
FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND REGIONAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY



A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Our vision for Queensland's recovery from this pandemic is threefold – we are working to protect the health of every Queenslander, we are creating jobs, and we are working together to create the conditions for future success.

Our regions are the key to building Queensland's economic recovery. It has taken a collaborative effort from every region to shape our plan for the future. We will continue to partner – with governments, industries, businesses and communities – to navigate this new world for future growth.

Positioned on the doorstep of Asia, the natural beauty of Far North Queensland draws millions of domestic and international tourists each year. It has abundant fertile agricultural land, mineral wealth and natural resources, and is rich in culture and heritage.

In Far North Queensland, our investment in manufacturing, training and transport infrastructure will strengthen supply chains and bolster the economy.

We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land and water on which we rely and operate. We pay our deepest respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

◆
The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP



This year has tested Queenslanders like no other. The COVID-19 pandemic has touched everyone and communities in Far North Queensland have not been immune to its effects. Our response to COVID-19 has kept Queenslanders safe and allowed our economic recovery to begin. My Government's Economic Recovery Plan is all about protecting Queenslanders' health, creating jobs and working together. Importantly, this plan also recognises that growing our regions is a key priority for Queensland and vital to our State's future success. Our immediate commitment is to keep the region moving through extra support for businesses, workers and households – from payroll tax relief to cost of living support. Our recovery approach recognises that Far North Queensland is a diverse region with a range of sectors contributing substantially to the region's economy, including tourism, mining, agriculture, education and construction. While restoring growth in sectors such as these will be essential to future prosperity we also want to work with industry and the community to take advantage of emerging opportunities to innovate and create long-term sustainable jobs into the future. Together we will support these traditional industries and also invest in more industries, more infrastructure and more businesses. This is all about more local jobs. I am so proud of the way Far North Queenslanders have stepped up in these tough times. From the frontline health workers in Cairns Hospital to local business owners like Allen Ashby from AJ Roofing Solutions, who has been able to employ two roofing tradies and an apprentice to support additional work generated by support for the household resilience program to cyclone-proof local homes. My Government remains committed to not only supporting Far North Queensland on the road to recovery but also making sure we position the region for future growth and job generating opportunities.

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

◆
The Honourable Cameron Dick MP



The rich culture and natural beauty of Far North Queensland bring tourists to its shores in droves. The diversity of the region translates to a diversity of industries, with tourism, agriculture, mining, health, education, marine, aviation and construction driving the regional economy. The people of Far North Queensland are resilient and used to dealing with natural disasters. We know the biosecurity measures put in place to keep Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities safe have been challenging. Our proactive approach to managing the pandemic in Queensland, means we can be optimistic about the future recovery of the region – both economically and socially. We know that travel restrictions mean the tourism industry will continue to take a hit for the foreseeable future, so we need to reimagine our major industries to adapt to the new normal and prosper into the future. We are investing in the region, supporting new infrastructure and diversifying new and existing industries. Innovating and revitalising local industries will provide Far North Queensland with the greatest opportunities for economic recovery. The region's world-renowned tourism industry, for example, has enormous potential to revitalise offerings to attract visitors and grow the sector. This Government continues to deliver \$1.8 billion over four years in better roads and transport across the Far North. After completing the \$276 million first stage of the Cape York Region Package, crews are now delivering another \$237.5 million in works alongside a \$480 million Bruce Highway upgrade between Edmonton and Gordonvale, and the \$164 million Smithfield Bypass. Helping the economy to flourish after COVID-19 requires us to think ahead, unlocking local training opportunities and job creation. By playing to the region's strengths, businesses and communities can focus on recovery, and Far North Queenslanders can know that we will be on that journey with them.

SUPPORTING ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN QUEENSLAND

In February 2020, Queensland implemented a swift and decisive response to the growing crisis, announcing measures to assist business and industry with resilience and recovery strategies, targeted financial support and counselling.

