

2020 - 21 Budget Estimates Volume of Additional Information

State Development and Regional Industries Committee
February 2021

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Documents tabled at hearing - 8 December 2020

**Questions on notice and responses – *Deputy Premier and
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local
Government and Planning***

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to page 50 of the SDS Vol 1 which refers to “supporting the transformation of the Queensland economy by leading industry, state development, infrastructure and planning” -

Will the Minister advise – (a) the total amount allocated to the Cairns Aquarium under the state government’s Industry Support Package (b) the total amount the Department has paid to the Cairns Aquarium; and c) the total estimated future payments to the Cairns Aquarium.

ANSWER:

In response to the three questions, I can confirm:

- a) The maximum amount that would have been payable to Cairns Aquarium under the Industry Support Package agreement was \$3.5 million
- b) The total amount paid to Cairns Aquarium under the agreement is \$1 million
- c) On 26 November 2020, the Queensland Government gave Cairns Aquarium formal notice terminating the Industry Support Package agreement, effective 30 days after the date of service of the notice. No further payments under the Industry Support Package agreement are anticipated.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 2

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to page 50 of the SDS Vol 1 which refers to “supporting the transformation of the Queensland economy by leading industry, state development, infrastructure and planning, will the Minister advise and whether the Department or Ministerial office was aware of allegations regarding the misuse of funds of the Cairns Aquarium and the date the Department wrote to the aquarium’s chief executive alerting him to the termination of all future payments under the agreement.

ANSWER:

On 26 November 2020, the Queensland Government gave Cairns Aquarium formal notice terminating the Industry Support Package agreement, effective 30 days after the date of service of the notice.

The Department has referred this matter to the Crime and Corruption Commission.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 3

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to page 51 of the SDS Vol 1 which refers to “maintaining Queensland’s crucial momentum in the biofutures sector” –

Will the minister outline (a) the total estimated funding for the Waste to Biofutures Fund (W2B Fund) (b) the total amount of funding awarded to date, including the specific projects (reported separately by project) (c) the amount of funding allocated for future projects (d) whether there will be an increase in funding delivered to assist with Covid-19 economic recovery and in enhancing the development of waste-to-biofutures projects.

ANSWER:

- (a) The Waste to Biofutures Fund (W2B Fund) was launched on 17 March 2019 with \$5 million in grant funding for pilot and demonstration or commercially scalable projects in Queensland that convert waste to bioenergy, biofuels and high-value bioproducts.
- (b) In total, 12 projects are under contract with total funding of \$3.6 million committed. These 12 projects have the potential to create over 180 jobs and generate over \$31 million in private sector capital investment if all projects are realised.

The following 10 projects have been previously announced:

1. BE Power Solutions – Waste to bioenergy system, Bromelton, \$500,000
2. Accessway SPV/Energy 360 – Bioenergy for electric vehicles, Bundaberg, \$363,000
3. Nilwaste – Demonstration pyrolysis plant, Redlands, \$250,000
4. Pearl Global – Gas to energy from waste tyres, Stapylton, \$250,000
5. University of Southern Queensland – Biosolids to fertiliser replacement, \$50,000
6. Wildfire Energy – Syngas to renewable energy, hydrogen and chemicals, Redbank Plains, \$500,000
7. Gevo – Waste to hydrocarbon, Brisbane/regional Queensland, \$159,000
8. HQPlantations – Forestry biomass to bioenergy, Gympie, \$50,000
9. Licella – Sugarcane waste research for biorefinery, Burdekin, \$500,000
10. Bundaberg Macadamia – Waste macadamia shells to bioenergy, \$361,000.

Today I can announce another Waste to Biofutures project:

Kilcoy Pastoral Company will receive \$500,000 towards a \$6.3 million project to produce biogas from the wastewater treatment system to generate its own electricity and hot water.

This project will reduce coal usage during the production of steam, and is a great example of the Government's plan for a more sustainable, low carbon economy by turning wastewater into energy.

Once fully operational, the biogas plant will supply 60 per cent of the company's power needs and all of its hot water.

Kilcoy Pastoral Company is one of the five largest beef producers in Australia, processing over 260,000 head of grain-fed cattle each year and distributing chilled and frozen premium beef products to supermarkets in Australia and export markets in Europe, the Middle East, United States, Japan and South East Asia.

The company provides employment for more than 750 workers and this project will see an extra 27 jobs from its construction and four extra permanent positions when complete.

A further project (with funding of \$125,000) will be announced once commercial arrangements have been finalised.

- (c) The amount of funding available to be allocated for future projects is \$650,000.
- (d) These Waste to Biofutures projects are assisting small to medium size companies to maintain and create employment opportunities around the State.

As part of the implementation of the Biofutures 10-year Roadmap and Action Plan, the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning continues to facilitate major bio-projects with industry proponents, focusing particularly on projects which have potential to further support Queensland's economy and contribute to the State's Biofuels Mandates, fuel security, and climate change goals.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 4

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to page 50 of the SDS Vol 1 which refers to “supporting the transformation of the Queensland economy by leading industry, state development, infrastructure and planning” -

Will the Minister provide an update, since February 2020, on the ‘Lumina’ development within the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct including (a) how many commercial arrangements have been secured by quarter since its establishment post Commonwealth Games, and (b) the government’s key performance indicators for the future development of Lumina and if they being reached thus far?

ANSWER:

Since the State’s land ‘Lumina’ became available after the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games requirements were finalised in January 2019, nine of 16 development ready sites are earmarked for a range of health and knowledge uses.

Since February 2020, the Government has:

- negotiated exclusive commercial in confidence positions with three developers over three sites for health and knowledge uses;
- continued progress on the \$80 million Proxima Children’s Health and Education Centre with Evans Long’s lodging a development application and a project that is commercial in confidence, both expected to commence construction within the next six months; and
- undertaken a second expansion of COHORT to cater for continuing demand which is due to open in January 2021. This follows the first expansion of COHORT which opened in April 2020 including new laboratories and further shared office and tenancy space. The expansion includes Cluster Biotechnology as the anchor occupant for the laboratories. COHORT is Lumina’s successful coworking, innovation and laboratory space targeting health and technology small to medium enterprises.

‘Lumina’ is expected to take 10 to 15 years to be fully delivered and will contribute an extra 12,000 jobs and an additional \$1.4 billion to the State’s economy.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 5

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING –

QUESTION:

With reference to the page 50 of the SDS Vol 1 which refers to “supporting the transformation of the Queensland economy by leading industry, state development, infrastructure and planning” –

Will the Minister advise the total number and value of all fraudulent incidents by departments and agencies under the administration of the Minister for 2019/20 and 2020/21 to date (listed by individual department or agency)?

ANSWER:

It is not appropriate to comment on investigations currently being undertaken by either the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning or the Crime and Corruption Commission.

The Public Service Commission meets its legislative requirement under section 88N of the *Public Service Act 2008* to publish annual conduct and performance data by 30 September each year.

A link to this report is below:

<https://www.forgov.qld.gov.au/2019-20-conduct-and-performance-data>

The Public Service Commission data does not include matters involving corrupt conduct.

Corrupt conduct matters fall under the jurisdiction of the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) and a corruption allegations data dashboard is published at [Corruption allegations data dashboard | CCC - Crime and Corruption Commission Queensland](#)

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 6

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1-50 Departmental SDS Service Areas, State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, **Queensland Reconstruction Authority**, South Bank Corporation, Building Queensland, Economic Development Queensland can the Minister report separately by each program

- (a) the description of each project/initiative, the name of the recipient, level of funding provided in 19/20, and 20/21 and
- (b) how many applications were rejected and what were the reasons for rejection of any funding?

ANSWER:

The detailed information requested would require an unreasonable diversion of resources to compile and be unnecessarily onerous on the department.

- (a) A complete answer to this question is not able to be prepared in the time available. It is hoped that an answer can be tabled at the Estimates Hearing on 8 December 2020.
- (b) This information is not held centrally. Provision of this information would require significant time and diversion of resources to complete.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 6

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1-50 Departmental SDS Service Areas, State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, **Queensland Reconstruction Authority**, South Bank Corporation, Building Queensland, Economic Development Queensland can the Minister report separately by each program

- (a) the description of each project/initiative, the name of the recipient, level of funding provided in 19/20, and 20/21 and
- (b) how many applications were rejected and what were the reasons for rejection of any funding?

ANSWER:

- (a) A list of key 19/20 actual expenses and 20/21 budgets for key programs (excludes some minor programs) for State Development and Local Government is set out below.

Programs	2019-20 Actuals	2020-21 Budget
State Development	\$'000	\$'000
Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund (transferring to Queensland Treasury)	15,567	14,803
Australian Singapore Military Training	142	2,702
Biofutures Acceleration Program	1,428	1,175
Biofutures Industry Development Fund	687	683
Biofutures projects	888	537
Biomedical	401	980
Building our Regions	46,034	62,401
Haughton Pipeline Stage 2	0	7,500
Hinchinbrook Harbour New Sewage Plant	0	1,133
Hydrogen Industry Development Fund	0	3,547
Jobs and Regional Growth Fund (transferring to Queensland Treasury)	25,966	56,637
Maturing Infrastructure Pipeline Program	5,425	0
METS Ignited	849	1,651
North West Minerals Province	1,330	1,930
Planning Reform - Innovation and Improvement Fund	599	0
Remote Area Boards	663	1,280
Resource Recovery Industry Development Program	1,902	5,304
Royalties for the Regions	5,280	100
Southport Spit (transferring to Queensland Treasury)	3,390	13,617
Space Industry Development Strategy	0	2,054

Programs	2019-20 Actuals	2020-21 Budget
Village - EDQ grants	9,301	1,209
Waste to Bioenergy	50	1,749
Local Government		
Ayr water supply infrastructure (stage 2) project	3,000	6,000
Beautiful Bowen - Bowen townscape project	2,000	
Cherbourg water reservoir storage project		675
COVID Works for Queensland		180,000
Cunnamulla artesian hot springs and river walk experience	250	1,250
Financial Assistance Grants	503,514	242,897
Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program	9,945	15,462
Indigenous Economic Development Grants	1,440	1,440
Indigenous Local Governments' Sustainability Program	553	279
Kuranda SkyRail	646	300
Local Government Grants & Subsidies Program	37,973	26,003
Local Government Levy Ready Grant Program	1,876	
Major Infrastructure Program (MIP) Stage 6	3,750	
Northern Peninsula Area water supply system:		
– capital maintenance program		1,333
– replacement of asbestos cement pipelines	905	2,678
– urgent reservoir repairs	810	1,890
Palm Island rising main project		1,500
Paroo Shire Council upgrade to critical sewerage infrastructure	4,200	2,800
Revenue Replacement Program	3,525	3,525
SEQ Community Stimulus Package		45,000
Show Societies Grants Program	2,133	2,134
Splash Parks Mareeba and Douglas Shire		3,000
State Government Financial Aid	35,410	36,296
Torres Shire Council water treatment infrastructure upgrade	3,600	1,200
Torres Strait and Palm Island car and waste metal removal	1,739	366
Torres Strait Islands seawalls and coastal inundation mitigation upgrades	15,000	
Whitsunday Coast Airport terminal expansion project	1,500	
Works for Queensland	49,626	33,995
Ayr water supply infrastructure (stage 2) project	3,000	6,000
Beautiful Bowen - Bowen townscape project	2,000	
Cherbourg water reservoir storage project		675
COVID Works for Queensland		180,000
Queensland Reconstruction Authority		
Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements/Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements	815,000	694,000
Natural Disaster Resilience Program	3,800	5,500
Get Ready Queensland	1,900	2,300
Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund	3,400	4,200
Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund	-	10,500
Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie State Funded Recovery Projects	13,400	10,100

- (b) The detailed information requested is held in multiple systems in varying formats, noting the recent machinery of government changes compound the challenge of identifying and verifying such detailed data. Further, it is anticipated that State development programs will contain commercial in confidence information that would require careful identification to prevent it being provided without permission. Provision of this information would require significant time and diversion of resources to complete.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 7

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING –

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS 1-55 Works for Queensland and COVID Works for Queensland programs and the SEQ Community Stimulus Package for each financial years 19/20 to 23/24 can the Minister provide for each individual program reported separately the total level of funds allocated for each of the financial years the date of program commencement the life of the program in financial years the amount of funding already expended in each program.

ANSWER:

The following table provides a breakdown by requested financial year for the Works for Queensland, COVID Works for Queensland and SEQ Community Stimulus Package.

Financial data provided includes:

- 2019-20 Financial Year, Budget and Actual expenditure.
- 2020-21 Financial Year, Annual budget and Actual expenditure to 30 November 2020.
- For the 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 financial years the projected budget figures are shown.

Funding Program	2019-20 Budget (\$M)	2019-20 Actual (\$M)	2020-21 Budget (\$M)	2020-21 Actual (\$M)	2021-22 Budget (\$M)	2022-23 Budget (\$M)	2023-24 Budget (\$M)
Works for Queensland	50.0	49.626	33.995	21.872	148.0	70.0	30.0
COVID Works for Queensland	0.0	0.0	180.0	98.916	20.0	0.0	0.0
SEQ Community Stimulus Package	0.0	0.0	45.0	24.997	30.0	10.0	15.0
	50.00	49.626	258.995	145.785	198.0	80.0	45.0

In relation to program timing:

- The current round of Works for Queensland is the 2019-21 funding round, which commenced on 1 July 2019 with Councils required to complete their projects by 30 June 2021.
- For the 2020-21 COVID Works for Queensland, Councils were advised of approved projects on 8 July 2020 and commenced delivery from this date.
- For 2020-21 South East Queensland Community Stimulus Package program (which was released as the Unite and Recover Community Stimulus Package program) projects were approved on 23 July 2020 and Councils could commence from the time project funding schedules were executed.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 8

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING –

QUESTION:

With reference to the Office of the Independent Assessor page 1-56 can the Minister provide for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 years the following

- (a) Number of FTEs
- (b) The salary level of each FTE
- (c) The total travel costs for the Office reported separately by financial year
- (d) If the Office has sought independent legal advice over this period and the cost of that advice.

ANSWER:

Given the increased workload and importance of the Office of the Independent Assessor, the Office's resources are currently under consideration.

2019-20 financial year – reflecting November payroll reports

16.6 FTE

Title	Classification	Number	Status
Independent Assessor	CEO5	1	Contract
Deputy Independent Assessor	SO4	1	Permanent full-time
Director Media and Engagement	SO1	1	Permanent full-time
Senior Prosecutor	PO5	1.8	Permanent full-time
Principal Investigator	AO7	2	Permanent full-time
Principal Executive Officer	AO7	1	Permanent full-time
Senior Investigator	AO6	1.8	Permanent full-time
Executive Assistant/Complaints Officer	AO5	1	Permanent full-time
Senior Investigator	AO6	4	Temporary full-time
Graduate Legal Officer	PO2	1	Temporary full-time
Senior Assessment Officer	AO7	0	Full-time re-deployee, provided on a temporary basis at no cost to the OIA by the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs (DLGRMA)
Assessment Officer	AO5	1	Temporary full-time
TOTAL		16.6	

2020-21 financial year – budgeted FTE

Title	Classification	Number	Status
Independent Assessor	CEO5	1	Contract
Deputy Independent Assessor	SO4	1	Permanent full-time
Director Media and Engagement	SO1	1	Permanent full-time
Senior Prosecutor	PO5	2	Permanent full-time
Principal Investigator	AO7	2	Permanent full-time
Principal Executive Officer	AO7	1	Permanent full-time
Senior Investigator	AO6	2	Permanent full-time
Executive Assistant/Complaints Officer	AO5	1	Permanent full-time
Senior Investigator	AO6	4	Temporary full-time
Graduate Legal Officer	PO2	1	Temporary full-time
Senior Assessment Officer	AO7	0	Full-time re-deployee, provided on a temporary basis at no cost to the OIA by the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs (DLGRMA)
Assessment Officer	AO5	1	Temporary full-time
Senior Prosecutor	PO5	1	Temporary full-time – vacant
Senior Complaints Officer	AO6	1	Temporary full-time – vacant
TOTAL		19	

TRAVEL 2019-20

\$12,939.00

TRAVEL 2020-21

\$94.00

Independent legal advice 2019-20

\$13,019.63

Independent Legal advice 2020-21

\$10,175.00 - expenditure as at 31 October 2020.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 9

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING –

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS page 1-50, high quality and timely administration of the local government system can the Minister advise of the costs for legal advice to the Department following the changes to legislation to overturn laws which permitted runner ups to be appointed in both Rockhampton and Townsville and has the department had to obtain legal advice on other matters and what were the costs involved?

ANSWER:

The Department has not sought legal advice following assent of the COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 10

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 1 page 54, can the Deputy Premier explain how the Government's accelerated infrastructure pipeline will deliver Queensland jobs, and turbocharge Queensland's economic recovery?

ANSWER:

Building vital infrastructure has been a core focus of the Palaszczuk Government's approach to managing the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to be as we plan and execute our economic recovery.

Infrastructure investment is a key driver of economic growth and job creation. It supports our industries, regions and communities to improve productivity and underpins business-led growth.

Our Economic Recovery Plan has rightly placed a strong focus on infrastructure, because we know that infrastructure will drive our State's recovery, future prosperity and resilience.

We are delivering on our infrastructure guarantee. In this Budget, the value of the Palaszczuk Government's capital works and infrastructure program will increase to \$56 billion over the next four years, which is a record spend over the past decade.

The capital program will directly support substantial employment and economic activity across all regions, with the \$14.8 billion capital program in 2020-21 estimated to support 46,000 jobs.

Throughout the pandemic, the Palaszczuk Government has continued to invest in roads, and in 2020-21, the Government will deliver a \$6.3 billion investment in transformative transport infrastructure. Highlights include \$1.5 billion to continue construction of Cross River Rail, and substantial ongoing investment to fund major upgrades to the M1 Pacific Motorway and Bruce Highway.

All over the State, we have invested in roads, schools and hospitals, as well as small scale works delivered by local councils. In 2020-21 around 58 per cent of the capital program – together with 27,000 jobs – will be supported outside the Greater Brisbane area.

We will continue our strong advocacy in seeking joint Australian Government funding for productivity enhancing investments, including building on our excellent track record in having Queensland projects and initiatives listed on the Infrastructure Priority List.

