from Queensland State Forests per annum over the last ten years and how does the department calculate historical timber harvest records in state forests and how is this information being utilised to inform the development of the Queensland Timber Plan?

**Answer:**

The average volume of timber harvested from Queensland State Forests over the past 10 years is approximately 2.3 million cubic metres per annum. This includes timber sourced from native state-owned forests and state plantation forests operated by HQPlantations Pty Ltd under their plantation licence and related deeds.

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) authorises the harvesting of state-owned native log timber under sales permits granted under the *Forestry Act 1959*. Permittees are required to account for and declare all removals to DPI as a core element of DPI Forestry's management of commercial state-owned native log timber sales.

The 25-year Queensland Future Timber Plan (QFTP) will be a landmark strategy that will safeguard the future of the forestry and timber industry, and secure enough timber, produced in a sustainable way, to achieve the Crisafulli Government's commitment to build 1 million homes by 2044.

The QFTP will include a focus on how we ensure a sustainable supply of timber and timber products into the future. The Crisafulli Government is committed to establishing supply chain competitiveness and innovating across the industry, including ensuring any future harvesting of state-owned native forests occurs on a sustainable yield basis. A 5-year action plan will be delivered alongside the final QFTP. The action plan will include specific approaches to increasing the amount and type of Queensland grown timber.

Understanding current and recent harvest volumes will help to inform appropriate actions and policy settings to ensure Queensland's forestry and timber industry remain profitable, productive and sustainable for future generations.





## Primary Industries and Resources Committee Estimates 2025

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### Minister for Primary Industries

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9. Will the Minister outline how the 2024/25 budget is strengthening Queensland's frontline biosecurity capabilities across the state?

**Answer:**

The Crisafulli Government is strengthening Queensland's biosecurity frontline with a \$349.3 million commitment in the 2025-26 Budget.

This includes \$60.9M over 5 years and \$19.2M ongoing for 100 additional frontline biosecurity officers across the regions to bolster Queensland's biosecurity efforts. These permanent regional positions are critical for protecting and mobilising the biosecurity system to maintain the future of our primary industries. This is particularly important given successive Labor Governments oversaw a reduction in animal welfare and biosecurity officers which has left a lasting impact on Queensland's rural and regional communities.

The Crisafulli Government has also committed significant investments for national commitments, including:

- Increased funding of \$7.4M in 2024-25 to meet Queensland's national biosecurity obligations.
- Additional funding of \$15M over 5 years, held centrally, to satisfy obligations arising under the National Management Agreement for H5 high pathogenicity avian influenza (bird flu) in wildlife.

The Department of Primary Industries provided \$600,000 in 2024-25 for additional maintenance of the Wild Dog Barrier Fence in southern Queensland. In addition to this, the Crisafulli Government has committed a further \$2.3 million to upgrade and maintain the Wild Dog Barrier Fence in 2025-26.

The Department of Primary Industries has committed \$1 million in new funding to support initiatives delivered through regionally focused action plans to combat feral pigs.

In addition, the Crisafulli Government has committed to strengthening and supporting the National Fire Ant Eradication Program through a \$24 million boost for the Fire Ant Suppression Taskforce. This funding will support aerial treatments on large properties within the suppression zone, helping to reduce fire ant density and prevent spread.

The Crisafulli Government is also reviewing the closure of the Cape York Biosecurity Facility at Coen and looking to strengthen our biosecurity defence presence in the north. An independent consultancy is undertaking this review.

By increasing frontline officers, improving infrastructure, meeting national commitments, and tackling threats like fire ants, feral pigs and bird flu, the 2025-26 Budget is giving Queensland the tools it needs to safeguard our primary industries, environment, and communities.





## Primary Industries and Resources Committee Estimates 2025

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### Minister for Primary Industries

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10. Will the Minister outline how the Department is partnering with local government, primary producers, natural resource management groups, and other stakeholders to develop and implement new regionally focused action plans to manage feral pigs?

**Answer:**

After years of Labor neglect, feral pig populations have exploded across Queensland causing severe damage to agriculture, the environment and waterways.

The Crisafulli Government is taking decisive action by working alongside primary producers, local government and other stakeholders to harness the efforts and investments we are individually making and transform them into coordinated, targeted, regionally focused action plans that deliver real, measurable outcomes—namely, fewer feral pigs on the ground.

These regionally focused action plans will be tailored to specific regions, recognising that feral pig behaviour and effective management strategies need to vary across Queensland.

Draft action plans will be developed through consultation activities to ensure the content is relevant, well informed and co-designed. Targeted consultation activities will involve key stakeholders and technical experts on feral pig management such as representatives from industry, science, Local Government, Natural Resource Management groups, First Nations and other technical experts.

The Department of Primary Industries has committed \$1 million in new funding to support initiatives delivered through the regionally focused action plans.



## Primary Industries and Resources Committee Estimates 2025

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### Minister for Primary Industries

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11. The commercial fishing industry is vital to Queensland's economy. Will the Minister advise how the budget is supporting fishers and ensuring viable fisheries management?

**Answer:**

Fishing activity in Queensland supports our economy, regions and communities. The 2025-26 Queensland Budget is strengthening Queensland's fishing and aquaculture industries by helping to promote investment certainty, supporting innovation, and driving profitability, productivity and sustainability for future generations.

Earlier this year the investment warnings that have affected commercial fishers since 2014 were removed, restoring growth and confidence in the industry and improving financial investment opportunities.

The Crisafulli Government is committed to driving evidence-based decision-making through investment in world-class science, data, and emerging technologies to support sustainable and adaptive fisheries management.

I am pleased to advise that the Department of Primary Industries will soon commence working with commercial, recreational, charter and traditional fishers, and the aquaculture industry, to co-design a future focused strategy and five-year action plan as part of the Crisafulli government's goal of increasing the value of Queensland's primary industries to \$30 billion by 2030.





## Primary Industries and Resources Committee Estimates 2025

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### Minister for Primary Industries

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12. Will the Minister outline how the government is ensuring compliance and enforcement efforts are resourced to protect our fisheries from illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing?

**Answer:**

The Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (QBFP) monitors fishing activities to ensure compliance with the *Fisheries Act 1994*.

Patrolling over 7,000 kilometres of coastline and hundreds of freshwater rivers and impoundments, the QBFP employs an intelligence-based compliance program and surveillance activities to inform fisheries investigations.

In 2025-26 the Crisafulli Government will be investing nearly \$24 million in the state's fisheries compliance program, which includes a significant increase in its capital program to maintain QBFP's state-of-the-art fleet.

The QBFP has 103 officers active across the state, including 10 new officers appointed in April 2025.

Compliance activities include intelligence and information gathering, field patrol and inspections, and investigation and surveillance operations.

Maximising voluntary compliance is also important. QBFP achieves this by engaging in:

- educational activities to increase knowledge, awareness, understanding and acceptance of Queensland's fishing rules
- educational initiatives include providing presentations to community, schools, and industry groups and attending shows, exhibitions, festivals and fishing competitions.

The Department of Primary Industries also uses digital platforms to increase the visibility and reach of information, including the recreational fishing app and commercial fishing app.

Non-compliance is addressed through education, cautions and infringement notices. More serious offences are dealt with through the courts.



## Primary Industries and Resources Committee Estimates 2025

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### Minister for Primary Industries

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13. Will the Minister advise on how the Crisafulli Government's strengthened Shark Management Plan is helping to keep Queensland beachgoers safe?

**Answer:**

The Crisafulli Government has prioritised beach goers' safety by committing the largest investment into Queensland's Shark Control Program in the State's history. The Government will invest an additional \$88.2 million over four years into the *Shark Control Management Plan 2025-2029*. The new plan combines proven safety measures like nets and drumlines at more Queensland beaches whilst prioritising innovative technologies like drones and conducting research.

Seven beaches have identified as potential locations for additional drumlines and/or nets, including:

- Gold Coast: Pacific Beach (net and drumlines), The Spit (drumlines)
- Sunshine Coast: Happy Valley (drumlines), Coolum North (net and drumlines), Peregrine North (net and drumlines)
- Wide Bay: Elliott Heads (drumlines), Moore Park (drumlines)

Six locations have been identified as potential locations for an expansion of the now permanent drone program, including:

- Gold Coast: Rainbow Bay/Greenmount
- North Stradbroke Island: Cylinder Beach
- Sunshine Coast: Mooloolaba
- Moreton Bay: Tangalooma
- Bundaberg: Elliott Heads and/or Moore Park
- Agnes Water: Agnes Water Main Beach

These locations have been identified based on Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ) presence and data showing increasing beach use and are currently undergoing a detailed assessment in conjunction with stakeholders and scientific experts.

Under the former Labor government, shark control gear was serviced between 182 and 260 days per year depending on location. The Crisafulli government will ensure that all nets and drumlines operate all year round and are serviced daily, weather permitting.

The strengthened Shark Management Plan will also:

- undertake shark population assessments on key target shark species and scientifically evaluate the potential impact of the program on their respective biomasses
- deliver research into whale deterrent technology and best practice marine animal release science and education
- refresh the SharkSmart Campaign to better target high-risk users such as spearfishers and surfers
- provide shark bite first aid kits and training for select Surf Lifesaving Queensland beaches





## Primary Industries and Resources Committee Estimates 2025

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### Minister for Primary Industries

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14. Will the Minister advise how the government is supporting commercial, charter and recreational fishing groups?

**Answer:**

The Crisafulli Government has committed to supporting Queensland's commercial, charter and recreational fishing sectors by only legislating scientifically backed changes to regulation, with compulsory regulatory impact statements, and fairly compensating all fishers for any changes required.

This can be demonstrated by the recent release of the Spanish Mackerel Stock Assessment, the Independent Onboard Monitoring Consultation and our commitment to re-opening Queensland's Scallop Fisheries.

Queensland's commercial fishing industry is an integral component of our coastal communities and will play a key role in achieving the Crisafulli government's goal of increasing the value of Queensland's primary industries to \$30 billion by 2030. To help support the commercial fishing industry in the achievement of this goal, the Queensland Seafood Industry Association has been given a major boost with a \$600,000 investment over 4 years to help co-design and co-deliver a future focused strategy and action plan to rebuild the industry.

Furthermore, the Department of Primary Industries is conducting a State of the Industry survey of the Queensland commercial fishing sector to ascertain the contribution the commercial fishing industry makes to the Queensland economy, and how the sector can be supported to grow even further. To demonstrate our commitment to attracting investment into the commercial fishing sector, the investment warnings that have been in place since 2014 have now been removed.

The Department of Primary Industries will soon commence working with commercial, recreational, charter and traditional fishers, and the aquaculture industry, to co-design a future focused strategy and five-year action plan.

Over 2024-25, the Queensland Government sponsored three key fishing events in Queensland to the value of \$55 000. The Queensland Government sponsor \$10 000 for the Australian Lure and Fly Expo which was held at Fernvale from 5 to 6 July 2025. This unique national event attracted home-grown lure makers from across Australia and saw more than 3,500 people attend the event. The National Recreational Fishing Forum was held on 22 July 2025 on the Gold Coast with a grant of \$10 000. This national forum, held for the first time since 2020, brought together leaders, decision-makers, advocates, and innovators to discuss and shape the future of recreational fishing in Australia. The Australian Fishing Trade Association Show (AFTA) was held from 24 to 26 July 2025, including a public day on 26 July 2025. The Government's \$35 000 sponsorship of this event, allowed for free entry to the AFTA Public Day which was attended by more than 8,000 recreational fishers.



## Primary Industries and Resources Committee Estimates 2025

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### **Minister for Primary Industries**

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Over 2024-25, the Department of Primary Industries delivered \$150,000 for the Queensland Community Fishing Grants and awarded \$1.036 million in grants to community stocking groups across Queensland, which will see more than 3 million juvenile fish and fingerlings released into our stocked impoundments and waterways.

Additional support was provided through \$400,000 for fishing initiatives to support Queensland's commercial, charter and recreational fishers. Twenty-five commercial operators, community groups, and schools from all over Queensland have received a share of the Queensland Government Fishing Grants Program, focused on ensuring the long-term sustainability of Queensland's fisheries.





## Primary Industries and Resources Committee Estimates 2025

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### Minister for Primary Industries

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15. Will the Minister outline how the department is supporting Queensland's recreational fishing sectors?

**Answer:**

Recreational fishing contributes \$333.7 million to the Queensland economy. The sector supports 3,100 direct and indirect full-time equivalent Queensland jobs, especially in regional areas.

Approximately, 1 million Queenslanders participate in recreational fishing each year, representing approximately 26 per cent of Queenslanders 18 years or older.

The Department of Primary Industries will soon commence working with commercial, recreational, charter and traditional fishers, and the aquaculture industry, to co-design a future focused strategy and five-year action plan.

Over 2024-25, the Queensland Government sponsored three key fishing events in Queensland to the value of \$55 000. The Queensland Government sponsor \$10 000 for the Australian Lure and Fly Expo which was held at Fernvale from 5 to 6 July 2025. This unique national event attracted home-grown lure makers from across Australia and saw more than 3,500 people attend the event. The National Recreational Fishing Forum was held on 22 July 2025 on the Gold Coast with a grant of \$10 000. This national forum, held for the first time since 2020, brought together leaders, decision-makers, advocates, and innovators to discuss and shape the future of recreational fishing in Australia. The Australian Fishing Trade Association Show (AFTA) was held from 24 to 26 July 2025, including a public day on 26 July 2025. The Government's \$35 000 sponsorship of this event, allowed for free entry to the AFTA Public Day which was attended by more than 8,000 recreational fishers.

Over 2024-25, the Department of Primary Industries delivered \$150,000 for the Queensland Community Fishing Grants and awarded \$1.036 million in grants to community stocking groups across Queensland, which will see more than 3 million juvenile fish and fingerlings released into our stocked impoundments and waterways.



## Primary Industries and Resources Committee Estimates 2025

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### Minister for Primary Industries

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16. Will the Minister outline how the Department is partnering with Canegrowers Queensland to develop an industry-led Far North Queensland Cane Expansion Plan.

**Answer:**

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is progressing the \$500,000 commitment from the Crisafulli Government to support cane growing and milling in Far North Queensland. The plan will be rolled out over 3 years under a collaborative agreement with CANEGROWERS and will focus on improving and increasing sugarcane production across north Queensland.

DPI will continue to work with CANEGROWERS and will engage with Sugar Research Australia, local productivity boards and mills to deliver the program for all growers in the region.





## Primary Industries and Resources Committee Estimates 2025

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### Minister for Primary Industries

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17. Would the Minister explain how the government is backing research that supports the future of Queensland's food and fibre industry, including how this leverages important funding for key research?

**Answer:**

The Queensland Government has set an ambitious target to boost Queensland's primary production output to \$30 billion by 2030.

This goal, and the longer-term vision of *Primary Industries Prosper 2050*, will only be achieved by using all the possible mechanisms available to the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and across primary industries.

Key to this will be our investment in research, development and extension (RD&E) as the primary drivers of productivity growth, including fast-tracking the development and adoption of AgTech and biotechnology, and improving supply-chain performance.

An example of how DPI is co-investing with industry to support Queensland's food and fibre industry is its National Mungbean Improvement Program, which is jointly funded by the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC). DPI has leveraged its investment of \$4.76 million to secure a further \$3.58M from GRDC, a total project value of \$8.34M.

The program recently launched 2 new varieties - Brolga and Kookaburra - with its commercialisation partner, the Australian Mungbean Association. With a 10 per cent average yield gain, improved grain quality and disease resistance, it is forecast farm-gate profit will increase by up to 15 per cent. The introduction of these superior varieties is expected to further cement Queensland's position as the leading supplier of premium mungbean to international markets.

Another example of how we are leveraging our investment in RD&E to deliver practical outcomes for Queensland producers is the \$6.94M project Serviced Supply Chains II. This national initiative is led by DPI, which is investing \$2.49M, and boosted by co-funding of \$4.45M from Hort Innovation, other state and territory departments, avocado and strawberry grower levies, Summerfruit Australia and Queensland business Pinata Farms.



## Primary Industries and Resources Committee Estimates 2025

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### Minister for Primary Industries

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18. Would the Minister outline how the Department is working to deliver a timber action plan to ensure the state has access to the timber required to build one million homes by 2044?

**Answer:**

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is leading the delivery of the Queensland Future Timber Plan (QFTP), co-designed with Timber Queensland and other industry stakeholders, to be released by October 2025.

The QFTP will deliver a 25-year strategy for the forest and timber industry, supported by a detailed 5-year action plan to guide the initial steps.

To help guide the development of the draft QFTP and associated action plan, a Timber Supply Chain Ministerial Stakeholder Roundtable comprising representatives from across the forest and timber industry value chain has been established. The Roundtable provides views on the challenges and opportunities in ensuring a sustainable timber supply to support current and future construction needs.

DPI has been working closely with Roundtable members on the development of the draft QFTP.

The draft QFTP will also undergo a period of public consultation and will focus on the strategies, outcomes, and actions needed to secure the long-term future of the industry. I encourage all interested parties to have their say as part of this process.





## Primary Industries and Resources Committee Estimates 2025

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### Minister for Primary Industries

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19. With reference to page one of the SDS detailing a key deliverable for the department to be 'boosting Queensland's primary production output to \$30 billion by 2030', is additional irrigation farming required to achieve this goal?

**Answer:**

As the Committee may be aware, the Crisafulli Government is delivering on a bold water security plan which is being overseen by the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers.

The expansion of irrigated farming, coupled with innovative research and optimised farming systems, will be a key enabler in boosting Queensland's primary production output to \$30 billion by 2030.

Two key initiatives the Department of Primary Industries is supporting to unlock and optimise water use are:

- Providing input to the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers on the development of the Regional Water Assessment Program and water plan reviews
- A continuation of the 15 per cent rural irrigation price discount to primary producers for the next 2 years to access water from all 35 irrigation schemes across Queensland.

The draft *Primary Industries Prosper 2050 blueprint* identifies pressure on limited natural resources, especially water, as a key issue to progress with industry.

I will continue to work with the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers, and her department, to deliver for our primary industries.



## Primary Industries and Resources Committee Estimates 2025

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### Minister for Primary Industries

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20. With reference to the Queensland Audit Office Performance Audit Report 4 July 2023 ('Managing invasive species Report 1: 2023-24'), page one which outlines how "Biosecurity Queensland does not have a documented framework for assessing and prioritising the risk of invasive species", and page two of the SDS which details more than \$60 million extra over four years for biosecurity; Can the Minister outline how this expenditure, which follows earlier initiatives that encountered difficulties in implementation and outcomes, will differ in approach?

#### Answer:

The Crisafulli Government is addressing longstanding issues caused by the former Labor Government by focusing on enhanced frontline capacity and building regional leadership capability. This is supported by a \$60.9 million investment over 5 years and \$19.2M ongoing for 100 additional frontline biosecurity officers in regional areas.

Recruitment for these positions is underway. This involves the engagement of regionally based personnel to provide an immediate uplift to Biosecurity Queensland's frontline capacity. This includes the appointment of Regional Biosecurity Leads in the North, Central and Southern regions who will provide Biosecurity Queensland with a much-needed senior leadership presence in the regions and work closely with local governments and regional organisations of councils to determine the biosecurity risks and priorities to inform the strategic recruitment of additional biosecurity officers in these regions.

Further recruitment will also take into account the findings of the review of the closure of the Cape York Biosecurity Facility at Coen, which will provide advice on how Biosecurity Queensland can best position itself to meet the biosecurity risks facing this region.

Biosecurity Queensland will also utilise the established Risk Assessment Centre of Excellence (RACE) approach for the assessment and prioritisation of invasive biosecurity threats to bolster science-based decision-making capability. Initiated in 2024, it has addressed the recommendations made in the Queensland Audit Office's 2023 Managing Invasive Species report and helps deliver the updated Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2025-2030.

The RACE brings together a team of experts responsible for regularly assessing, prioritising, and planning to mitigate the risk of invasive species. Their advice supports operational, policy, and response activities within Biosecurity Queensland. Their outputs also support external stakeholders such as local government and Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups that can draw on publicly available advice from RACE scientists to support their biosecurity planning and operations.



## Documents tabled at hearing 6 August 2025

1. News Article, dated 22 April 2025, Townsville Bulletin, Miners want lower royalties, Tabled by Mr Linus Power MP, Member for Logan
2. Letter, undated, addressed to Minister Last, Tabled by Hon Dale Last MP, Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing, and Minister for Regional and Rural Development
3. Media Release, dated 24 June 2025, Tabled by Mr Linus Power MP, Member for Logan
4. Report, undated, Queensland Critical Minerals Strategy, Tabled by Mr Linus Power MP, Member for Logan
5. Document, dated 20 February 2025, Queensland Law Reform Commission Running list of draft recommendations, Tabled by Mr Linus Power MP, Member for Logan
6. Document, dated 1 May 2025, Downer Memorandum, Tabled by Mr Tom Smith MP, Member for Bundaberg
7. Extract from Hansard, dated 1 May 2025, Tabled by Mr Tom Smith MP, Member for Bundaberg
8. Extract from Hansard, dated 30 July 2025, and Response to a question on notice asked on 27 June 2025 by Mr Peter Russo MP by Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP, Member for Kawana, Tabled by Mr James Martin MP, Member for Stretton
9. Media Release, dated 11 July 2025, Tabled by Mr James Martin MP, Member for Stretton
10. Extract from Hansard, dated 25 July 2025, Tabled by Mr James Martin MP, Member for Stretton
11. News Article, dated 29 July 2025, Queensland Premier David Crisafulli claims drop in victim of crime numbers, Tabled by Mr Tom Smith MP, Member for Bundaberg
12. News Article, undated, William Donald Cawood sentenced on cattle theft charges, admits he stole cattle, Tabled by Mr Tom Smith MP, Member for Bundaberg
13. News Article, undated, Entire harvest of oysters taken in well-coordinated dead-of-night heist, Tabled by Mr Tom Smith MP, Member for Bundaberg
14. Document, dated 8 November 2024, Minister Perrett Charter Letter, Tabled by Mr Tom Smith MP, Member for Bundaberg
15. Document, undated, Queensland Future Timber Plan 2050, Tabled by Hon Tony Perrett MP, Minister for Primary Industries
16. News Article, dated 26 February 2025, Shark Shock – View to a Cull, Tabled by Mr Tom Smith MP, Member for Bundaberg
17. Correspondence, Email, dated 17 June 2025, Gill Netting, Tabled by Mr James Martin MP, Member for Stretton

- 18.** Correspondence, Email, dated 17 June 2025, Gill Netting, Tabled by Mr James Martin MP, Member for Stretton
- 19.** Document, undated, series of three photos depicting alleged gill netting, Tabled by Mr James Martin MP, Member for Stretton

# Miners want lower royalties

By Chris Burns

Townsville Bulletin

Tuesday 22nd April 2025

484 words

Page 4 | Section: General

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Queensland Legislative Assembly  
Number: 5825T415  
01 MAY 2025  
MP: Hon Dick  
Clerk's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tabled ☒  
By Leave ☐

## Miners want lower royalties

Chris Burns

Queensland miners fear the impacts of global market disruptions and tit-for-tat trade wars, but they say investment confidence would improve if the state government reduced coal royalties and pushed through mine approvals as promised.