 Over **\$8 billion** in recovery measures

\$5 billion Queensland Future Fund to unlock surplus in the Defined Benefit Fund and pay down debt



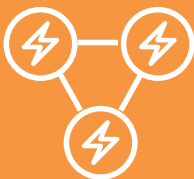
\$3 billion savings plan over 4 years



Up to **\$280M** unlocked by councils for public works by refinancing loans at lower rates



\$500M Backing Queensland Business Investment Fund



\$145M 3 Renewable Energy Zones



\$249M extension to \$400M tax relief for small and medium businesses



\$500M Renewable Energy Fund

OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT HAS COMMITTED MORE THAN \$8 BILLION TO SUPPORT COVID-19 HEALTH AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY INITIATIVES ACROSS THE STATE. KEY STATEWIDE INITIATIVES IN THE FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND REGION INCLUDE:

\$90M

for **jobs and skills**, including funding for the Back to Work, Skilling Queenslanders for Work and Reef Assist programs

\$267M

building boost to support home owners, 'tradies' and the construction industry, including a **\$5,000 regional home building grant**

\$500M

in **electricity and water** bill relief for households and small businesses, including a \$200 rebate for households, and a \$500 rebate for eligible small business and sole traders

Up to \$950M

in **payroll tax relief** statewide, including refunds and deferrals for eligible businesses and tax exemption for JobKeeper payments, supporting 23,640 jobs in Far North Queensland

\$400M

land tax relief for property owners which must be passed onto tenants in the form of rent relief

\$1B

in **road stimulus projects**, accelerated funding to increase investment in roads and transport infrastructure, including \$400 million in Queensland Government funding for 42 projects

Initiatives in the Far North Queensland region include:



JOBS SUPPORT LOANS
461 loans of up to \$250,000 approved for Far North Queensland businesses, totaling \$66.6 million and supporting 4,949 jobs.



LOWER IRRIGATION PRICES FOR MAREEBA FARMERS
Mareeba farmers will benefit from a \$14.7 million statewide investment to keep prices low for irrigators, reducing annual water bills on average by \$400 for 2020-21.



FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND TOURISM INDUSTRY ECONOMIC RELIEF PACKAGE
\$11.3 million to support cash flow relief to help tourism and events businesses to survive and revive.



COVID-19 WORKS FOR QUEENSLAND
\$36.7 million to Far North Queensland councils for 108 maintenance and minor infrastructure projects supporting 800 jobs.



REEF ASSIST
\$10 million to deliver priority environmental projects and jobs in the State's Great Barrier Reef catchments in partnership with local governments. Creating up to 130 nature-based jobs and providing work for local contractors and suppliers.



YEAR OF INDIGENOUS TOURISM
\$10 million Indigenous tourism fund extended into 2021 to help develop the sector, and create opportunities and jobs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND PORT SUPPORT PACKAGE
\$7.6 million to support port businesses across the Far North to provide relief for the region's tourism, resource and seafood sectors.

CASE STUDY

CYCLONE PROOFING HOMES DELIVERS JOBS FOR TRADIES

Cyclone-impacted communities in regional Queensland have been experiencing a jobs boom through the Queensland Government’s Household Resilience Program.

Queensland tradies are expanding their client base as more Queenslanders are cyclone-proofing their homes.

The program, part of the Unite and Recover jobs strategy, is fully subscribed, with funding flowing to around 100 local businesses for 314 homes ahead of this year’s cyclone season.

Previous rounds saw some homeowners save an average of 8.5 per cent on their home insurance premiums, with some saving up to 25 per cent.

Cairns businessman Allen Ashby, owner of A J Roofing Solutions, said he was able to employ two roofing tradies and an apprentice as a result of the program.

“The Household Resilience Program has given me the confidence to grow my business...without it I would not have been able to put on the apprentice,” Mr Ashby said.

“You can sense the trepidation out there and people’s reluctance to spend money particularly during COVID-19, but this program has given them the incentive as well as a helping hand.” The program is part of the Queensland Government’s \$8 billion Unite and Recover jobs strategy.



WHAT IS THE LOCAL IMPACT OF COVID-19?

WHILE OUR RECOVERY IS UNDERWAY, THE IMPACTS IN FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND HAVE BEEN FELT ACROSS MAJOR INDUSTRIES.

Regional events have been postponed or cancelled, with tourism operators and related businesses impacted across the peak season.



The cultural arts industry has taken a hit with closures to galleries and retail, with a subsequent drop in sales.



Disruptions to supply chains for agriculture and seafood have impacted profitability and sustainability, with some industries seeing an oversupply of produce and high value produce not gaining traction in the domestic market.