We remain committed to fast-tracking vital infrastructure projects to further support the economic recovery and construction sector activity across Queensland.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 11

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 1 page 51, will the Deputy Premier detail how the Palaszczuk Government's investment in the Wellcamp precinct will help Toowoomba and the greater Darling Downs region economies recover from COVID-19?

ANSWER:

This \$175 million project would be Queensland's largest entertainment precinct and establish the first 'Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) Centre of Excellence' in motorsports facility in the Southern Hemisphere. Known as the Wellcamp Entertainment Precinct (WEP), it would incorporate world class motorsport, driver training and major event precincts designed to attract and stage major events across the performing arts, business, tourism, sport and events sectors. These facilities and events will be a wonderful drawcard for not only the region, but for Queensland.

For the motoring enthusiast the precinct will have dedicated facilities that specifically cater for most sports including V8 Super Cars and other models, Motocross, Supercross, Drag Racing, Karting and specialist 4WD tracks.

The WEP plans to capitalise on its location, adjacent to the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing and other major road networks, the Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport and future rail connections. It is well located to strike the right balance between managing amenity impacts and providing convenient access. In an exciting State like Queensland, with its ideal weather, the WEP provides a completely unique opportunity to attract visitors and participants from not only Australia but also the Asia/Pacific region. This is not simply a local project – it will set a national and international standard that will create new unique commercial and tourism opportunities.

Because of the location and size of the site, the project creates and unlocks significant economic, social and cultural opportunities, in addition to the core motorsport and event activities that are proposed. The related opportunities identified and contemplated in the initial appraisal and concept design include:

- road safety training and driver education facilities for all levels of drivers and vehicle types supported by an FIA Global Centre of Excellence

- research and innovation partnerships with local universities and industry partners, including international automotive manufacturers
- road safety and driver training facilities
- vocational training facilities
- music festivals and major events
- local and touring performance artists
- sporting facilities and venues (professional and amateur)
- business tourism, conference and event facilities
- on-site accommodation
- the opportunity to develop, trial and operate autonomous vehicles within the Precinct.

It is proposed the WEP will leverage both private sector and Australian Government investments and is expected to attract significant additional visitation and investment to Queensland.

Figures provided to date by the Wagner Corporation indicate the WEP would contribute significant economic and employment opportunities to the region. Due to the nature of the scale, design and complexity of the project, a detailed business case is in the process of being developed to provide guidance on the elements of the project.

Once the detailed business case has been prepared, a more in-depth understanding of the economic benefits for the region will be known.

Forecasted data provided by the Wagner Corporation includes seven key events of varying size forecasted on an annual basis. These include:

- three motorsport events estimated to generate approximately \$16.7 million gross value add (GVA) to the economy per annum.
- three locally focused festivals estimated to generate an additional \$1.8 million GVA to the economy each year.
- one major national festival held over several days. This type of event generally spans over multiple days and can attract strong visitation to the region, with the potential to generate approximately \$2.4 million GVA per annum.

Another comparable project, the Phillip Island Circuit in Victoria, found events held in 2010-11 contributed nearly \$130 million to the local economy. This circuit closely replicates the intentions for the WEP.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 12

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 1 page 51, how will the Palaszczuk Government's commitment to deliver infrastructure investment in the Cairns Marine Precinct (CMP) capitalise on and revitalise important industries, such as defence, marine industries and shipbuilding?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government recognises the strategic and economic importance of the marine industry in Cairns. It is committed to ensuring that the State maintains a robust marine capability and Cairns capitalises on emerging regional opportunities and affirms its position as the leading maritime maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) destination in Northern Australia.

On 18 September 2020, the Palaszczuk Government announced \$30 million for initiatives within the Cairns Marine Precinct as part of its Economic Recovery Plan.

Improved infrastructure and upgrades to the Port of Cairns are particularly important in the current context of an increasing focus on the geo-political environment in the Indo-Pacific region.

Under the new \$30 million investment, \$28 million is allocated for new infrastructure upgrades, which will be undertaken by Ports North and will expand the capacity to support increased in-water sustainment of vessels used by the Australian Defence Force and Australian Border Force, delivering 150 new jobs during construction.

A further \$2 million investment has been fast tracked to complete a business case to determine the Cairns Marine Precinct infrastructure requirements, including enhancements accessible by all shipyards and potential expansion of the Cairns Marine Precinct.

The business case development, which will be managed by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, is a crucial step towards leveraging ongoing maintenance maritime work for the Royal Australian Navy, Australian Border Force, and privately owned superyachts.

The final business case is expected to be completed at the end of 2021. This timing will allow investment decisions to be made in time for operators within the Cairns Marine Precinct to successfully bid for future naval sustainment, maintenance and overhaul work.

Queensland Treasury Corporation is also undertaking an analysis of bringing back shipbuilding to the Cairns Marine Precinct.

The Cairns Reshoring Shipbuilding opportunity assessment will investigate the manufacture of commercial vessels required for servicing the region and in doing so, bring new jobs to Cairns.

Shipbuilding could expand and develop our region's highly skilled marine workforce with complementary benefits to our existing training and maintenance, repair and overhaul operations.

The Palaszczuk Government has also contributed funding to assist TAFE Queensland's Great Barrier Reef International Marine College bid for the Pacific Maritime Training Services program for Cairns.

If successful, TAFE Queensland will use facilities in Cairns to train Guardian Patrol Boats crews from Pacific Islands and Timor Leste before they deliver the Pacific Maritime Surveillance Program. This will create 15 jobs in the education sector and at least two more jobs in related industries.

This support strategically aligns with the Queensland Defence Industries 10-year Roadmap and Action Plan to increase revenue contribution to the Queensland economy from the frontline defence industry to \$7 billion and to create a 10,000 strong workforce by 2028.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 13

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 1 page 51, can the Deputy Premier outline how the Mackay Future Foods BioHub will place North Queensland at the forefront of the food markets of the future?

ANSWER:

The Mackay Future Foods BioHub aims to draw on the existing agricultural strengths of the Mackay Isaac Whitsunday region to create new foods and enter new export markets.

As global population increases and diets change, there is an emerging shift in the way we produce and consume our foods. Future foods such as non-dairy milk, proteins, vegan meat alternatives, and animal replacements are identified as essential to global food security and already a choice of preference for some consumers.

Importantly, these opportunities in future foods can grow and complement our incredibly strong food sector in Queensland, underpinned by our agriculture and beef industries.

Using synthetic biology technology, the rapid pace of scientific advancement in this sector is combining with a global focus on sustainability to create a boom in international demand for quality produce, such as non-animal protein-based foods and value-added ingredients and products.

Commercial manufacturing of these products is starting to occur around the world, as lab-based pilot demonstrations move to scale-up and establish commercial operations.

Recognising this opportunity, the Palaszczuk Government has allocated \$1 million to support the development of a business case for a Future Foods BioHub in Mackay.

Led by industry, the Mackay BioHub aims to use advanced biomanufacturing technologies to create plant-based protein alternatives and feed ingredients that are healthy, sustainable and generate local employment for the region. The global alternative protein market alone is expected to reach \$17.9 billion by 2025.

Mackay and the broader North Queensland region is the ideal location to capitalise on these opportunities, with its access to industrial land, port facilities, feedstock and proximity to Asian markets.

The Mackay BioHub has the potential to position regional cropping industries at the forefront of this food and agribusiness revolution. The BioHub could include facilities that help grow and diversify regional economies by creating new jobs and income streams for farmers.

The Palaszczuk Government has invited future foods companies from around the world to develop their biomanufacturing capabilities in Mackay, and we will work with investors, industry and landowners to accelerate development opportunities. Initial market sounding with industry has already commenced and a business case will be developed in the next phase of work.

The Mackay Future Foods BioHub contributes to the Palaszczuk Government's Biofutures vision to build a \$1 billion industrial biotechnology and bioproducts sector by 2026, attracting significant international investment and creating regional jobs.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 14

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 1 page 54, will the Deputy Premier explain how the Palaszczuk Government's investment in disaster preparation infrastructure will safeguard Queenslanders from future environmental challenges?

ANSWER:

Queensland is the most disaster affected State in Australia, having been hit by more than 80 significant natural disaster events in the past decade.

As our climate changes, it is essential that we anticipate, respond and adapt to these changing circumstances and continue to cultivate strong levels of community connectedness, trust and cooperation.

Since its establishment in 2011, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) has managed a joint State/Commonwealth funded \$16.4 billion program of Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) reconstruction and recovery works.

QRA is also the state's lead agency for disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation policy.

The Palaszczuk Government's record of upfront investment in stronger infrastructure and more resilient communities saves money for all levels of Government in the long-term.

This investment is evidenced through QRA programs such as:

- \$240 million for Betterment projects to upgrade the State's roads, bridges and floodways approved since 2013, increasing their resilience to disasters and saving more than \$145 million in avoided reconstruction costs.
- \$13.75 million approved for improvements to the State's Flood Warning Infrastructure Network, keeping our remote and regional communities safer.
- \$36.8 million to support communities impacted by last year's devastating bushfires with the delivery of long-term sustainable growth through the Local Economic Recovery Fund.
- \$66.5 million in joint Commonwealth and State funding from 2019-20 to 2023-24 through the Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund to help local communities better prepare for future disasters.

- \$2 million in annual Get Ready Queensland funding to raise awareness and help communities throughout the State prepare for disaster season.

All these investments have been identified by local communities to best meet their local needs.

This locally led, regionally coordinated and State-facilitated approach is supporting resilience projects that can be aligned to future funding opportunities.

QRA has refined the data and learnings from each of the more than 80 disasters to hit Queensland in the past decade to develop better strategies to deal with future natural disaster events and make Queensland the most disaster resilient State in the nation.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 15

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 1 page 55, can the Deputy Premier explain how the Palaszczuk Government's Works for Queensland program is delivering job-creating infrastructure for regional Queenslanders?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government's Works for Queensland program has already invested \$600 million that is creating, supporting and sustaining jobs across 65 regional and rural Councils outside South East Queensland.

Works for Queensland is an important driver of job creation and economic activity across regional Queensland and a great example of what can be achieved when two levels of Government work together to support local communities.

By the end of the current 2019-21 funding round it is expected that Councils will have delivered more than 1,800 local projects that have created or supported more than 21,000 jobs.

As part of the Palaszczuk Government's \$11 billion plan for economic recovery from COVID-19, we announced an additional \$400 million over six years to support future rounds of Works for Queensland.

These funds will support the kick-start of council projects from Weipa to Goondiwindi, from Calliope to Camooweal to deliver community infrastructure such as footpaths, kerb and channel works, roads, shade structures, playgrounds, community and sport facilities, halls, swimming pools and waterplay areas.

Through natural disasters and even the COVID-19 pandemic, we have stood shoulder to shoulder with local government to create jobs right across the state and we're not going to stop now.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 16

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 1 page 55, will the Deputy Premier outline how the Community Stimulus Grants program is helping South East Queensland recover from the pandemic?

ANSWER:

South East Queensland has shared in the Palaszczuk Government's stimulus measures to support economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the Palaszczuk Government's \$11 billion plan for economic recovery from COVID-19, we have committed an additional \$200 million to the SEQ Community Stimulus Package which will provide two rounds of funding to each of the 12 SEQ councils and is expected to support up to 6000 jobs.

A further \$50 million was allocated to South East Queensland councils from the Palaszczuk Government's \$200 million COVID-19 Works for Queensland program, which is providing for maintenance and minor infrastructure projects.

South East Queensland Councils are also benefitting from \$50 million under the Unite and Recover Community Stimulus Package program, which is designed to fast-track investment in new infrastructure and community assets that creates jobs and delivers economic stimulus. Under the program 12 South East Queensland councils are delivering 63 projects that are estimated to create or support more than 1500 jobs in our most impacted areas.

State-wide initiatives supporting South East Queensland businesses and residents during the initial pandemic response phase included \$950 million in payroll tax relief; \$500 million in electricity and water bill relief for households and small businesses; \$90 million for a jobs and skills package; and \$400 million in land tax relief for property owners to be passed onto tenants in the form of rent relief.

South East Queensland businesses also accessed the \$1 billion Jobs Support Loan facility to support them to keep Queenslanders in work and benefited from Small Business Adaption Grants of up to \$10,000, to assist them to adapt and sustain their operations.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 17

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 1 page 51, will the Deputy Premier outline how the Palaszczuk Government is using Priority Development Areas (PDAs) to create jobs and further Queensland's economic recovery?

ANSWER:

Economic Development Queensland (EDQ) renews and repurposes surplus and underutilised State land and facilitates development in Priority Development Areas (PDAs) to create jobs, drive private sector investment and deliver community outcomes.

This includes fast-tracking the delivery of capital works across a number of EDQ's projects to enable private sector investment and support jobs, contributing to Queensland's economic recovery.

\$84.7 million of accelerated capital works are now being fast-tracked with work either underway, or due to start in the next four months, in the following projects:

- Carseldine Village
- Oxley
- Yeronga
- Northshore Hamilton
- Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct
- Roma Hospital Student Accommodation.

The flow-on effect of this program is the creation of over \$330 million in private sector investment, 1,000 construction jobs and 700 ongoing jobs.

PDA declaration and development assessment also help stimulate investment by reducing holding costs to developers by releasing land more quickly to market and providing certainty for long-term investment through coordinated State interests and streamlined planning and development assessment.

EDQ is currently assessing over 100 development applications across a number of PDAs which will help enable \$520 million in investment, supporting up to 1,170 jobs.

In addition, infrastructure investment by EDQ within the greenfield PDAs is opening up these areas to enable the delivery of a significant portion of new housing needed over the coming decades to accommodate expected population growth in South East Queensland.

To date EDQ has invested nearly \$110 million in catalyst infrastructure in the Ripley Valley and Greater Flagstone PDAs. This includes \$7.14 million for the construction of Binnies Road West at Ripley Valley which is currently underway, which will help enable the delivery of up to 3,000 new homes, generating private sector investment and supporting jobs.

PDAs are also being utilised for the delivery of the Cross River Rail project with four Cross River Rail PDAs declared, the most recent being the Boggo Road Cross River Rail PDA which was declared on 2 October 2020.

These PDAs will provide unique opportunities for urban development, economic stimulation and job creation, including planning for integrated recreation and entertainment facilities.

PDAs are also assisting Local Governments to achieve economic development and employment growth in their regions. The Mackay Waterfront PDA, requested by Mackay Regional Council (Council), will lead to the revitalisation of the city centre. In June the Council sought expressions of interest regarding the development potential of six Council-owned freehold sites considered to be catalyst locations within the PDA.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 18

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 1 page 51, can the Deputy Premier explain how the Palaszczuk Government's record-breaking LAND 400 investment will deliver jobs for Queenslanders over the next 30 years?

ANSWER:

LAND 400 is the biggest and most expensive capability acquisition project in the history of the Australian Army with Phase 2 worth \$5.2 billion and Phase 3 worth up to \$27 billion.

Rheinmetall Defence Australia (RDA) was awarded the Commonwealth's LAND 400 Phase 2 project to manufacture 211 Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicles (CRVs) for the Australian Army.

Under a long-term partnership with the Queensland Government, RDA established its Australia-New Zealand Headquarters and Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence (MILVEHCOE) in Redbank, Ipswich, from which it will manufacture the Boxer CRVs.

Construction of the MILVEHCOE supported an average of 300 jobs over two years.

RDA expects the MILVEHCOE will support up to 450 jobs for Queenslanders at the facility and through the local supply chain, and the facility will contribute more than \$1 billion to Queensland's economy over the life of the project.

RDA has been shortlisted for LAND 400 Phase 3 estimated to be worth up to \$27 billion, and should it be successful, will manufacture up to 450 infantry fighting vehicles at the MILVEHCOE.

Jobs at the MILVEHCOE span a wide range of functions, trades, technologies and advanced manufacturing tasks.

The partnership with RDA and the delivery of the LAND 400 Phase 2 project is creating the high skilled, knowledge-based jobs of the future right through the supply chain.

The delivery of LAND 400 Phase 2 and RDA's other projects firmly positions Queensland as Australia's home of land defence industrial capability and enhances our existing ecosystem of high-tech expertise that is supporting some of the world's leading-edge military platforms.

The MILVEHCOE and the expertise of the Australian workforce are now an integral source of technology and product development for Rheinmetall's global customer base.

The Queensland Government, through Defence Jobs Queensland, is working closely with RDA and Queensland companies to improve industry capability and to maximise local supply chain opportunities.

RDA has announced a number of Queensland supply-chain partners to date including Big Wheels at Rocklea, ABI Coating Specialists at Staplyton, Rockpress at Acacia Ridge, Hilton Manufacturing at Wacol and Queensland Gaskets at Salisbury.

The Queensland Government is investing in education and training to address a national shortage in some defence-specific skillsets and to ensure the State's future workforce needs are met.

The Queensland Government has improved access to training and certification including:

- purchase of 15 augmented reality welding simulators to accelerate TAFE training to ISO 9606 standards
- delivery of a welding capability development program in partnership with DMTC Limited (formerly known as the Defence Materials Technology Centre)
- launching an up to \$1.5 million industry development fund to assist SMEs to acquire certifications.

The LAND 400 project and RDA's other defence projects are supporting the State's effort to unite and recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and are helping to drive Queensland's economic recovery.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 19

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 1 page 51, can the Deputy Premier outline how the Palaszczuk Government is creating jobs and diversifying Queensland's regional economy through facilitating continued resource sector development in the North West Minerals Province?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to further developing the abundant potential of the North West Minerals Province. While the resources sector is the backbone of the province's economy, our Government also recognises the importance of supporting the growth of other sectors to create jobs.

The Palaszczuk Government's \$39 million Strategic Blueprint for Queensland's North West Minerals Province (the Blueprint) has established partnerships across all levels of government, industry and the community to drive a strong and sustainable future for the State's North West. Opportunities identified by the Blueprint's Common User Infrastructure Study and North West Queensland Agricultural Strategy are diversifying the economy, helping grow expertise in dry land cropping, and supporting primary producers to look to a new horizon that complements the region's high-quality beef production.