A report of mining executives' concerns compiled of Queensland Resources Council members refers consistently to increased costs, unclear regulation, and unrest as economic tensions remain volatile between the US and China.

A third of surveyed mining executives also believe demand for their product will be reduced in the next year.

But 65 of hundred miners are positive about future projects, believing demand will be reinvigorated within the next five years as the world's economies seek critical minerals to build renewable energy technology.

QRC lists 62 of its 'full' company members, with more than half representing the coal industry, many of which remained concerned about tiered coal royalties calculated to tonnage value which came into ef-

fect in 2022 when value peaked, giving a multi-billion dollar sugar-hit to the Queensland Treasury.

A complaint from a member within the report was, "we could have saved more cash reserves to ride the current price downturn cycle."

QRC chief executive Janette Hewson said the industry was heartened by the state government's intention to decrease approval times through the establishment of the resources cabinet committee.

"As we saw with President Trump's announcement that the US will pursue a greater

share of the global coal export market, it's crucial that Queensland streamlines approvals to keep our state competitive," Ms Hewson said.

"The global energy transition is seen by member company CEOs as good news for the Queensland resources sector, driving increased demand for our coal, gas and critical minerals required to ensure a reliable and sustainable energy supply and to develop the renewable technology to support the transition."

Addressing the mining industry last month, Resources Minister Dale Last said the

"simplest way" to adapt to future US tariffs was to abolish the Australian Government's Safeguard Mechanism aimed at lowering industrial facilities' emissions.

"You don't fight a tariff by imposing another one, you don't make industry stronger by taxing them out of existence," he said.

Mr Last also vowed to cut down on approval time frames, setting an ambitious goal of seven years to approve a greenfields site - a quarter of the average US time frame.

Asked by a QRC member to address "the elephant in the

room" and to axe the tiered coal royalties, Mr Last said the government was considering a model "that meets everyone's expectations".

An annual mining survey by Canadian research group Fraser Institute lists Queensland as the third most attractive Australian jurisdiction, after WA and NT, and was the 13th most favourable place in the world to invest in.

While minerals potential in WA was the world's best and Queensland was 12th, the market was less enthused with Australian mining policies, pushing Queensland back to 23rd.

### Primary Industries and Resources Committee

#### Estimates Public Hearing 6 August 2025

Tabled ☒ or No: 1

Tabled by leave ☐ Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

by: Linus Power

# GRAPHINEX

Graphinex Pty Ltd  
Level 10, 123 Queen Street  
Brisbane, Queensland 4000  
Australia

Hon Dale Last  
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines  
Minister for Manufacturing  
1 William Street  
Brisbane, Queensland 4000  
Australia

Dear Minister Last,

On behalf of Graphinex, I want to sincerely thank you and your departments for your ongoing support in advancing our Esmeralda project and upstream graphite anode pilot plant. Your commitment to Queensland's critical minerals sector has been vital to our progress.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of the Queensland Critical Minerals Office in connecting us with international investors. The introduction to the United States EXIM Bank, following your Trade Delegation to the United States, has been a significant step forward. Additionally, the Office's thoughtful engagement with another international investor has helped secure their support for Graphinex, which has been crucial for our project's advancement.

We are also grateful for the guidance provided by the Critical Minerals Office as we navigate the environmental and regulatory requirements for the Esmeralda project. Their support is helping us move forward steadily. We value the work of the Resources Cabinet Committee in seeking to streamline these processes, reflecting Queensland's dedication to supporting critical minerals development.

Thank you again for your leadership and partnership. We look forward to continuing our collaboration to strengthen Queensland's position in the global critical minerals industry. For any further details, please feel free to contact me via email at

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

Art Malone  
Managing Director  
Graphinex Pty Ltd

Primary Industries and Resources Committee

Estimates Public Hearing 6 August 2025

Tabled ☐ or No: 2

Tabled by leave ☒ Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

by: Minister Last



24 June 2025

## **Queensland State Budget 2025 – Decline in royalty figures show need to develop the mines of the future**

Today's Queensland State Budget 2025 demonstrates the importance of large infrastructure projects and how copper, along with critical minerals, are the future building blocks for the state economy.

Unveiling his first budget and the first since 2014 for the Liberal National Party, Treasurer David Janetzki made it very clear that it would "lay the foundations for budget repair."

Total resource royalties are down from \$12.77 billion in FY2023 to a budgeted \$7.98 billion in FY2025, in-line with coal royalties falling from \$10.52 billion to \$6.17 billion for the corresponding period. It highlights the need for Queensland to continue growing its commodity base, with a view to reducing its reliance on coal.

The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) welcomes the previously announced extra \$1.4 billion for Copperstring, along with new measures for abandoned mines (\$32.3 million) and geoscience exploration data (\$4.6 million).

However, AMEC is deeply disappointed to see the axing of the Collaborative Exploration Initiative (CEI), with \$10 million over four years discontinued.

Chief Executive Officer, Mr Warren Pearce said, "Queensland risks losing investment opportunities, especially in the North West minerals province, where prospective copper projects have the potential to provide economic growth for the state economy.

"At a time when other mining jurisdictions like Western Australia and the Northern Territory are investing heavily to support explorers finding the mines of the future.

"The CEI shouldn't be taken for granted, with exploration the lifeblood of the resources industry."

The latest \$1.4 billion injection takes total expenditure on Copperstring to \$2.4 billion. It's worth noting the importance to keep the Queensland copper smelter in action. With copper growth expected to expand over the next 10 to 20 years, and a shortage of supply expected, this should remain a high priority for both state and federal governments.

Mr Pearce added, "With copper being the backbone to the renewable transition, now should be the time for Queensland to shine.

"Keeping copper capabilities in Queensland starts with finding more copper to feed the copper smelter.

"Significant infrastructure projects like Copperstring bring opportunities for new jobs, new mines and new revenue streams for the government."

A \$32.3 million package for the Abandoned Mine Lands Program is welcomed by AMEC, to assist the recommercialisation and management of abandoned mine sites across the state.

There is also an additional \$4.6 million to accelerate mineral exploration via geoscience activities and data technologies. This will assist by providing industry ready data.

Meanwhile, AMEC remains encouraged by the commitment of the Crisafulli Government to reduce red tape, streamline approvals, and find more efficiencies for major projects.

This has been evident with the formation and commencement of the Resources Cabinet Committee (RCC), meeting regularly with major industry association representatives to discuss priorities in the sector.

"With strong headwinds and international tensions hitting many mineral commodities, it's crucial the resource industry receives the support it needs, to maintain the resilience of the budget and the economy.

"For Queensland to realise its immense opportunity and economic prosperity, it must diversify and find ways of developing projects beyond the traditional coal industry," said Mr Pearce.

*ENDS –*

**For further information or to interview Warren Pearce please contact:**  
AMEC National Media Manager, Ryan Rampling - 0419 809 341

Primary Industries and Resources Committee

Estimates Public Hearing 6 August 2025

Tabled ☒ or No: 3

Tabled by leave ☐: Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

by: Linus Power

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# critical minerals

## Queensland Critical Minerals Strategy

Rich in resources,  
ready for tomorrow

Primary Industries and Resources Committee  
Estimates Public Hearing 6 August 2025  
Tabled ☒ or No: 4  
Tabled by leave ☐ Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_  
by: Linus Power



Queensland  
Government

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## Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Resources acknowledges Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land, sea and community, and recognises their continuing contribution towards creating this strong and prosperous state of Queensland. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge those of the stolen generation who are still finding their way home.

The Country is sacred. Everything on the land has meaning and all people are one with it. We acknowledge First Nations peoples' sacred connection as central to culture and being.

We acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of First Nations peoples and commit to shaping our state's future together. We recognise the contribution of First Nations peoples and communities to the State of Queensland and how this continues to enrich our society more broadly.

## A message from the Premier

The Queensland Critical Minerals Strategy has been developed to unlock the next resources boom in critical minerals.

It is a strategy supported by our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan to build the \$5 billion CopperString 2032 transmission line, the largest economic development project in northern Australia to connect the North West Minerals Province with the largest renewable energy zone on the east coast of Australia.

Queensland's critical minerals will be needed to build the wind and solar farms and batteries to deliver on our plan for 70 per cent renewable energy by 2032.

The strategy includes \$245 million of initiatives to move faster and smarter, maximise investment, build value chains, and foster research and ESG excellence.

Queensland is already a global resources powerhouse and the Critical Minerals Strategy will position Queensland for the future to mine and process the minerals and manufacture the renewable technologies needed for the clean energy industrial revolution. That means more good, secure jobs across regional Queensland.

It is a plan for collaboration and partnerships across industry, academia, community and First Nations peoples. By working together Queensland's best days truly remain ahead of us.

**ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP**  
**PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND**  
**MINISTER FOR THE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES**





## Minister's foreword

The global embrace of sustainability, of concern for human-induced impacts on the atmosphere and biosphere that sustain us, is driving demand for transition of our energy systems to cleaner sources.

Queensland stands at these crossroads with a wonderful opportunity to meet these challenges and take the lead. Queensland can create a resources future based not only on what we have, but also on how we go about the business of putting our endowment of minerals to best use.

The Queensland Critical Minerals Strategy is about Queensland rising to the occasion—it will assist the world in this economic and energy transition and grasp the opportunities offered in a changing world.

In order to build the wind turbines, solar panels and storage batteries that are needed to decarbonise, Queensland will need critical minerals like copper, vanadium and tungsten. The global demand for these minerals is expected to rise exponentially over the next decade.

Here in Queensland, we have the mineral riches and resources that will carry us into a new century. But we do not just want to mine these resources. We will use them to manufacture the renewable energy technologies to power the world.

The strategy is about futureproofing the next generation of jobs for Queensland, diversifying and decarbonising our economy, and ensuring Queensland's future sustainable economic prosperity.

Quite simply, if we do not manufacture our future, someone else will.

It is about acting now, with industry, community and First Nations peoples, to secure our future.

It is a broad and bold ambition, which is why the strategy embraces the long-term 30-year vision of the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan (QRIDP) with new targeted objectives and actions to focus on the minerals critical to our collective future. It complements the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan's vision of transitioning the state to a renewable energy future.

**SCOTT STEWART MP**  
**MINISTER FOR RESOURCES**



# Introduction

Critical minerals are the next chapter in Queensland's resources story.

Critical minerals form the foundation for all modern technology and security: in manufacturing, defence, electronics and more. Importantly, they also underpin the technologies required to achieve a global economic and energy transition—from electric vehicles to energy-efficient lighting and appliances, and smart buildings.

Put simply, the new economy starts and ends with critical minerals.

Queensland is rich in critical minerals.

Queensland has 51 of the world's most sought-after minerals. Some critical minerals, such as copper, zinc and aluminium, have been mined in Queensland for decades—others, such as vanadium, are about to be mined for the first time.

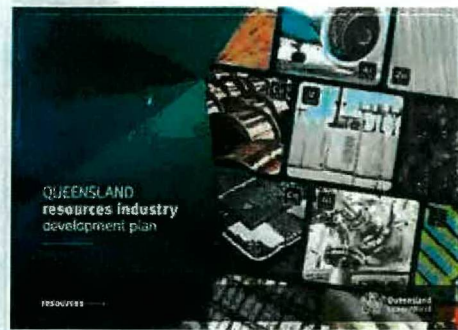
For Queensland to capitalise on the generational opportunity the demand for our critical minerals represents, we must take quick and purposeful action.

The Queensland Critical Minerals Strategy outlines four objectives to ensure Queensland can seize this opportunity. The result will benefit customers, stakeholders and the environment, ultimately positioning Queensland's resources industry for sustainable, long-term growth.

## Building on our foundations

The Queensland Critical Minerals Strategy builds on the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan (QRIDP). The QRIDP provides a 30-year roadmap to ensure Queensland's resources industry continues to create jobs and prosperity for generations to come, and brings clear focus to the development of a critical minerals sector.

The strategy also aligns with other key Queensland plans to provide an integrated framework for new industries to be developed, sustainable economic growth, and to align the state's efforts to respond to climate change and decarbonising the economy.



# Today's strengths, tomorrow's opportunities

## Global drivers

Global demand for critical minerals is predicted to rise significantly.

The International Energy Agency estimates that demand for minerals is expected to quadruple by 2040 to ensure the world can build the clean energy technologies needed to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Locally, the Australian Government will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 43 per cent by 2030 and both the Australian and Queensland governments have committed to net zero emissions by 2050. Queensland has also committed to a renewable energy target of 80 per cent by 2035.

This means both domestic and global commitments cannot be achieved without significant and accelerated growth in the supply, processing, refining and manufacturing of critical minerals.

For Queensland, this presents opportunities not only to supply the critical minerals needed to make the equipment, but also to have local processing and advanced manufacturing industries—creating a prosperous pit-to-product, onshore critical minerals sector.

## Queensland's critical minerals opportunity

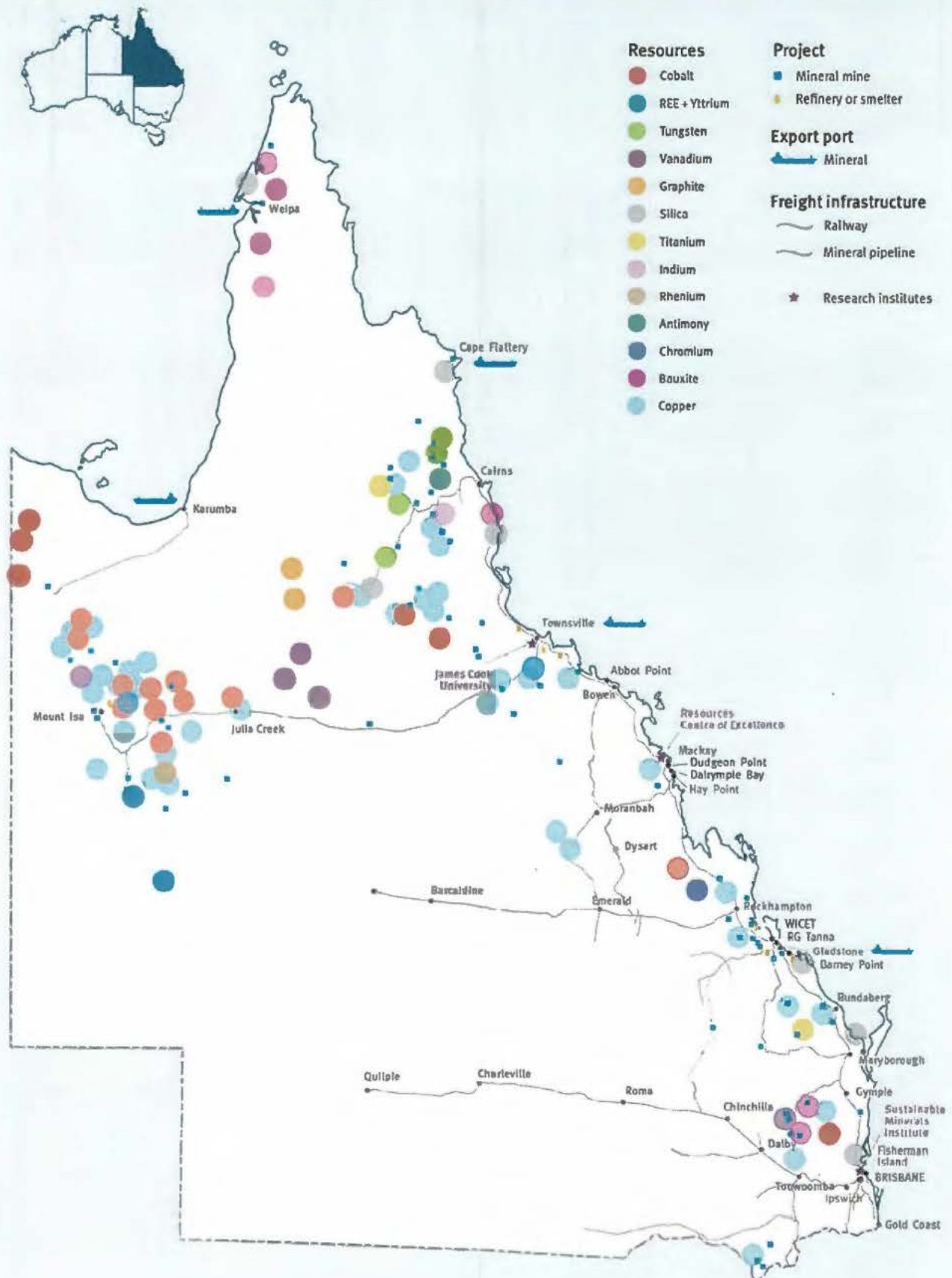
Queensland has some of the world's richest mineral-producing areas, with major deposits of copper, lead, zinc, nickel, cobalt, tungsten, graphite, vanadium and silica, as well as silver, phosphate and rare earths. There is also further resource potential across a range of other minerals—especially in the world-renowned North West Minerals Province.

This abundance of supply means Queensland has many existing and emerging critical minerals projects.

Queensland is host to large and long-lived copper-mining activities, with new deposits still being discovered, and developments still being successfully progressed. There are emerging suppliers in vanadium, and new projects for cobalt are being explored, with significant potential from existing and abandoned mine-site tailings. High-purity alumina projects in Queensland are also showing early success and companies are ready for new partners. Deposits of rare-earth elements are found in multiple sites across Queensland, including in by-product sources such as mine tailings and bauxite residue.

Queensland's critical minerals sector also comes with strong environmental, social and governance (ESG) foundations and a commitment to source and manufacture minerals sustainably and responsibly. There is also a network of existing infrastructure—with more under construction—a skilled and experienced workforce, a robust and supportive regulatory framework, and established research and development capabilities.





## Queensland's ambition

*To transform the state, national and global economy through the responsible use of Queensland's critical minerals, creating sustainable economic prosperity for Queensland.*



Queensland will seize this generational opportunity by accelerating the downstream value chain, growing more value-adding processing and manufacturing industries, built using local critical minerals.

Key to achieving this ambition is genuine collaboration and partnerships with the Queensland resources industry, academia, resource communities, First Nations peoples, and local, state and federal governments.

By taking quick and purposeful action, Queensland will secure long-term economic prosperity, create more good, secure jobs in regions and provide a pathway for orderly transition away from the carbon-intensive elements of the economy.

The Queensland Critical Minerals Strategy is a simple, certain and sophisticated path forward to manufacture our future.





# Actions for a critical minerals sector

The Queensland Critical Minerals Strategy outlines four key objectives, as well as new and existing actions, that will achieve Queensland's ambition for a prosperous critical minerals sector.

## The four key objectives:



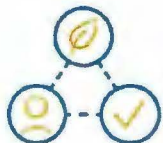
| Move faster, smarter



| Maximise investment



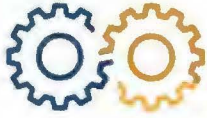
| Build value chains



| Foster research and environmental, social and governance (ESG) excellence

*Weipa Port Terminal, North Queensland Bulk Ports*





## Industry-enabling action

Accelerating the development of a critical minerals sector and the downstream value chain requires a new approach by the Queensland Government that reduces complexity and provides a positive environment and customer experience for investment.

The delivery of this strategy will be driven by a Critical Minerals Office.

### Action:

#### The Critical Minerals Office

A dedicated office (Critical Minerals Queensland) will be established as a centralised point for industry, investors and community, and will bring dedicated focus to the Queensland Government's ambition to grow the sector. Critical Minerals Queensland will be responsible for:

- leading government action in the sector
- providing a centralised point of contact for potential investors, new proponents and relevant stakeholders
- coordinating pre-lodgement meetings with relevant stakeholders and government agencies (for projects outside the Coordinator-General's remit)
- marketing Queensland internationally and working with the Australian Government to leverage bilateral free trade agreements and international finance in conjunction with Trade and Investment Queensland
- facilitating industry and government investment in research and development.







## Objective 1: Move faster, smarter

Critical minerals mining is a complex and time-consuming process involving major decisions by both proponents and government entities. From exploration and feasibility studies to securing permits and licences, each step requires careful evaluation through planning and collaboration to ensure responsible mining practices throughout the critical minerals value chain.

Recognising the potential economic and geopolitical benefits, Queensland will prioritise the exploration and extraction of its mineral resources, while fostering domestic innovation, investment, and sustainable practices. Queensland can position itself as a significant contributor to the global critical minerals value chain and enhance its economic resilience and influence on the world stage.

The Queensland Government is committed to developing a critical minerals sector that moves quickly to take advantage of opportunities that benefit the sector and Queenslanders. Importantly, moving faster and smarter will not alter our commitment to protecting the environment, communities and the cultural heritage of First Nations people.