Necessary biosecurity measures in Indigenous communities have caused disruptions to councils, businesses and individuals, including contractors not available to undertake construction through the dry season.



The sudden and steep downturn in the airline industry has had downstream impacts on communities dependent on air transport.



There was a 6.3 per cent downturn in employee jobs in Far North Queensland between 14 March and 11 July 2020.



NEW ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

TARGETED INVESTMENTS WILL ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC RECOVERY NEEDS OF THE FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND REGION. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP TO DELIVER NEW JOBS, NEW INFRASTRUCTURE AND REALISE NEW ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES.



Cairns Marine Precinct to support regional economic diversification

The Queensland Government will invest \$30 million to upgrade the Cairns Marine Precinct and fund a business case for the future development of the Precinct. The new funding will deliver 150 new jobs during construction, pay for upgrade of services and expand Cairns' capacity to carry out in-water maintenance on vessels used by the Australian Defence Force and Border Force. The Queensland Government is working with Ports North to deliver this infrastructure upgrade.

Funding for a business case will identify how Cairns can capitalise on future opportunities to grow as a leading centre for large vessel repair work. The Precinct may require total capital infrastructure expenditure of up to \$150 million and future contributions from the Commonwealth Government will be sought.



Enhancing Local Government biosecurity capacity

Thriving agriculture in regions like Far North Queensland is instrumental to economic recovery with primary industries accounting for more than a quarter of businesses across our State's rural and regional areas.

To protect this essential sector, the Queensland Government is providing grants of \$450,000 to boost the capability of local government and regional communities to manage invasive plants and invasive animals.

As the northern gateway to biosecurity risks, this support for Far North Queensland will expand on current programs, strengthen regional planning and coordination, safeguard jobs and support partnerships with local governments.

Funding will be provided across two years with a program coordinator based in northern Queensland and aims to employ two regional coordinators including an Indigenous coordinator to engage with Indigenous councils.



Cairns Shipbuilding Project to expand and develop marine workforce

Shipbuilding could return to Cairns with the Queensland Government leading a business case to investigate the possibility of building vessels at the Cairns Marine Precinct. The Cairns Reshoring Shipbuilding Project business case will investigate the opportunity to re-establish a ship building industry in Cairns that can assist with the manufacture of commercial vessels required for servicing the region. If it proves successful it could create up to 100 jobs over the next 10 years. There is an existing skilled-work force, contractor base and infrastructure within the Cairns Marine Precinct which has a legacy of significant ship-building undertaken in the city over many years.



Transforming Cairns Hospital into a university hospital with research centre

Queensland Health is investing \$67.9 million to kickstart the transformation of Cairns Hospital into a university hospital for the city, including \$15 million to acquire land for a research, education and innovation precinct, fully integrated with the hospital.

Working in partnership with James Cook University, this investment will provide better health care for the Far North and also attract the future generation of health professionals to Cairns. The Cairns Hospital will acquire an expanded emergency department and a new endoscopy suite and operating theatre, helping to meet the health needs of a growing and ageing population. These upgrades will deliver world-class health facilities for the region and support a further 150 construction jobs to support our economic recovery.

INVESTING IN LOCAL CAPACITY BOOSTING PROJECTS



PLANNING

Queensland Renewable Energy Zones

The Queensland Government will establish a \$500 million Renewable Energy Fund for Government investments in commercial renewable energy projects and supporting infrastructure, to be undertaken through the Government-owned energy corporations.

The Fund will complement the Government's \$145 million commitment to establish three renewable energy zones across northern, central and southern Queensland, and continue the pace of Queensland's transition to 50 per cent renewable energy generation by 2030. Since 2015, 41 large-scale renewable energy projects have commenced operations, are under construction or are financially committed, representing around \$7.8 billion in investment and 6,500 construction jobs.



UNDERWAY

Cairns TAFE

\$15 million has been committed to position the Cairns TAFE as the region's main training hub with the campus being revitalised to provide high-quality training facilities for a growing community. This project supports training pathways and the development of a skilled workforce for the Far North Queensland region.



UNDERWAY

Cairns Aquarium

\$3.5 million grant to Cairns Aquarium to help local tourism sustain and recover.