Through the Blueprint and the \$33.3 million North West Queensland Economic Diversification Strategy we have delivered:

- \$14.1 million to define New Economy Mineral opportunities including a Prospectus for Trade and Investment Queensland to attract investors
- the Geological Survey of Queensland Open Data Portal, providing a world-leading geoscientific data repository to help explorers in finding the next generation of large mineral deposits
- greater knowledge and certainty to industry through deeper geological surveys that gives industry the greatest chance of exploration success
- the Low-Grade Minerals Processing Report assisting miners to pursue re-processing of mine tailings

- support for 24 projects through the Collaborative Exploration Initiative, one of which resulted in the discovery of a globally significant copper cobalt deposit at Walford Creek, north of Mount Isa
- streamlined land access agreements and cultural heritage approvals reducing barriers to investment
- approximately 100 high tech jobs through our investment of \$14.5 million in the Queensland Flight Test Range drone test facility at Cloncurry
- \$1.77 million that builds on the digital visitor survey providing support for key tourism projects that attract families and short-stay visitors
- \$1.28 million in trials that demonstrate the viability of high value cash and fodder crops leading to new industry investment
- \$1.65 million to drive economic development planning, business competitiveness and stronger communities
- the Youth Employment Program assisting 50 Indigenous candidates to secure work
- support for the development of the Jemena Northern Gas Pipeline by facilitating local supply chain opportunities and Indigenous apprenticeships.

We will continue to facilitate:

- a pipeline of new investment building on the region's expertise in mining and mineral processing, outback and Indigenous tourism and high-value agriculture totalling over \$1.1 billion in a pipeline of private sector projects with potential to support 600 construction jobs and 650 jobs ongoing
- deeper geological surveys and data modernisation initiatives
- the collaborative exploration initiative leading to new mineral discoveries and industry investment in the North West Minerals Province
- mining and manufacturing opportunities to capitalise on our world-class Mining Equipment, Technology and Services sector ensuring that Queensland's resource companies and communities are at the forefront of global supply of valuable minerals needed for advanced electronics and renewable technologies
- \$16 million investment in the CopperString 2.0 project which has the potential to unlock a wider economic benefit modelled at over 3,500 jobs and \$79 billion economic uplift over 30 years
- investment of approximately \$500 million over five years to boost mineral freight exports on the Mount Isa rail line, through ongoing maintenance and track improvements, discounted freight charges and support for a new container terminal at the Port of Townsville.

The evidence of success in supporting the resources industry and promoting the province's prospectivity is shown in the record numbers of drill rigs seen on the ground in the Blueprint's first two years of implementation. During this period the number of exploration licences almost

doubled and there was a significant increase in the number of new mining leases granted. In total, seven new mines commenced operation in the region between 2017 and 2019, creating approximately 1,330 construction jobs and 1,105 operational jobs.

We have secured 1,100 jobs associated with the Mount Isa Mines copper smelter. The agreement with Glencore supports indirect employment for many hundreds more in the region who supply goods and services to the smelter and refinery.

The North West Minerals Province has an important role in the State's economic recovery. As implementation continues on the Blueprint and diversification strategy, the region will be even better placed to capitalise on new opportunities that arise as part of Queensland's economic recovery.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 20

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER
MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to the Minister's and his government's support for progressing the Hell's Gates Dam (Bradfield irrigation scheme) prior to the 2020 State Election; Can the Minister advise how many times since first commissioned in September the expert panel, chaired by Professor Ross Garnaut, has met and if the panel will achieve a six-month reporting date as requested by various North Queensland-based stakeholders?

ANSWER:

As this response falls within the responsibilities of the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water, a response has been tabled with the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water's Questions on Notice.

Questions on notice and responses – *Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water*

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference page 37 of SDS 3 and water license charges will the Minister outline as of 30 December 2020 the:

- (a) number and names of the schemes currently offering a 0 per cent allocation;
- (b) number of irrigation customers currently paying the 'Part A' water charge while receiving 0 per cent allocation broken down into schemes;
- (c) total annual revenue collected through 'Part A' water charges annually on 0 per cent allocation broken down into schemes reported separately by year from 2015 to 2020?

ANSWER:

Irrigation schemes require the maintenance and refurbishment of infrastructure even when there is no water available to take.

The cost of this infrastructure is reflected in the fixed cost, or Part A, water charge (noting that for the Lockyer areas, fixed charges only partly recover these costs, with the state, through Seqwater, providing a subsidy for the remainder).

The only way to avoid maintenance costs for irrigation schemes during periods of no water allocations would be to close the schemes permanently and decommission the infrastructure.

Scheme	2019-20	Number of customers	Average cost per customer
Nogoa Mackenzie (excluding Zone B-D)	\$1,612,690	275	\$5,864
Boyne River and Tarong	\$261,278	54	\$4,839
Chinchilla Weir	\$76,395	23	\$3,322
Upper Condamine	\$784,153	90	\$8,713
Lower Lockyer Valley	\$528,058	141	\$3,745
Morton Vale Pipeline	\$154,852	43	\$3,601
Barker Barambah	\$796,362	159	\$5,009
Dawson	\$970,047	140	\$6,929
MacIntyre Brook	\$831,985	88	\$9,454
Central Lockyer Valley (surface water only)*		112	

* For the Central Lockyer Valley scheme, Part A prices did not commence being charged until the June quarter of 2019–20. While no surface water was available, supply from supplemented groundwater allocations was generally available.

Schemes or only parts of the schemes listed had zero announced allocations (AAs) as at July 2019 but in some cases these AAs were increased during the year. This means that the revenue from zero AAs will be over-stated to some extent as the revenue estimates assume all parts of the scheme have zero AAs for the whole year.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 2

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

In reference to page 43 of SDS 3 and the Government's 'Manufacturing Hubs', will the minister outline the following:

- (a) The dates that the Cairns, Townsville and Rockhampton Hubs were opened reported separately
- (b) How many students have achieved qualifications at the Cairns Hub through the areas associated with marine, aviation and food manufacturing reported separately;
- (c) How many students have achieved qualifications at the Townsville Hub through the areas associated with advanced metal production manufacturing and food transformation through advanced manufacturing reported separately;
- (d) How many students have achieved qualifications at the Townsville Hub through the areas associated with rail manufacturing and technology, advanced technologies for metal production and food product innovation reported separately?

ANSWER:

The manufacturing hub in Cairns was opened on 17 December 2019, the Townsville hub was opened on 9 September 2019 and the Rockhampton hub was opened on 11 February 2020.

The Palaszczuk Government has invested \$30 million into regional manufacturing hubs in Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton and Gladstone. The hubs are part of the government's Advanced Manufacturing 10-Year Road Map and Action Plan to grow manufacturing productivity and innovation across all of Queensland.

The hubs provide a place for local manufacturing businesses to receive expert advice and support to become more productive and create the jobs of the future. They're co-located either with TAFE or regional university campuses.

The hubs are supporting local manufacturing to adopt Industry 4.0 technologies and practices to allow the building of highly skilled local workforces and strengthen supply chains.

The hubs are not a registered training provider, nor are they designed to be. The responsibility for formal education qualification of students is that of the Department of Education and TAFEs.

The response to Question on Notice No. 18 provides information on training services provided by the hubs to regional businesses.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 3

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water capital budget for 2020/21, SDS 3 page 37, will the Minister provide a list of approved projects, including

- (a) the budget and scope of each project for 2019-20 and 2020-21 reported separately and;
- (b) the scheduled date of completion (reported in table format)?

ANSWER:

There is no capital expenditure for the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water in 2019–20. All capital expenditure relating to the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME), is included in that department's 2019–20 annual report. The machinery-of-government changed on 12 November 2020.

The budget and scope of each project for 2020–21 is provided in the table below.

DRDMW		Scope	Completion date	
2020-21	2020-21			
(7 months)	(full year)			
\$'000	\$'000			
Capital projects				
Rookwood	18,390	115,000	Construction of the Rookwood Weir on the Fitzroy River that will provide drought contingency supplies for Rockhampton, Gladstone and Yeppoon. Delivered in partnership with the Australian Government	2022-23
Water Monitoring	552	600	Water Monitoring assets measure, record and transmit water volumes and water quality data at 415 surface-water stations, 303 groundwater stations and 47 pluviograph (or rainfall) stations, total of 765 telemetered monitoring sites	Ongoing

Capital grants				
Emu Swamp	21,000	21,000	The Emu Swamp Dam project is a Commonwealth initiative, completing an environmental impact statement (EIS) change report and developing a cultural heritage management plan and environmental offset strategy consistent with the Emu Swamp Dam EIS	2020-23
Mareeba-Dimbulah Channel Modernisation Project	5,862	5,862	In January 2019, DNRME, Sunwater and the Australian Government developed a program for Mareeba-Dimbulah Channel Modernisation Project. The works to be undertaken will include the replacement of open pipelines with a pressurised pipeline, installing automated control gates and construction of balancing storages	2021-22
Warwick Recycled Water for Agriculture Project	316	790	This project is to provide a 4 km pipeline and pump stations to extend the supply of Class A recycled water within the Warwick Industrial Estate	2020-21

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 4

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 53 of SDS 3 and the capital purchase of Rookwood Weir, will the minister outline the following:

- (a) what funding has been allocated and spent on the project from 2018 to 2024 reported yearly;
- (b) The final date of completion and commissioning; and
- (c) The guaranteed final capacity within the weir that will be available to farmers and irrigators?

ANSWER:

	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22	2022-23
	Budget (\$m)	Actual (\$m)	Budget (\$m)	Actual (\$m)	Budget (\$m)	Actual (at October 2020) (\$m)	Budget (\$m)	Budget (\$m)
Capital	66	46.66	10	10	115	51.61	140	21.2
Operating	19.34							

Completion of the project is anticipated to be mid-2023, weather permitting. Sunwater has advised it expects full wet commissioning of the weir in 2023. Wet commissioning of a weir requires a flow in the river and therefore it is not possible to be more precise.

The capacity of weir at full supply level is expected to be 65,402 megalitres. The yield from this capacity is up to 76,000 megalitres of medium priority water which equates to some 50,000 megalitres of high priority water. At least 50 per cent of the weir yield will be available for allocation to agriculture.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 5

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 95 of Capital Expenditure in Budget Paper 3 which refers to the Paradise Dam, will the Minister advise the following:

- (a) The total expenditure in the 2020/21 budget allocated to capital works in stabilising and restoring the dam;
- (b) What has been the total spend to date on capital works to stabilise and repair Paradise Dam (report separately from 2014-2020);
- (c) The date when a decision will be made on which option the Department and Sunwater will implement so the Wide bay Burnett will have certainty on Paradise Dam's future; and
- (d) Total expected expenditure for the Paradise Improvement project?

ANSWER:

Page 95 of the Capital Statement 2020–21 outlines the 2020–21 budget for Paradise Dam Essential Works.

	2013-14 (\$m)	2014-15 (\$m)	2015-16 (\$m)	2016-17 (\$m)	2017-18 (\$m)	2018-19 (\$m)	2019-20 (\$m)
Capex	12.18	-0.1	3.79	24.55	2.46	0.36	22.04

Building Queensland is developing long-term options for Paradise Dam through a detailed business case which is due by the end of 2021. The Queensland Government is awaiting the outcomes of the detailed business case to inform its decision.

The total expected expenditure for the Paradise Dam Improvement Project cannot be determined until the outcomes of Building Queensland's detailed business case.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 6

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 38 of SDS 3 on the Government's commitment to 'develop the economy' will the Minister outline the following on the promised Manufacturing Skills Queensland:

- (a) What deliverables and KPIs the new agency will be measured upon;
- (b) What will be the role of the agency in directly assisting Queensland workers and manufacturing businesses; and
- (c) The date the agency will be up and running?

ANSWER:

- (a) The Manufacturing Skills Queensland scope will extend to the delivery of vocational education and training skills development in schools and TAFE institutions, so any strategic direction/operations will need to include input and collaboration from the Department of Education and the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training.
- (b) To support the delivery of the Skills Implementation Plan for Advanced Manufacturing released in December 2019 and strengthen and grow Queensland's manufacturing sector, the government will invest \$16.5 million to create Manufacturing Skills Queensland.

The \$16.5 million investment to create Manufacturing Skills Queensland will identify the key requirements in the manufacturing sector, including leadership, management, technical, task-related and developmental skills.

Manufacturing Skills Queensland will work with employers, workers, unions and education institutions to develop and deliver workforce development and training programs to provide Queenslanders with the skills needed in Queensland's diverse manufacturing industry.

Manufacturing Skills Queensland will develop an annual training plan for the manufacturing industry to assist the industry and develop a strong manufacturing skills base.

Manufacturing Skills Queensland will provide the essential coordination for industry skills development and training issues, through linkage and collaboration with the manufacturing hubs, the Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing Hub and other manufacturing industry ecosystems and networks.

Manufacturing Skills Queensland will also undertake research and strategy development to ensure that the quality, timeliness and delivery of the appropriate skills development and training meets industry needs and national standards.

- (c) An implementation plan will be developed after input and collaboration with TAFE institutes, the Department of Education and the Department of Employment Small Business and Training and all relevant industry stakeholders.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 7

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 37 of SDS 3 on the Departmental overview objective to ‘deliver safe, secure, affordable and sustainable water’ will the Minister outline the following in relation to Sunwater:

(a) The total paid in corporate entertainment reported separately by year from 2015 to 2021.

ANSWER:

This information is available in Sunwater’s annual reports which are available on its website (<https://www.sunwater.com.au/about/publications/>) and have been tabled in Parliament.

Figures for the calendar year 2021 are not available as the year has not yet commenced.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 8

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 95 of Capital Expenditure in Budget Paper 3 which refers to the South West pipeline, will the Minister outline the following:

- (a) What exactly the South West Pipeline project will entail;
- (b) The date in which the project will commence construction;
- (c) The date the project is scheduled to be completed and operational; and
- (d) The total budgeted cost for the entire project?

ANSWER:

The South West Pipeline project includes a 27-kilometre pipeline and transfer system capable of transporting 15 million litres of water per day, connecting the Beaudesert region to the South East Queensland Water Grid.

The project is part of the Beaudesert Water Supply Upgrade which also includes the Wyaralong Transfer System comprising storage systems, a pumping station and supporting infrastructure.

Additionally, water storage reservoirs, which can store over 5 million litres of drinking water, have been installed at the Beaudesert Water Treatment Plant.

The project construction is expected to commence by mid-2021 following a project definition phase and detailed design phase which will commence in early 2021.

The project is expected to be completed and be operational by mid-2022, weather permitting.

The total budgeted cost for the project is listed on page 95 of Budget Paper 3.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 9

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 3 page 40, will the Minister provide an update on ways the government is providing financial relief for Queensland water users?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government is acutely aware of the impacts of COVID-19 on the Queensland community, and acted quickly to provide immediate relief for irrigators and households.

For three years from the 2021–22 financial year, the Palaszczuk Government will provide \$81.6 million in funding to support irrigators where the government sets prices for the supply of water by Sunwater and Seqwater. The funding provides a 50 per cent discount on irrigation prices for fruit and vegetable growers, and a 15 per cent discount for all other irrigators. Already thousands of Queensland farmers are seeing their water prices remain the same or fall for 2020–21 as part of the government's response to COVID-19.

The \$81.6 million in funding allows for additional price discounts. The price discounts are in recognition of the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on the global economy and therefore Queensland agriculture. In particular we want to support agricultural industries to employ more people and enable the flow-on benefits of that employment for the broader Queensland economy. That is why our fruit and vegetable growers will be getting the additional assistance of a 50 per cent discount on their irrigation water prices. These discounts in turn support thousands of harvesting and picking jobs.

Implementation and eligibility criteria for the discount are currently being finalised. These details will be communicated to irrigation customers as soon as possible.

We have also committed to not include irrigators' share of dam safety upgrade costs in irrigation prices for the duration of this government. For 2020–21, the government will pay Sunwater and Seqwater Community Service Obligation (CSO) payments of up to \$14.7 million to cover the gap between prices and irrigation water supply costs. This is up from the \$3.7 million CSO provided in 2019–20.

The government is already subsidising charges for all schemes where there is currently no surface water available. The Queensland and Australian governments offer a range of drought-assistance programs. Irrigators are encouraged to take advantage of these programs.

In response to COVID-19, the government's \$300 million household package provides a utility rebate giving Queensland households \$200 off their utility bills, including water.

The entire utility rebate was automatically applied to households' electricity bills as it was the quickest way to get this money to Queensland households.

Additionally, the next review of South East Queensland bulk water prices, proposed to commence in mid-2020, was deferred as a result of COVID-19. This decision was made after careful consideration, to allow Seqwater and its customers to focus resources and attention on responding to COVID-19.

The Palaszczuk Government is supporting pensioners with the cost of water bills through

- the statewide Pensioner Rates Subsidy; and
- the South East Queensland Pensioner Water Subsidy.

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

The Pensioner Rates Subsidy, paying an estimated \$56.3 million in 2020–21, provides up to \$200 per year to eligible pensioner homeowners statewide.

The South East Queensland Pensioner Water Subsidy was introduced in 2008 to assist pensioners in meeting higher water costs in South East Queensland.

The South East Queensland Pensioner Water Subsidy provides support for pensioners to meet the costs in their water bills which pay for this high level of infrastructure and security.

In 2020–21, approximately \$19.3 million will be made available to eligible South East Queensland pensioners, providing a maximum subsidy of \$120 per annum.

To be eligible to receive either subsidy, a person must:

- hold a Queensland Pensioner Concession Card or Department of Veterans' Affairs Health Card – Gold Card;
- be the owner or life tenant of the property, which is their principle place of residence; and
- be legally responsible for the payment of local council rates and charges levied on that property.

Queensland water entities also have existing measures in place to assist 'at risk' customers facing financial hardship. This can include the introduction of payment plans or negotiating short-term extensions to payment terms. Customers should contact their water service provider for assistance.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 10

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 3 page 40, will the Minister provide an update on the government's record of investing in water infrastructure in regional Queensland?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government has committed \$1.2 billion to water infrastructure since 2017, providing water security, growth opportunities for our farmers and supporting 2,300 jobs.