We can accelerate the pace of development in the sector to ensure reliable mineral supply and meet the evolving needs of the world through:

- a targeted approach and streamlining government processes
- maximising the potential of existing and abandoned mines
- fostering partnerships and collaborations among industry stakeholders, government bodies and research universities
- investing in key infrastructure and further exploration.



## Existing commitments to enable Queensland to move faster, smarter

- Queensland's Collaborative Exploration Initiative (QRIDP action 2) provides **\$22.6 million** investment to support Queensland's minerals exploration industry.
- Undertaking a re-commercialising abandoned mine pilot program (QRIDP action 7) to re-commercialise the area that includes the former Wolfram Camp mine, Bamford Hill mine, and surrounding exploration areas.
- The Queensland Government has committed **\$75 million** for the Queensland Resources Common User Facility (2022–23 Budget Update), which will be developed at the Cleveland Bay Industrial Park in Townsville to trial production processes for commercialisation, enabling prospective miners to begin producing mineral samples at scale.

### Industry enablers

- Queensland's critical minerals sector will be enabled by the Queensland Government's **\$5 billion** investment to own and deliver the 1 100km CopperString 2032 project (2023 announcement).
- Identify options to secure sulphuric acid supply for mines, mineral processing and fertiliser manufacturing (Action 1.3 of NWQ Economic Diversification Strategy Implementation Plan to 2025).
- The Queensland Government is developing a Queensland resources industry workforce plan (QRIDP action 33) and supporting the training needs of existing and future workers by investing over **\$3 million** into the Queensland Future Skills Partnership (QRIDP action 35).

## Action:

### Critical Minerals Zones

#### Funding: \$75 million

A place-based approach will be undertaken where projects are co-located in one regional area. This approach will leverage collaboration opportunities to achieve time, resource and capital efficiencies. Each zone will be unique, and government actions will be tailored according to geography, stakeholder priority and concerns, and the minerals targeted. The benefits of zones may include:

- government, industry and community working groups to identify common issues and advance collaborative solutions
- regional environmental and social impact baseline assessments to provide robust and transparent data and information for use by all stakeholders
- coordinated assessment and development of critical minerals projects
- coordinated development of enabling and common-user infrastructure to realise economies of scale and scope
- opportunities to make use of mineralisation in mining wastes, ensuring responsible use of resources
- coordinated community consultation to understand local community needs and create opportunities for larger positive community-legacy projects to be delivered
- partnerships with communities and First Nations peoples to understand their aspirations and support Native Title and cultural heritage.

The Queensland Government will work with community, First Nations peoples and industry to commence a coordinated approach in Julia Creek / Richmond, focusing on vanadium; and Mount Isa, focusing on secondary prospectivity in mine waste.

Consultation will be undertaken to investigate this approach at other locations, including Cape Flattery, focusing on silica. Establishing future zones will be in line with the aspirations of First Nations peoples, and other commitments from the government including future world heritage listings.

Baseline studies for the critical mineral zones may also inform a bioregional plan under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The intent of bioregional plans is to provide improved protection of important areas of biodiversity while providing greater certainty about where development can and cannot go, and identify areas where further consideration of environmental values is required. Bioregional planning may support streamlined approval processes by removing duplicate assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) when a development proposal is consistent with a bioregional plan.



## Action:

### Explore remaining mineralisation in mine waste

#### Funding: \$5 million

Queensland has significant mine tailings and waste rock which hold substantial mineral deposits and value. A barrier to commercialise mine-waste opportunities is establishing the grade of mineralisation that remains in-ground.

The Queensland Government will provide \$5 million in funding as part of the Collaborative Exploration Initiative to assist companies to undertake drilling within tailings and waste-rock dumps on abandoned and operating mines sites.

## Action:

### Facilitate secondary prospectivity for critical minerals

The right regulatory framework to enable secondary prospectivity of minerals is required to ensure the responsible use of Queensland's critical minerals, and to realise the full potential on previously disturbed land.

The Queensland Government will review the regulatory framework to facilitate reprocessing opportunities, including consideration of a new 'Residual Mineral Recovery Tenure' and investigation into the current risk assessment criteria used to determine risk allocation in the Financial Provisioning Scheme.



Wolfram Camp tailings dam



## Objective 2: Maximise investment

Investors actively seek a positive investment environment that offers certainty and fosters growth, particularly in the context of critical minerals where projects are long-term investments with significant capital expenditure prior to any incoming revenue.

The Queensland Government must establish the appropriate market, regulatory and workforce settings to effectively attract investment. A clear value proposition that demonstrates the advantage of investing in Queensland's critical minerals sector and associated value chains is required to effectively attract, retain and provide confidence to investors.

The opportunity for Queensland is to become a premier investment destination renowned for critical minerals, with growing mining, processing and advanced manufacturing industries.

Active promotion of Queensland through marketing campaigns will be key to pitch Queensland as a highly attractive destination for investment in critical minerals and raise the profile of the state internationally. The Queensland Government will capture our state's potential by highlighting Queensland's unique strengths, including our mineral resources, investment climate and skilled workforce, to attract investors.



## Existing commitments to maximise investment

In late 2022, the Queensland Government deferred rental payments on mining leases for new critical minerals projects for one year. This improves a company's chance of success by being able to redirect funds towards their project (QRIDP action 10).

The Queensland Government is also investing **\$5 million** in geoscience research on existing copper, cobalt, rare earth, indium and other critical mineral deposits to better understand their occurrence and distribution. This will better define our critical mineral potential and provide the resources sector with the tools they need to overcome challenges and develop new techniques to aid exploration, discovery and extraction of minerals (QRIDP action 4).

## Action:

### Rent reduction for exploration

#### Approximately \$55 million in forgone revenue

Exploration is critical to building a critical minerals value chain in Queensland. An immediate priority for Queensland is to encourage more exploration to support new mineral discoveries.

The Queensland Government will reduce the rent for new and existing exploration permits for minerals to \$0 for five years (approximately \$55 million of forgone revenue).



**Action:****Profile and promote Queensland****Funding: \$1 million**

Attracting international investment and leveraging bilateral agreements will be necessary to position Queensland as a key global supplier of critical minerals. The Queensland Government will work closely with the Australian Government under a 'Team Australia' brand, while profiling Queensland's unique competitive advantages.

An interactive, investor-focused portal will be developed to provide a positive customer experience and access to high-quality and up-to-date information about Queensland's critical mineral opportunity, projects and other market intelligence. Investment information, including Queensland's Critical Minerals Prospectus, will be updated and a comprehensive promotion strategy will be developed.



Townsville, Queensland



### Objective 3: Build value chains

Attracting and securing investment in the value chain beyond extraction is important in providing greater and lasting benefits to Queensland. Historically, Queensland has used its resource endowment to export raw materials to other countries where processing and manufacturing are more prevalent and well established.

The commitment in the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan (QEJP) to rapidly increase our renewable energy technology and battery storage presents an opportunity to develop supply chains with urgency and surety of local demand.

Queensland's well-regulated, sustainable and highly skilled economy coupled with high safety standards and wages, may have been a barrier to building on our value chains in the past; however, increasing demand from consumers and investors to invest in and purchase products from companies with strong ESG credentials is changing the sector.

Queensland can enhance its export potential and explore new markets for its goods and services by embracing and investing in value-adding industries. This will diversify the Queensland economy, boost competitiveness, foster economic growth and generate new business opportunities across the state. The Queensland Government's focus on building onshore processing and manufacturing capabilities will also create high-quality jobs across a broad range of skills and expertise, providing key opportunities as the state transitions into the new economy.

Collaborative efforts between the government, industry, research institutions and communities are crucial in creating a well-integrated and sustainable value chain. Prioritising value-chain development can assist Queensland to secure a reliable flow of critical minerals, attract investment, maximise economic benefits and position itself as a leader in critical minerals.

The Queensland Government is committed to building value chains to get the most benefit from our natural resources for Queenslanders.



#### Existing commitments to build value chains

The Queensland Government is investing **\$5 million** to develop the Queensland Battery Industry Strategy to outline actions to seize the opportunities that this supply chain offers and integrate Queensland's efforts with work being done nationally (QRIDP action 9).

The Government has committed **\$500 million** for government-backed grid-scale and community batteries (QEJP action 1.3). This will allow Queensland's publicly owned energy businesses to invest in battery projects across the state that maximise local content.

**\$11.6 million** has been committed to build capacity in manufacturing to grow the renewable energy supply chain (QEJP action 3.4).





### Action:

## Deliver the Critical Minerals and Battery Technology Fund

### Funding: \$100 million

The Queensland Government seeks to support businesses across the whole critical minerals supply chain, with a focus on enhancing the extraction and processing of critical minerals, and accelerating the development of battery technologies and production of precursor or advanced materials in Queensland. This is important to provide new, secure jobs and get the most value out of our natural resources for Queenslanders.

The Queensland Government, with the Queensland Investment Corporation, will deliver the previously announced \$100 million Queensland Critical Minerals and Battery Technology Fund to accelerate the pit-to-product supply chain and meet the growing demand for clean energy technologies. The Fund will provide support for local businesses and industry-led consortia to build industry capability in Queensland, providing greater access to national and global supply chains in metal refining, mineral processing and battery technology.

### Objective 4:

## Foster research and ESG excellence

Investor interest in companies demonstrating strong environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices continues to grow as ESG increasingly factors into investment decision-making. Jurisdictions around the world including the European Union, the United States of America and Canada are actively considering or have introduced regulations related to ESG reporting including scope 1, 2 and 3 greenhouse gas emissions, circular economy, pollution, biodiversity, diversity and inclusion, and supply chain management.

Queensland's resources industry has always operated within systems and laws that are designed to recognise our state's unique natural qualities, heritage, communities and the needs of industries. As a result, Queensland's resources industry has a strong economic and community legacy. These robust regulatory frameworks provide a solid foundation for resources companies to establish strong corporate and social governance practices, which can be used to demonstrate their own ESG credentials.

Industry has an important role in ensuring high ESG standards are met for activities in Queensland. The Queensland Government expects proponents to engage early with communities and First Nations peoples, to protect cultural values, minimise impacts on the environment and leave a positive benefit for communities.

#### Objective 4: continued

While critical minerals will help decarbonise the world's economy through electrification, proponents are also expected to demonstrate that their operations will help achieve Queensland's decarbonisation ambitions and contribute to meeting climate targets at state and federal levels.

The Queensland Government will work with industry to help businesses align with evolving global standards to meet the expectations of international markets and governments.

Queensland can further enhance its position in the critical minerals value chain by increasing investment in research and development and new innovative products and techniques.

The Queensland Government will partner with industry, universities and research organisations to help businesses reduce costs and maximise production values, while minimising the footprint of the sector. These factors will be crucial to realising ESG outcomes and will give Queensland a competitive edge among its global competitors.

### Action:

#### Partner with industry to build ESG excellence

##### Funding: \$1 million

The Queensland Government will work with industry to improve their ESG performance and reporting to ensure best practice and the ability to meet anticipated future requirements from consumers, investors, local communities and First Nations peoples.

The Queensland Government will also partner with industry to develop an ESG network to develop initiatives, which may include:

- events aimed at upskilling and equipping mining companies to better demonstrate ESG credentials
- presenting an annual ESG Excellence in Mining award
- collaborating and sharing research and methods that improve ESG practices.

### Action:

#### Research and development in circular economy and mining

##### Funding: \$8 million

The Queensland Government will undertake research and development in circular economy and mineral discovery, extraction, processing and recycling, and develop a research institute–government minerals alliance. This action will also explore opportunities to realise greater efficiencies in the critical minerals value chain.

The Queensland Government will also investigate establishing a collaborative model between the Sustainable Minerals Institute (University of

Queensland) and other research institutions to focus on critical minerals. This model could support existing programs in the critical minerals sector including current international collaborative work with Japan, Korea, the United States of America, Canada and Finland. The model would also be beneficial to support policy development and embed circular economy thinking.



# Summary of actions

## Ambition:

To transform the state, national and global economy through the responsible use of Queensland's critical minerals, creating sustainable economic prosperity for Queensland.



### The Critical Minerals Office

A dedicated office will be established as a centralised point for industry, investors and community to market Queensland internationally, facilitate investment in research and development, and lead government action in the sector.



### Move faster, smarter

#### • Critical Minerals Zones

A place-based approach will be undertaken to leverage collaboration opportunities and deliver time, resource, and capital efficiencies. Government action will be tailored to each zone and may include environmental and social impact baseline assessments, facilitation of enabling and common-user infrastructure, coordinated community consultation and partnerships with First Nations peoples.

#### • Explore remaining mineralisation in mine waste

The Collaborative Exploration Initiative will be expanded to include a dedicated program assisting companies to undertake drilling within mine waste on abandoned and operating mine sites.

#### • Facilitate secondary prospectivity for critical minerals

The regulatory framework will be reviewed to facilitate reprocessing opportunities, including consideration of a new 'Residual Mineral Recovery Tenure', and investigation of the current risk assessment criteria in the Financial Provisioning Scheme.



### Maximise investment

#### • Rent reduction for exploration permits

No rent for new and existing exploration permits for minerals for five years.

#### • Profile and promote Queensland

An interactive, customer and investor-focused portal will be developed to showcase investment opportunities in Queensland. This will include the development of a promotion strategy.



### Build value chains

#### • Deliver the Critical Minerals and Battery Technology Fund

The fund (announced in December 2022) will support local businesses and industry-led consortia to build industry capability in Queensland, providing greater access to national and global supply chains in metal refining, mineral processing and battery technologies.



### Foster research and environmental, social and governance (ESG) excellence

#### • Partner with industry to build ESG excellence

Tailored initiatives to enhance ESG capability will be delivered, including establishment of an ESG industry network in partnership with industry.

#### • Research and development in circular economy and mining

Research and development in circular economy, recycling and mineral discovery, extraction and processing will be advanced, and a research institute–government minerals alliance developed.





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**Interpreter statement:**

The Queensland Government is committed to providing accessible services to Queenslanders from all culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. If you have difficulty in understanding this document, you can contact us within Australia on 13QGOV (13 74 68) and we will arrange an interpreter to effectively communicate the report to you.



## **Contact us**

[criticalminerals@resources.qld.gov.au](mailto:criticalminerals@resources.qld.gov.au)

13QGOV



**Queensland**  
Government

## Running list of draft recommendations

(as at 20 February 2025)

Draft recommendations	
Redefining the Land Court's role	
R#	Legislate to repeal mining lease objections hearings (including consequential amendments).
R#	Introduce statutory appeals by the Land Court of final Government decisions on mining lease and associated environmental authority applications.
R#	Amend relevant legislation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>specify the grounds on which an appeal can be brought</li> <li>require the appellant to specify their grounds of appeal (with grounds not confined by or limited to the matters raised in their submission)</li> <li>require the appellant to bear the onus of proof.</li> </ul>
R#	Amend relevant legislation to grant standing to appeal to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>those who formally engaged in the decision-making process before the final decision was made</li> <li>any person directly affected by the decision, upon the grant of leave to appeal.</li> </ul>
R#	Require the applicant, original decision-maker(s) and appellant(s) to be mandatory parties to an appeal. Allow any person directly affected by the decision to seek leave to join an appeal.
R#	Legislate that the appeal is a rehearing on the evidence before the primary decision-maker(s), with opportunity to lead further evidence in defined circumstances (criteria for 'defined circumstances' TBD, but to not include 'exceptional circumstances' or 'grave injustice').
R#	Make consequential amendments for the Land Court to be vested with full powers, with discretion to exercise as the Court sees fit.
R#	Amend the legislation to allow a party to a Land Court statutory appeal to appeal that decision to the Court of Appeal on the grounds of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>error or mistake in law</li> <li>jurisdictional error.</li> </ul>
R#	Costs [TBD]

Primary Industries and Resources Committee

Estimates Public Hearing 6 August 2025

Tabled ☒ or No: 5

Tabled by leave ☐ Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

by: Linus Fowler



Draft recommendations	
R#	Practices and procedures [TBD]
Better access to information	
R#	Establish a central online portal to facilitate public notice and give up-to-date information about mining proposals.
R#	Amend the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and Environmental Protection Act 1994 to insert a legislative framework facilitating independent and transparent expert advice.
	<p>Impose an obligation for decision-makers to give written reasons for their decision, when requested by 'eligible persons'.</p> <p>(The definition of 'eligible person' should be linked to those with appeal rights, for example, submitters.)</p>
Building on the statutory criteria for decision-making	
R#	<p>Amend the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and Environmental Protection Act 1994 to include statutory criteria requiring the decision-makers for a mining lease and environmental authority to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• information generated through the new participation process</li> <li>• any independent expert advice received.</li> </ul>
R#	Introduce a new statutory criterion into the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and Environmental Protection Act 1994 requiring decision-makers to consider the rights of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples when deciding a mining lease application and associated environmental authority.
R#	<p>Amend the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and the Environmental Protection Act 1994 to list factors relevant to considering the rights of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander peoples under a proposed new statutory criterion.</p> <p>The legislation should allow further relevant factors to be prescribed by regulation.</p>
R#	The Queensland Human Rights Commission should issue and publish policy guidance for decision-makers on considering the rights of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples in deciding a mining lease application and associated environmental authority.
R#	Amend the statutory criterion in the Mineral Resources Act 1989 relating to 'sound use #' to clarify that the provision relates to the technical (rather than environmental) aspects of the project.
R#	Require the Government to issue and publish policy guidance for decision-makers on the public interest, clarifying its meaning for decisions about mining leases and associated environmental authorities.

## Memorandum

**To** Employees engaged under the Downer Rail Maryborough Enterprise Agreement 2021 (Maryborough EBA)

**Date** 1/05/2025

**Subject** Consultation on Proposed Workforce Changes

As advised via the site briefing on 01 May 2025, there are several Maryborough Service Delivery Centre (MSDC) Projects that will reach completion between now and the end of 2025. These include the following:

- **MQ29 One Rail Wagons** - 58 of the 64 MQ29 One Rail Wagons have been delivered. 6 Wagons are in production and the last wagon is forecast for delivery no later than mid-May 2025
- **QTMP Bogie Frames for TTP Trains** – Work activities are due to complete in August 2025
- **CQ15 100/200 Overhaul** - 16 out of 22 sets have received acceptance, with last set acceptance forecast for December 2025.

In addition, the CQ18 DTT Overhaul work package was definitely rejected by the QR Board in March 2025, meaning this project will not proceed.

As a result of the above listed work packages concluding, Downer is proposing to reduce the number of roles at the Maryborough Facility. Specifically, Downer is proposing to:

- Reduce the number of roles engaged under the Maryborough EBA by 36 positions by 30 June 2025
- Make a further reduction of 86 positions engaged under the Maryborough EBA by 31 December 2025

### *Consultations opportunities and timeframe*

Over the coming days, Downer will commence consultation on this proposed change with effected employees and their respective union representatives. During this time you are invited to raise with your manager any questions, concerns or feedback that you have about the proposed changes and the impact upon your position.

As part of this process, we are proposing to work with all affected employees to identify suitable redeployment options. In the event that suitable redeployment opportunities are not able to be identified for any employees, we anticipate (subject to consultation) that the first group of team members will be notified of redundancy by 30 May 2025.

### *Redeployment opportunities*

The Downer Group operates a diverse business which offers a range of services across Australia and New Zealand. If you are interested in exploring opportunities within the Downer Group please discuss this with your manager or HR Representative and review the Downer vacancy list for any positions which may be of interest to you.

**Primary Industries and Resources Committee**

**Estimates Public Hearing 6 August 2025**

Tabled ☒ or No: 6

Tabled by leave ☐ Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

by: Tom Smith

It should be noted that Downers' preferred option wherever possible is to redeploy staff being either short or long term and we will be working closely with all parts of the Downer business to ensure you are given every opportunity to transfer within Downer.

### **Employee Assistance Support Available**

We appreciate this is a difficult time, and would like to remind you about CARE, our Employee Assistance Program (EAP), provided by Converge International Programs.

EAP consultations and services are strictly confidential, voluntary and are free to employees and their family and available face to face (in metropolitan and regional offices throughout Australia), or via telephone, video or online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If you wish to find out more or make use of this service, you can either:

- call 1300 687 327
- live chat [www.convergeinternational.com.au](http://www.convergeinternational.com.au)
- visit the converge website at [convergeinternational.com.au](http://convergeinternational.com.au)

If you have any concerns or queries regarding the above mentioned within this letter, please contact Tony Prove MSDC GM Operations.

Yours sincerely,



Jean Marc Chevaugéon  
**General Manager - Queensland Projects & Contract Delivery**



# Proposed Shop Floor Resource Reductions

**Downer**

Trade	Sept 14	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Boilermaker	29		-3	-2						
Carpenter	19		-1	-1						
Coach Builder	5									
Coppersmith	11		-1							
Electrical Testing	9									
Electrician	40		-1							
Fitter	67		-8							
Floor Layer	1									
Machinist	8		-2							
Mechanical Testing	8		-2							
NDT	3									
Non-Trade	3		-1							
Painter	18		-3							
<b>Total</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>196</b>						
<b>Demobilization total</b>			<b>-22</b>	<b>-25</b>						<b>-97</b>

Estimated exits  
From July to December 2025  
72

## Proposed Support Function Resource Reductions

Function	Current	Proposed	Reduction	Estimated exits from July to December 2025
Crane/Forklift	8	-2		
Team Leaders	36	-4		
Prod control	6		-1	
Stores	12			
Material Coordinator	4		-1	
Quality Control/assurance	10		-1	
Methods	6			
Rail Ops	6	-1		
Maintenance	12		-1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>89</b>	
<b>Demobilisation</b>		<b>-7</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>-25</b>

Estimated exits  
from July to December 2025  
14

1 May 2025

**Primary Industries and Resources Committee**

Estimates Public Hearing 6 August 2025

Tabled ☒ or No: 7

Tabled by leave ☐ Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

by: Tom Smith

Division: Question put—That the

**AYES, 51:**

**LNP, 51**—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Be Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hut Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

**NOES, 35:**

**ALP, 31**—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

**KAP, 2**—Dametto, Knuth.


**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

Resolved in the affirmative.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude at 12.55 pm.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### Train Manufacturing Program

 **Mr MILES** (11.55 am): My question is to the Minister for Manufacturing. Can the minister guarantee all existing train manufacturing and maintenance will continue in Maryborough, including every one of the 525 jobs?