Far North Queensland Screen Production Strategic Plan

The Far North Queensland Screen Production Strategic Plan is boosting screen industry jobs, and has attracted 'This Little Love of Mine' which is currently filming in Cairns, creating 25 local jobs and injecting \$1.5 million into the economy. By showcasing the stunning locations and lifestyles of Far North Queensland the film will also stimulate tourism to the region when it is released in 2021.

DELIVERED



UNDERWAY

Cairns Hospital Mental Health

Demolition and early works are underway as part of the \$70 million Cairns Hospital Mental Health Unit redevelopment. Construction on the 53-bed acute mental health facility is due to commence in 2021 for opening in 2022.



Smithfield bypass

Works are continuing on the \$164 million project to construct a bypass route on the Captain Cook Highway, providing vital infrastructure for the northern beaches of Cairns and delivering a safer and more efficient travel route for motorists and industry.

Cairns South State Development Area

The Cairns South State Development Area (SDA) is designed to provide land for regionally significant industrial development to support future economic development, diversification of the Cairns economy and job creation. The southern section of the SDA will support future diversification plans for the Mulgrave Mill, including industrial development that improves the sugar refining process and increases opportunities for local trade employment.

DELIVERED

Cairns Pop-up Sporting Arena to reactivate tourism during Cairns Convention Centre redevelopment

The Department of Housing and Public Works, in collaboration with Cairns Regional Council, recently transformed a former warehouse in the heart of Cairns into a temporary 2000-seat arena for basketball and netball. This pop-up arena provided vital work for local tradies, employing 147 Cairns residents during development and has already secured three Super Netball games – a first for Far North Queensland.

DELIVERED



Peninsula Developmental Road (Cape York Regional Package)

Work on the Peninsula Developmental Road (PDR) continues with the \$237.5 million jointly funded Cape York Region Package that will seal more of the PDR, and open up new opportunities for Indigenous businesses. Stage 1, with \$276 million in joint funding, provided jobs for 321 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with more than \$42 million worth of work completed by Indigenous-owned businesses.

GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

- 1 Saibai Island new Community Safety and Security Facility**
\$8.7 million in 2020-21 out of a \$13.1 million total spend to complete the Community Safety and Security facility at Saibai Island.
- 2 Mer (Murray) Island Building Replacement**
\$580,000 in 2020-21 out of a \$7 million total spend to replace the Mer (Murray) Island Primary Health Care Centre to support the provision of quality and safe services for current and future healthcare needs.
- 3 Thursday Island Community Centre**
\$2.6 million in 2020-21 out of a \$5.5 million total spend to design and construct a neighbourhood centre to support the Thursday Island community.
- 4 Horn Island Splash Park**
\$2.4 million in 2020-21 out of a \$3 million total spend to build a splash park on Horn Island, contributing to positive recreation activities and community connections for families and young people.

- 5 Aurukun police facility upgrade**
\$2.9 million in 2020-21 out of a \$6.7 million total spend to upgrade the police facility at Aurukun.
- 6 Pormpuraaw replacement police facility**
\$6.1 million in 2020-21 out of a \$8.2 million total spend to continue the replacement of the police facility at Pormpuraaw.
- 7 Peninsula Developmental Road (Laura - Coen), Kennedy to Rocky Creek**
\$12.3 million in 2020-21 out of a \$23.8 million total spend to pave and seal sections of the Peninsula Developmental Road between Kennedy and Rocky Creek. Part of the Cape York Region Package Stage 2 and Roads of Strategic Importance initiative, delivered in partnership with the Commonwealth Government.
- 8 Newell boat ramp (north bank of Mossman River)**
\$2.4 million in 2020-21 out of a \$3.2 million total spend to upgrade boat ramp at Newell Beach, north bank of Mossman River.

- 9 Tropical North Learning Academy - Trinity Beach State School**
\$7.9 million in 2020-21 out of a \$10 million total spend to construct a new multi-storey general learning centre and renewal of the special education unit. Part of the Renewing Our Schools program.