Our government understands the importance of water to communities and for driving regional economic growth, which is why it is fast tracking feasibility assessments for additional water supplies and investing in the construction of new bulk water supply infrastructure. The Palaszczuk government is investing in new bulk water supply infrastructure across the state, including:

- \$13.6 million to support construction of the Granite Belt Irrigation Project near Stanthorpe, including 150 jobs during construction;
- \$176 million towards constructing Rookwood Weir near Rockhampton, including 286 jobs during construction including road and bridge construction;
- \$30 million towards planning and construction of Big Rocks Weir near Charters Towers, including 170 jobs at peak construction;
- \$410 million for water security for Townsville including the Stage 1 and Stage 2 pipelines to connect Ross River Dam to the Burdekin. The Stage 1 pipeline has been one of the biggest job-creating projects being delivered in North Queensland, with more than 1,000 workers having worked either directly or indirectly on the project to date;
- \$28 million for channel modernisation for the Mareeba Dimbulah water supply scheme, including 18 jobs; and
- \$34 million for Gladstone Area Water Board's offline water storage facility.

These three projects are all at different stages of the planning and construction process; however, technical and financial support from the Queensland Government is critical to their futures.

Public safety is also a priority for the government and Sunwater and Seqwater will spend \$329 million on capital expenditure, including dam improvement projects in this financial year.

The Palaszczuk government also recognises the importance of urban water security across Queensland and has provided \$420 million funding commitment to provide a secure water supply for Townsville, including two water supply pipelines and a water smart package, as well as \$15 million for emergency water carting for Stanthorpe and \$4.2 million to assist Goondiwindi Regional Council manage water supply risks.

The government has worked with many proponents of bulk water infrastructure projects through the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund (NWIDF). To date, 16 feasibility studies have been completed; four are still underway, including Urannah Dam, Hells Gates Dam, North and South Burnett, and Lakelands irrigation area; and a further two will be commencing shortly – Coalstoun Lakes irrigation area and Hughenden Irrigation Scheme. All are providing valuable information about the potential viability of the projects.

Projects where the Queensland Government is the sole investor to fast track water infrastructure feasibility studies include raising Burdekin Falls Dam, Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline, Warwick water supply pipeline and water for the Lockyer irrigators.

Building Queensland is leading the development of a detailed business case for the proposed raising of Burdekin Falls Dam, while Sunwater is preparing an environmental impact statement for the project.

Building Queensland and Sunwater are also working together to assess options for Paradise Dam and how water can best be accessed and used in the Bundaberg area.

The Queensland Government wants to ensure that all the economic benefits and costs, technical feasibility and environmental implications are assessed before considering new bulk water supply infrastructure to ensure the projects do not impose ongoing liabilities to future generations. Feasibility studies and business cases are undertaken in accordance with Building Queensland's project assessment framework.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 11

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 3 page 40 and page 11 of the Capital Statement, will the Minister outline progress on the construction of Rookwood Weir?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to constructing Rookwood Weir and is advancing the project as fast as possible. On-site pre-construction activities are underway and in-river construction of the weir is scheduled for April 2021.

Rookwood Weir will provide up to 76,000 megalitres of extra water supply for Livingstone and Gladstone communities, providing opportunities for increased agricultural and industrial development in Central Queensland. As at the end of November 2020, the government had paid some \$123.5 million to Sunwater to progress the project. Two road upgrades, to Thirsty Creek Road and the Gogango Intersection, have been completed and employed 25 and 36 local workers respectively. On 15 July 2020, Civil Mining and Construction commenced construction of a new bridge to span the Riverslea crossing. This will employ 15 Central Queenslanders and is scheduled for completion in mid-2021.

Until recently, the Palaszczuk Government was the sole funder for the project; however, the Australian Government's share of the funding was secured in early October 2020 with the formal execution of the bilateral schedule by both the Deputy Prime Minister and the then Queensland Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.

On 6 August 2020, the government announced that Central Queensland's McCosker Contracting had won the bid to build the weir with Acciona (formerly Lendlease Engineering), following a competitive tender process. These construction partners, along with GHD as the weir designer and Sunwater as the project proponent and the State's representative, complete the partnership to deliver the weir. McCosker and Acciona have committed to sourcing at least 140 construction jobs locally, and apprentices or trainees will comprise 15 per cent of the workforce.

The government commenced a water plan amendment process in April 2020 to get market feedback on the right mix of water products between medium and high-priority water allocation volumes. The draft amendment plan was released for public consultation on 19 August 2020 and submissions received will now inform the final amendment plan.

In parallel with the planning process, Sunwater released its first invitation to tender for water sales on 23 June 2020 for volumes greater than 500 megalitres. Sunwater is also inviting expressions of interest for its second tender, for smaller lots of less than 500 megalitres.

Rookwood Weir is on track to deliver significant economic and employment opportunities for Central Queensland.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 12

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 3 page 40, will the Minister outline the works the government has undertaken to ensure the ongoing safety of Bundaberg and Wide Bay residents downstream from Paradise Dam?

ANSWER:

Paradise Dam is located approximately 80 kilometres south west of Bundaberg on the Burnett River holding up to approximately 300,000 megalitres of water.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to the safety of communities that live downstream of dams. There are approximately 48,000 people who live downstream of Paradise Dam and would potentially be at risk if the dam were to fail. Sunwater, as the dam owner and operator, has taken steps to protect the people of Bundaberg by lowering the water level in the dam and reducing the dam wall by approximately 5.8 meters to significantly improve safety of the dam in the event of a flood greater than those which occurred in 2011 and 2013.

Essential works on Paradise Dam are nearing completion and engineers from the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water are continuously being updated by Sunwater on progress. Spillway lowering was completed in September 2020 and final recapping of the spillway crest is expected to be completed by the end of January 2021, weather permitting.

The Paradise Dam Commission of Inquiry (the commission) was established to identify root causes of the structural and stability issues that had been identified in technical and engineering studies following damage caused by the 2011 and 2013 flood events.

The commission conducted a thorough investigation, including public submissions, and delivered its report to the Queensland Government on 30 April 2020 as required under its terms of reference.

The commission heard evidence about a broad range of issues with the design and construction of Paradise Dam, some of which were ultimately found to be root causes of the present-day structural and stability concerns.

In particular, the commission found that the primary spillway apron failed to adequately protect the area immediately downstream of the dam during the 2013 flood and exposed the dam to further risks of erosion and scour damage from future flood events.

Evidence before the commission also suggested that if the 2013 floods had lasted longer, the erosion due to the insufficient downstream protection may have undermined the dam giving rise to a risk of a dam failure.

The commission considered that Sunwater was behaving reasonably by carrying out the essential works to lower the Paradise Dam wall given the risks, particularly given the dam sits upstream of a residential community.

The commission made eight recommendations all of which generally aligned with, or expanded upon, what are already considered to be good engineering practices. The former Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy has implemented all recommendations by updating the Dam Safety Management Guidelines published under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*. This was achieved with the benefit of engagement through a purposely established technical stakeholder reference group.

The commission's report, the government response and the updated Dam Safety Management Guidelines are all publicly available. Importantly, the dam is safe, and work is continuing to address safety concerns in the event of an extreme weather event like Cyclone Oswald in 2013.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 13

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 3 page 40, will the Minister provide an update on how Queensland is meeting its obligations under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan?

ANSWER:

The Murray-Darling Basin Plan (the basin plan) is part of the long-term solution for ensuring that when there is water in the system, it is managed in the most efficient and sustainable way possible.

Queensland continues to support the implementation of the basin plan on time and in full. In 2019, Queensland was the first state to have all of its water resource plans accredited by the Australian Government.

Water plans developed under the *Water Act 2000* (Qld) meet the sustainability requirements of the basin plan, including sustainable diversion limits (that is the amount of water that can be extracted or taken). The plans provide certainty and security for all water users, which helps to drive investment in our regional towns and communities.

The Queensland Murray-Darling Basin catchments, including the Border Rivers and Condamine and Balonne, are areas with very high competition for water. This, coupled with the impacts of drought on the availability of water for irrigation and town water, means that any take of water in excess of rights or not in line with water sharing rules affects not only other users but also the environment.

During 2019–20, the then Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) proactively undertook the following activities in the Murray-Darling Basin:

- 265 property audits of high-priority water entitlements; and
- 2,098 audits of self-meter reads against their water entitlements.

While the majority of water entitlement holders are compliant, in 2019–20, as at 30 June 2020, the then DNRME issued 130 warning notices and served nine penalty infringement notices in the Murray-Darling Basin.

The Australian Government has full responsibility for the recovery of environmental water to achieve basin plan sustainable diversion limits (that is the amount of water that can be extracted or taken). The Australian Government has been recovering environmental water

through water buy backs from willing sellers or from funding water efficiency works. The Queensland Government's role is to assist and support strategic water recovery by the Australian Government, by providing technical advice and administration of licence transfer dealings.

The basin plan requires 140 gigalitres of surface water and 38.5 gigalitres of groundwater to be recovered for environmental purposes in the Queensland part of the Murray-Darling Basin.

Taking into account all water recovered to date, the Australian Government still needs to recover approximately 14 gigalitres of surface water and 3 gigalitres of groundwater in the Condamine/Balonne catchment area.

A key deliverable of the basin plan is the Northern Basin Toolkit.

The Northern Basin Toolkit is a suite of environmental works and measures that contribute to basin plan outcomes. The Australian Government is providing \$180 million for on-ground toolkit measures in Queensland and New South Wales, such as for fishways and critical habitat restoration projects, which are aimed at improving the health and resilience of waterways in the northern Murray-Darling Basin. This project is still in the project proposal definition and assessment phase.

The Australian Government is currently assessing toolkit proposals for Queensland and New South Wales and an announcement is expected soon on which projects are being funded for full business case development. The toolkit measures will build on a \$7.5 million Northern Riverbanks Fencing Program in Queensland being administered in partnership with the local national resource management body, using Australian Government funding. This existing program facilitates funds to natural resource management bodies through the Natural Resources Investment Program administered by the Department of Resources.

Together these projects will help drive regional economic development, with local and aboriginal services and labour required to be used where possible.

The Palaszczuk Government is also currently negotiating with the Australian Government to secure an additional \$12.5 million funding to improve Queensland's water information systems under the Australian Government's Basin Communities Investment Program.

The Palaszczuk Government will continue to work with the other basin governments and the Australian Government to ensure that the basin plan and these important complementary projects are implemented as a priority in Queensland.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 14

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 3 page 40, will the Minister provide an update on the water planning activities of the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water?

ANSWER:

Water plans are developed under the *Water Act 2000* (the Water Act) to sustainably manage and allocate water resources in Queensland. Water planning is critical to protecting water allocations for farmers and water users, protecting the water needs of the environment and ensuring that water is available for growth and future development of communities.

A water plan may apply to rivers, lakes and springs, overland flow or underground water.

Water plans are tailored for each plan area to balance the needs of water users such as towns, agriculture and industries and the environment. Water planning is a National Water Initiative commitment under COAG.

The water plan development process generally follows three stages which include technical assessment using the best available science; community consultation, including input from Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islanders, local governments and water users; and finalisation based on consideration of public submissions.

Queensland is the first state in Australia to complete and have accredited all of its water plans in the Murray-Darling Basin.

The Water Act requires that water plans consider climate change risks and establish water management and allocation processes to build resilience around the effects of climate change for water users and the environment.

Queensland water plans require active engagement and involvement with Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islanders so that their knowledge of and connection with land and water can be considered in the development of resource management throughout Queensland.

Water planning activities that are planned or currently underway include:

- Barron water plan review and replacement;
- Border Rivers and Moonie for the Granite Belt Irrigation Project (Emu Swamp Dam);
- Fitzroy Basin water plan amendment for Rookwood Weir;

- Burdekin Basin water plan review and replacement for Adani, Big Rocks Weir, Hells Gate Dam, Burdekin Dam raising, Lower Burdekin groundwater study;
- Pioneer and Whitsunday water plan review and replacement with Central Queensland Coast water plan;
- Moreton water plan for the Lockyer;
- Mary water plan review and replacement; and
- Burnett Basin water plan for Paradise Dam.

The Queensland Government will continue to prioritise water planning activities to support the economic, social and environmental aspirations of the state, particularly in the context of COVID-19.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 15

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 3 page 38, will the Minister outline the support the government has provided to Queensland-based manufacturers of personal protective equipment?

ANSWER:

On 19 May 2020, the Palaszczuk Government announced the Essential Goods and Supply Chain Program, providing up to \$50 million for projects that build manufacturing capability in Queensland and are critical to the supply of essential goods and services.

This support is designed to assist Queensland manufacturers to design, up tool, reprioritise or pivot production, or to investigate opportunities and design new products, or guidance through the clinical approval process.

The Essential Goods and Supply Chain Program is a government response to COVID-19 and the Unite and Recover agenda. Projects awarded assistance will strengthen Queensland against future vulnerability to disruptions in our supply of essential goods and services.

The program has received interest from over 70 clients wishing to pivot their businesses to the production of essential goods, such as personal protective equipment, health consumables and medical devices.

To date, three businesses have already been provided financial and other assistance:

- Evolve Group to manufacture disposable P2 respirator masks with existing staff to be maintained;
- MCP Australia, formerly Graham Corp, to onshore the manufacturing of ear loop and tie back surgical face masks with an estimated 30 jobs to be created; and
- Aspen Medical Manufacturing to make face masks with an estimated 35 jobs to be created.

The government is working with local company Flowtech to establish a National Association of Testing Authorities accredited mask testing facility in Queensland to support local manufacturers to have their products tested and accredited in Queensland, with an estimated 17 jobs to be created.

It is evident that Queensland companies have stepped up to address the gap where possible doing everything they could to support the development of home-grown manufacturing of essential products such as face masks, hand sanitisers, gowns and ventilators.

To further support Queensland manufacturers, the Queensland Government released the Directions Statement: Personal Protective Equipment and Other Essential Products on 14 September 2020.

The directions statement focuses on four strategic areas: supporting a local approach to procurement; driving skills and capability development; increasing productivity and improving international competitiveness; and assisting the onshoring and reshoring of manufacturing activities.

A key action is to establish a target for the government to procure 25 per cent of the value of PPE and other essential products from Queensland small and medium enterprises within the next 12 months, ensuring those manufacturers who pivoted to manufacture these products will have greater access to this market.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 16

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 3 page 38, will the Minister detail how the government's regional manufacturing hubs are supporting manufacturing businesses?

ANSWER:

The manufacturing hubs, located in Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton and Gladstone, have been actively supporting regional manufacturers since their inception in April 2019.

The hubs have undertaken over 30 training and seminar sessions aligned to the strategic goals of the Queensland Advanced Manufacturing 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan and the Manufacturing Hub Delivery Model. These sessions have been attended by over 1,000 participants.

The Cairns hub focus areas include:

- marine;
- aviation; and
- food manufacturing.

The Townsville hub focus areas include:

- advanced metal production manufacturing; and
- food transformation through advanced manufacturing.

The Rockhampton hub and Gladstone hub focus areas include:

- rail manufacturing and technology;
- advanced technologies for heavy metal production; and
- food product innovation.

Businesses under the hub regions are supported by the Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program (MHGP) which has been developed to support the growth and development of regional manufacturing sectors through financial assistance to implement and deliver advanced technologies, skills, processes and practices. As part of the government's \$30 million 2017 election commitment, \$13.5 million has been allocated to the MHGP to support the growth and development of the regional manufacturing sector to further the positive impacts of the hubs throughout Queensland. In November 2020, a further \$8.5 million has been allocated to establish two additional hubs in Mackay and the Gold Coast.

The hubs to date have supported manufacturing businesses through the MHGP. Up until 31 October 2020, \$6,507,827 has been committed to approved projects.

Through the current MHGP applications it has protected 668 manufacturing jobs and will create 263 new manufacturing jobs in regional Queensland.

Company	Project title	Description	Location	Grant value	Number of jobs supported
Australian Expedition Vehicles Pty Ltd	Purchase of automated test system	Purchase of robotic system to undertake testing of vehicles	Townsville	\$125,639	3
Tooleys Waterblasting Pty Ltd	Purchase of waterblasting robot	Purchase of robotic waterblasting equipment to double capacity and improve efficiency	Cairns	\$302,614	2
Haljent Pty Ltd	Purchase food processing and packaging equipment	Purchase of cutting-edge equipment for the development of a new range of coated beef products	Yeppoon	\$372,148	6
Berg Engineering	Transition to Industry 4.0	Purchase 2 onsite line boring kits with new technology giving higher accuracy and finer finishing cuts	Gladstone	\$174,080	5
TEi Services Pty Ltd	Implementation of robotic welding solution	Implementation of a robotic welding solution for welding mill trolleys for export	Townsville	\$447,000	10
EDMS Pty Ltd	3D scanning and printing project	Integration of industrial grade 3D printing for functional prototyping and end use parts	Cairns	\$155,250	2
CSF Industries	Robotic cleat sorting system	Automate labour intensive cleat sorting to increase efficiency and overall throughput	Cairns	\$425,000	10
Norweld Australia	CNC router	CNC router will increase output of a higher quality and competitively priced product on a local, national and international scale	Cairns	\$181,912	8

Company	Project title	Description	Location	Grant value	Number of jobs supported
Global Manufacturing Group	CNC bevel plasma cutting machine	CNC cutter will move along a 12m track and has the capacity to cut 32mm into pipe. The equipment is state of the art technology	Gladstone	\$257,168	6
Cristaudos Industrial Electrics (CIE)	Laser cutter and nitrocube	Purchase laser cutter and nitrocube to create own nitrogen to obviate the need for bottled nitrogen making the company self-sufficient, provide savings and increase efficiency	Cairns	\$539,260	8
Australian Professional Galvanising (APG)	Automated robotic welding centre	APG's latest project involves the purchase of hi-tech machinery and technology in the form of a Robotic Welding Cell (RWC) and contemporary manufacturing software. The RWC will be located at APG's Cairns workshop and will replace manual welding on high-volume stock items	Cairns	\$337,199	9
Jenmick Gear Cutting & Engineering Pty Ltd	High precision CNC turning centre	Purchase and installation of a SMEC SL3000BLM high precision CNC turning centre with big-bore, full 'C' axis and live tooling including freight, installation and commissioning	Gladstone	\$137,617	2

Company	Project title	Description	Location	Grant value	Number of jobs supported
Perrott Engineering Pty Ltd	Multifunctioning centre	Purchase and install an advanced technology MULTUS U4000 multifunction CNC machine	Cairns	\$624,487	5
Northern Chemicals	Install a 2000 litre ribbon blender	This project will install a 2000L ribbon blender and automated feeder and dispenser equipment. This will provide increased capability and throughput of chemicals to many industries as a vital part of the local supply chain	Cairns	\$127,590	2
Tully Welding Works	Automated beam drill line and robotic plasma cutting bench	Purchase and installation of an automated beam drill line and a robotic plasma cutting bench to be housed within the expanded facility	Tully	\$438,563	7
Engineering Industries Australia Pty Ltd	Purchase a modified Xpert Pro 250/3100 (extended) computer-controlled metal press and Artec Leo 3D scanner	Purchase a modified Xpert Pro 250/3100 (extended) computer-controlled metal press and Artec Leo 3D scanner	Bohle	\$347,475	3
Atherton Metaland	Supply and installation of an all-in-one multi-tasking CNC beam line	Supply and installation of an All-In-One 'Multi-Tasking' CNC Beam Line, comprising of a state-of-the-art combined machine, 3 drilling spindles, a six-axis robotic arm, new plasma cutting system and software	Atherton	\$673,978	12
Ryder Machining Services	Autodesk Inventor Fundamentals	Purchase of CAD software and training of two employers for autodesk inventor fundamentals course	Emerald	\$10,290	0.3

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 17

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 3 page 38, will the Minister provide details of grants made through the Made in Queensland manufacturing grants program?