**Mr LAST:** The manufacturing of the 65 trains at the Torbanlea facility is on track. I recently visited that site. We are committed to continuing that program and the construction of those 65 trains which is so important—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The minister has the call! Nobody else.

**Mr LAST:**—for the future of Queensland and the rail network in South-East Queensland in particular. We know that the creation of jobs at that facility is going to generate significant employment opportunities. I want to note the advocacy of the member for Maryborough in his support for that particular facility. He has taken a keen interest in this particular facility and continues to work with his local community to both promote and support train manufacturing at Torbanlea.

If the Leader of the Opposition had been listening to my ministerial statement he would have understood that in conjunction with the facility at Torbanlea we have the maintenance facility at Ormeau. I recently visited that site with the member for Coomera and was pleased to see that work has commenced on construction of the facility at Ormeau where all the maintenance will be carried out on these new trains and, of course, the hundreds of jobs that have been created in the construction of that facility but also ongoing in terms of maintaining these new trains as they come online. It is an exciting opportunity for this state. It is one that the Crisafulli government has supported and will continue to support moving forward. We understand that the train network in Queensland has been left to languish under the watch of those opposite.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b). The minister was asked to guarantee the 525 jobs in Maryborough. I would like you to draw him back to relevance and an answer to that question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The question was about jobs in Maryborough.

**Mr LAST:** We have said right from day 1 that those jobs that are attached to this new train manufacturing facility are secure. We need those jobs and the opportunities that come with this new facility in terms of skills and for those young school leavers in that community. I know the member for Maryborough has been working in this space. They are excited to see what this is going to mean for that community going forward. We support it and we will continue to support it.



### **Train Manufacturing Program**

**Mr MELLISH:** My question is to the Minister for Manufacturing. Under the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program 800 jobs would have been supported in the Maryborough and Fraser Coast regions. Can the minister guarantee every single one of those jobs will be honoured?

**Mr LAST:** I thank the member for the question. It is the same question. I will repeat that the jobs that are being created at the new train manufacturing facility at Torbanlea are secure. They will be secure for the construction of those 65 trains and ongoing under this government. If you go to Torbanlea and you have a look at the facility that is being built at that particular location, you would understand the enormity and the depth and how important that is to the future of manufacturing in this state. We are proud to support this facility. There is a lot of work going into the design and construction of these new-age, new generation trains. There is an enormous amount of testing going on at the moment to make sure that we get this right.

I want to commend the team that has come together to make sure that this program is delivered on time. I have stressed to Downer, who is the contractor involved in this project, that it is important that that project is delivered on time; important for the future of the rail network in this state, important in the lead-in to the 2032 Olympics. There are jobs in Maryborough. We visited the train facility in Maryborough recently where we spoke with management about the opportunities that are going to come out of this new facility and how those workers there will have jobs both now and into the future for train manufacturing in that particular location. This is an important issue for Queensland.

We know that transport is a major issue in the run-in to the 2032 Olympics. We need to get this right and we need to get this right now. This is not something that can wait. We need to plan for it and that is exactly what we are doing in conjunction with the Minister for Transport. He is working very closely with my department on this particular project. We are making sure that we have sufficient capacity in the run-in to the 2032 Olympics to meet the demands of the South-East Queensland network. We know integral to that is the completion of Cross River Rail. If we have a look at the debacle under those opposite regarding Cross River Rail and how we have been left to pick up the pieces and the blown out budget of Cross River Rail and what that means to Queensland, I can assure members that we are getting the job done. The Minister for Transport is getting the job done and that is an important component of getting this whole mix of public transport right.

### **Crisafulli LNP Government**

**Mr STEVENS:** My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the House on how the LNP Crisafulli government is delivering a fresh start for Queensland and is the Premier aware of any differing approaches?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I sure am. The member for Mermaid Beach talks about delivering. The member has had a lifetime of delivering for his local community as a mayor and as a local member. I thank him for his service to this House, to the people of the Albert shire, to the Gold Coast council and, indeed, in his current role as the member for Mermaid Beach. I thank the member very much.

The member asks me about delivering a fresh start. There is no mistaking that we had four big crises that we said we would deal with and deal with them we have. We have been diligent in the way that we have started to address Labor's four big crises: youth crime, health, housing and the cost of living. I want to start by focusing on the cost-of-living element.

When it comes to respecting people's money, one of the most important things that any government can do is to make sure that things are done on time and on budget. That includes delivering projects and, in the case of our government, cleaning up the mess left to us by those opposite. Nothing highlights the mess that we inherited more than their failure to plan for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. For 1,200 days those opposite could not deliver a plan.

We asked Queenslanders for 100 days to sort out the mess. If people want a barometer of how effective we have been in delivering a plan to clean up the mess and a plan for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, they need look no further than what has happened in this House. Despite multiple sitting days since the delivery of the plan—those opposite have spent the better part of two months running around and talking to everybody in the gallery about the sorts of things that would be missing from the plan—we have not had a single substantial question about the content of that document. That tells you everything you need to know. They know that we have cleaned up their mess with that plan and now it is on to delivery. We have to ensure that, despite Labor's wasted years, we find a way to get on with it and deal with the Olympic and Paralympic Games infrastructure that this state needs.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Woodridge, you have asked the question a number of times in a different fashion. You have the call for the next question.

**Mr DICK:** Deputy Premier, given the evidence of the director-general, will you immediately activate the Worker Transition Scheme and rapid response? Given that he does not appear to have any knowledge of any activity taken by the department, will you immediately activate that scheme to assist the impacted workers in Kingaroy and Tolga, please?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The director-general has indicated that he will get information to the honourable member before the close of the session this evening. I might point out that the member for Woodridge is incorrect about the immediate closure of Bega. It is an 18-month transition. If they request any assistance through the Worker Transition Scheme, we will consider any such request. At this point, I am not sure a request has been made to the department.

**Mr DICK:** On a point of order, I did not say it was about to imminently close. I said 150 workers are about to be made redundant.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You have clarified that. Do you have another question?

**Mr DICK:** I do, and I look forward to the answer from the department. Director-General, are you aware of research previously commissioned by the department of state development into the future of the Queensland battery industry, including a discussion paper titled 'Battery industry opportunities for Queensland'?

**Mr Sosso:** Yes, honourable member.

**Mr DICK:** Director-General, are you aware that that research has concluded that a Queensland battery industry could generate up to \$1.3 billion in economic activity for the state and create 9,100 jobs by 2030, prior to the Olympic and Paralympic Games?

**Mr Sosso:** Yes, I am aware of that research.

**Mr DICK:** Director-General, I refer you to the Queensland Battery Industry Strategy, which was released in February 2024. Are you aware that that strategy was released by the former government?

**Mr Sosso:** Yes, I am aware of that.

**Mr DICK:** Director-General, the Queensland Battery Industry Strategy has now been terminated, hasn't it?

**Mr Sosso:** Yes.

**Mr DICK:** Director-General, as part of that strategy, new funding of \$210 million was committed, including \$105 million to establish the Australian Battery Industrialisation Centre; are you aware of that?

**Mr Sosso:** Yes, I am aware the department developed a detailed business case for ABIC, prepared by BDO, to assess the implementation, operations and economic impacts of the Australian Battery Industrialisation Centre.

**Mr DICK:** Thanks for that answer. The question was: are you aware that, of the \$570 million allocated to that strategy, \$210 million was new money? Are you aware of the new money that was allocated by the former government to the strategy that has now been terminated?

**Mr Sosso:** I am aware that the Queensland Battery Industry Strategy of the previous Palaszczuk-Miles government contained \$210 million in new funding aimed at stimulating growth in Queensland's battery ecosystem. I am aware that included in the overall \$570 million initiative: \$275 million was for innovation and commercialisation; \$92.2 million was to invest, integrate and grow; and \$202.5 million was to position and promote the battery industry.

**Mr DICK:** Director-General, I table an article from the Brisbane *Courier-Mail* which states that \$105 million for the establishment of the battery centre has been cut from this year's budget. That funding has been cut. That is correct, is it not?

**Mr Sosso:** I can say to the honourable member for Woodridge, as the Deputy Premier has just announced, the government has announced the establishment of the Sovereign Industry Development Fund. The focus of the government is, as the minister said, biomedicine, biofuels and defence, not the battery industry.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Woodridge, were you moving that that be tabled?

**Mr DICK:** I am a member of the committee, so I am able to table it. Thanks for the answer, Director-General, even though it really was commentary on the new Sovereign Industry Development Fund. That article states that the \$105 million of funding that the previous Queensland government committed to that centre has been cut. Is it correct that the funding has been cut?

**Mr Sosso:** I would say to the honourable member two things. Firstly, the Queensland Battery Industry Strategy is being wound up. Contracts already in place are being honoured. Secondly, the Crisafulli government has made a decision with respect to the reprioritisation of grants to the Sovereign Industry Development Fund. That is a policy question. If you ask anything further, you should direct it to the Deputy Premier.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will do the chairing, thank you, Director-General.

**Mr DICK:** This money was allocated by the previous government to a fund that has now been cut. Director-General, can you confirm a portion of the Queensland government's \$105 million contribution has already been deployed for a detailed feasibility and engineering design package for stage 1 of the Australian Battery Industrialisation Centre?

**Mr Sosso:** I might get back to you on the exact figures in terms of the expenditure from that fund later in the session, honourable member for Woodridge. I would not wish to mislead you or anybody else by giving you a definitive answer unless I went through the figures one by one.

**Mr DICK:** Thank you. I will ask you these questions and perhaps you can come back at the end of the session or take them on notice if you cannot answer them then. I am seeking from you, Director-General, an answer to this question: what is the value of the funds deployed by the department for the detailed feasibility and engineering design package for stage 1 of ABIC, which I understand has already been expended? Are you happy to come back to the committee if you cannot answer that now?

**Mr Sosso:** I think that is connected to the previous question. I will get back to you on both because they are connected.

**Mr DICK:** Thank you. I am seeking an answer from you, Director-General, as to whether the department has received the detailed feasibility and engineering design report.

**Mr Sosso:** Can you just bear with me for one second? With your indulgence, Mr Speaker, I would like to ask Mr Mark Tierney, the Acting Deputy Director-General, State Development, to assist me. I think he will have some of the information that the honourable member for Woodridge is looking for.

**Mr DICK:** Mr Speaker, I have a point of order before we proceed. The question was to the director-general. I am seeking an answer from the director-general.

**Dr ROWAN:** Point of order, Mr Speaker.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will hear the member for Woodridge's point of order.

**Mr DICK:** If I could, I will just finish articulating my point of order, please. If Mr Tierney is able to appear, am I then given the discretion to ask other deputy directors-general at another level in the agency to answer questions if the director-general is deferring this answer? Otherwise I am happy for him to answer the very clear questions about how much was expended and whether the report is available.

**Dr ROWAN:** Point of order, Mr Speaker: the director-general is entitled to bring other officers forward and delegate the responsibility. It is not a blanket opportunity for the member for Woodridge to do two things. He has been around for a long time and understands the rules and the processes which apply to estimates, but it is also not an opportunity for him to state further information and a case as well.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The director-general is well and truly able to refer to Mr Tierney for more information, if that is in his area.

**Mr Sosso:** I am sorry, Speaker, if I erred. I thought the honourable member for Woodridge was looking for a correct answer, so I thought I would assist him. If I am in error in attempting to assist him, I apologise.

**Mr DICK:** I was looking for a direct answer from you.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Mr Tierney, do you have something to contribute to this, please?

**Mr Tierney:** Thank you. In relation to the Australian Battery Industrialisation Centre, we entered into a \$4.25 million contract for the planning and design work. That will be completed in September. We also entered into a \$5 million contract with a university consortium to put in place what is referred to as a concierge service to assist industry to access the university R and D network across Queensland.

**Mr DICK:** What was that \$4.25 million contract for, Mr Tierney?

**Mr Tierney:** That was for planning and design work at the CleanCo site at Swanbank.



**Question on Notice**

**No. 850**

**Asked on 27 June 2025**

**MR P RUSSO** ASKED DEPUTY PREMIER, MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON J BLEIJIE) —

QUESTION:

Will the Deputy Premier provide an update on the Battery Industry Strategy, including total funding allocated in (a) 2025-26 financial year and (b) beyond 2025-26?

ANSWER:

Under the Crisafulli Government, the Department of State Development is refocusing on the strategic industries of Defence, Biomedical and Biofuels, as well as broader regional opportunities that support the Government's economic priorities in traditional and emerging industries.

The new \$180.55 million Sovereign Industry Development Fund, announced in the 2025-26 State Budget, will build Queensland's sovereign industry capability, draw on the State's strengths and grow our regions.

Following the recent Queensland Budget, and the uncertainty around the Federal Government's 2022 commitment to establish a \$100 million battery centre in Queensland, the delivery of the Strategy has now concluded.

Existing contractual commitments made through the Strategy are being delivered.

Queensland is open for business, and the Crisafulli Government remains committed to engaging with industry and stakeholders to seize opportunities aligned to our strategic economic priorities.

**Primary Industries and Resources Committee**

Estimates Public Hearing 6 August 2025

Tabled ☒ or No: 8

Tabled by leave ☐ Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

by: James Martin

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## Senator the Hon Anthony Chisholm

Assistant Minister for Resources

[\(/ministers/chisholm\)](/ministers/chisholm)



**Primary Industries and Resources Committee**

Estimates Public Hearing 6 August 2025

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Moving ahead on batteries made in Australia

# Moving ahead on batteries made in Australia

11 July 2025

Federal Assistant Minister for Resources and Senator for Queensland, Anthony Chisholm will join Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Dale Last in Townsville today to officially open Graphinex's new Battery Anode Demonstration Facility.



Backed by both the Federal and Queensland Government, the new facility combines Australian science with local industry expertise to develop advanced graphite materials for next-generation lithium-ion batteries.

The new facility is set to process graphite ores sourced from the Graphinex Esmeralda Graphite deposit, located approximately 500 kilometres west of Townsville, and will position the Australian company to become an ultra-high-performance Battery Anode Material (BAM) supplier to the global battery manufacturing market.

Graphite is a critical component not only in electric vehicles, but also in high-performance defence applications, and with global demand for natural graphite forecast to rise 140% by 2030, regional Queensland is in a prime position to service that demand.

Graphinex's new facility was supported by a \$3 million Federal Government grant through the International Partnerships for Critical Minerals (IPCM) Program, alongside a \$2 million Queensland Government grant through Queensland Critical Minerals and Battery Technology Fund (QCMBTF).

The Albanese Government has funded \$40 million in projects since the International Partnerships in Critical Minerals (IPCM) Program opened in February 2024. The program is also part of Australia's broader *Critical Minerals Strategy 2023-30* which sets out the government's vision to grow Australia's critical minerals sector.

In 2024, the Albanese Government launched the *National Battery Strategy*, which sets out the government's plan for building a diverse and competitive domestic battery industry that will improve Australia's economic resilience and security.

Graphinex is also backed by international institutional shareholders Idemitsu and Baramulti, reflecting strong global confidence in its strategic direction.

Further information on Graphinex's battery anode manufacturing operations is available [here \(https://www.graphinex.com.au/\)](https://www.graphinex.com.au/), and information on the Federal Government's *Critical Minerals Strategy* and *National Battery Strategy* is available [here \(https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/critical-minerals-strategy-2023-2030/strategy-glance\)](https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/critical-minerals-strategy-2023-2030/strategy-glance) and [here \(https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/national-battery-strategy/summary\)](https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/national-battery-strategy/summary).

**Quotes attributable to Federal Assistant Minister for Resources and Senator for Queensland, Anthony Chisholm:**

"Australia has the resources and skilled workforce needed to lead the world in capitalising off the critical minerals boom. At Graphinex's Townsville facility, we see that vision in action – from research and development to real-world manufacturing capability.

"We're not just focused on extraction, we're also building value here in Australia – creating more jobs, stronger supply chains, and advanced technologies that will power the next generation of clean energy systems.

“Through this new battery manufacturing facility, Graphinex is showing what’s possible when government, industry, and research institutions come together with shared vision and purpose.”

**Quotes attributable to Graphinex Managing Director, Art Malone:**

“Graphinex today officially opened the Townsville Battery Anode Hub, a key development in Australia’s critical minerals and clean energy landscape.

“The facility will produce 300 tonnes per annum of ultra-high energy graphite anode material, supporting qualification with global battery cell manufacturers at commercial scale.

“This milestone has been made possible with support from the Australian Federal and Queensland State Governments and institutional backing from our international partners, Idemitsu and Baramulti.

“We thank both tiers of government for their continued leadership and investment in critical minerals, which have helped to create local jobs, strengthened international partnerships, and advanced Australia’s position as a global leader in sustainable battery materials. Together, we are powering the future.”

**Quotes attributable to Graphinex Chairman, Tom Northcott:**

“Today’s opening reflects our long-term commitment to building sovereign capability across our critical minerals and battery materials supply chains.

“By combining our Australian critical minerals resources with advanced downstream processing for high performing products, we’re creating the foundation for globally competitive, future-facing industries.

“This is about more than graphite or vanadium – it’s about delivering value-added manufacturing, regional jobs, and national resilience in the clean energy transition. We’re proud to be leading that charge.”

**Quotes attributable to Idemitsu Chief Executive Officer, Steve Kovac:**

“We are proud to support Graphinex and their role in driving the growth of the battery materials sector.

“Graphinex’s cutting-edge facility and high-performance anode technology is leading the charge in the global clean energy transition and shaping the future of energy storage solutions. Idemitsu Australia Pty Ltd is committed to energy stability and carbon neutrality.”

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The department acknowledges the traditional owners of the country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to them and their cultures and to the elders past and present.

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Published Friday, 11 July, 2025 at 09:20 AM



**Queensland**  
Government

**JOINT STATEMENT**

**Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations**  
The Honourable Jarrod Bleijie

**Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development**  
The Honourable Dale Last

## **Investor confidence returns to Queensland as Crisafulli Government fast-tracks major graphite project**

- Graphinex's Esmeralda Graphite Project in North Queensland has been declared a Coordinated Project.
- Project expected to create up to 233 jobs, including 100 during construction and 133 at peak operational capacity.
- Backed by international investment secured through a recent trade mission to North America.

A 3.5 million tonne graphite project with the potential to create 233 jobs in North Queensland has gained Coordinated Project status, turbocharging the major critical minerals development.

Graphinex's Esmeralda Graphite Project involves developing a greenfield graphite mine at Croydon in North-West Queensland, and a processing plant in Townsville, which will help build Queensland's critical minerals capabilities in both graphite mining and battery anode manufacturing.

The Coordinated Project declaration allows the Coordinator-General to facilitate environmental approvals from the Queensland and Federal Governments and involve stakeholder and community consultation processes.

Subject to approvals, construction is anticipated to start in 2027, with operations expected to begin approximately 18 months later.

The project is backed by capital secured through a trade mission to North America led by Minister for Natural Resources and Mines Dale Last earlier this year, with the Crisafulli Government playing 'matchmaker' to secure critical international investment and restore Queensland's international reputation, which was badly damaged by Labor's unpredictable anti-mining policies.

Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, Jarrod Bleijie, said the Coordinated Project declaration underscored the Crisafulli Government's commitment to providing investment certainty through streamlined resource project approvals.

"This declaration demonstrates how the Crisafulli Government is partnering with the private sector to supercharge new job creating projects right across the State," Deputy Premier Bleijie said.

"De-risking the delivery of projects like this through whole-of-government approval coordination is supporting more Queensland investment and creating more well-paying Queensland resource jobs.

"Under the Crisafulli Government, Queensland is well and truly open for business."

Minister for Natural Resources and Mines Dale Last said investors were responding to the Crisafulli Government's delivery of policy stability and investment certainty.

"This is an exciting milestone that positions Queensland as a leader in graphite mining and processing," Minister Last said.

"With a reported 25 million tonnes of graphite in this region – the third-largest deposit in the world – this project will help build Queensland's critical minerals capability and strengthen domestic supply chains.

"Investors are looking at jurisdictions that offer certainty, clarity and low sovereign risk, but unfortunately, the former Labor Government trashed Queensland's reputation with unpredictable anti-mining policies that sent investor confidence off a cliff.

"Those investors now see Queensland under the Crisafulli Government ticking every box, delivering stability and investment-friendly policies that create jobs across our state."

Queensland's Coordinator-General Gerard Coggan highlighted the significance of the rigorous assessment process required for a coordinated project declaration, and the whole of government coordination provided by his office.

"This declaration is a commitment to thoroughly evaluate the project's environmental, social, and economic impacts," Mr Coggan said.



"Our role is to ensure that this project meets the highest standards of environmental stewardship, community engagement, and economic benefit as it progresses through the necessary approvals."

Graphinex Managing Director Art Malone said the declaration of Coordinated Project status would accelerate the project's path to market.

"This Coordinated Project declaration is a major milestone for Graphinex. It streamlines approvals, cuts our development timeline by at least 12 months, and confirms the government's recognition of the project's strategic importance to the state," Mr Malone said.

"The international investor introductions have directly resulted in significant investment into Graphinex thanks to Minister Last's efforts.

"We extend our sincere gratitude to the Queensland Government for their unwavering support and vision in driving regional advanced manufacturing and critical minerals development.

"Their leadership and investment in this sector have been instrumental in making this Hub a reality, supporting local jobs, strengthening supply chains, and positioning Queensland as a global leader in sustainable battery materials."

**ENDS**

**MEDIA CONTACT:** William Rollo 0434 650 650

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With regard to specific requests around the rural and regional communities, in January 2024 DAF completed a review of rural communities in terms of its function. The outcome of that review was to integrate the broader function of regional communities into our existing business areas. It just reaffirmed that everything we do is about developing thriving rural and regional communities.