- 10 Smithfield Bypass**
\$42.4 million in 2020-21 out of a \$164 million total spend to construct bypass route continuity on the Captain Cook Highway roundabout and Caravonica roundabout. Part of the State Infrastructure Fund.
- 11 Cairns Western Arterial Road, Harley Street Intersection Upgrade**
\$5.4 million in 2020-21 out of a \$17.1 million total spend to upgrade the intersection on the Cairns Western Arterial Road at Harley Street. Part of the State Infrastructure Fund.

- 12 Redlynch State College**
\$7 million in 2020-21 out of a \$8.3 million total spend to construct a new building containing two general learning spaces and five specialist spaces.

- 13 Cairns Hospital Mental Health Unit**
\$3.8 million in 2020-21 out of a \$70 million total spend to construct a new 53 bed mental health facility to replace the existing facility.
- 14 Cairns Convention Centre expansion and refurbishment**
\$85 million in 2020-21 out of a \$176 million total spend towards the refurbishment and expansion of the Cairns Convention Centre to capitalise on the national and international convention markets.

- 15 Bruce Highway (Cairns Southern Access Corridor Stage 4)**
\$30.4 million in 2020-21 out of a \$104.1 million total spend to widen from four to six lanes on the Bruce Highway from Kate Street to Aumuller Street. Part of the Bruce Highway Upgrade Program, delivered in partnership with the Commonwealth Government.

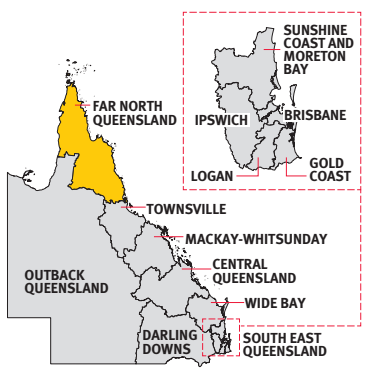
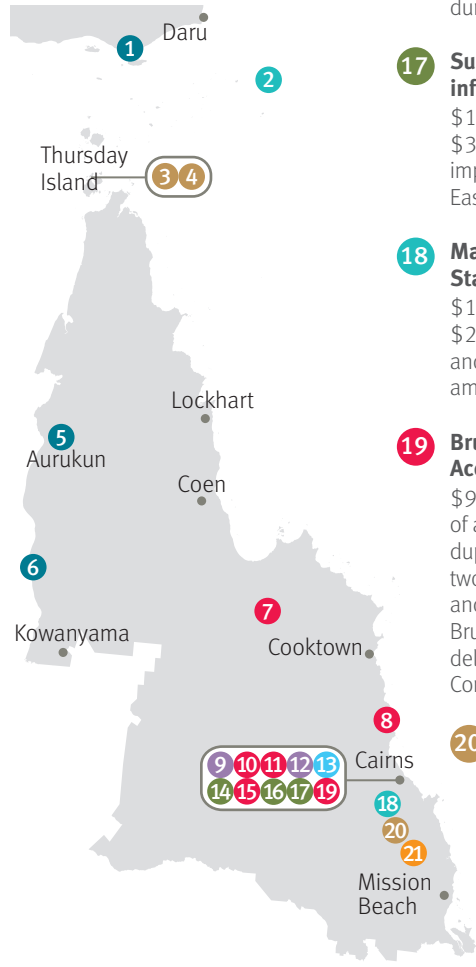
- 16 Yorkeys Knob boat ramp**
\$11 million to build a new multi-lane boat ramp at Yorkeys Knob alongside 135 car trailer parks. This project will support 18 jobs during construction.

- 17 Sustainable Acid Sulphate Soils infrastructure program**
\$1.8 million in 2020-21 out of a \$3.2 million total spend to manage impacts of Acid Sulphate Soils in East Trinity Environmental Reserve.

- 18 Mareeba Replacement Ambulance Station**
\$1.2 million in 2020-21 out of a \$2.5 million total spend for planning and construction of a replacement ambulance station at Mareeba.

- 19 Bruce Highway (Cairns Southern Access Corridor Stage 3)**
\$90.6 million in 2020-21 out of a \$481 million total spend to duplicate the Bruce Highway from two to four lanes between Edmonton and Gordonvale. Part of the Bruce Highway Upgrade Program, delivered in partnership with the Commonwealth Government.

- 20 Atherton Community Centre**
\$1.9 million in 2020-21 out of a \$2.1 million total spend to design and construct a neighbourhood centre to support the Atherton community.