ANSWER:

Since 2017, the \$46 million Made in Queensland grants program has complemented the Queensland Government's Advanced Manufacturing 10 Year Roadmap and Action Plan. The program supports small to medium sized manufacturers to apply for matched funding of between \$50,000 to \$2.5 million for eligible equipment, processes, systems and expertise to increase their productivity, innovation and international competitiveness and, create the manufacturing jobs of the future.

This program will create approximately 1,100 jobs across Queensland manufacturing. The program has protected 4,626 jobs since commencement and the program will generate more than \$100 million in private sector investments.

MIQ has recently been expanded by \$15.5 million under the government's Making it in Queensland: Building a Stronger Manufacturing Sector election commitment, taking the total value to \$61.5 million. Round 4 is currently being developed and will focus on reshoring and onshoring for critical industries throughout Queensland.

A detailed summary of the recipients of the three rounds completed for the MIQ grants is as follows:

Made in Queensland Round 1

Business name	Suburb	Made in Queensland funding	Project status	Jobs over 5 years
Aluminium Balustrades North Coast Pty Ltd	Warana	\$53,323	Complete	7
Belgotex Fabrics Pty Ltd	Acacia Ridge	\$134,008	Complete	3
BPB Mareeba Pty Ltd	Mareeba	\$125,837	Complete	5
Cooper Technologies Pty Ltd	Brendale	\$113,177	Complete	8
CSF Industries Pty Ltd	Portsmith, Cairns	\$713,050	Complete	17.5

Business name	Suburb	Made in Queensland funding	Project status	Jobs over 5 years
DGH Engineering Pty Ltd	Paget	\$198,318	Complete	1
Doug Hall Enterprises Pty Ltd	Millmerran	\$480,914	Complete	7
Drake Trailers Pty Ltd	Wacol	\$352,570	Complete	4
Epicurean Products Pty Ltd	Yandina	\$514,955	Complete	1
Flemings Welding Service Pty Ltd	Roma	\$207,951	Complete	2
Freedom Screens Australia Pty Ltd	Currumbin Waters	\$93,910	Complete	6
G & O Kert Pty Ltd	Acacia Ridge	\$360,000	Complete	3
Geofabrics Australasia Pty Ltd	Ormeau	\$494,203	Complete	2
Global Roto-Moulding Pty Ltd	Helidon Spa	\$72,742	Complete	0
Hetech Pty Ltd	Underwood	\$64,291	Complete	4.5
IntelliDesign Pty Ltd	Seventeen Mile Rocks	\$214,228	Complete	2
King Springworks Pty Ltd	Molendinar	\$767,423	Complete	8
Knotwood Pty Ltd	Stapylton	\$451,563	Complete	3
Laser Central Pty Ltd	Richlands	\$1,515,559	Complete	6
Laser Central Pty Ltd	Richlands	\$67,428	Complete	0
Lionel Moore Trailers Pty Ltd	Pittsworth	\$584,819	Complete	40
Luina Bio Pty Ltd	Darra	\$383,365	Complete	15
Marco Engineering Pty Ltd	Crestmead	\$982,549	Complete	45
Mastercut Technologies Pty Ltd	Burleigh Heads	\$84,812	Complete	2
NOJA Power Switchgear Pty Ltd	Murarrie	\$242,439	Complete	5
North Queensland Agricultural Supplies Pty Ltd	Woree	\$120,589	Complete	4.4
NQ Cranes Pty Ltd	Paget	\$157,350	Complete	8
Gessner Industries	Toowoomba (Torrington)	\$104,315	Complete	6
Obadare Pty Ltd	Toowoomba (Toowoomba city)	\$290,535	Complete	6
Orica Australia Pty Ltd	Helidon	\$1,007,244	Ongoing	18
Packer Leather Pty Ltd	Narangba	\$369,917	Complete	6
Patterson Glass Pty Ltd	Nerang	\$247,176	Complete	10
Pedersen Group Pty Ltd	Granville	\$305,000	Complete	10
Pixie Ice Cream Pty Ltd	Toowoomba (Wilsonton)	\$1,496,640	Complete	23
Polytuff Automotive Pty Ltd	Brendale	\$50,125	Complete	2
PTE Hydraulics Pty Ltd	Acacia Ridge	\$590,086	Complete	28

Business name	Suburb	Made in Queensland funding	Project status	Jobs over 5 years
Queensland Plastics	Banyo	\$146,900	Complete	2
Rapid Pacific Group Pty Ltd	Bohle	\$91,400	Complete	4
Norship Marine	Portsmith, Cairns	\$117,500	Complete	5
Readyfab Pty Ltd	Torrington	\$48,200	Complete	14
RRJ Engineering Pty Ltd	Underwood	\$113,331	Complete	7
Stahmann Farms Enterprises Pty Ltd	Toowoomba (Wilsonton)	\$73,575	Complete	15
SWC Management Pty Ltd	Brendale	\$478,935	Complete	3
Unique Products and Consulting Pty Ltd	Seventeen Mile Rocks	\$107,245	Complete	4.5
Unisite Group Pty Ltd	Bundaberg (Svensson Heights)	\$56,695	Complete	1
Urban Turf Solutions Pty Ltd	Yatala	\$256,579	Complete	5
Wagners CFT Manufacturing Pty Ltd	Wellcamp	\$272,250	Complete	9
Wickham Farms Killarney Pty Ltd	Killarney	\$195,078	Complete	4
XL Service Bodies Pty Ltd	Wacol	\$499,000	Complete	4
XL Service Bodies Pty Ltd	Wacol	\$33,046	Complete	1

Made in Queensland Round 2

Business name	Suburb	Made in Queensland funding	Project status	Jobs over 5 years
Aqseptence Group Pty Ltd	Geebung	\$677,253	Complete	25
Australian Professional Galvanizing Pty Ltd	Stuart	\$344,309	Ongoing	7
Australian Water Engineers Pty Ltd	Riverview	\$100,463	Complete	6
B&R Enclosures Pty Ltd	Heathwood	\$1,048,320	Ongoing	31
Dobinsons Springs and Suspension	North Rockhampton (Kawana)	\$581,062	Complete	12
BPB Mareeba Pty Ltd	Mareeba	\$425,211	Ongoing	5.5
Bundaberg Brewed Drinks Pty Ltd	Bundaberg	\$575,806	Ongoing	42.7
Capricorn Sandstone Quarries Pty Ltd	Stanwell	\$253,820	Complete	8.5
DKM Industries Pty Ltd	Browns Plains	\$496,181	Complete	13
Doug Hall Enterprises Pty Ltd	Millmerran	\$184,304	Complete	7
Elexon Electronics Pty Ltd	Brendale	\$890,325	Complete	12
EM Solutions Pty Ltd	Tennyson	\$348,546	Complete	14

Business name	Suburb	Made in Queensland funding	Project status	Jobs over 5 years
Fast Proof Press Pty Ltd	Nerang	\$1,543,523	Complete	8
Kilner's Engineering Pty Ltd	Morningside	\$700,000	Complete	5
Langford Metal Industries Pty Ltd	Eagle Farm	\$848,496	Complete	13
Merino Country Pty Ltd	Shailer Park	\$209,200	Ongoing	33
Oxworks Trading Pty Ltd	Crestmead	\$1,567,279	Ongoing	102
Proteco Gold Pty Ltd	Kingaroy	\$358,157	Complete	26
PWR Performance Products Pty Ltd	Ormeau	\$1,095,000	Complete	46
QLM Label Makers Pty Ltd	Berrinba	\$48,500	Ongoing	16
Ravenshoe Timbers Pty Ltd	Ravenshoe	\$642,596	Complete	7
RTI Pty Ltd	Mackay	\$89,250	Complete	7
Sitemax Group Pty Ltd	Glanmire	\$235,942	Complete	4
Wagners CFT Manufacturing Pty Ltd	Wellcamp	\$1,750,000	Complete	47
Watkins Steel Pty Ltd	Banyo	\$621,808	Complete	40

Made in Queensland Round 3

Business name	Suburb	Made in Queensland funding	Project status	Jobs over 5 years
ATP Science Pty Ltd	Meadowbrook	\$1,588,457	Ongoing	33
Cirrus Ag Pty Ltd	Kawana	\$914,541	Ongoing	8
Heat Treatment (Qld) Pty Ltd	Coopers Plains	\$2,193,750	Approved	20
Idec Solutions Pty Ltd	Murarrie	\$1,478,550	Ongoing	20
IntelliDesign Pty Ltd	Seventeen Mile Rocks	\$306,280	Ongoing	10
Luina Bio Pty Ltd	Darra	\$490,450	Ongoing	50
PTE Hydraulics Pty Ltd	Acacia Ridge	\$358,871	Ongoing	22
PWR Performance Products Pty Ltd	Ormeau	\$1,199,753	Ongoing	10
Ray Fry Investments Pty Ltd	Cairns	\$340,986	Ongoing	8
Vaxxas Pty Ltd	Woolloongabba	\$649,403	Ongoing	30

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 18

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

With reference to page the SDS volume 3 page 38, will the Minister outline what training services have been provided by the regional manufacturing hubs?

ANSWER:

The manufacturing hubs, located in Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton and Gladstone, have been actively supporting regional manufacturers since their inception in April 2019.

The hubs have undertaken over 30 training and seminar sessions aligned to the strategic goals of the Queensland Advanced Manufacturing 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan and the Manufacturing Hub Delivery Model. These sessions have been attended by over 1,000 participants.

The Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water has conducted over 100 additional workshops, including workshops on strengthening business, leadership and workforce development skills. The department has also provided opportunity for networking sessions for local manufacturers.

These workshops and networking sessions, carried out over the past 15 months, have attracted approximately 4,100 attendees. Of these, 79 workshops were delivered in regional Queensland, attracting over 2,300 attendees. This is on top of the seminars and workshops that were run through the hubs.

Despite the challenges to interphase directly with manufacturers during COVID-19, the hubs developed online events of training and seminars. Therefore, during COVID-19 the hubs were able to continue with the delivery of training and seminars.

Since inception of the hubs the following sessions have been held:

Hub location	Event name	2019		2020	
		No. of events	No. of attendees	No. of events	No. of attendees
Cairns	Technology in Manufacturing	1	25	-	-
	Industry 4.0 Masterclass (Integrated Systems)	1	16	-	-
	Women in Manufacturing	-	-	1	43

Townsville	Industry 4.0 Masterclass (Integrated Systems)	1	12		
	Technology in Manufacturing	1	70	-	-
	LEAN Manufacturing	-	-	3	45
	ISO9606 (Fusion Welding)	-	-	2	15
Rockhampton	Industry 4.0 Masterclass (Integrated Systems)	3	16	-	-
	Technology in Manufacturing (STEM students, educators, and industry)	5	600	-	-
	LEAN Manufacturing	-	-	1	15
	LEAN Six Sigma	-	-	1	8
	Design in Manufacturing	-	-	1	20
	ISO9606 (Fusion Welding)	-	-	1	6
	Introduction to Industry 4.0	1	27		
Gladstone The Gladstone Manufacturing Hub was established in 2020	Women in Manufacturing	-	-	1	43
	LEAN Manufacturing	-	-	1	15
	ISO9606 (Fusion Welding)	-	-	1	8
Totals		13	766	13	218

The following events relative to manufacturing have been conducted online during 2020 due to the impacts of COVID-19. The events were available online through all of Queensland, which included the regions of the manufacturing hubs.

Delivery mode	Event name	No. of events	No. of attendees
Online	Introduction to Industry 4.0 (Series 2 including Future Map)	9	119

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 19

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

Minister on page 51 of Service Delivery Statements Volume 1 under Develop the Economy, Service Highlights it states:

"progressing assessment and delivery of largescale and complex infrastructure, agriculture, aquaculture, energy and resources projects through the Coordinators-Generals statutory powers and whole of Government coordination."

In light of this can the Minister confirm an initial report was produced by Sunwater earlier this year on the North Johnston Transfer Project, which is a large-scale infrastructure agricultural project and if yes, why this was not made public? And, can the Minister confirm the report will be provided to Members upon request?

ANSWER:

The North Johnstone Diversion project has not been the subject of an application for the Coordinator General's consideration as a coordinated project or other related activities.

Sunwater has prepared an initial, concept level optioneering assessment of the North Johnstone Diversion project looking primarily at engineering and technical feasibility elements. This was not a full viability assessment.

An assessment of the available water under the Wet Tropics Water Plan is required before any further consideration or conclusion can be made about the project's future.

The Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water is undertaking an assessment of the available water in the Wet Tropics Water Plan and intends to advise Sunwater of the outcomes so that it can be taken into account in the consideration of the future of this project.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 20

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER –

QUESTION:

Will the minister explain why, after identifying the need for the government to expand both manufacturing and biofuels, the government failed to act in effectively assisting to facilitate production of desperately needed hand sanitiser from the United Petroleum Dalby Biofuels plant forcing its closure and the loss of about 100 jobs prior to the election?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is strongly committed to the growth of the manufacturing industry in this state.

The Dalby Bio-refinery produced raw ethanol. It did not produce hand sanitiser.

The plant previously closed temporarily on 24 February 2020 due to the high cost of grain and the decline in petroleum prices, factors which impact the production and demand of the ethanol produced by the bio-refinery. Prior to the closing, there were 47 jobs at the refinery; however, the decision to close the plant was made by the company, United Petroleum Dalby Biofuels, due to these ongoing issues.

The company made a commercial decision to reconfigure the plant to be able to produce pharmaceutical grade ethanol and the plant then reopened on 27 April 2020.

The Queensland Government welcomed the decision to re-start the bio-refinery in order to produce pharmaceutical-grade ethanol to assist it gain contracts with producers of hand sanitiser.

While the Queensland Government does not purchase raw ethanol, it was pleased to assist the April re-opening by:

- providing leads to hand sanitiser manufacturers in Queensland and interstate;
- identifying a supplier for Dalby Bio-Refinery of the relatively rare Tertiary Butanol (which is used to denature ethanol). Dalby Bio-Refinery had been unable to find it either nationally or internationally;
- pursuing a number of leads to identify buyers of technical ethanol for large-scale disinfecting. While technical ethanol is normally regarded as a waste product it is still over 80 per cent ethanol and an effective disinfectant; and
- having the technical ethanol tested at the Queensland University of Technology so potential buyers could have independent verification of the properties of the technical ethanol.

Officers from the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water have continued to speak with the management of the company, including assisting where possible. Ultimately though, the company made a decision to decommission the plant.

Representations have been made to the Australian Government, including in relation to freezing automatic indexation of excise charges.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 20

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER
MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

QUESTION:

With reference to the Minister's and his government's support for progressing the Hells Gates Dam (Bradfield irrigation scheme) prior to the 2020 State Election; Can the Minister advise how many times since first commissioned in September the expert panel, chaired by Professor Ross Garnaut, has met and if the panel will achieve a six-month reporting date as requested by various North Queensland-based stakeholders?

ANSWER:

This matter is the responsibility of the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water.

The expert panel was engaged in September 2020 and has already met three times and participated in a number of other briefings and assessment activities.

The panel's final report is due to government in late 2021.

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

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to page 6 of SDS 2 in relation to the operation of Biosecurity Queensland, will the Minister advise:

- (a) the date of the last Biosecurity Queensland Ministerial Advisory Council (BQMAC) meeting,
- (b) the recommendations from the last BQMAC meeting,
- (c) how many of these recommendations have been accepted and implemented?

ANSWER:

- (a) 22 September 2020.
- (b) BQMAC's role is to provide strategic oversight and direction on Queensland's priorities within the national biosecurity system. A major focus for BQMAC in July and September 2020 was examining the learnings from COVID-19 that can be applied to the Queensland biosecurity system.

BQMAC noted that modelling intelligence tools is critical to managing epidemiologically based systems. Unlike COVID-19, for which there has largely been just one host, biosecurity pests and disease have the added complexity of infesting many plant and animal hosts.

BQMAC advocated a new biosecurity platform to operationalise data use for research and decision-making, and enable practitioners to bring together agency data, citizen science, and other publicly available datasets to model biosecurity risk using best practices.

Genetic sequencing, also known as High Throughput Sequencing (HTS), has been critical to identifying the origins and monitoring the transmission of COVID-19. As with COVID-19, genetically monitoring the origins and spread of pests and disease is a critical biosecurity task.

BQMAC believes agencies like Biosecurity Queensland should augment their traditional skills and testing methods with genetic diagnostics to enhance the efficiency and accuracy of diagnoses. Of particular importance is the development of shared reference library systems, which support diagnoses by allowing the rapid genetic 'matching' of existing pests and diseases, and identification of novel outbreaks.

- (c) Following BQMAC support, in November 2020, Biosecurity Queensland together with the Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis, Federal Department of Agriculture, Water

and Environment, and other partners, were successful in an Australian Research Data Commons grant for a cloud-based modelling system, which will place new, more accessible technologies, and better integrated data, in the hands of biosecurity practitioners.

BQMAC considers that this system has the potential to be transformative and has commended the Queensland Government for seed-funding this project as part of the Agribusiness Digital Solutions Program.