**Mr LAST:** Minister, your charter letter calls on you to work with the Minister for Health and contribute to delivering health care to rural areas. Did you contribute to the government's boost for regional maternity services, announced on 17 July 2023?

**Mr FURNER:** I thank the member for his question. Last estimates, when the honourable member appeared, he asked me a similar question with regard to my engagement with the health minister. I do that on many occasions. It was only recently that I was discussing an aspect of health in the member for Gympie's electorate. It was only a few months ago that we conducted our first mental health round table with representatives from Queensland Health and key stakeholders to discuss the growing area of mental health amongst agricultural stakeholders and primary industry staff. It is paramount in my mind to deal with the health of our primary industry stakeholders, and I will continue to engage with the Minister for Health in this respect on matters such as those to which I have just referred.

**Mr LAST:** Minister, seeing you contributed to the announcement, as you have just said, can you advise how many of the promised 20 GPs with advanced obstetrics training are currently working in rural communities?

**CHAIR:** You should have been here this morning, member for Burdekin, because that health portfolio—

**Mr LAST:** The minister has just contributed.

**CHAIR:** Hang on a second. When I started this session, I made it very clear what areas are within this portfolio. This is not the health portfolio. Do you have another question, member for Burdekin?

**Mr LAST:** Mr Chair, I seek your guidance. That is part of the minister's charter letter, hence the reason for that particular question.

**CHAIR:** You should stick to the appropriation, but I will allow it.

**Mr HEAD:** Is health care not important for rural communities?

**CHAIR:** Member for Callide, we had a health portfolio session for hours this morning. You could have turned up and asked that question then. I ask that you stick to the appropriation portfolio area, thank you.

**Mr LAST:** Minister, your charter letter under rural communities calls on you to help rural communities and promote new investment. Can you identify for the committee the items in the capital program on page 9 of the SDS that relate to promoting new investment in rural communities?

**Mr FURNER:** I thank the member for his question. There are copious areas and examples of help for primary industries in rural communities, member. I will start with the announcement I made in my opening statement to today's hearing, and that was the \$3.3 million of Rural Economic Development Grants. This is a hallmark example of the Miles government providing assistance to rural communities by providing up to \$200,000 reciprocated by the primary industry holder to grow their business—not only to grow their business but also to grow employment in their business.

This is an area that we are extremely proud of. In addition, there is drought preparedness. We knew that, at some point in time, we would need to flip the coin with regard to providing assistance to primary industry providers, and I used the example, once again in my opening statement, of assisting them in areas before drought.

**Mr LAST:** Point of order, Mr Chair.

**Mr FURNER:** Hang on. I am still answering the question, Chair. If I am asked a question, I would like the opportunity to respond. I find it quite rude that I am being interrupted by this one.

**CHAIR:** I will ask that you do continue. I am interested. You might not want the answer, but I am interested in the response. The committee is interested, so please continue.

**Mr FURNER:** Thank you, Chair. When you are in drought, it is too late in some cases to provide assistance. That is why we flipped the coin with regard to providing drought preparedness assistance prior to people being in drought. In many cases, those millions of dollars have gone a long way in assisting those primary producers.

It was only this week that I met with the drought commissioners, Mark O'Brien and Ruth Wade, and they indicated that the government's achievements with regard to flipping the coin on drought assistance has paid off time and time again, in their opinion. This is the assistance that we are giving

Primary Industries and Resources Committee

Estimates Public Hearing 6 August 2025

Tabled ☒ or No: 10

Tabled by leave ☐ Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

by: James Martin

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# Queensland Premier David Crisafulli claims drop in victim of crime numbers

By state political reporter Jack McKay

Crime

Tue 29 Jul 2025 at 9:32am

Primary Industries and Resources Committee

Estimates Public Hearing 6 August 2025

Tabled ☒ or No: 1

Tabled by leave ☐ Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

by: Tom Smith



The government says victim numbers have fallen by 5.7 per cent in the first half of the year, compared with 2024. (ABC News: Lucas Hill)

Queensland's new LNP government has claimed victim of crime numbers have fallen, as it reaches an in principle agreement for a new pay deal with police that includes an \$8,000 retention bonus.

During last October's election campaign, Premier David Crisafulli promised to resign from the top job if there were not fewer victims of crime by the end of his term.

He today said victim numbers had fallen by 5.7 per cent in the first six months of the 2025 calendar year, compared to the first six months of 2024.





David Crisafulli promised to bring down victim numbers during last year's election campaign. (ABC News)

"Robbery is down 13.2 per cent. Break and enters are down 12 per cent. Stolen cars are down 6.4 per cent," Mr Crisafulli said.

"Just to be clear, the information that we are presenting is Queensland Police Service data. It's been there since 2001, so it is apples with apples.

**"What we are doing with this is to make sure that Queenslanders can hold me accountable for the commitment I made to fewer victims."**

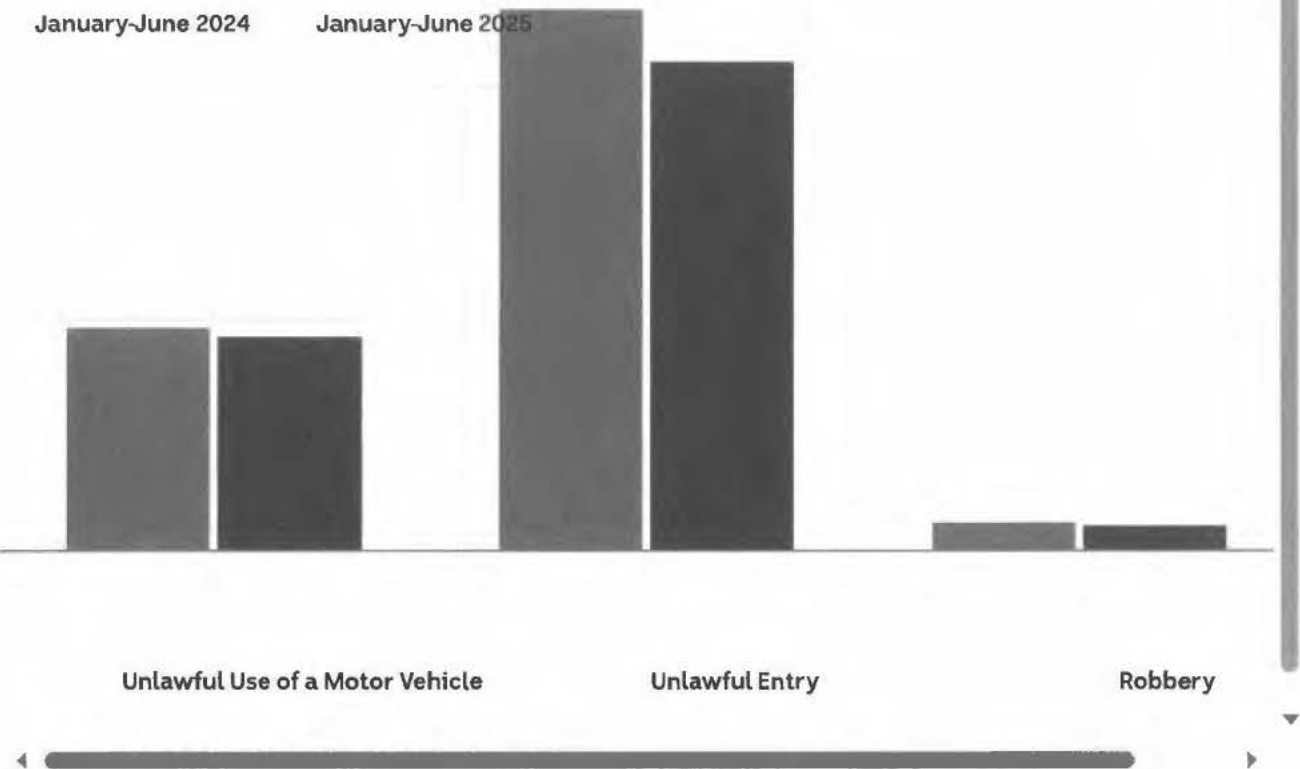
Mr Crisafulli said the figures cover 12 categories of crime, including homicide, assault, robbery, kidnapping, life endangering acts, unlawful entry, and coercive control.

"Across those categories, that's where the drop has come about, which is 5.7 per cent with population adjusted [or] 3.3 per cent just on raw numbers," he said.

In total numbers, the government says victim numbers have fallen from 75,084 to 72,588 over this period.

**Data for three offences shows drop over six-month period**

Queensland police data shows the rate of crimes in the first six months of 2024 to the same period in 2025.



Griffith University criminal psychologist James Ogilvie said crime statistics are "complicated" and the data did not give a good sense of long-term trends.

"You would need at least a couple of years' worth of data to be able to make some kind of assessment about whether their policies are making any impact," he said.

"Policy and legislation [are] constantly moving and it's only one small part of the picture about what makes up crime statistics."

Despite the government's heavy focus on the issue, Dr Ogilvie said violent offences made up only a small portion of youth crime.



QPS statistics reveal robbery is down 13.2 per cent in the first half of the year, with break and enters down 12 per cent. (ABC News: Lucas Hill)

### **'Other thefts' excluded from reported data**

Mr Crisafulli acknowledged the figures he provided were different to those published annually by the Australia Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

This is because it does not include the category of "other thefts", which Mr Crisafulli suggested could relate to victimless crimes.

For example, Mr Crisafulli indicated the theft of a road marker was a crime without a victim.

"That's certainly a crime and that data has always been included in some of the ABS stats," he said.

"But in the spirit of transparency we thought we would give you the ones that do relate to the victims."

During budget estimates, Opposition Leader Steven Miles pressed the government on why it had excluded "other theft" from its victims figures.

According to the ABS, there were more than 150,000 victims of “other theft” recorded in Queensland in 2023.

The ABS website suggests this includes “theft from a person” and “theft from retail premises”.

In response, Mr Crisafulli said if other theft had been included in the figures he released, the crime rate would have fallen further.

“The fall in other theft was about six-and-a-half per cent. I think it was about 6.4 [per cent],” he said.

“So, the reduction in other theft, it would have looked more favourable on the government if that was included in those metrics.”

Dr Ogilvie said excluding "other theft" offences from the data left a huge portion of reported crime out of the statistics.

## **Police union welcomes 'largest ever' pay proposal**

The government has also announced the Queensland Police Union has agreed in principle to a new enterprise bargaining agreement.

The proposal will need to be voted on by union members before it comes into effect.

It will deliver a minimum pay rise of 3 per cent from July 1 this year, followed by a 2.5 per cent hike in July next year, and a 2.5 per cent rise in July 2027.

An \$8,000 retention bonus will also be paid to general duty officers, including constables, senior constables, sergeants, and senior sergeants.

The bonus will be broken into two \$4,000 payments, with the first paid in January 2026 followed by a second payment in January 2027.





Dan Purdie says the pay deal will include an \$8,000 retention bonus for officers. (ABC News: Lucas Hill)

Police Minister Dan Purdie said there would also be an increase in shift allowances, as well as a boost in the allowances given to rural officers.

"This is a fantastic deal for our frontline police right across Queensland," he said.

**"We appreciate the work that they do, the risks that they take, and the sacrifices that they make, and this deal reflects that."**

Queensland Police Union president Shane Prior described the EBA as the "largest ever pay deal" for Queensland police.

"\$540 million will go into wages and conditions for police in Queensland," he said.

"This EB is for the hardworking frontliner. This EB is for the attraction and the retention of police going into the future."

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Posted Tue 29 Jul 2025 at 9:32am, updated Tue 29 Jul 2025 at 12:04pm

# William Donald Cawood sentenced on cattle theft charges, admits he stole cattle

[Fergus Gregg](#)

A newbie grazier made wild excuses in magistrates court after he pleaded guilty to the theft of another property's cattle.

Septimus farmer William Donald Cawood, 49, was in Mackay magistrates court for sentencing on charges of [cattle theft](#), [suspicion of theft and branding cattle with an unregistered mark](#).

The court heard Cawood, a mining industry diesel fitter, bought a cane farm adjoining the Mia Mia State Forest at Septimus roughly three years ago and began converting it into a cattle block.

On April 18, Cawood took sixteen cattle to the Sarina saleyard and signed a National Vendor Declaration stating he was the owner of these cattle.

The next day, four were purchased by a buyer from Thomas, Borthwick and Sons, a Bakers Creek abattoir.

The buyer identified some as not belonging to Cawood, but to another grazier identified in court as Dale William Odger, also based near Septimus.

Mr Odger attended the abattoir three days later and identified one of the beasts as his before making a complaint to the police who inspected, documented and photographed the cattle.

Primary Industries and Resources Committee

Estimates Public Hearing 6 August 2025

Tabled ☒ or No: 2

Tabled by leave ☐ Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

by: Tom Smith

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6/8/2025, 9:52 AM  
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The court heard three of the cattle have since been returned.

Cawood's property adjoins the Mia Mia State Forest and he said sometime cattle came down from the hills and to his property.

Police were directed to Cawood by a brand registered to his property on one of the animals.

Cawood told police cattle sometimes came to his property from the hills and entered by jumping the fence, or he lets them in via a gate.

The court heard Cawood then captured the cattle, brands them with his brand, castrates them and applies tags to them prior to sale.

During his interview Cawood told police "I thought I could take the cleanskin cattle".



He said he made no attempt to locate the owner of those cattle.

Prosecutor Leonie Taufa'ao said Cawood's participation in the interview and frankness were to his credit and police charged him with theft of one stock animal, suspicion of theft for three more and using a brand or mark on stock of a kind not registered.

Cawood pleaded guilty to these charges on October 14.

William Donald Cawood (centre) was charged with stealing a cattle, suspicion of stealing stock and branding stock with a mark not registered to his name. Photo: Fergus Gregg

Defence solicitor Andrew Busch was asked by his client to request convictions not be recorded in this matter.

"Mr Cawood, given his background, had a complete lack of knowledge of the grazing industry," Mr Busch said.

Mr Busch said Cawood was concerned convictions might impact his employment as a diesel fitter.

Acting Magistrate Nigel Reese said he took into account Cawood's participation and frankness when speaking with police and his early plea of guilt, however added Cawood breached the trust the cattle industry operated on.

"You also thought you could take clearskin cattle," Mr Reese said.

"That is not the case.

"This will be a very expensive learning curve for you."

Mr Cawood was ordered to pay a fine of \$1613 for the theft of one stock animal, \$2400 for suspicion of stealing stock and \$1000 for using brand or mark on stock of a kind not registered, as well as \$800 in restitution to the victim.

"It's making clear that the community denounces the sort of conduct you have involved yourself in ... not just the wider community but the narrow community of the cattle industry," Mr Reese said.

"The cattle community relies on trust with one another. You completely breached that."

Cawood was given 30 days to pay the fine and no convictions were recorded.

## [Mackay](#)

Don't miss out on the headlines from Mackay. Followed categories will be added to My News.



# Entire harvest of oysters taken in well-coordinated dead-of-night heist

Holly Fishlock

An entire harvest of mature oysters, valued at \$12,000, has been stolen from a farm off North Stradbroke Island in another devastating blow to Queensland's oyster industry.

The harvest of more than 7000 oysters was stolen from new grower Bulimba Oyster Company in Deanbilla Bay earlier this year.

Primary Industries and Resources Committee

Estimates Public Hearing 6 August 2025

Tabled ☒ or No: 3

Tabled by leave ☐ Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

by: Tom Smith

About 600 dozen, or 7200, oysters were stolen from Bulimba Oyster Company. The value was about \$12,000.

The well-coordinated theft saw 60 baskets with approximately 600 dozen oysters stolen.



The Courier-Mail understands the "well-coordinated heist" occurred in the dead of night with the harvest only accessible via boat.

This year's theft has not only stripped Kieron Gait, one of the seven growers behind Bulimba Oyster Company, of their second-ever harvest but has also jeopardised their contracts with Brisbane restaurants and individual buyers, casting a shadow over the reliability of Queensland's oyster supply chain.

The stolen baskets also contained Queensland Sunshine oyster spat, some of which were dumped into the water, while others remain missing.

Oyster spat grows into adult oysters and is critical for the future of the oyster industry.

"This was not just a financial loss - it's a crushing blow to our morale and our ability to move forward as a new producer," Mr Gait said.

Queensland Oyster Growers Association and chair of the Queensland Oyster Industry Network professor Andrew Robson said this was the third year in a row that the area has experienced a "well-organised heist of this scale".

The harvest was only accessible by boat, with the theft described as a "well-coordinated heist".

Last summer more than [\\$25,000 worth of oysters were stolen](#) in the weeks leading up to Christmas 2023.

"These thefts are devastating. For new growers like Bulimba Oyster Company, this could mean the difference between staying in the industry or closing down altogether. The theft of stock, spat, and infrastructure undermines the years of dedication that growers put into producing premium oysters for Queenslanders – which take three years before they can be harvested," Professor Robson said.

"The Queensland oyster industry is growing, but thefts like these put its future at risk."

Mr Gait said the incident also threatened the broader initiative to "safeguard the Queensland oyster industry from devastating diseases".

Since starting, the company has participated in a Department of Primary Industries aquaculture research project, helping to develop

an oyster resistant to the QX disease.

QX is a seasonally occurring disease impacting Sydney Rock Oysters.

Removing oysters from commercial leases without permission is a crime under Section 87 of the Fisheries Act 1994, and carries severe penalties.

"If you see suspicious activity around commercial oyster leases, such as unfamiliar boats or jet skis removing oyster bags, or notice oysters being sold through unusual channels at discounted prices, please report it to police on 131 444 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000," Professor Robson said.

### **Police & Courts**

Don't miss out on the headlines from Police & Courts. Followed categories will be added to My News.



## Premier and Minister for Veterans

For reply please quote: PU/LM TF/24/21433 - DOC/24/221401

- 8 NOV 2024

The Honourable Tony Perrett MP  
Minister for Primary Industries  
1 William Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

1 William Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15185 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3719 7000  
Email [ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au](mailto:ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au)  
Website [www.thepremier.qld.gov.au](http://www.thepremier.qld.gov.au)

Dear Minister *Perrett*

Queenslanders have put their faith in us to deliver a fresh start for our great state. As the Minister for Primary Industries, you have a critical role to play and that will come with significant responsibility.

The Right Plan for Queensland's Future is a comprehensive plan that will require discipline, focus and unity to deliver.

Together we will ensure safety where people live, provide health services when Queenslanders need them, respect taxpayers' money, deliver a place to call home for Queenslanders, and drive government to work for the people.

It is my expectation that you will work every day of this term of Government to deliver these priorities for Queensland. As Minister for Primary Industries, you are ultimately responsible for the following Government agencies:

### Your portfolio responsibilities

Department of Primary Industries

I want you to closely align your work every day with the following commitments we have made to Queenslanders.

### Our fundamental commitment to Queenslanders

to restore **safety where you live**

to reinstate **health services when you need them**

to return **respect for your money**

to reimagine **a place to call home**

to redesign **a government that works for you**

I have outlined for each minister the values I want to drive our Government's agenda across the Queensland Government agencies which you have carriage for, these are:

Primary Industries and Resources Committee

Estimates Public Hearing 6 August 2025

Tabled ☒ or No: 4

Tabled by leave ☐ Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

by: Tom Smith



Core portfolio values	
Department of Primary Industries	<u>Primary Industries</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure the long-term future for traditional primary industries that have been a key pillar in our State's enduring economic prosperity.</li> <li>• Develop new agricultural products and frontiers by harnessing emerging technologies.</li> <li>• Explore new and innovative ways to improve on farm productivity and profitability for growers.</li> <li>• Safeguard and strengthen Queensland biosecurity systems to underpin the future of the industry.</li> </ul>

In addition to the values outlined above, the key portfolio deliverables that should be your priority include the following:

Key portfolio deliverables	
Department of Primary Industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boost Queensland's farm gate output to \$30 billion by 2030.</li> <li>• Provide certainty around long-term regulation and taxation to encourage expansion and new investment in Queensland agriculture.</li> <li>• Deliver our Queensland first agricultural innovation fund, the \$30 million Sowing the Seeds of Farming Innovation fund.</li> <li>• Secure the future of the Mossman community by working with the community and cane industry to deliver a \$12.5 million investment, supporting the delivery of next year's sugar cane crop, including a transport guarantee to ensure the crop can be harvested.</li> <li>• Support Queensland's commercial and recreational fishing sectors by only legislating scientifically backed changes to regulation, with compulsory regulatory impact statements, and fairly compensating all fishers for any changes required.</li> <li>• In consultation with key stakeholders including industry, work to deliver a landmark Queensland Timber Action Plan within the first year of forming government, ensuring the state has access to the timber required to build one million homes by 2044.</li> <li>• Secure policy settings that underpin a stronger supply of timber production into the future, ultimately improving the access and price of timber for end users.</li> <li>• Review the closure of the Cape York Biosecurity Facility at Coen and move to reinstate our northern line of biosecurity defence.</li> <li>• Supercharge scientifically backed research for the future of Queensland's food and fibre production.</li> <li>• Work with industry and higher education to drive the future skills requirements to build Queensland's agricultural workforce, including training for the AgTech jobs of the future.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen Queensland's biosecurity frontline with an additional \$50 million investment over the next four years, employing 100 additional frontline biosecurity staff at regional Department of Primary Industries facilities in biosecurity hotspots, including new stock inspectors, veterinarians, agronomists, research and development and AgTech specialists.</li> <li>• Work with stakeholders to deliver Beef Week 2027 with an additional \$4.5 million in Government funding.</li> <li>• Work with fellow relevant ministers to support a reduction to input costs like water and electricity for food and fibre production.</li> <li>• Invest in industry-led best management practice programs to increase sustainability and support landholders to get the best outcome for their crops.</li> <li>• Work with the Minister for Environment and Tourism, Science and Innovation to increase private protected areas in Queensland, rewarding stewardship and ensuring prime agricultural land is maintained.</li> </ul>
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I will meet with you regularly to discuss progress in implementing these actions.