Biosecurity Queensland has taken a range of actions through the National Biosecurity Committee for further effective national coordination of the use of HTS. BQMAC acknowledges this action and urges Biosecurity Queensland to continue to participate in developing the HTS Roadmap.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 2

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries capital budget for 2020/21, SDS 2 page 10, will the Minister provide a list of approved projects, including:

- (a) the budget and scope of each project for 2019-20 and 2020-21 reported separately; and
- (b) the scheduled date of completion (reported in table format)?

ANSWER:

DAF invests capital to deliver its core business through a diverse mix of research and operational facilities located throughout rural and regional Queensland. The first table below reflects the published capital purchases budget for 2019-20.

Capital Project Name	Scope	2019-20 Budget \$000	Scheduled Date of Completion
Computer equipment	Purchase of computer infrastructure equipment such as servers and routers.	4,965	Ongoing
Minor works	Upgrades and replacement of infrastructure such as sheds and sewerage systems at operational facilities.	2,500	Ongoing
Heavy plant and equipment	Purchase of agricultural machinery such as tractors, irrigators, and all-terrain vehicles.	2,000	Ongoing
Scientific equipment	Purchase of scientific equipment such as microscopes, autoclaves, centrifuges, and ultra-low temperature freezers.	2,000	Ongoing
Research facilities development	Upgrades and replacement of infrastructure such as laboratories and glasshouses at research facilities.	1,862	Ongoing
Upgrade and refurbishment of existing facilities at Toowoomba	Upgrade and refurbishment of existing facilities to enhance service delivery while complying with new building and safety standards.	1,686	30/06/2022

Capital Project Name	Scope	2019-20 Budget \$000	Scheduled Date of Completion
Vessels and marine equipment	Upgrades and replacement of patrol vessels, trailers, and marine safety equipment.	1,100	Ongoing
Other property, plant and equipment	Upgrade of fencing structures and purchase of livestock.	918	Ongoing
Refurbishment of Wacol Tick Fever Centre	Refurbishment of animal quarantine facilities to the standards required by the Australian Pesticides & Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).	700	31/01/2021
Software purchases and development	Development of digital software information systems.	600	Ongoing
Ecosciences and Health and Food Various Sciences Precincts fit out	Replace and upgrade fit out equipment such as cold rooms and shade sails.	406	Ongoing
TOTAL CAPITAL PURCHASES FOR 2019-20		\$18,737	

The table below reflects the published capital purchases budget for 2020-21.

Capital Project Name	Scope	2020-21 Budget \$000	Scheduled Date of Completion
Computer equipment	Purchase of computer infrastructure equipment such as servers and routers.	4,320	Ongoing
Upgrade and refurbishment of existing facilities at Toowoomba	Continue the upgrade and refurbishment of existing facilities to enhance service delivery while complying with new building and safety standards.	3,613	30/06/2022
Other property, plant and equipment	Upgrade of fencing structures and purchase of livestock.	2,185	Ongoing
Scientific equipment	Purchase of scientific equipment such as microscopes, autoclaves, centrifuges, ultra-low temperature freezers.	1,307	Ongoing
Minor works	Upgrades and replacement of infrastructure such as sheds and sewerage systems at operational facilities.	1,195	Ongoing
Refurbishment of Wacol Tick Fever Centre	Refurbishment of animal quarantine facilities to the standards required by the Australian Pesticides & Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).	1,083	31/01/2021

Capital Project Name	Scope	2020-21 Budget \$000	Scheduled Date of Completion
New glasshouse at Maroochy facility	Replacement and upgrade of a glasshouse at the Maroochy research facility.	1,025	31/12/2020
Mid-life refit of the patrol vessel "KI Ross"	Refit and refurbishment of the patrol vessel known as the "KI Ross".	1,000	30/06/2022
Research facilities development	Upgrades and replacement of infrastructure such as laboratories and glasshouses at research facilities.	962	Ongoing
Heavy plant and equipment	Purchase of agricultural machinery such as tractors, irrigators and all-terrain vehicles.	914	Ongoing
Vessels and marine equipment	Upgrades and replacement of patrol vessels, trailers, and marine safety equipment.	849	Ongoing
Software purchases and development	Development of digital software information systems.	600	Ongoing
Upgrade of Mareeba research facility	Upgrade of laboratories at the Mareeba research facility.	390	30/06/2022
Ecosciences and Health and Food Various Sciences Precincts fit out	Replace and upgrade fit out equipment such as cold-rooms and shade-sails.	324	Ongoing
TOTAL CAPITAL PURCHASES FOR 2020-21		\$19,767	

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 3

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to page 6 of the SDS 2, under the Biosecurity Queensland's service area objectives of focusing on "invasive plants" and "weeds", can the Minister outline the Government's spending to directly combat the following weeds (reported yearly 2015- 2021).

- (a) prickly acacia;
- (b) lantana;
- (c) giant rat's tail; and
- (d) fireweed?

ANSWER:

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' spending attributable to activities for the control of the four requested invasive plants (weeds) is listed below for the financial years 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20. As the 2020-21 financial year is incomplete, the budgeted expenditure has been provided.

The department has spent \$6,676,367 towards the four weeds for the five years and will expend a further \$2,596,973 in the current financial year.

The amounts do not include any component for head office staff or regional staff who provide advice or otherwise to assist landholders, local government, and industry to discharge their obligations under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

These four weeds have been established in Queensland for considerable periods.

Lantana was introduced as a garden ornamental and hedge plant and escaped plants were found along the Brisbane River by 1861.

Prickly acacia was introduced by the Queensland Climatization Society for its many uses and by-products and was distributed through advertisements and letters to the editor in regional newspapers during the 1870s.

Fireweed was introduced into NSW about 1918 as a contaminated of imports from South Africa and spread to the Numinbah Valley on the border by 1950.

It is believed that giant rat's tail grass was a contaminate of imported pasture grass seed and was introduced before 1969.

None of these four weeds is a Queensland state-wide Eradication target. Each local government priorities action for these weeds in their biosecurity plans based on the assets at risk within the area.

Invasive Plant (Weed)	Actual					Budget
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Prickly acacia	\$862,555	\$802,173	\$1,287,817	\$537,391	\$923,943	\$810,392
lantana	\$7,515	\$63,460	\$71,075	\$21,320	\$2,213	\$1,515
Giant rat's tail	\$13,555	\$356,693	\$372,401	\$375,630	\$770,990	\$1,761,024
fireweed	\$4,515	\$3,860	\$23,259	\$23,864	\$2,213	\$24,042

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 4

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to page 3 of the SDS 2, under Agriculture's 2020-21 service area highlight of 'delivering reforms to drought programs through the Drought and Climate Adaption Program' — will the Minister provide the budget allocation for the Drought Assistance Package and Queensland Drought Reform for 2020-21 to 2023-24 (reported separately by financial year)?

ANSWER:

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Drought Assistance Package	\$54.4 million excluding temporary additional drought funding and \$58.3 million if additional temporary measures included	\$5 million	\$0	\$0
Drought reform	\$0	\$0	\$295,000	\$295,000
Drought and Climate Adaptation Program	\$4.54 million	\$3.5 million	\$0	\$0

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 5

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS 2 page 4 will the Minister update the Committee on the services and funding for Agri-science Queensland including:

- (a) the Queensland government funding for R&D reported separately by year from 2015 to 2021
- (b) Why Agri-science Queensland failed to meet its 2019-20 benefit cost ratio effectiveness measure target
- (c) A breakdown of the type and all funding the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries provides to all third-party groups that conduct Research Development and Extension (RD&E) reported separately by year from 2015 to 2021?

ANSWER:

Over the past 7 years, the Queensland Government (through Agri-Science Queensland) has on average invested approximately \$88 million annually in research, development, and extension (RD&E). The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' (DAF) mission is to drive productivity and innovation in Queensland's agriculture and food industries through world-class RD&E.

DAF is the recognised leader of agribusiness and food RD&E in Queensland and is the second-largest RD&E investor within the Queensland Government behind Queensland Health.

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
\$84.39M	\$88.39M	\$84.66M	\$88.97M	\$89.26M	\$94.32M	\$87.97M

As well as being a world-class leader in RD&E, DAF has a number of partnerships with other research providers, including the university sector and Sugar Research Australia.

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
\$11.90M	\$13.38M	\$13.05M	\$12.17M	\$12.57M	\$11.68M	\$12.96M

In response to the benefit-cost ratio (BCR) effectiveness measure, the 2019-20 BCR target was >3.5 with the actual result being 3.26. The BCR of 3.26 reflects a weighted average BCR for six sampled projects/programs that were independently evaluated in 2019-20. The 2019-20 BCR is below the target because two projects (Leading Sheep, Transforming subtropical/tropical tree crop productivity) had BCRs lower than 3.5 (2.12 and 2.65 respectively).

Since 2016, 24 projects/programs representing an investment of \$94m have been independently estimated to have combined benefits of \$716M at a BCR of 7.6, ranging from 1.7 to 32.9.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 6

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to SDS 2 page 10 will the Minister update the Committee on Department of Agriculture and Fisheries personnel and staffing arrangements specifically broken down into the following categories reported separately for 2019-20 and 2020-2021:

- (a) Agriculture
- (b) Fisheries
- (c) Forestry
- (d) Biosecurity; and
- (e) Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA)?

ANSWER:

The Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) for DAF in 2019-20 were 2,124, and the 2020-21 budgeted FTEs are 2,115. This compares with the FTE of 1970 in 2015 at the end of the Newman LNP Government.

For the Agriculture service area, the 2019-20 actual FTEs were 832 (Core), with a Corporate allocation of 99 (totals 931). The 2020-21 budgeted core FTEs for Agriculture is 834, with a Corporate allocation of 100 (totals 934).

For the Fisheries and Forestry service area, the 2019-20 actual FTEs were 322 (Core), with a Corporate allocation of 34 (totals 356). The 2020-21 budgeted core FTEs for Fisheries and Forestry is 322, with a Corporate allocation of 36 (totals 358).

For the Biosecurity Queensland service area, the 2019-20 actual FTEs were 559 (Core), with a Corporate allocation of 55 (totals 614). The 2020-21 budgeted core FTEs for Biosecurity Queensland is 547, with a Corporate allocation of 55 (totals 602).¹

The Corporate Services FTEs that service other agencies were 223 in 2019-20 and the 2020-21 budgeted FTEs are 221.

QRIDA actual FTEs for 2019-20 were 168, and the 2020-21 budgeted FTE is 134.

¹ See page 70 of the Budget Estimates Public Hearing Transcript for an explanation clarifying the evidence provided.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 7

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to page 2 of the SDS 2 in relation to the departmental overview, will the Minister provide the following in relation to the Government's 2017 election commitment to convene the Agriculture Ministerial Advisory Committee:

- (a) the dates of previous meetings outlining which groups were in attendance,
- (b) a list of all actionable items from these meetings
- (c) a list of actionable items that have been completed and
- (d) the date of the next scheduled meeting?

ANSWER:

The Agricultural Ministerial Advisory Council (AgMAC) has met on four occasions since it was established in July 2018. Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) and AgForce are the two AgMAC members.

AgMAC has met on 10 July 2018, 25 September 2018, 27 May 2019, and 10 March 2020. QFF and AgForce attended these meetings, in addition to staff from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, and other senior Queensland Government staff for specific agenda items.

The next AgMAC meeting has not yet been scheduled, but is expected to be in early 2021. I have maintained consistent engagement with QFF and AgForce in 2020 during the response and recovery from COVID-19, through the Agriculture Coordination Group, regular teleconferences, and quarterly meetings.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 8

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to page 2 of the SDS 2 in relation to the Minister's role in supporting 'Rural Communities', will the Minister outline:

- (a) What criteria the Queensland Government and the Department is using to define a 'rural community'
- (b) The population data broken into local government areas for the budget region of 'Outback Queensland' reported separately by year from 2011 to 2020
- (c) The economic data broken into local government areas for the budget region of 'Outback Queensland' reported separately by year from 2011 to 2020
- (d) The employment/unemployment data broken into local government areas for the budget region of 'Outback Queensland' reported separately by year from 2011 to 2020?

ANSWER:

- (a) The rural communities' component of the Delivery Priorities in the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities' Portfolio Priorities Statement.
- (b) The estimated resident population data by local government area is provided at Attachment 1.
- (c) Regional profiles for the local government areas within the Outback Queensland Regional Action Plan (RAP) are available and include:

Barcaldine (R)	Burke (S)	Doomadgee (S)	Mornington (S)	Richmond (S)
Barcoo (S)	Carpentaria (S)	Etheridge (S)	Mount Isa (C)	Winton (S)
Blackall-Tambo (R)	Cloncurry (S)	Flinders (S) (Qld)	Murweh (S)	
Boulia (S)	Croydon (S)	Longreach (R)	Paroo (S)	
Bulloo (S)	Diamantina (S)	McKinlay (S)	Quilpie (S)	

Based on ASGS 2016. Note: All local government areas (LGA) fall entirely within the Outback Queensland RAP. i.e. No LGA overlaps.

- (d) Unemployment rate data by local government area is provided at Attachment 2, noting that some local government areas have a break in time series.

Estimated resident population by Local government area**(a) Outback Queensland Regional Action Plan (RAP) region, as at 30 June 2011 to 30 June 2019**

Local government area	As at 30 June								
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018r	2019p
Barcaldine (R)	3,292	3,249	3,232	3,166	3,082	2,909	2,868	2,851	2,849
Barcoo (S)	363	348	333	317	296	272	267	267	266
Blackall-Tambo (R)	2,257	2,236	2,214	2,152	2,035	1,925	1,876	1,863	1,868
Boulia (S)	493	486	481	473	459	436	424	425	423
Bulloo (S)	418	410	396	388	372	356	343	330	325
Burke (S)	557	551	506	450	396	342	345	352	354
Carpentaria (S)	2,197	2,170	2,146	2,112	2,092	2,051	1,994	1,974	1,977
Cloncurry (S)	3,342	3,359	3,327	3,270	3,179	3,125	3,132	3,090	3,047
Croydon (S)	327	317	308	303	297	296	292	288	284
Diamantina (S)	292	295	299	303	301	296	287	292	291
Doomadgee (S)	1,374	1,368	1,400	1,422	1,454	1,475	1,494	1,506	1,526
Etheridge (S)	929	897	864	840	818	807	807	804	793
Flinders (S) (Qld)	1,840	1,795	1,754	1,710	1,643	1,582	1,519	1,498	1,505
Longreach (R)	4,296	4,217	4,104	4,027	3,812	3,727	3,598	3,529	3,470
McKinlay (S)	1,085	1,041	992	943	876	816	810	814	818
Mornington (S)	1,220	1,218	1,206	1,202	1,202	1,197	1,205	1,218	1,230
Mount Isa (C)	22,079	21,958	21,822	21,261	20,586	19,606	19,187	18,870	18,595
Murweh (S)	4,731	4,737	4,685	4,639	4,527	4,386	4,305	4,317	4,295
Paroo (S)	1,937	1,903	1,849	1,807	1,734	1,668	1,649	1,586	1,562
Quilpie (S)	1,007	983	944	915	868	825	819	790	778
Richmond (S)	847	841	839	838	820	806	802	806	810
Winton (S)	1,380	1,345	1,312	1,276	1,222	1,154	1,148	1,157	1,153
Outback Queensland RAP	56,263	55,724	55,013	53,814	52,071	50,057	49,171	48,627	48,219

p = preliminary r = revised

(a) Based on ASGS 2016.

Source: ABS 3218.0, *Regional Population Growth, Australia*, 2018–19 and Queensland Treasury estimates.

Unemployment rate (a) by Local government area (b), Outback Queensland Regional Action Plan (RAP) region*December quarter 2010 to June quarter 2020*

Local government area	Quarter									
	Jun-11	Jun-12	Jun-13	Jun-14	Jun-15	Jun-16	Jun-17	Jun-18	Jun-19	Jun-20
Barcaldine (R)	3.2	1.9	1.5	1.2	1.0	4.1	3.9	3.3	4.7	2.9
Barcoo (S)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2.6
Blackall-Tambo (R)	3.2	2.0	1.6	1.2	1.0	4.1	3.9	3.3	4.7	3.0
Boulia (S)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2.3
Bulloo (S)	6.8	4.1	3.8	3.2	2.4	9.1	9.4	8.4	11.2	7.0
Burke (S)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	22.6
Carpentaria (S)	27.5	19.3	14.5	10.4	8.4	29.1	34.3	28.0	37.0	22.4
Cloncurry (S)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	5.0
Croydon (S)	4.2	4.1	3.6	3.2	2.2	7.7	7.4	5.3	8.1	4.2
Diamantina (S)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2.7
Doomadgee (S)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	22.4
Etheridge (S)	4.4	4.0	3.6	3.0	2.3	7.6	7.8	5.3	8.1	4.3
Flinders (S)	3.4	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.3	5.5	5.3	3.7	5.1	3.0
Longreach (R)	3.5	2.7	2.0	1.7	1.3	4.4	4.2	2.8	4.3	2.3
McKinlay (S)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3.0
Mornington (S)	27.5	19.4	14.4	10.5	8.5	29.2	34.2	27.9	36.9	22.3
Mount Isa (C)	7.5	4.6	3.4	2.6	2.0	8.0	8.8	7.4	10.7	6.9
Murweh (S)	5.5	4.1	2.7	2.3	2.1	8.4	8.1	6.1	7.8	5.4
Paroo (S)	6.6	4.1	3.4	3.0	2.3	9.1	9.3	8.1	11.1	7.0
Quilpie (S)	6.7	4.0	3.3	3.0	2.3	9.2	9.2	8.0	11.1	7.0
Richmond (S)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3.0
Winton (S)	5.6	3.6	3.0	2.0	1.4	5.6	5.5	3.6	3.9	2.4
Outback Queensland RAP	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	6.6

n.a. = not available (see note 2).

Attachment 2 cont.

Notes:

1. Unemployment rate at the regional level can display significant variability and should be viewed with caution.
2. As of the June quarter 2019 edition of the SALM publication, estimates for SA2s and LGAs are based on the 2016 Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). For some SA2s and LGAs where a break in series exists between ASGS 2016 and ASGS 2011, unemployment rates will not be available prior to the March quarter 2020. (For further information, please refer to the SALM website.)

(a) Smoothed data are based on a four quarter average.

(b) Based on ASGS 2016.

Source: Australian Government, National Skills Commission, *Small Area Labour Markets Australia* , June quarter 2020.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 9

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 2 page 3, will the Minister outline the assistance provided and/or available through the Drought Assistance Package for the 2020-21 financial year?

ANSWER:

The Budget for 2020-21 is \$54.4 million excluding temporary additional funding, and \$58.3 million if additional temporary drought measures are included. The package is delivered by a number of government agencies, and in 2020-21 includes:

- \$30 million for the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS), which provides freight subsidies for fodder and water during drought, freight rebates on the movement of livestock after drought revocation, and a rebate on the purchase of Emergency Water Infrastructure for livestock, payments for the Rural Financial Counselling Service and Small Business Financial Counselling services, bee keeper assistance etc., which are all administered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.
- \$4.2 million for Land Rent Rebates and water licence waivers, now administered by the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (DRDMW). Previously, it was administered by the former Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.
- \$15 million for the Drought Relief from Electricity Charges Scheme (DRECS), providing fee relief to irrigators impacted by low water availability. This is overseen by Department of Energy and Public Works/Ergon.
- \$5.2 million for the Community Assistance Package of grants to drought-impacted communities, administered by the Department of Communities and Housing and Digital Economy.
- \$3.9 million for temporary in-drought measures, consisting of \$1.4 million for the Small Landholder Livestock Response and \$2.5 million for the Queensland Emergency Animal Welfare Scheme.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 10

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 2 page 3, will the Minister list how #eatqld supports the recognition of Queenslanders in agriculture?

ANSWER:

Queensland produces a world of flavour when it comes to our tasty and fresh meat, seafood, fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, and dairy. We are spreading the word through the hashtag #eatqld.

Queensland's abundant and robust agriculture sector enjoys a respected global reputation as being safe and nutritious. #eatqld encourages consumers to choose Queensland produce and support our primary producers as our economy recovers from the impacts of COVID-19.

By ensuring the supply of our wonderful fresh produce, we are supporting jobs in our Queensland economy, and helping to keep Queenslanders healthy.

I encourage Queenslanders to use the hashtag #eatqld to show off our beautiful produce.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 11

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 2 page 3, can the Minister's statutory body Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) estimate how many jobs were created to date through the Rural Economic Development Grants program?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government's Rural Economic Development (RED) Grants program has provided a total of \$10 million in funding over the past 3 years to support 43 successful regional agribusiness projects – worth a total of \$40.8 million, and estimated to create 1,897 new direct and indirect jobs over the lifetime of these projects.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 12

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 2 page 4, what is the total value of the loan-book that is managed by QRIDA?

ANSWER:

As at 30 November 2020, the total value of the loan-book that is managed by QRIDA was \$1.714 billion.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 13

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 2 page 3, in table form, will the Minister outline the financial years from 1 July 2015 – 1 October 2020 where the Commonwealth Government provided top-up funding for Emergency Water Infrastructure to Queensland and amounts provided, in total?

ANSWER:

2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 Year to Date
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2.203 million	\$6.949 million	\$0.136 million

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 14

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 2 page 2, will the Minister provide details on the Agricultural Co-ordination Group and its role?

ANSWER:

To support the Queensland Government's response to COVID-19, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries convened the Agriculture Coordination Group (ACG), which has become the main COVID-19 information-sharing forum for the Queensland agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector.

The ACG is part of DAF's usual emergency management approach, and while not part of the Queensland Government's formal emergency management disaster framework, it is integral in providing oversight and intelligence from an agriculture, fisheries and forestry perspective that feeds into the Queensland Government's disaster response. An expanded and long-running version of this structure was adopted for DAF's COVID-19 response.

The ACG initially met weekly, with this frequency changing to support the COVID-19 situation and response, which is operating within a very fluid and changing environment. Participating in these meetings enabled timely intelligence from industry on impacts and issues as well as how they had worked toward resolving these collaboratively with DAF.

Given the importance of the issue, I ensured that I made myself available to attend almost all of the ACG meetings. Through these meetings, I received first-hand industry feedback and I ensured that DAF and the Queensland Government were working together with industry to both protect the health of Queenslanders from the risk of COVID-19, and ensure the continuation of agricultural supply chains.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 15

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 2 page 11, what actions has Biosecurity Queensland taken to be prepared for a potential outbreak of African Swine Fever?

ANSWER:

Biosecurity Queensland has been on the front foot in the fight against African swine fever (ASF) since the disease spread rapidly around the globe in 2018, and continues to work with the Federal Government and the Queensland pig industry to provide a united front against the exotic disease.

The detection of African swine fever in the Southern Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea earlier this year puts Queensland at the frontline of this exotic pig disease, and heightens the risk to the state's pork industry.

Australia is free from African swine fever and we want to keep it that way. That is why the Palaszczuk Government has invested \$2.702 million to support a range of ASF preparedness and prevention initiatives to be delivered by 30 June 2021.

Key initiatives include:

- Education and awareness activities targeting relevant stakeholders, including the provision of ASF-readiness training to veterinarians, biosecurity officers, and the pig industry to enhance ASF early detection surveillance, biosecurity practices, and response readiness
- Additional equipment and consumables, enhancements to laboratory information management software, and sourcing additional veterinary pathology expertise to provide surge capacity to the veterinary diagnostic system
- Training of a dedicated team of Biosecurity Officers in helicopter aerial surveillance, which will also provide extra capacity for other incident responses such as natural disasters
- Spatial analytics of feral pig distributions that will inform appropriate response and control strategies
- A virtual exercise using an ASF scenario to test preparedness and response plans.

If ASF became established in Queensland, it would be difficult to eradicate and could significantly impact the pork industry, jobs, and the economy.

That is why ASF prevention and preparedness remains a priority for the Palaszczuk Government and if it is detected here, we are ready to respond.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 16

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 2 page 6 and 3, will the Minister outline announcements since 1 July 2020 that will assist in supporting Queensland's sheep industry?

ANSWER:

Despite the drought and the impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), Queensland's sheep industry is on its way back. The support from the Palaszczuk Government is providing the confidence for the sector on its path to renewal.

We have recently announced the sheep meat processing industry investment strategy. A \$250,000 initiative to identify the opportunities and challenges to grow the value of processing sheep meat in Queensland, and to increase investor confidence and interest. All processors in outback Queensland, from large to small, have opportunities to add value through manufacturing, tourism, domestic and export markets. This will contribute to growth of the number of sheep, and the closely aligned goat industry. We have also supported AgForce with its initiative to create a blueprint for the sheep and wool sector.

While the initiative was announced in June 2020, rolling out to the sector right now is \$5 million to support construction of more cluster fencing. Applications have now closed for this round and construction is imminent. This will provide wild dog exclusion fencing on an additional 50 properties in outback Queensland, representing a total of 1 million hectares, further reinvigorating the local sheep and wool industry.

The Rural Agricultural Development Grants will provide a further \$4 million to fund more cluster fencing and other measures to help grow the sheep industry in Western and Southern Queensland.

The state is also continuing its support of the Leading Sheep program, an important partnership between the Palaszczuk Government and Australian Wool Innovation, which is also supported by AgForce. The Leading Sheep program's priority areas are pest animal management, drought planning, ewe and lamb survival, and business performance.

Biosecurity is an important component of any agriculture production system and the sheep and wool industry can benefit from the \$1.4 million that has been announced for biosecurity grants to equip local councils and industry groups, and help natural resource groups prepare for and respond to biosecurity threats.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 17

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 2 page 8, will the Minister outline the territorial limit of Queensland's fisheries jurisdiction?

ANSWER:

Section 11 of the *Fisheries Act 1994* provides that the Act applies to persons, things, acts, and omissions on or in relevantly "Queensland Waters".

Generally, the outer limits of the coastal waters of the State (and State fisheries management) are 3 nautical miles from the territorial sea baseline.

Following a High Court ruling in the Seas and Submerged Lands Case in 1975, the Commonwealth and the States negotiated the Offshore Constitutional Settlement, which among other things dealt with management arrangements for certain fisheries under which Section 5(c) of the *Coastal Waters (State Powers) Act 1980* (Cth) provides the State power for making management arrangements for fisheries resources. Generally, this extends the limits of State fisheries management to 12 nautical miles, or beyond if specified in an agreement, from the territorial sea baseline.

The Queensland Fishery Joint Authority (QFJA) is established in the *Arrangement between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Queensland in relation to the Fishery for Northern Demersal and Pelagic Fish in the Gulf of Carpentaria*, which was signed in 1995.

The QFJA is responsible for the management of certain fish species as prescribed under the Offshore Constitutional Settlement Agreement. The Queensland Government is responsible for managing, under the *Fisheries Act 1994*, a number of fisheries in the Gulf of Carpentaria that take these species.

The Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) is responsible for managing commercial fishing in the Australian area of the Torres Strait Protected Zone (TSPZ) and designated adjacent Torres Strait waters.

The TSPZ is defined in the Torres Strait Treaty, which was ratified in 1985 between Australia and Papua New Guinea. The Torres Strait Treaty was entered into by Australia and Papua New Guinea in February 1985 to acknowledge and protect the traditional way of life and livelihood of the Indigenous inhabitants of the area, including their traditional (subsistence) fishing and their traditional right of free movement.

The Queensland Government is a member of the PZJA, along with the Commonwealth Government and Torres Strait Regional Authority. The Australian Fisheries Management Authority is responsible for managing a number of commercial fisheries in the Torres Strait under the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984* (Cth).

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 18

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

With reference to the SDS volume 2 page 1, will the Minister outline any proposed changes at Chief Executive level for DAF over the 2020-21 year?

ANSWER:

Dr Elizabeth Woods will be replaced by Mr Robert (Bob) Gee on her retirement during the 2020-21 year.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 19

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

Regional community development is crippled by postcode discrimination prohibiting many viable lenders from being able to purchase homes and business in Rural Areas. In light of this, will the minister act to develop a genuine rural lending facility to facilitate this gap and that are not limited to only second mortgages?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) is the Queensland Government's rural and regional support agency administering a range financial assistance programs to support rural and regional communities.

QRIDA delivers both targeted concessional loan and grant assistance to rural and regional Queensland on behalf of the Queensland and Federal Governments.

In 2019-20, QRIDA approved 11,557 applications totalling more than \$1.2 billion in financial assistance across all loan and grant schemes.

While QRIDA is not a general lender – for example, to provide finance for home loans or the purchase of businesses – QRIDA is a significant lender to rural Queensland through the Primary Industries Productivity Enhancement Scheme (PIPES).

PIPES provides concessional loans for those looking to establish a primary production enterprise and those looking to improve the sustainability of an existing primary production enterprise.

In 2019-20, QRIDA approved a total of 230 applications for First Start and Sustainability Loans worth \$117 million.

Historically, farmers and rural enterprises have financed debt through commercial credit providers, principally by the major trading banks and lending institutions including QRIDA. The 2019 Queensland Rural Debt Survey undertaken by QRIDA, highlights the extent of rural lending with 18,232 borrowers holding total rural debt of \$19.1 billion as at 31 December 2019. Of that total rural debt 93.15% is viable (A) and potentially viable long-term (B+) rated debt.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

2020 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 20

THE STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES:

QUESTION:

To stimulate our domestic fishing industry will the Minister commit to forcing cafes, pubs and restaurants to display place of origin for the fish that they serve to both improve consumer awareness and help compete against imported and often inferior quality fish?

ANSWER:

Country of origin labelling requirements for retail sales became mandatory from 1 July 2018 and included indicating the proportion of Australian content in foods.

However, country of origin labelling does not apply to foods sold at food service outlets such as restaurants, cafes, and clubs.

Food service businesses can choose to identify the origin of seafood on their menus, and under the Australian Consumer Law, claims about the origin of food sold must not be false or misleading.

The Palaszczuk Government is not considering a mandatory seafood labelling scheme for the food service sector at this time.

Mandating seafood origin labelling in food service could increase the regulatory burden on businesses and compliance costs could be significant, as menus would need to change continually to reflect seafood sources.

The Queensland Government has recognised the need to support locally caught seafood, and Queensland producers and I have regularly promoted this message in partnership with the industry through the promotion of #eatqld.

Documents tabled at hearing – 8 December 2020

Documents tabled at the hearing – 8 December 2020	
1.	Ministerial Article 'Queensland Government ends Cairns Global Tourism Hub process', published 16 July 2020, tabled by Dr Steven Miles, Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
2.	Ministerial Article 'State reaches agreement to end negotiations with The Star', published 11 July 2020, tabled by Dr Steven Miles, Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
3.	Letter to Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, dated 27 November 2020, tabled by Dr Steven Miles, Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
4.	Article published by ABC Western Qld titled 'Border checkpoint bill sees Queensland councils ask State Government to help cover costs' dated 7 December 2020, tabled by Ms Ann Leahy, Member for Warrego
5.	Article published by Townsville Bulletin titled 'Alan Rowe shreds plans for tyre recycling plant over 'lack of support'' dated 2 December 2020, tabled by Mr Robbie Katter, Member for Traeger
6.	Ministerial Article 'Burdekin Hydro plans powering ahead' published 20 October 2017, tabled by Mrs Deb Frecklington, Member for Nanango
7.	Ministerial Article 'Priority for drought busting water pipeline' published 20 January 2020, tabled by Mrs Deb Frecklington, Member for Nanango
8.	Article published by Southern Free Times 'Toowoomba-Warwick pipeline possibly by end of year: Premier' dated 20 January 2020, tabled by Mr Jim McDonald, Member for Lockyer
9.	Article published by The Courier Mail 'Manufacturing sector sheds 18,000 jobs under Palaszczuk Government' dated 20 April 2019, tabled by Mrs Deb Frecklington, Member for Nanango

The Queensland Cabinet and Ministerial Directory

Queensland Government ends Cairns Global Tourism Hub process

Published Thursday, 16 July, 2020 at 11:30 AM

Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation

The Honourable Kate Jones

The Palaszczuk Government has ended the Global Tourism Hubs process for Cairns.

"A Global Tourism Hub requires not only international tourists but a multi-billion-dollar investment from a global investor. At this time, this is not realistic," said Tourism Minister Kate Jones said.

"I've said it before and I'll say it again – we won't commit prime waterfront real estate in Cairns if we can't be certain that what will be delivered will bring thousands of extra tourists and give the tourism industry a leg up.

"The proposals we received just didn't cut the mustard and didn't represent value for the people of Cairns."

Member for Cairns Michael Healy said today's announcement would give local investors the confidence they needed to proceed with other projects.

"COVID-19 has had a huge impact on our economy. Now is just not the time," he said.

"Now we can continue to focus our attention on projects that will further Far North Queensland's economic recovery.

"From the new convention centre, to our multi-million-dollar port upgrade – the Palaszczuk Government has the runs on the board when it comes to investing in new tourism infrastructure for Cairns.

"I'll continue to work with the Minister and the local tourism industry to fast-track projects that will create jobs and pump cash back into local businesses."

ENDS

Media contact: Jack Harbour 0419 620 447

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State reaches agreement to end negotiations with The Star

Published Saturday, 11 July, 2020 at 11:00 AM

Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation

The Honourable Kate Jones

State Development Minister Kate Jones today announced the Palaszczuk Government had concluded exclusive negotiations with The Star Entertainment Group by mutual agreement.

Ms Jones said the end of exclusive negotiations – along with the cessation of the Global Tourism Hub market process – would enable The Star to focus on getting on with its multi-billion-dollar investments in South East Queensland.

“Through the exclusive negotiation process for a Gold Coast Global Tourism Hub we worked really hard to extract value from The Star, but the deal on the table did not stack up for taxpayers,” she said.

“We were not able to reach consensus around the terms for long-term casino licence exclusivity.

“Global market conditions are clearly impacting investment at present and I can confirm that this government has no intention of reviving the market process for a new integrated resort – including a second casino – on the Gold Coast.”

By 2038 Star Entertainment have told the government investments on the Gold Coast will deliver:

- \$2.2 billion masterplan
- 9000 construction jobs
- 2800 operational jobs
- 650 additional hotel rooms
- 2000 luxury apartments

Ms Jones said the Palaszczuk Government would continue to work with City of Gold Coast and local businesses to support tourism investment on the Gold Coast.

The Star Entertainment Group Chairman John O'Neill AO said the company and its partners have already committed around \$4.5 billion to reinvigorate tourism in South East Queensland.

“Investments in Queen’s Wharf Brisbane alongside those on the Gold Coast where we’ve refurbished The Star Grand hotel, opened The Darling hotel and have the Dorsett hotel and apartments tower under construction are proof of our commitment to creating world-class tourism and entertainment destinations that will bring more than a million additional visitors to Queensland every year,” Mr O'Neill said.

“We have confidence in the future of tourism and, under the right conditions, will continue to invest through our \$2 billion-plus Gold Coast masterplan that will help government deliver further significant economic benefits for Queensland including thousands of jobs.”

ENDS



Hon Steven Miles MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning

Tabled by: Minister Miles
At: 8/Dec/20
Time/date: 12:21
Signature: S. Miles
have granted

Our ref: MBN20/1553

1 William Street
Brisbane Queensland 4000
Email deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au

27 NOV 2020

The Honourable Michael McCormack MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
michael.mccormack.mp@aph.gov.au

Michael
Dear Deputy Prime Minister

I write to seek the Commonwealth Government's commitment to support the people of the Bundaberg Region.

As you would be aware, in January 2013 ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald produced extreme rainfall and flooding across Queensland with some of the most severe impacts on the Bundaberg Region, where approximately 2,400 properties were destroyed or damaged, 7,000 people were evacuated and 600 businesses were damaged.

The Queensland Government has made a commitment to provide \$42.5 million in funding towards the construction of the 1.7 kilometre Bundaberg East Levee, which will protect Bundaberg, including the central business district, from future flood events. It will support a safer and more economic resilient Bundaberg Region for generations to come.

On behalf of the Queensland Government and the residents of the Bundaberg Region, I am seeking a co-contribution of \$42.5 million from the Commonwealth to support construction of this important project.

I look forward to discussing the Bundaberg East Levee project and financial contribution from the Commonwealth with you in the near future.

If your office requires any further information regarding the above matter, they can contact Ms Katharine Wright, Acting Chief of Staff in my office on 07 3035 6100.