We all know that many Queenslanders are struggling under significant cost-of-living pressures. In addition to the deliverables listed above, I urge you to identify opportunities to provide long-term cost-of-living relief through structural improvements and prudent oversight for those portfolio areas for which you have carriage for.

It is critical to remember that every decision a minister makes, and all actions taken, must be in the interest of the Queensland public. It is imperative that those decisions and actions should be made without regard to personal, political or other immaterial considerations.

A strong and stable public service creates a strong and stable Queensland. The Queensland Public Service are integral to being able to implement our ambitious and important agenda for the state.

I expect ministers and their staff will engage with chief executive officers and departmental staff with the highest levels of courtesy and respect. I expect you will be an engaged and visible leader for the public servants in your department, both in the central office and the regions, and that you will strongly support your frontline staff in the important work they do.

Your engagement with the Queensland Public Service should always be in accordance with *The Queensland Ministerial Handbook, Ministerial Code of Conduct, Code of Conduct Ministerial Staff Members*', along with ensuring your staff always adhere to the *Protocols for communication between ministerial staff members and department employees*.

It is also important you familiarise yourself with 'Governing Queensland' for the suite of policy and administrative handbooks. These documents are available on the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's website at [www.premiers.qld.gov.au](http://www.premiers.qld.gov.au). These documents provide an explanation for the processes of Government in Queensland.

We have been given the incredible privilege of serving the people of Queensland as their Government. I look forward to working with you to deliver for every Queenslander.

Yours sincerely

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

**DAVID CRISAFULLI MP**  
**PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR VETERANS**



Primary Industries and Resources Committee

Estimates Public Hearing 6 August 2025

Tabled ☐ or No: 5

Tabled by leave ☒ Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

by: Minister Perrett

# QUEENSLAND FUTURE TIMBER PLAN 2050

A 25-year plan for our forestry  
and timber industry

**DELIVERING**  
FOR QUEENSLAND



**Queensland**  
Government



**Queensland timber is one of the state's most valued renewable resources.**

**We invest in the forests that produce timber and timber products, and manage them sustainably to provide an ongoing asset for future generations.**

**Forests and timber products are economic generators that deliver our homes, our infrastructure, and the environment that our communities enjoy.**





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# Message from the Queensland Government



I am proud to release the consultation draft of the *Queensland Future Timber Plan 2050*, a 25-year strategy to expand and transform Queensland's forestry and timber industry. This strategy will play an important role in delivering the outcomes from the landmark *Primary Industries Prosper 2050* 25-year blueprint to grow the broader primary industries sector.

This *Queensland Future Timber Plan 2050* is a long-term, groundbreaking strategy that will safeguard the future of the forestry and timber industry, and secure enough timber, produced in a sustainable way, to achieve the Queensland Government's commitment to build 1 million homes by 2044.

Queensland already has some of the best timber in the country. As Australia and the world demand more renewable, low-carbon building products, our plantations, native forests and the timber produced from these resources, will deliver increasingly important benefits to our economy, our environment, and our communities.

To increase supply, we need to be innovative in how and what we produce from timber. We will need to produce more products from the timber we already have, while caring for our forests. We will also need to grow additional timber to meet increasing demands.

But trees take time to grow, so in the meantime, we will need to source additional sustainably-produced timber to supplement local supply.

We must protect and grow our forest and timber resources, build on industry-led innovations, and harness the growing demand for timber as a sustainable building material, as a biofuel and as a natural way of sequestering carbon.

Together with industry, the Queensland Government will capitalise on our unique opportunity to deliver a stronger future for Queensland communities and the forestry and timber industry by co-designing, co-investing, and co-delivering the *Queensland Future Timber Plan 2050*.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Perrett'.

**Hon Tony Perrett, MP**  
Minister for Primary Industries  
Member for Gympie





## Messages from the industry

*"We care about our industry, our people and our environment. This plan will recognise all three to deliver sustainable growth."*

*"Forests sequester carbon and the timber products produced from these forests have the lowest embodied energy of any building material used in construction. These are key traits essential in the modern built environment."*

*"We will continue to produce the right products for the right applications in construction and other industries. But we can also improve the recovery rates of timber and direct our resources to higher-quality and higher-value end products for housing."*

*"A long-term strategy is what the forestry and timber industry has been missing for many years. Providing a commitment to long-term supply is critical to meet the housing targets and to attracting investment."*

*"Without a substantial increase in supply, Australia will miss its housing target, or will need to import hardwood from overseas where supply can come from less sustainable sources."*

*"We need to plan beyond the life of the strategy. The plantation softwood trees that we plant today won't be ready to harvest until the 2050s. Today's decisions will determine what timber is available for the next generation."*

*"Queensland is already leading the transformation of processing and advanced manufacturing within Australia's timber and construction industries. With the quality of our timber, and the support of government, we have a unique opportunity right now to expand research and development into innovation, and into streamlining processing, manufacturing and building processes."*

*"Carbon, biofuels, circular economy opportunities in supporting plantation investment would be a game changer."*

*"A lack of domestic supply of hardwood has seen an increase in imports, which may not be sustainably certified like Queensland timber."*

*"Our timber is some of the most sustainably produced in the world. We need public education about our sustainable forest management practices."*





## Working together

**Industry and government must work together to co-design, co-deliver and co-invest in a more secure and sustainable future for the forestry and timber industry, and to transform the industry to meet the increasing demands of an expanding population.**

Together, we must develop collaborative solutions in the *Queensland Future Timber Plan 2050* and 5-year action plan. We will forge a new way forward, under ten guiding principles.

### Guiding principles

1. Strengthen and support a sustainable forestry and timber industry to promote investment certainty and industry growth.
2. Grow sustainable timber supply to support Queensland's housing, construction, infrastructure, and new and existing needs of other industries.
3. Pursue supply-chain competitiveness on an international scale that is resilient to domestic and international market forces.
4. Re-imagine the future use of timber in the built environment.
5. Position Queensland timber as a proud centrepiece of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and beyond.
6. Simplify regulation and governance to support long-term industry and environmental sustainability.
7. Improve community confidence and trust in the forestry and timber industry by implementing an open and transparent approach that balances timber supply and the environment.
8. Prioritise meaningful engagement and partnerships with First Nations people.
9. Invest in a workforce that aligns with the skills needed into the future.
10. Co-design, co-invest, and co-deliver with stakeholders to ensure enduring and effective outcomes for the forestry and timber industry.







Photo provided by Hyne Timber.  
Used with permission.



# Why forestry and timber matter to Queensland

**Queensland has some of the best timber in the world, and demand for it is growing.**

The *Queensland Future Timber Plan 2050* will transform our approach to the forestry and timber industry. It will support long-term access to sustainably sourced timber and timber products, while contributing to a lower-emissions future. The plan will also support the bold vision under the *Primary Industries Prosper 2050* blueprint to make Queensland's primary industries profitable, productive and sustainable for future generations, and to empower regional communities to be bold and prosperous.

Queensland's forestry and timber industry will play a vital role in achieving the ambitious blueprint goal of growing primary production to \$30 billion by 2030.

Sustainably grown and carefully harvested, our plantation and native forests are enormous assets to the state's economy, environment and regional communities.

Timber is Queensland's most sustainable building material, that captures emissions during its growth and sequesters it for life. Harvesting, and then ensuring that the forests regenerate, delivers both a construction resource and an environmental benefit.

But it also takes decades for trees to mature before they can be harvested.

As our population grows, we will need to rely more heavily on the forestry and timber industry to build housing for urban and regional communities, and to build essential infrastructure, such as bridges, railways, mines, and energy networks. There are a range of new and emerging uses for timber that we will also need to manage.

The demands on our forestry and timber industry will increase exponentially as we try to meet these demands.

With timber sourced from state-owned forests, plantations, and private and First Nations-owned forests, a sustainable future for the sector depends on government, industry and landowners co-delivering the *Queensland Future Timber Plan 2050* collectively.

Together, we must transform how the forestry and timber industry operates to support it to:

- deliver 1 million homes by 2044, and prioritise timber use for high-value products in housing, construction and infrastructure
- provide a long-term reliable supply of timber to meet demand for Queenslanders by:
  - protecting and optimising existing plantations
  - sustainably harvesting native forests
  - expanding Queensland's commercial-scale plantation estate
  - capitalising on the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games to showcase Queensland timber to the world
- extract greater value from the timber resource we have through efficiencies and innovation
- continue to support sustainable selective native timber harvesting in Queensland
- while we increase local supply, ensure timber imports are responsibly sourced to supplement domestic timber supply and ease short-term timber constraints
- develop internationally competitive supply chains
- be a key investment opportunity for emerging carbon, biodiversity and circular economies
- grow community trust in our environmental stewardship
- innovate in how we grow, manage and harvest timber, and in product development.

The decisions we make today will shape timber supply well beyond 2050, and define the legacy of this strategy.





## Addressing key drivers

Currently, Queensland and domestic supply can meet the bulk of our existing housing and infrastructure needs for timber. However, over the next 25 years and beyond, Australia and Queensland will face a significant shortage of domestically grown timber needed to build enough housing and infrastructure for our communities.

Meeting current and future demand for building and other purposes will require clear direction on where and how forestry can occur, how we can create certainty around where that demand will come from, how to balance supply from native and plantation forestry, and how to innovate across the supply chain to deliver the timber products needed by local communities and consumers.

# Current drivers

## Housing demand

To build 1 million homes by 2044, Queensland will need to significantly increase its timber production and construction sector productivity. An increase of new housing starts, including detached and multi-unit housing, from the current 35,970 per year to approximately 52,630 per year will be needed to meet our ambitious housing target.

On current estimates, based on the amount of timber it takes to build detached and multi-unit housing, Queensland will need between 9 million and 20 million cubic metres of timber to build 1 million more homes by 2044.

Exact volumes will depend on the proportion of high-rise apartments and one-to-two storey detached houses built, and how much steel framing is used within construction going forward.

These figures do not account for timber used for other purposes, including infrastructure required to deliver the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

## Essential infrastructure

Queensland's population will grow to between 6.4 million and 8.27 million by 2046. The critical infrastructure needed will require more timber such as hardwood timber poles, railway sleepers, timber supports for mining, and wharf and jetty construction. For energy infrastructure alone, Queensland is expected to need around 35,000 hardwood timber poles each year.

## Plantation supply

Based on trees in the ground now, Queensland will need a significant increase in plantation timber to provide structural components to meet our housing targets. It will take at least another 25 years before new and expanded plantations can be harvested. Since 2017, plantation timber supplies have remained static nationally despite the increasing demand, commercial plantations across Australia have reduced significantly.

## Managing supply we need now

We will need to continue to source timber through both local and overseas markets to meet expected demand. We must also transform how timber is processed into end products to extract greater usable resource from our existing timber supply.

## Security of supply

Timber supply requires a long-term planning approach. To supply enough timber to 2050, existing forests including plantations, must be protected from competing land use, biosecurity risks, and bush fire risks, while securing new land for plantation expansion.

## Climate risks

Impacts from increasingly frequent natural disasters and extreme weather events, especially fire, can take many years to overcome. Queensland has seen multiple disaster events in recent years, impacting on the availability of locally grown timber.

## Timber types are not always interchangeable

Softwoods and hardwoods have unique characteristics and are not always interchangeable. Supply must be balanced across both resources to meet existing and future demand.

## Reduced reliance on timber imports

While Queensland produces and exports sawnwood, timber products and fibre, we are currently a net importer of timber products. Across Australia, customers are increasingly demanding timber sourced from certified sustainable forests, but some countries have much lower sustainability and ecological certification standards than Queensland.

## Coexistence

Prime forestry land, including 3 million hectares of state forests, must coexist with demands for land for more housing, energy, infrastructure, critical minerals and conservation. State forests will continue to cater for a broad range of activities, including native timber harvesting, bee keeping, tourism and recreation, and grazing, but when and where these occur, and how additional risks like fire, pests and disease are managed, will need to be balanced.

## Regulatory settings and investment barriers

With Queensland facing a housing crisis, now more than ever, there is a need for sensible, predictable and stable regulations to attract investment into Queensland's forestry and timber industry. The industry operates in a complex regulatory environment, governed by different acts administered by different departments, with different objectives and which, at times, create competing interests. Uncertainty of access to timber resources, market volatility and logistics, and transport costs all create barriers to investment.

## Workforce pressures

Across primary industries sectors, employers face the challenge of attracting and retaining a stable and appropriately-trained labour base, particularly in rural and remote Queensland.



# Queensland's forestry industry snapshot

Queensland's forestry and timber industry stretches along the coastline from South East Queensland to the far north, and inland to South West Queensland, providing softwood and native forest resources on both state and privately-owned land.

Average annual harvest volumes over 5-year period (2019/20-2023/24)

- Native hardwood (public) – 137,000m<sup>3</sup>
- Native hardwood (private) – 161,000m<sup>3</sup>
- Softwood plantations – 1.9 million m<sup>3</sup>
- Cypress pine – 111,000m<sup>3</sup>
- Total harvested per year – 2.3 million m<sup>3</sup>





Total native forest  
area in Queensland  
**51.75M**  
hectares

**30.38M**  
hectares

State-owned  
forests



Up to 0.1M hectares  
harvested annually

across state-owned and  
privately-owned native  
forests

**16.08M**  
hectares

Privately-owned  
forests

**5.29M**  
hectares

Other



**\$83.8M\*\***

Total value of sawnwood  
imported into Queensland  
in 2023-24



**\$24M\*\***

Total value of sawnwood  
exported from Queensland  
in 2023-24



**\$730M\***

\$244m gross value  
production and \$486m  
value-added through  
primary processing



**1M**

houses by 2044



**6,000**

people employed\*

2,800 in forestry, logging, and primary  
processing, and 3,200 in manufacturing  
initial products



**968**

forestry businesses\*

(Forestry and logging, forestry  
support and log sawmilling and  
timber dressing) in 2023-24

\* Source: DPI data farm <https://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/news-media/campaigns/data-farm/primary-industries>.

\*\* Source: Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, 2025 <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/research-topics/forests/forest-economics/forest-wood-products-statistics#daff-page-main>.



# Timber supply chain

Timber is sourced from either trees managed specifically for timber and wood production (plantations) or from large tracts of natural forests (native forestry).

## Growing timber

### Plantation forestry

Around 300,000 hectares of state forests are under licence for plantation production, with approximately 200,000 hectares of plantation currently established.

Almost all of these are softwood plantations, with only small areas of hardwood plantations.

Plantations are predominantly located in the coastal, higher rainfall zones of South East and North Queensland.

High-quality softwood timber, from species including southern pines and Queensland araucaria, provide essential construction materials. The versatility and very high strength of Queensland grown softwoods makes them highly sought after.

### Native forestry

Native forestry is undertaken on state forests, and leasehold and private freehold land. There is around 30.38 million hectares of state-owned native forests across these tenures.

Around 80 per cent of native forestry occurs within state-owned native forests. Most of Queensland's state-owned native hardwood forests are slow growing, they contain substantial forest resources.

Native hardwood forests on private land (freehold and Indigenous land) cover more than six million hectares across Queensland. In these forests, some landholders combine forestry and grazing in a mutually beneficial way.

Other forest types in Queensland include cypress open forest and woodlands located west of the Great Dividing Range in the southern areas of the state and tropical forest resources in the north of the state.

## Timber processing

A network of sawmills and other processing plants operate across regional communities, located within or close to existing forestry resources. Processing produces solid wood products such as sawnwood, poles and girders, as well as engineered composite products like plywood, medium density fibre board (MDF), laminated beams and posts, as well as finger-jointed building products such as boards and joinery products.

New technology and modern methods of construction are greatly increasing demand for engineered wood products.

## Timber end-use products

Different timber species are grown, harvested and processed for specific end-uses that capitalise on their natural qualities. While traditional building products make up most end-uses, there is growing demand for new and emerging products.

Construction hardwood uses include:

- housing, flooring, decking, cladding, joinery, benchtops, furniture
- electricity poles, bridges, wharfs.

Plantation softwood end products include:

- housing frames, flooring, lining, mouldings, laminated beams and engineered wood products like MDF, CLT and plywood.

Cypress products include:

- general framing, flooring, cladding and fencing.

Growing demand for innovative uses and zero waste:

- engineered wood products, prefabricated homes, and factory-based manufacturing of products for housing construction
- products derived from wood residues including for biomass energy, panel boards and furniture
- products from the whole tree including leaves and oil
- biofuels.



## Timber usage in housing

Softwood and hardwood timber are both essential construction materials in housing. Timber needs vary across building types, with apartments and detached one-to-two storey homes requiring anywhere from between 9 and 20-plus cubic metres of timber to complete.

On current estimates, the average amount of structural timber used in a traditional new one-to-two storey detached home is 14.58m<sup>3</sup>. Approximately 68 per cent is softwood timber and 32 per cent is hardwood timber. These figures may vary in the future based on the type of housing built, and how much steel framing is used.

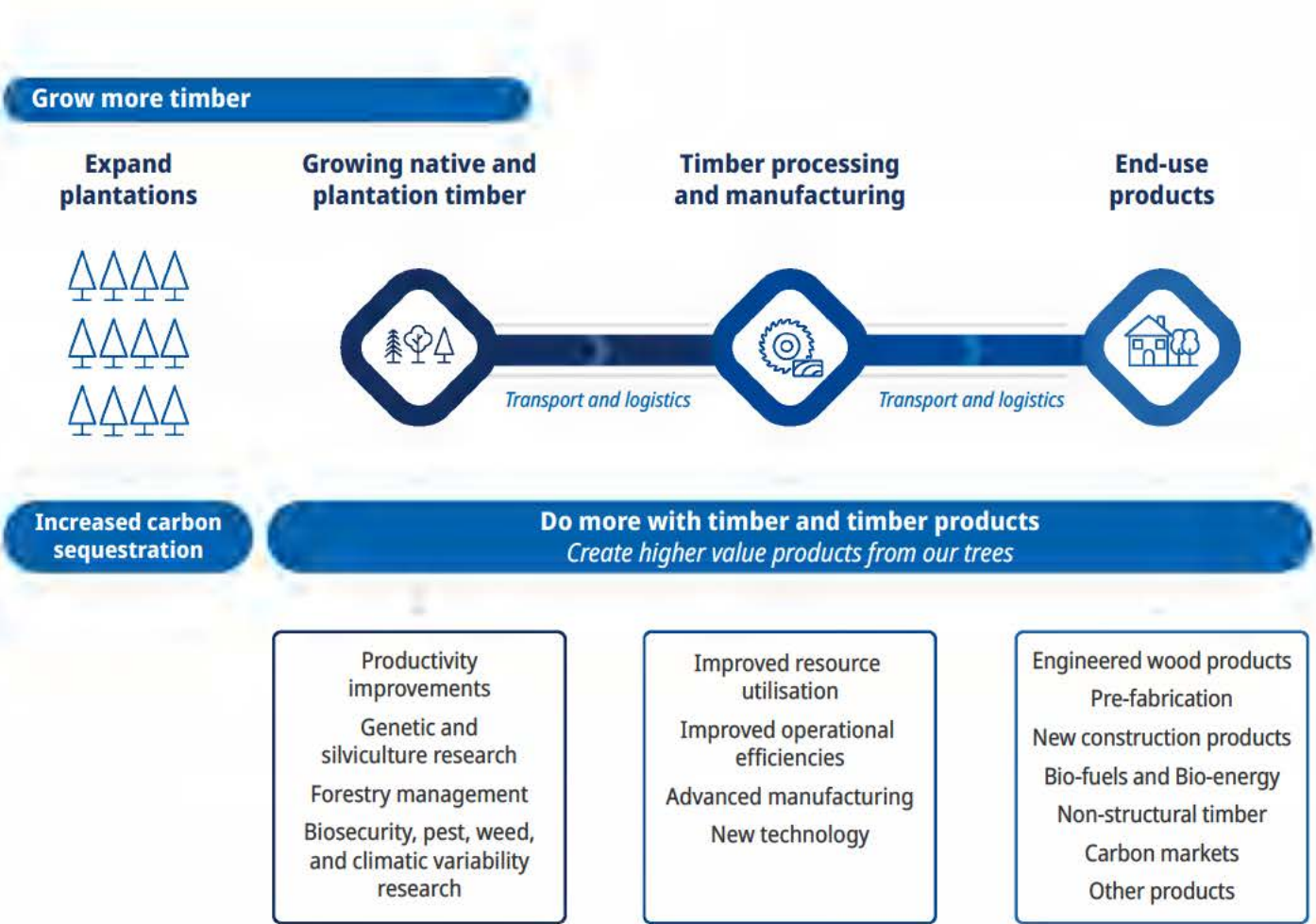




# Meeting future timber demand

To deliver the timber supply needed for our growing population to 2050, we will need to increase supply. To do that we will need to be innovative in how we grow, harvest and manufacture timber products to maximise the amount we produce.