Your sincerely

STEVEN MILES MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning



Tabled by: Ally For Warrago
 At: Budget Estimate 20
 Time/date: 12/4/20
 Signature: [Signature]
leave granted

Border checkpoint bill sees Queensland councils ask State Government to help cover costs

ABC Western Qld / By Damien Larkins, David Chen and Daniel Prosser

Posted Mon 7 Dec 2020 at 7:28am, updated Mon 7 Dec 2020 at 8:26am

Remote Queensland councils are facing hundreds of thousands of dollars in border checkpoint costs, but the State Government says it can't directly foot the bill.

When the border closed in response to the pandemic, the Paroo Shire Council immediately stepped up, helping with costs like wages, accommodation, fuel and equipment.

But as the closures wore on, the council said it cost around \$300,000 to staff the checkpoint at Barrnningun on the state's southern border.

Mayor Suzette Beresford said she had asked the State Government to help.

"I don't think at the time anyone realised that the borders would be closed for the length of time that occurred," she said.

Key points:

- COVID border checkpoints cost councils hundreds of thousands of dollars
- Councils seek help from State Government to foot the unexpected bill
- Minister says his hands are tied and they cannot help with costs

"It's in excess of \$300,000.

"At this stage the State Government has indicated that there's no avenue for recompense."

Ms Beresford said it could mean cuts in other areas of the council's \$51 million budget.

"So it looks like councils may be bearing the brunt of the costs of this," she said.

"There was no provision for this expenditure in our initial budget."

Goondiwindi checkpoint costs

Southern Downs Regional Council wants the State Government to pitch in too.

Mayor Vic Pennisi said the bill for the checkpoint at Goondiwindi could be in the millions of dollars.

"We've run up a bit of cost in relation to that barriers and gates at the borders," he said.

"We're asking the State Government if they can reimburse that."

Mr Pennisi said it would have serious implications to the council budget.

"COVID was nobody's fault. It wasn't a state government's fault. It wasn't our fault," he said.

"We're in this together. We're happy to stump up, and, and help where we can."

State offers alternate funding

But the State Government said its hands were tied.

The State Government said it could not pay the invoices directly as there was no process to do so.

But a spokesperson for the Deputy Premier and Local Government Minister Steven Miles said councils were receiving other COVID-related support.

"The \$150 million special COVID-19 round of Works for Queensland is supporting jobs and providing economic stimulus to local economies," they said.

"Paroo Shire Council has received over \$1.14 million in COVID Work for Queensland funding."

The Government said the Goondiwindi Regional Council would receive \$1.35 million from the fund.



Tabled by: Robbie Katter
At: _____
Time/date: 12.57 8 Dec 2020
Signature: S Galbraith

This incredible home, made using beer bottles and old tyres, won't need heating or cooling and will run entirely on solar power.

Charters Towers

Alan Rowe shreds plans for tyre recycling plant over 'lack of support'

TRUDY BROWN, Townsville Bulletin

December 2, 2020 2:52pm

+ Subscriber only



Townsville Bulletin

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next week's council meeting that recommends businesses undertaking recycling activities be afforded a 50 per cent discount at the landfill.

Alan Rowe of ASR Investments says that after five years of developing products made from recycled tyres all plans for a tyre shredding and processing plant in Charters Towers are off.

Mr Rowe said he started coming up with the idea of making rubber products in September 2015.

"I purchased a press from China to make moulded products out of tyre rubber. I ordered it in December, and had it in my shed in April," Mr Rowe said.

"I made moulds and then I started to look at what I could make as a product that would give me a return." Those products included humble bollard bases and grass pavers.

Mr Rowe said massive stockpiles of tyres exist on mainly local government-owned lands between Charters Towers and Mount Isa.

He said he approached all the councils between Charters Towers and Cloncurry, and as a results applied for assistance through the Resource Recovery Industry Development Program (RRIDP) to seek a grant that would cover the cost to councils of him collecting and removing the tyres, transporting the shredded product to town to be processed further.

Already he has invested nearly half a million dollars in the project.

"The project has employment potential of 12-35 people within five years and up to 45 personnel if sales exceed expectations," Mr Rowe said.

"I've asked the Charters Towers Regional Council for nothing, just get involved, but they haven't so I've informed RRIDP of my decision to end the program and the reason why.

"I've had no in-principle support from council at all. They don't even care about what I'm doing."

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 Charters Towers Regional Council Mayor Frank Beveridge said there's a lot of investor confidence in the Charters Towers region right now.

Mayor Frank Beveridge said he wasn't able to comment on the specific project because nothing had been presented to the council.

When contacted he said he had heard a little about the project more than six months ago, but nothing recently, however he was open to speaking about it further with Mr Rowe.

Council CEO Aaron Johansson said while there were no development applications for the project lodged, council was supportive of someone setting up this type of initiative to reduce waste for landfill, "particularly in this region".

"Projects such as this have significant benefit, not only economically for the region, but also the environment," Mr Johansson said.

He said next week council is reviewing amendments to refuse landfill charges to offer a discount for businesses conducting recycling activities during the December meeting.

Mr Johansson said the amendments were in direct response to correspondence from a potential local recycling company seeking a discount on the waste levy to support new businesses in the region.

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Burdekin Hydro plans powering ahead

Published Friday, 20 October, 2017 at 01:06 PM

JOINT STATEMENT

Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland

The Honourable Coralee O'Rourke

Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply

The Honourable Mark Bailey

A hydro-electric power station on the state's largest dam – Burdekin Falls Dam – to secure energy and support jobs for North Queensland moved a step closer today.

Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply Mark Bailey said a prefeasibility study had now been completed by Stanwell.

"The study confirmed there are no fatal flaws in the concept and that the proposed project would be commercial and deliver a positive contribution to the State," Mr Bailey said.

"It also confirmed that a Burdekin Falls Hydro Power Station could be built on the existing dam without impacting the water releases from the dam and with minimal environmental impact.

"Stanwell, which owns and operates several hydro-electric power stations across Queensland, will now prepare a detailed business case for the construction and operation of the hydro-electric power station to be completed by July 2018.

"Subject to outcomes of the business case, construction would commence in 2020."

Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland Coralee O'Rourke said the announcement would be warmly welcomed by many in North Queensland, and followed on from the release of the Powering North Queensland Plan in June.

"Actions under the plan include \$100 million reinvestment of Stanwell dividends to help fund the proposed hydro-electric power station subject to feasibility investigations," Mrs O'Rourke said.

"We know people in the North are really concerned about power prices. An important part in stabilising prices is making sure we invest in local, North Queensland infrastructure.

"Hydro-electric generation has an important part to play in Queensland's future energy mix and the project has the potential to contribute to the security of Queensland's electricity supply, while also helping to transition to a lower carbon energy market."

Member for Townsville Scott Stewart said the Palaszczuk Government's contribution to funding a hydro-electric power station on Burdekin Falls Dam is evidence of our ongoing investment in the energy future of North Queensland.

"We're 100 per cent committed to investing in regional communities, renewable energy and jobs," Mr Stewart said.

Member for Thuringowa Aaron Harper said through our powering North Queensland Plan, we will not only deliver investment and jobs to North Queensland, but will also help to secure energy supply and drive down energy costs for consumers.

“Hydro-electric power stations not only produce much needed clean, green energy, but they also have twice the life span of coal fired power stations,” Mr Harper said.

Mr Bailey said \$386 million had been set aside to strengthen and diversify power and water assets in North Queensland under the Powering North Queensland Plan.

Actions include:

- \$150 million reinvestment of Powerlink dividends for the development of strategic transmission infrastructure to support a clean energy hub, with up to 1000 jobs for Powerlink construction of infrastructure, in addition to the approximately 3600 jobs that will be created in the development of the three proposed renewable energy projects along the transmission line;
- \$100 million reinvestment of Stanwell dividends to help fund the proposed hydro-electric power station at Burdekin Falls Dam. Subject to feasibility investigations and other dam construction works, project construction will be targeted to commence from 2020, and support up to 200 jobs;
- \$100 million equity injection and reinvestment of dividends towards improvement works to ensure that the Burdekin Falls Dam continues to meet design standards, which is estimated to support around 250 jobs, and will support the proposed hydro-electric power station; and
- commissioning a hydro-electric study to assess options for deploying new hydro in the state, including North Queensland.

“Pending a feasibility study, we will be investing \$150 million to establish a Clean Energy Hub to develop strategic transmission infrastructure in North and North-west Queensland to potentially connect multi-faceted renewable projects,” he said.

“We are pumping \$100 million into the improvement of works at the Burdekin Falls Dam and another \$100 million to help fund a hydro facility at the dam subject to a business case.

“This investment of dividends is part of Queensland’s Powering Queensland Plan to drive down energy costs and secure electricity and water supply.

“The Palaszczuk Government is 100% committed to adopting the cheapest and most efficient forms of energy generation to lower power bills and to continuing to use public ownership to back consumers and that is through renewables, not a new old-tech coal-fired power station like the LNP want to build.”

ENDS

Media contact:

Zoe Russell 0428 079 640 (Minister Bailey)

Ben Mulchay 0419 562 389 (Minister O'Rourke)

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At: Budget Estimates 20
Time/date: 8/12/20
Signature: [Signature]
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Priority for drought busting water pipeline

Published Monday, 20 January, 2020 at 02:41 PM

Premier and Minister for Trade

The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk

A pipeline could be delivering water to the Southern Downs and Granite Belt by the end of the year.

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk has inspected progress in Warwick this morning where experts have already nominated a likely route using existing road and rail corridors.

The Premier said that meant one thing: delivering the pipeline faster.

"By using existing publicly owned land, there will be very little if any land acquisitions required thus streamlining the project," she said.

The Premier announced a \$1 million feasibility study for the project in November. The potential pipeline would link Warwick to water from Wivenhoe Dam via Toowoomba.

The feasibility study is expected to be concluded in April.

Southern Downs Mayor Tracey Dobie said the Premier had stood by Warwick and Stanthorpe during one of the worst droughts in memory.

"The Premier said she wouldn't let us run out of drinking water and she has been true to her word," the Mayor said.

"We don't want to go through another summer like this one again and the pipeline is just the most welcome news we have had in a long time.

"The only thing better would be more rain!"

Warwick's Leslie Dam is down to less than 4.6 per cent capacity and, without further inflows, it is estimated that Leslie Dam will reach its minimum operating volume in late 2020.

Stanthorpe's Storm King Dam is down to 9.6 per cent (197ML). The dam's full capacity is 2065ML.

The State Government is providing \$800,000 a month to truck water into Stanthorpe.

The State Government has joined the council with drought assistance measures including:

- \$13.6 million to kick start the new Emu Swamp Dam
- \$3.939 million replacing pipelines between Storm King Dam and Mount Marley Water Treatment Plant
- \$950,000 to the Southern Downs Regional Council to progress water security projects related to new and rejuvenated bores and fixing leaks in the reticulation system
- \$600,000 in freight subsidies
- \$300,000 in Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Assistance to 56 producers

ENDS

Media contact:

Shane Doherty 0439 624 473

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Toowoomba-Warwick pipeline possibly by end of year: Premier

20/01/2020



Annastacia Palaszczuk says a new pipeline from Toowoomba to Warwick could be built in "less than 12 months" if her government uses its Coordinator-General powers to "get the project moving ASAP". She told media today Toowoomba Regional Council would be "further consulted within the next couple of weeks". The Premier pictured with Mayor Tracy Dobie at the Warwick Water Treatment Plant inspecting a map showing the proposed pipeline route.

[Purchase this photo from Star Photos: 203395](#)

By Jeremy Sollars

Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk says the Queensland Government will use its fast-tracking powers to build a new water pipeline from Toowoomba to Warwick, potentially by the end of this year.

The Premier visited Warwick today, Monday 20 January, to inspect part of the route the pipeline will take through Warwick to the council's Glen Road water treatment plant.

The pipeline would allow Warwick and Stanthorpe to access water long-term from Wivenhoe Dam in Brisbane, which is connected to Toowoomba via an existing pipeline from Wivenhoe to Toowoomba's Cressbrook Dam.

Late last year the Premier committed to funding a \$1 million feasibility study into the pipeline.

Despite a report by Wivenhoe Dam operator Seqwater on the feasibility of the project not being due to the government until April of this year, the Premier today told the media the State Government would use its powerful Coordinator-General's authority to "get the project moving ASAP".

This is also despite the project not yet being fully costed – and Toowoomba Regional Council voicing anger in late 2018 about not being consulted over the pipeline project.

Ms Palaszczuk today said "detailed costings" on the pipeline would be finalised as a priority and these would "feed into" the next State Budget, due in April this year, six weeks earlier than usual and with a State election due in October.

The Premier today unveiled the route the pipeline would take to Warwick, south from Toowoomba through Westbrook, Wyreema, Cambooya, Greenmount, Nobby, Clifton and Allora.

It would then travel through Warwick from north of town, eventually linking up to the Warwick water treatment plant on Glen Road west of town.

The specific details of the route through Warwick were not released today, but Premier Palaszczuk and Southern Downs Mayor Tracy Dobie said private property resumptions along the route would be "minimal" as it would "mostly" utilise existing public road reserves.

The Premier said she believes any affected landholders would be appropriately compensated.

The State Coordinator-General – Toni Power – is a senior officer of the Queensland Department of State Development and has extensive powers to override local governments and some state regulations to push through major infrastructure projects deemed vital by the government.

The Free Times has been told the Toowoomba-Warwick pipeline project could require an additional or upgraded pipeline from Wivenhoe Dam to Toowoomba but the Premier said today she was “not aware” of any such requirement at this time.

Dams levels up – but not Storm King...

Today’s announcement comes as the Southern Downs and Granite Belt received some good falls of rain in places from Friday and across the weekend.

Leslie Dam is now at 8% of capacity thanks to inflows over recent days, but Cr Dobie today said current water restrictions of 80 litres per person per day for town water users across the region will remain in place.

Carting of water from Connolly Dam in Warwick to Stanthorpe will continue indefinitely, with Stanthorpe’s Storm King Dam having only received minimal inflow over the weekend.

Cr Dobie told media today the Leslie Dam inflow would mean Warwick has an assured water supply until May 2021, while inflows into Connolly Dam mean Stanthorpe’s supply will be assured for the remainder of 2020.

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Business

Manufacturing sector sheds 18,000 jobs under Palaszczuk Government

New statistics show a major industry in Queensland has been wiped out under the Palaszczuk Government's watch with the sector now employing its lowest number of workers since the 1990s recession.

STEVEN WARDILL

April 20, 2019 - 5:13AM The Courier-Mail

 222 comments

The official unemployment rate has edged up 0.1 per cent to five per cent for March. Your Money reporter Leanne Jones has told Sky News the figure is in line with industry predictions. She says the uptick in unemployment is explained by the increased participation rate in the workforce, which has gone up by 65.7 per cent.

MORE than 18,000 manufacturing jobs have been wiped out under the Palaszczuk Government with the sector now employing its lowest number of workers since the 1990s recession.

Analysis of official jobs data has revealed the loss of thousands of manufacturing jobs has been offset by an explosion in publicly-funded positions over the last four years.

Public servant jobs pushing up employment figures

Public service jobs inflating Queensland's healthy employment figures

Government not sticking to its principles, so more public servants

Editorial: Rheinmetall's Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence at Redbank is welcome in Queensland

Building soon to start on Rheinmetall Defence's local HQ

The figures show that despite efforts to diversify the state's economy, the traditional strongholds of mining and agriculture have grown while manufacturing and professional jobs have disappeared.



The manufacturing sector is in serious decline in Queensland.

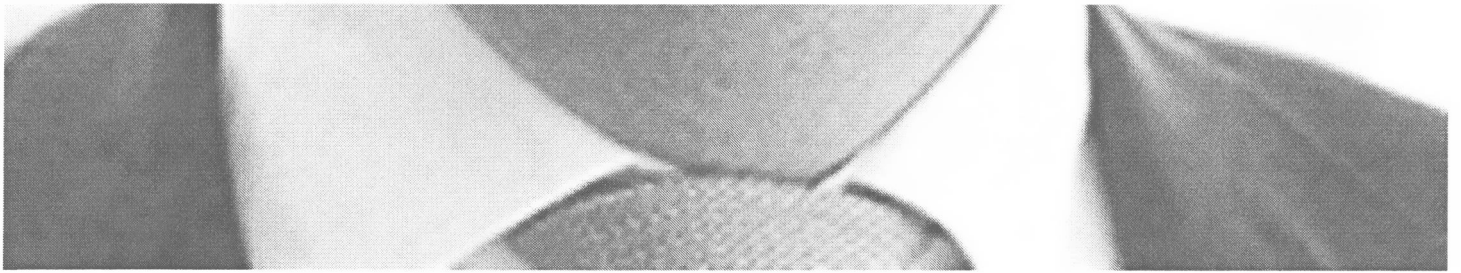
While the Government credits its training schemes for creating new jobs, more than two-thirds of the 173,400 positions created over the four years to February were in health and education.

Most of these would have come courtesy of the Palaszczuk Government's public service hiring-spree and the Federally-funded National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Meanwhile, Queensland's manufacturing workforce of the 150,000 is now the smallest it has been since Paul Keating declared Australia was experiencing the recession it "had to have".

Professional, scientific and technical jobs shrunk by 9000 positions while Queensland's arts, recreation and real estate workforce experience steep declines.





Economist Gene Tunny.

Economist Gene Tunny warned the figures exposed the sluggish nature of Queensland's domestic economy and the risk of undermining the state's key job-generating sectors of mining and agriculture.

"Our comparative advantage is being able to dig stuff out of the ground and grow stuff out of the ground," he said. "We would be silly not to act on that."

Mr Tunny said the Palaszczuk Government was going the wrong way about creating the private sector jobs needed to pay for an ageing population.

"They are doing things through payroll like discounts for movie studios and breweries," he said.

"Yet the way to do it is through the education system.

"We need to encourage young people to be innovative because they are the ones that are going to create the new industries."

Construction jobs have flourished by 31,000. However, there are fears for the sector with house prices declining.





Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk (left) and Deputy Premier and Treasurer Jackie Trad. Picture: AAP/Darren England

New Labour Force statistics released on Thursday showed 4900 new positions were created in March.

However, Queensland's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate jumped to 6.1 per cent.

Treasurer Jackie Trad insisted the Government was “100 per cent focused on growing jobs and new industries”.

“Queensland leads the nation in jobs in renewable energy, we’ve secured more than \$20 billion of new resources investment, tourism is on the up and we are attracting companies like Rheinmetall to open up new opportunities in manufacturing,” she said.

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