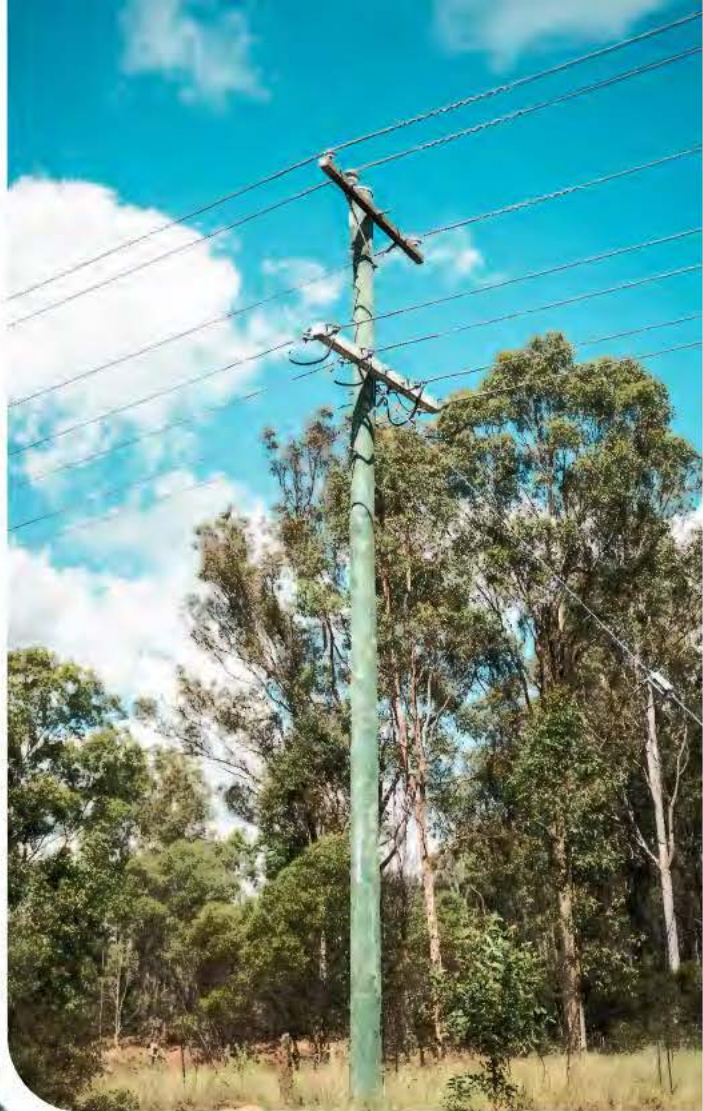
We will also need to grow additional timber to meet increasing demands. By doing both there will be opportunities to use more of each tree that is harvested, expanding the range of end-use products that are made.







*Photo provided by HQPlantations.  
Used with permission.*







## Managing our sustainable and renewable resource

Timber is one of Queensland's most sustainable products. As a renewable and naturally grown resource, timber has the unique ability to extract carbon from the atmosphere and store it throughout its usable life.

By carefully harvesting and sustainably managing our forests, the forestry and timber industry can help to reduce the state's carbon emissions by:

- capturing and storing carbon in timber and wood products
- sequestering carbon by replanting and expanding our plantation estates and sustainably harvesting our native forests to produce long-life timber products
- substituting higher emissions building materials, such as concrete and metal, with wood products
- displacing fossil fuel emissions through the use of sawmill residues.

The use of sustainably grown timber has gained global recognition as a crucial component of the world's efforts to address climate variability and promote carbon sequestration.

In comparison to alternatives such as concrete, steel and aluminium, timber products have significantly lower embodied energy, meaning that their production involves less energy use and carbon emissions.



## Selective harvesting

Selective harvesting is the only harvesting method used in Queensland's native forests. This ensures that high-value timber can be harvested, while native habitat and other values are preserved.

Selective harvesting within native forests means that only trees that are suitable for commercial use are harvested. Specially trained staff carefully choose trees for harvesting, and make sure more than half of the trees are retained during each harvest operation, including those trees that provide habitat or potential habitat for native animals.

Selective harvesting is significantly different from the technique known as *coupe clear-felling* practiced elsewhere, where all trees in an area are removed.

Areas selectively harvested remain as forests, continuing to grow and capture carbon. When gaps in the forest are created, sunlight and soil nutrients become available, allowing new trees to grow and regenerate. This regeneration limits disturbances to the surrounding forest, maintains linkages within the forest, and ensures the long-term sustainability of our native forests.



Selective harvesting, Bauple State Forest, 2022.



# Future opportunities

As demand for more sustainable, low-emissions materials continues to grow, Queensland has a unique opportunity to increase its supply of renewable high-value timber products.

The forestry and timber industry plays a pivotal role in Queensland's net zero emissions future and in securing the economic future for our state, particularly in many regional areas. Beyond Queensland there is an opportunity to become an internationally competitive supplier of a full range of timber products that forests can provide.





## **Engineered wood products**

Advanced manufacturing could deliver greater volumes of engineered wood products, such as flooring, structural panels, beams, and posts, as long-term alternatives to solid timber products to address supply shortages. Using by-products from traditional processing extends the use of Queensland's timber resource, including biofuels.

## **Modern methods of construction**

Innovation in construction that streamlines the building process will increase demand for timber heavily used in techniques such as modular and prefabricated construction, including for multi-storey buildings.

## **Supply chain efficiencies**

Research, innovation and new technologies in growing, processing and timber use can be harnessed to modernise and improve efficiencies, and improvements in logistics.

## **Lower-carbon alternative**

Timber offers a lower-carbon alternative to other construction materials such as concrete, steel and aluminium. It also offers other industries the ability to reduce carbon footprints through lower-emission energy production opportunities. Construction for Brisbane 2032 infrastructure will require lower-carbon materials to meet its carbon targets.

## **First Nations forestry enterprises**

Opportunities exist for engaging with First Nations peoples and incorporating their cultural knowledge of forest management practices, for exploring the potential for new and expanded First Nations forestry enterprises, and for better integrating commercial forestry with Indigenous land management activities.

## **Additional income streams**

Growing opportunities for on-farm diversification via forestry and agroforestry practices, as well as participation in carbon and environmental markets. Forestry activities also provide opportunities for landowners to achieve Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) outcomes, which are increasingly being demanded by discerning markets.

## **Workforce**

Modern training and qualification programs could be used to boost workers' skills and capabilities to meet current and future industry needs.

## **Innovation in forestry and products**

Investment in silviculture science could revolutionise forestry management and how we plant, harvest, and manage forests for better ecological outcomes. Similarly, product innovations promise more efficient processing and manufacturing, new products, and less wastage.

## **Expanded plantations**

Queensland has a vast land area and many suitable areas to expand its existing timber plantation estate.





# Our shared vision for forestry and timber

Together, government and industry will deliver a viable and sustainable future, and ensure our forestry and timber resources continue to grow and thrive for future generations, transforming how we produce timber and timber products.

The *Queensland Future Timber Plan* vision for 2050 was developed through a co-designed process with the Queensland government and industry partners.

**Our vision for 2050 is...**

***Queensland timber is one of the state's most valued renewable resources.***

***We invest in the forests that produce timber and timber products, and manage them sustainably to provide an ongoing asset for future generations.***

***Forests and timber products are economic generators that deliver our homes, our infrastructure, and the environment that our communities enjoy.***





*Photo provided by Hyne Timber.  
Used with permission.*



## Our shared purpose

Deliver a world-leading sustainable, competitive, innovative and responsive forestry and timber industry that is valued by the community, produces innovative high-value products which underpin the construction needs of our growing urban and regional communities, has strong ESG credentials based on science, and provides a diverse range of meaningful jobs, particularly in regional communities.







# Focus areas to 2050

This *Queensland Future Timber Plan 2050* outlines a 25-year strategy for the forestry and timber industry as part of the *Primary Industries Prosper 2050* blueprint for all primary industries.

It will be supported by a 5-year action plan that describes how we will deliver on the strategy in the first five years, with a new action plan developed every five years to reflect changing opportunities needs.







## Supply

Securing sustainable timber supply for housing, construction and infrastructure

### Why this matters:

Queensland's forestry and timber industry plays a crucial role in building homes and contributing to our growing infrastructure needs. It is a vital part of the Queensland economy, providing employment, supporting regional communities, and contributing to exports.

Beyond delivering timber for 1 million homes by 2044, the forestry and timber industry will be expected to support Queensland's infrastructure needs, with increasing demand for hardwood timber poles, railway sleepers, timber supports for mining, and wharf and jetty construction. There are existing market opportunities for wood residues and other products derived from our forests. We must also position the industry for emerging markets such as carbon and circular economies.

Increasing supply in a sustainable way to meet these demands will require both short and long-term solutions that will provide the certainty for industry to invest in processing and manufacturing.

To meet the demand in the short term, Queensland must continue to rely on selective native timber harvesting, plantations, and ethical timber imports, while protecting existing plantation and native forest estates from fire, disease and encroachment from urban development. We must produce more timber products from existing assets and resources through improved forestry practices and research and development to generate efficiencies and better utilisation across all stages of the value-add chain.

To meet the longer-term needs, we will also need to expand timber plantation estates, broaden farm forestry and improve silvicultural management of private native forests, while ensuring we continue to use and improve ecologically-sustainable forest management practices.

### What outcome will be achieved:

Secure sustainable timber for our immediate housing, construction, infrastructure and other needs.

Grow our sustainable timber resources to provide for long-term and emerging needs across the entire supply chain.

### What will success look like:

- Queensland's existing plantations are protected and production from them is optimised, while our commercial-scale plantation estate is grown.
- Long-term resource security and investment certainty is established for native forestry on private and public land.
- In the short term, while the demand/supply shortfall is addressed, timber imports used to supplement domestic supply are responsibly sourced.
- Queensland's reliance on timber imports to supplement domestic supply is reduced.
- On-farm diversification and agroforestry, including landholder extension services, are promoted.
- Ongoing investment in Queensland's forestry systems and capability.
- Increased investment in processing and manufacturing.

### Opportunities to explore through consultation:

- An additional 25,000 hectares of scale plantations delivered over the next 25 years, with a new plantation establishment program started in the first 3 years.
- Reviews of plantation licensing, how land-use decisions that result in loss of timber resources can be improved, and the processes for importing timber to ensure imports are responsibly sourced and ethically grown.
- Selective native timber harvesting continues on a sustainable basis through enhanced forestry policies, systems and long-term supply arrangements.
- Securing supply for the native timber sector on all tenures.





## Supply chain and market

Establishing supply chain competitiveness on an international scale

### Why this matters:

To meet the target of delivering 1 million homes by 2044, transformation across the supply chain is needed, from forest management through to processing and timber product development.

Queensland will need to maximise supply from existing plantations and native forests, and prioritise timber harvested for high-value housing products.

Modernising the supply chain through research, innovation, and the adoption of new and emerging technologies can transform how timber is grown, processed, and used in timber products. It can also allow for barriers to competitiveness including logistics, energy and transport costs to be addressed.

Long-term investment in genetic research can deliver relatively faster growing, straighter and stronger tree varieties that are better suited for processing, and investment in silviculture practices can produce significant productivity improvements, as well as a range of other benefits such as improved recovery.

Significant opportunities exist to reclaim more useable timber from existing resources. By increasing the use of engineered wood products in construction, more of the total wood fibre can be utilised to produce high-value outputs. Opportunities also exist to expand the supply chain by fostering First Nations forestry enterprises and better integrating commercial forestry with cultural land management activities.

To prepare for demand into the future, plantations will need to be expanded. Other opportunities will be explored including supporting plantation and processing investment, carbon market, biofuel, and circular economy opportunities. Barriers to investment and ways to reduce them will be identified with industry.

Beyond housing supply, promoting local timber products and innovation in construction will play a key role in the Queensland Government's delivery of a more sustainable and low-carbon Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

### What outcome will be achieved:

Optimise, innovate and diversify supply chains through ongoing research and development, adoption of contemporary science and First Nations approaches, and the removal of barriers to competitiveness.

### What will success look like:

- Increased productivity and improved efficiencies within the existing supply chain.
- Research, innovation, and the adoption of new and emerging technologies for the forestry and timber industry supply chain are supported.
- Queensland timber use and the benefits of timber construction are promoted during Brisbane 2032.
- There is new investment in timber manufacturing and production of an expanded range of wood products in Queensland.

### Opportunities to explore through consultation:

- Improved and more efficient transport infrastructure.
- Landholder access to emerging natural capital and carbon market opportunities could be increased.
- Ways to modernise and diversify existing supply chains and reduce specific barriers to competitiveness.
- Opportunities to better utilise the competitive advantages of Queensland's forestry and timber industry, in particular the attributes of its forestry resources (timber appearance, strength and durability).
- Schemes to support the harvesting and processing sectors to improve resource recovery and maximise production.
- Opportunities to expand and enhance timber manufacturing capacity, particularly for engineered wood products, and other high-value products.
- Improve policy settings to promote the use of timber in construction and modern methods of construction.





## Regulatory framework

Developing better regulation that the community sees benefit in

### Why this matters:

There is a need for a clear and stable policy environment that encourages future investment and growth in the state's forestry and timber industries. Addressing ways to achieve long-term access to timber resources across all land tenures is one aspect that will need to be considered to attract investment to grow timber supply and products.

Better outcomes-based regulations are critical levers for attracting the investment needed to deliver the timber resources for Queensland's housing and infrastructure sectors, as well as other users.

Regulations must also be trusted by the community, who expect Queensland's forests, and biodiversity to be responsibly, sustainably and ethically managed.

Investing in ESG credentials based on science, will be essential to build community trust and manage the complex relationships between government agencies that regulate forestry, timber products, land use and management and nature conservation. To do this, all knowledge systems, including First Nations knowledge systems, should be embraced.

### What outcome will be achieved:

Improve trust in the industry and social licence for harvesting.

Simplify how we regulate our forestry and timber industry and reduce red tape.

### What will success look like:

- State forests are retained as a multi-use tenure that will cater for a range of different activities including bee keeping, tourism, native species harvesting, grazing and recreation.
- The legislative framework, policies and codes for the management of forestry and timber industry are modernised and streamlined, with their basis in science, research and evidence.
- Opportunities for linkages between housing, energy efficiency, planning and building policies and the forestry and timber industry are maximised.
- The high performance and oversight of the forestry and timber industry in Queensland are recognised.

### Opportunities to explore through consultation:

- Review processes for managing forestry to provide investment certainty, and sustainable forest management, based on contemporary science, research and evidence.
- Increase government efficiencies in administration, regulation and on-ground management across multiple-use forests.
- Modernise Queensland's forest practices including forest certification systems, streamlining regulatory processes and codes of practice.
- Use spatial technology to monitor live harvesting activities to support auditing, compliance and reporting.





## Workforce

Building and retaining a viable, fit-for-purpose workforce

### Why this matters:

Attracting, building, and retaining a viable fit-for-purpose workforce in rural and regional economies is necessary if the forestry and timber industry is to be retained and expanded.

Long-term support is needed to create a high-quality workforce through retention, retraining and attraction of people to new and existing roles within the industry. This will ensure the forestry and timber industry remains an important contributor and employer for regional and rural economies, while also supporting a flexible and diversified workforce to respond to changing economic drivers where needed.

As the industry transforms through industry-led research and development, and emerging innovations, new skills will be needed across the supply chain.

Contemporary training and qualification programs will be needed to ensure a pipeline of capable and skilled staff to meet current and future industry needs.

### What outcome will be achieved:

Develop and train our workforce for the future.

### What will success look like:

- A pipeline of skilled staff throughout the forestry and timber industry supply chain is created and sustained.
- Investment in people and systems that support the forestry and the timber industry to create a high-quality workforce that people want to be a part of.

### Opportunities to explore through consultation:

- Contemporary training and qualification programs are established to develop a pipeline of capable and skilled staff to meet current and future industry needs.
- Workforce retention in rural and regional communities is increased, and appropriate industry succession planning is in place.
- Partnerships with First Nations communities are established.





## Research, development and extension

Modernising and innovating Queensland's forestry and timber industry

### Why this matters:

Research and development underpin a thriving forestry sector by improving sustainable forest management, enhancing economic opportunities, and protecting biodiversity values.

Modernising forestry and timber industry through research, innovation, and the adoption of new and emerging technologies can transform productivity across the supply chain including processing efficiencies, timber usage, and product innovation.

Engineered wood products present significant opportunities to enhance returns on investment by increasing recovery rates, optimising the use of available resources, and thereby reducing the pressures on supply, particularly for native timber in the construction sector.

Extension services are crucial in forestry. They serve as a bridge between research, policy, and on-the-ground practices, facilitating ecologically sustainable forest management and informed decision-making. They are instrumental to balancing economic, environmental, and cultural priorities.

Extension services provide practical, research-based knowledge and skills to growers, processors and manufacturers, helping them improve their practices, solve problems, and make informed decisions. Through extension services we can also support and incentivise agroforestry approaches.

### What outcome will be achieved:

Research, innovation and new technologies relating to forest productivity, processing and timber usage are harnessed to modernise, improve efficiencies and ensure better utilisation across all stages of timber production.

Improved understanding of industry practices, the contributions it makes and enhanced social licence.

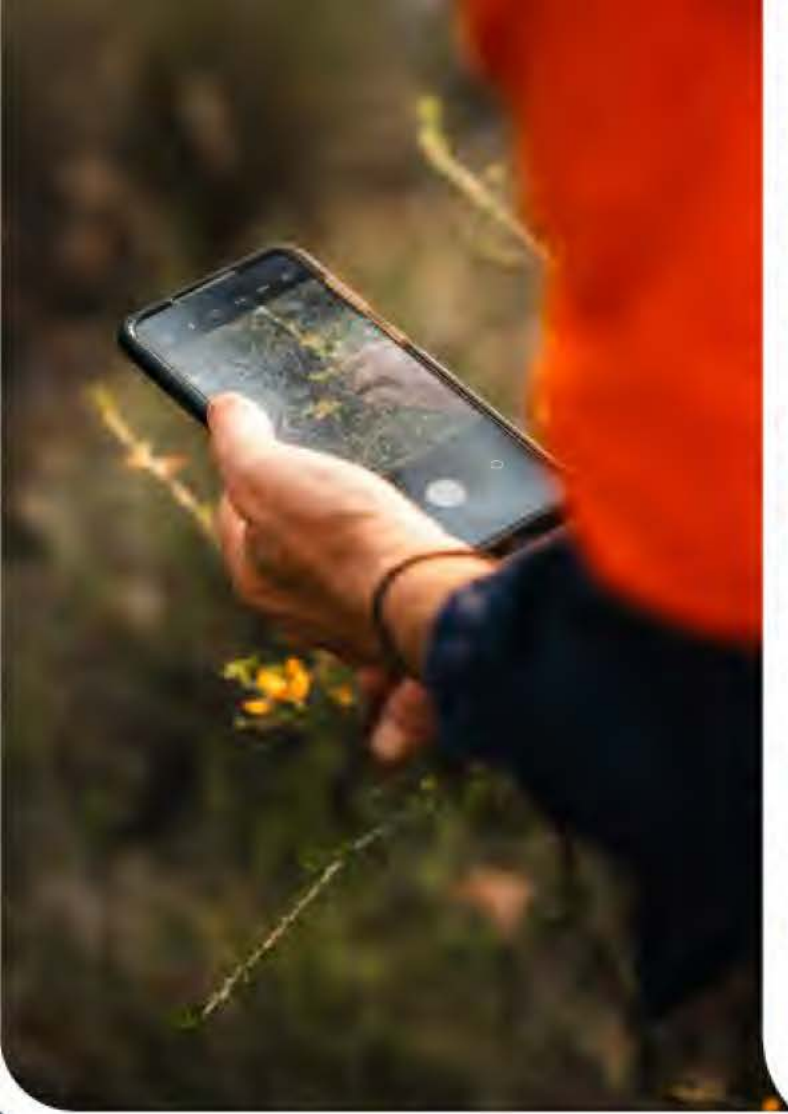
### What will success look like:

- Research and development improves growth, harvesting, utilisation and product development of timber and timber products.
- High adoption of new and emerging technologies.
- Adaptive best practice forest management principles and policy settings are used to guide future forest management decisions.
- On-farm diversification and agroforestry, including landholder extension services, are promoted.
- High performance and oversight of the forestry and the timber industry in Queensland is understood and recognised.

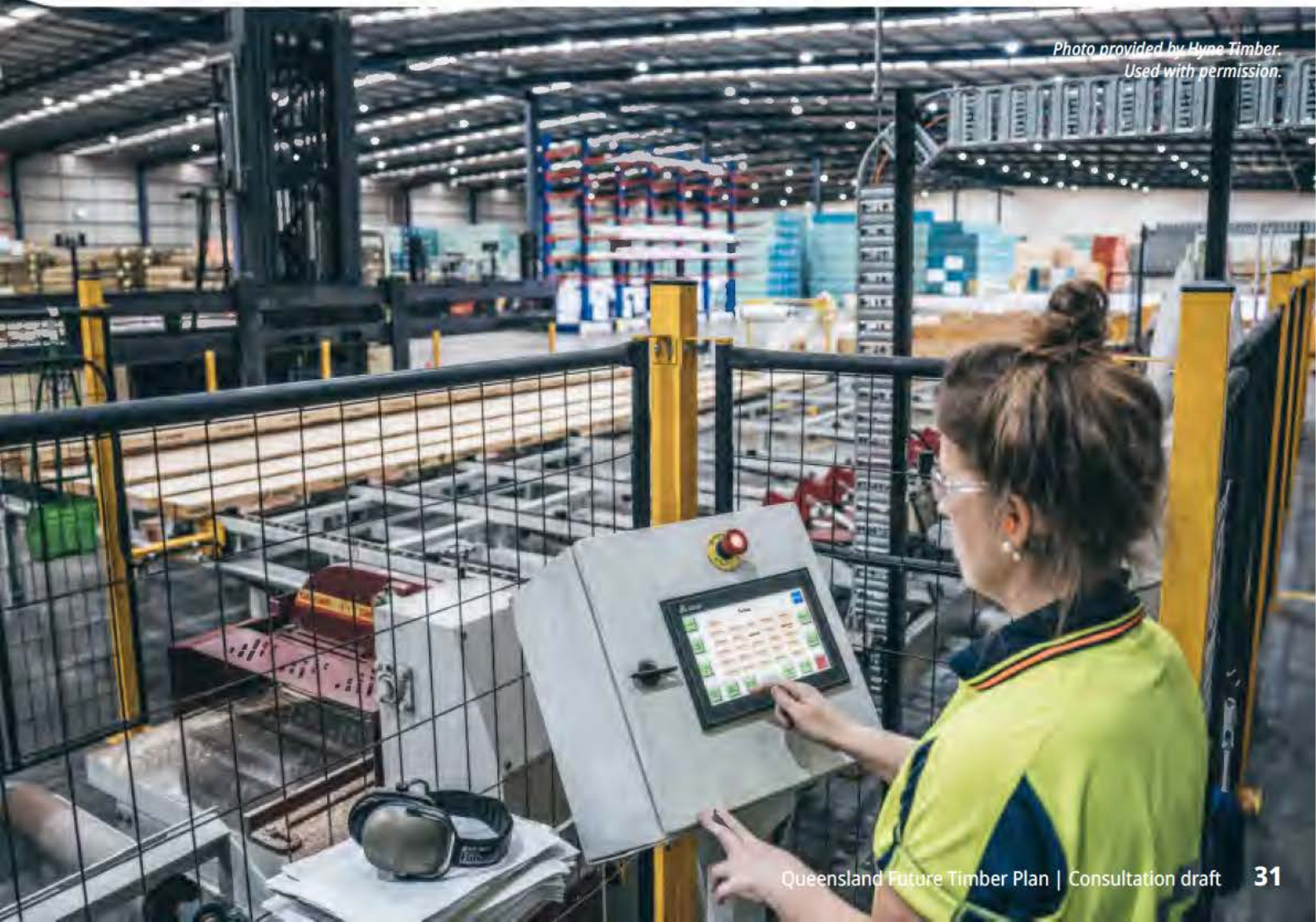
### Opportunities to explore through consultation:

- Identify research and development opportunities relating to forest productivity and management, durability and quality of timber, and the creation of new wood products and building methods.
- Support research into plantation genetic improvements and silviculture practices.
- Investigate and assess adaptive forest management frameworks and practices based on science, research, and evidence.
- Increase community understanding of the forestry and timber industry.
- Improve social licence through extension services, educational programs, and First Nations partnerships.
- Identify ways of incorporating First Nations knowledge systems into forestry.





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# Next steps

The Queensland Government is committed to co-designing, co-investing, and co-delivering the *Queensland Future Timber Plan 2050* with key industry stakeholders to ensure an enduring and effective approach to transforming the industry in order to secure enough timber, produced in a sustainable way, to achieve the Queensland Government's commitment to build 1 million homes by 2044.

## We want your feedback

Help shape the future of the *Queensland Future Timber Plan 2050* by joining the conversation.

Public consultation on this draft *Queensland Future Timber Plan 2050* runs from 6 August to 3 September 2025. It will include an online survey, and face-to-face and online events for communities, industry, and other key stakeholders across Queensland.

## Consultation will focus on:

- collecting feedback and gathering input on the draft 25-year *Queensland Future Timber Plan 2050*
- gathering early ideas for the development of a 5-year action plan.

## How to get involved

You can provide feedback by completing the survey on our Engagement Hub, <https://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/forestry/qld-future-timber-plan>

Further information about the consultation events, including how to be involved in the development of the 5-year action plan, will be shared on our Engagement Hub and through our social media channels.

You can also subscribe for updates on our Engagement Hub.

## Contact us

For further information about our *Queensland Future Timber Plan 2050*, go to <https://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/forestry/qld-future-timber-plan> or call us at 13 25 23.





# Thank you

The Department of Primary Industries would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the development of *Queensland Future Timber Plan 2050* – producers, industry bodies, and representatives from across government agencies, the R&D community, and our supply chain partners. These contributions are integral to the co-design process and are highly valued.

The Queensland Government looks forward to working together with organisations, groups, and individuals towards a sustainable future.





## Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Primary Industries proudly acknowledges Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Custodians of the Country. We recognise their continuing connection to land, sea, waters and sky. We pay our respect to them, their cultures and to their Elders past and present and commit to ongoing reconciliation.

This publication has been compiled by Department of Primary Industries.

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QUEENSLAND FUTURE  
**TIMBER PLAN**  
**2050**

A 25-year plan for our forestry  
and timber industry

**Further information**

[dpi.qld.gov.au](http://dpi.qld.gov.au)

or call us at 13 25 23

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**Queensland**  
Government



## Ancient lizards of Oz

Ria Pandey

A landmark discovery has revealed the previously unknown existence of a large apex predator on the prehistoric Australian continent and uncovered a predator hierarchy unique to the region.

The research describes five theropod fossils discovered between 1988 and 2023 in Bunurong/Boonwurrung Country (Bass Coast) and the Eastern Marr Country (Otway Coast).

Theropods are classified as carnivorous dinosaurs that are able to walk on two legs with hollow, thin-walled bones and usually small forelimbs – the tyrannosaurus is a famous example.

The formal identification of the fossils was led by Monash University PhD candidate Jake Kotevski and the Museums Victoria Research Institute.

It shows that Victoria's ancient ecosystem was dominated by large powerful megaraptorids (6-7m long) alongside smaller carcharodontosaurs (2-4m long) and agile, metre-long unenlagiines, or "southern raptors".

The discovery marks the first evidence of carcharodontosaurs in Australia's dinosaur record and is significant for contribution to the global theropod fossil record.

"The discovery of carcharodontosaurs in Australia is groundbreaking," Mr Kotevski said.

Two of the newly-described fossils represent the oldest known megaraptorids globally.

## Search on for rat-roo

An intriguing native Australian rat-kangaroo, thought to be extinct, may still be running around in the inhospitable remote Sturt's Stony Desert – and Flinders University researchers have discovered new details about its feeding habits that might help find it.

The experts in marsupial evolution and ecology have compared the biting ability of different small animal skulls to understand the kinds of food the desert rat-kangaroo ate, thus narrowing down the best areas to monitor for the little animal.

There have been reports of sightings in the Lake Eyre Basin in remote far northeast SA.

## Minister vows to review all options to save

# SHARK SHOCK – VIEW TO A CULL

Mikaela Mulveney  
Hayden Johnson  
Jeremy Pierce

A controversial shark cull is being considered by the Queensland government following two fatalities among a spate of attacks this summer.

It is understood early talks have been held within the government as part of its review of the state's Shark Control Program, but a decision on whether to reduce the number of sharks has not been made.

Primary Industries Minister Tony Perrett declined to provide detail about the consideration of a shark cull or how it would be implemented.

"The Crisafulli government's focus will always be the safety of Queenslanders," he said.

A spate of attacks, including two fatalities, this summer has prompted Premier David Crisafulli to pledge action to make "our oceans safer for Queenslanders for generations".

It comes as a leading tourism expert said the implementation of shark safety protocols at Moreton Island should be considered by the state government following a recent shark attack.

On Saturday a lone snorkeller, believed to be a Moreton Island resident, was swimming at the popular Tangalooma Wrecks when he was bitten by a shark. The incident was the second in just three weeks in Moreton Bay, sparking warnings from experts about a "cluster of bites" in the region.

Daniel Gschwind, the former head of the Queensland Tourism Industry Council and now a professor at Griffith University's Institute of Tourism, said a conversation of surrounding shark safety at the tourist site was needed.

"Certainly it's worth looking into, is it necessary to have

Woorim beach, Bribie Island, where Charlize Zmuda was killed by a shark.  
Picture: Liam Kidston



Luke Walford, 40



Charlize Zmuda, 17

## DEADLY SUMMER

Shark attacks in summer 2024-2025:

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

Curtis Island, Central Queensland coast  
A man in his 60s received minor wounds after he was bitten by a shark while spearfishing off Curtis Island.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

Humpy Island, Central Queensland coast  
Luke Walford, 40, died after he was attacked by a shark while spearfishing with his family off Humpy Island in The Keppels.

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Woorim Beach, Bribie Island  
Charlize Zmuda, 17, was attacked and killed by a shark while swimming at Woorim Beach.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Moreton Bay  
A 29-year-old man was bitten by a shark while snorkelling near The Wrecks Walking Track on Moreton Island.

## More returning to office

Australian employers are influenced by other businesses' return-to-office mandates, with employee to be in the office more in 2025.

Robert Half research firm that 84 per cent of Australian employers say return-to-office mandates in other businesses influence their company's work arrangements.

Thirty-nine per cent of employers plan to mandate five days a week in the office

compared with last year.

Ella Nelice Cowton

## Cake in nursing student's bag

### Primary Industries and Resources Committee Estimates Public Hearing 6 August 2025

Tabled ☒ or No: 6  
Tabled by leave ☐ Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_  
by: Tom Smith

police prosecutor Michael Ark said police searched a case in Nirimba in September 2024, finding a bag of "fine powder" weighing about 0.1g.

Mr Quirk said another two were found in Cowton's bag.

he police prosecutor said Ark told police the bags were not for her, that it was cocaine and that she had some on a night out and forgot there

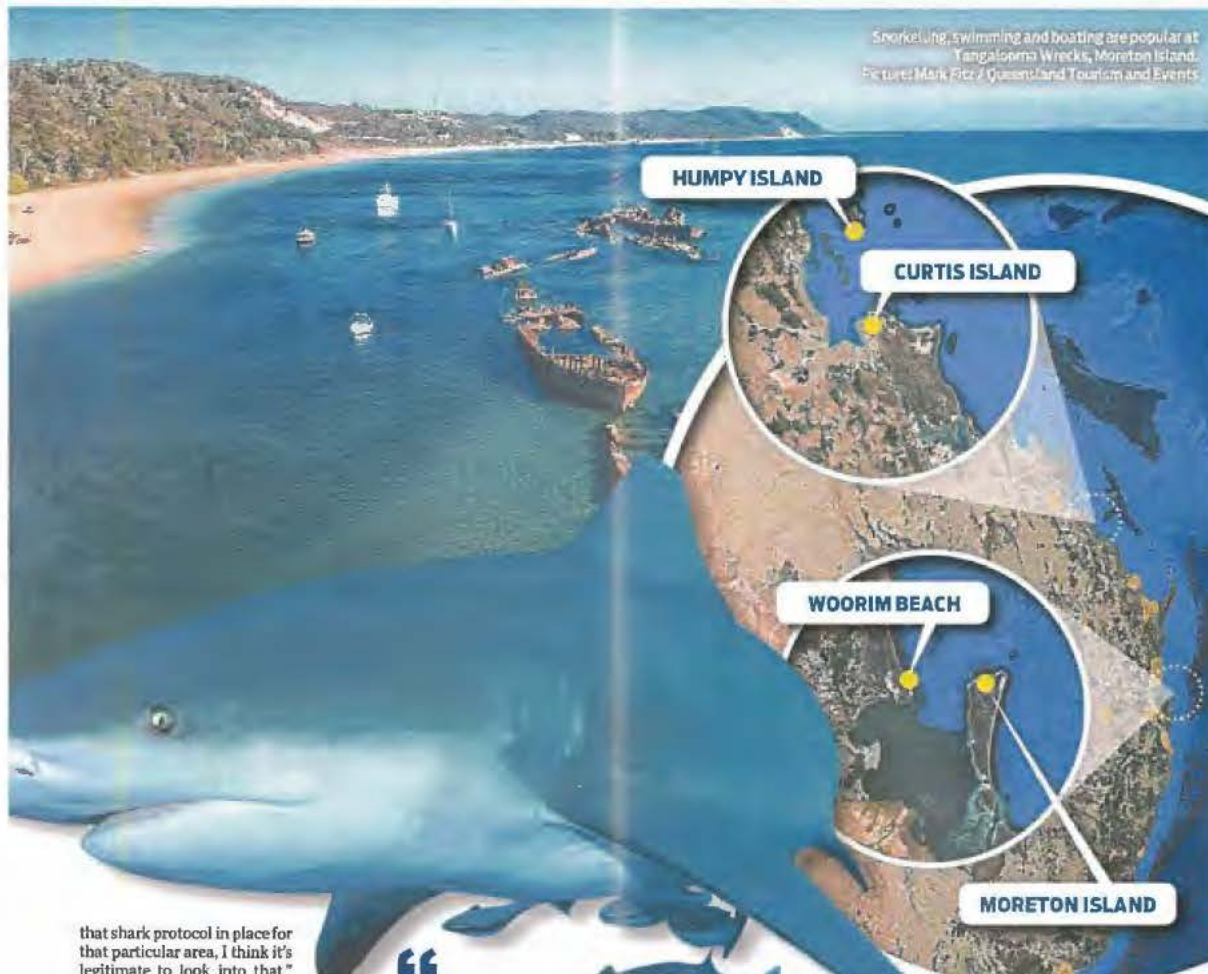
was still some in her bag. Defence lawyer Joshua Tiffin said the former private school girl and nursing student moved to the Sunshine Coast to "explore opportunities".

Magistrate Catherine Benson told the court she was confident Cowton would not reoffend and placed her on a good behaviour bond for six months, with a recognisance of \$1200.

No conviction was recorded.



# swimmers in wake of more deadly attacks



Snorkelling, swimming and boating are popular at Tangalooma Wrecks, Moreton Island. Picture: Mark Fitz / Queensland Tourism and Events

that shark protocol in place for that particular area, I think it's legitimate to look into that," he said.

"Getting together, getting all the relevant parties together is absolutely the right thing to do."

"It's really important also to not to reach for the ... easiest method that may in some cases instil a false sense of security and it's not evidence based."

Mr Gschwind said any conversations must include experts to pick the right safety implementation, if any, by analysing current shark trends and patterns.

He said while tourism operators and Queensland Parks and Wildlife were generally "very good" at providing information to the environment a tourist could find themselves in, it is "always sensible" to re-evaluate in order to minimise risk.

"You can never completely

**“The Premier and our government is very clear – we will put public safety ahead of sharks, crocodiles or what have you**

**Andrew Powell**

Tourism and Environment Minister

eliminate risk but you can certainly minimise them and you can put measures in place to give visitors also more agency

in making decisions that are based on the best information," he said.

"The whole island is extraordinary and really something we can all be proud of as a local but also can use as a major drawcard for visitors from around the world."

"Doing the right thing and informing visitors and minimising risk as best we can do, that's what we should do and I think everybody is committed to that from the government to the commercial operator to the local community."

Tourism and Environment

Minister Andrew Powell also would not be drawn on whether it was time for a shark cull.

"The Premier and our government is very clear – we will put public safety ahead of sharks, crocodiles or what have you," he said.

"On the specifics of it, I know that Minister Perrett is looking at the recent review that's been made into our shark safety program and he will bring forward a government response in due course."

According to the Department of Primary Industries, the closest shark safety protocol to Tangalooma is a set of drumlines at Woorim in Brisbane and another off Amity Point at North Stradbroke Island – where a 21-year-old

woman was fatally mauled by multiple bull sharks in 2006 – with no drumlines or nets at Moreton Island.

Tangalooma Island Resort Director David James said extra people and boat lookouts have been dispatched to the water as a precaution following Sunday's attack.

"Because of the sensitivity around it, because of the safety, again, for our guests and our staff who are in the water, absolutely, we've had additional spotters at times," he said.

With multiple tours a day to the wrecks, Mr James said the resort had its own safety protocols including conversations on interacting with the wrecks, other boats and wildlife.

Safety protocol on the beach and the wrecks is the responsibility of the state government.

## \$5m to save the lives of our cops

**Mikaela Mulveney  
Tayla Couacaud**

Frontline police officers will be supplied personal tactical first aid kits, including tourniquets following a lengthy campaign.

Police Minister Dan Purdie made the \$5m announcement on 4BC radio on Tuesday morning, saying they were in the process of purchasing 12,500 tourniquets for front line officers.

Tourniquets are used to wrap tightly around limbs to control blood flow in the event of a severe wound such as a gunshot or stabbing injury.

It follows a shocking shooting on January 10 in which a police officer narrowly escaped death thanks to a personal tourniquet tied around his leg by another officer.

"These tactical first aid kits are available in every police vehicle. But as we saw on January 10 with that incident you just outlined that frontline police officers face different risks every day, and it became apparent to us off the back of that incident that maybe they needed to also have one accessible on their person," Mr Purdie said on 4BC. "That's why we at a cost of over \$5 million, which is not really about the money, it's about making sure our police have everything they need to keep themselves and their colleagues and the community safe."

Mr Purdie said as soon as they get the tourniquets in store they will be rolled out immediately to each frontline officer in Queensland.

He went on to say they would be light at 100g, following concerns from the Police Union it would be too bulky.

"We don't want to want to impose this on every police officer because they've got a lot of kit they carry around. So we do trust police to make that decision to do a risk assessment and if they want to carry it on their person at all times they can do that," Mr Purdie said.

"Every frontline police officer who wants to carry one, on their person will have access to one. We're not making it compulsory for a number of different reasons."

Queensland Police Commissioner Steve Gollschewski said officers go through about 200 kits a month.

## Ex-bikies face charges

Three men including two former bikies accused of habitually consorting in a shopping centre have had their cases mentioned in court.

George Bejat, a former Bandidos Brisbane Centro chapter president and the now dissolved chapter's former sergeant-at-arms Zivko Stojakovic along with a third man – Matthew John Lucas – are all charged with habitually consorting with

recognised offenders. Court documents allege the men consorted with each other at Westfield Carindale on dates between February 7 and November 20 last year.

None of the men were required to appear in Brisbane Magistrates Court when the case was mentioned on Monday.

It was adjourned to March 12 with the men's bail enlarged.



George Bejat outside court.

## ATO appeals \$33m 'gifts' ruling

**Vanda Carson**

The Australian Taxation Office has filed an appeal in a Queensland court in a bid to overturn a landmark legal win by a millionaire Kangaroo Point landlord who received nearly \$33m in gifts over a decade from his sister.

On January 20, the Commissioner of Taxation filed an appeal in the Full Federal Court in Brisbane, to overturn

Judge John Logan's November 29 ruling in favour of Lin Jum Cheung, the brother of a supermarket matriarch in Vanuatu.

Judge Logan ruled that Mr Cheung, also known as Rene Ah Pow, did not need to pay income tax on the \$33m he received from Vanuatu between the 2005 and 2015.

His sister, Graziella Leong, and her wider family, owned a successful supermarket busi-

ness "Au Bon Marche" in Vanuatu, where Mr Cheung worked as a general manager before retiring to Australia in 2000.

The business now has six retail supermarket outlets in Port Vila, a food wholesale facility and four petrol stations.

Mr Cheung was hit with tax assessments by the ATO then went to court arguing the assessments were excessive.

No date has been set for hearing.



From: matthew pinder <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2025 8:25:02 PM  
To: [primaryindustries@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:primaryindustries@ministerial.qld.gov.au) <[primaryindustries@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:primaryindustries@ministerial.qld.gov.au)>; [ferny.grove@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:ferny.grove@parliament.qld.gov.au) <[ferny.grove@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:ferny.grove@parliament.qld.gov.au)>  
Subject: Ban Gill Netting from South East Queensland Estuaries – A Necessary Step for Recovery

Dear Sir,

I am writing to urgently call on the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to implement a full ban on gill netting in all estuarine systems in South East Queensland. This practice is outdated, destructive, and no longer aligns with modern, sustainable fisheries management — particularly in the face of increasing urban pressure, climate shifts, and the growing economic and recreational value of healthy estuaries in this region.

#### Gill Netting Is Environmentally and Economically Damaging

Gill nets are non-selective and result in significant bycatch of juvenile fish, threatened species (such as Queensland Grouper, turtles, and dugongs), and breeding females of key species like barramundi and king threadfin. In heavily populated areas like South East Queensland, this amounts to routine mishandling of protected species, and it's pushing vital local stocks to the brink.

From the Logan and Albert Rivers to Pumicestone Passage, Caboolture River, the Brisbane River and beyond, gill nets are still being deployed in some of the region's most important nursery systems. These nets are often strung across drains, creeks, and mangrove channels, decimating one of the few remaining Moreton Bay barramundi fisheries and other important populations. This kind of localized depletion is devastating — especially in areas already under pressure from urban development, habitat loss, and recreational demand.

#### The Biological Cost Is Undeniable

Fish like barramundi and threadfin rely heavily on estuarine environments to breed and recruit. Removing large females, particularly leading up to the wet season, strips the system of future generations. This is not speculation — it's a biological certainty. And in South East Queensland, where fish habitat is limited and fragmented, these losses are even more critical.

#### Lessons from the Fitzroy Net-Free Zone

While the Fitzroy River Net-Free Zone lies outside SEQ, the success of that model has set a clear precedent. Since gill nets were removed in 2015, the Fitzroy has seen:

- More trophy-size barramundi and threadfin,
- A boom in fishing tourism worth millions annually,
- New charter and tackle business growth,
- Better breeding success and stock resilience.

South East Queensland is ready for that same transformation.

Primary Industries and Resources Committee  
Estimates Public Hearing 6 August 2025  
Tabled ☒ or No: 7  
Tabled by leave ☐ Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_  
by: James Martin

## The Case for Estuary Protection in SEQ

South East Queensland estuaries are home to hundreds of thousands of recreational anglers, tourism operators, and small businesses — all of whom rely on healthy fish stocks and accessible waters. We are destroying our best local rivers for the profit of a few, while the overwhelming majority miss out on the benefits of a thriving fishery.

Removing gill nets from SEQ estuaries:

- Protects breeding fish and juveniles before they're lost.
- Dramatically reduces bycatch and wastage of protected species.
- Builds a robust fishery for recreational anglers and tourism operators.
- Supports small business growth and regional employment.
- Allows better scientific oversight and compliance.

These systems are simply too important — socially, economically, and environmentally — to continue sacrificing to outdated netting practices.

## A Call for Bold, Science-Driven Reform

I respectfully urge the Department to initiate the process of phasing out all gill netting from South East Queensland estuarine environments. The science is clear. The economic case is proven. Community support is growing every day.

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It's time to modernise our fisheries and manage these waters for the benefit of all Queenslanders — not just a handful of commercial operators.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Pinder



**From:** Ursula Ivory [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 17 June 2025 at 20:27:08 AEST  
**To:** [primaryindustries@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:primaryindustries@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
**Cc:** [Ferny.Grove@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:Ferny.Grove@parliament.qld.gov.au)  
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by: James Martin

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Sincerely,  
Ursula Pinder

[Redacted Signature]













Primary Industries and Resources Committee

Estimates Public Hearing 6 August 2025

Tabled ☐ or No: 9

Tabled by leave ☐ Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

by: James Martin

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