21 Kareeya Hydro Bridge upgrade and other projects

\$5.7 million in 2020-21 out of a \$19.4 million total spend to maintain existing assets including upgrades to the control system, upgrade to turbines, network activity, concreting, Tully River bridge deck and access road. Part of the Renewable Energy Target 2030.

22 Arts and Cultural Recovery Package

S/R \$15.4 million in 2020-21 out of a \$22.5 million total spend to reactivate cultural and creative spaces and provide jobs for local artists and arts workers bringing communities together and boosting cultural tourism.

23 Rural and Regional Infrastructure Package - Torres Straits Primary Health Care Centre Redevelopment Project

\$976,098 in 2020-21 out of a \$3.5 million total spend for upgrades to five Primary Health Care Centres at Yorke Island, Coconut Island, Stephen Island, Dauan Island and St Pauls Community on Moa Island.

24 Wangetti Trail

\$33.4 million for the construction of the \$41.4 million, 94 kilometre Wangetti Trail. Delivering in partnership with the Commonwealth Government.

Please note: Not all Government expenditure for the region is shown. Dollar amounts may include capital and operating expenditure, though may not represent the entire funding allocated.

SEPTEMBER 2020

KEY

-  Community wellbeing
 -  Utilities
 -  Health
 -  Education
 -  Transport and roads
 -  Justice and safety
 -  Government services
 -  Recreation and culture
-
- S/R** Statewide/region-wide
 -  Election commitment

CASE STUDY

NORTH QUEENSLAND SAILING OPERATORS READY FOR TOURISTS TO RETURN

Port Douglas sail operators Steve and Katrina Edmondson would normally welcome up to 25,000 tourists a year to the reef, 60 per cent of whom were international, but restrictions due to COVID-19 meant their Sailaway luxury vessels are grounded.

A COVID-19 Jobs Support Loan from the Queensland Government has helped pay on-going costs to keep the marine and eco-tourism operators of 17 years afloat until tourism can return to the Great Barrier Reef.

It has also helped to support 14 skilled staff, including skippers, marine biologists and master reef guides.

Mrs Edmondson said while the business was impacted from travel restrictions and not drawing an income, there were extensive on-going costs and refunds which had to be paid.

“The impact has been extreme,” she said.

“Our priority was paying our staff entitlement and local suppliers.”

Mrs Edmondson said the jobs support loan allowed the business to be ready for the next tourism season in Port Douglas.

“The loan came as a really good lifeline and allowed us to have the cash in the bank to meet our commitments. It’s also assisting our cash flow to get us operating again.

“We have been sailing, diving and snorkelling all our lives and it’s a privilege to share the excitement of the Great Barrier Reef with people from all parts of the world in a safe environment.”



"We don't want to just bounce back from this pandemic, we want to move forward, stronger than ever."

Participant, Regional Recovery Workshop, June 2020



POSITIONING FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND FOR FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

IMPACTS OF THE GLOBAL COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAVE BEEN FELT BY WORKERS, BUSINESSES, HOUSEHOLDS AND THE COMMUNITY IN FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND, JUST AS IN OTHER PARTS OF OUR STATE AND BEYOND.

As in other parts of our state and beyond, Far North Queensland has experienced significant impacts on employment, including in the tourism and hospitality sectors. The Queensland Government is providing timely support to cushion the adverse impacts.

Almost \$66.6 million in Jobs Support Loans have been accessed by more than 461 Far North Queensland businesses to help keep Queenslanders in jobs. Small businesses in the region have also benefited from a total of \$15.7 million in Small Business Adaptation Grants, and a \$4.8 million targeted campaign for the Tropical Far North and Gold Coast regions to increase the length of stay in the regions and maximise economic returns for the local industry.

In addition, the government-owned corporation for the Port of Cairns (Ports North), has committed to provide over \$7.6 million in marina fee and rent relief to local commercial tourism operators and port tenants as a direct response to the adverse impacts on tourism of COVID-19.

Far North Queensland's outstanding reputation as a global tourism destination, its strong agriculture industry and economic strengths in marine, aviation, resources and manufacturing, positions the region well to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic as national and international travel restrictions are eased. The longer-term outlook will be influenced by travellers' and international student confidence in management of the pandemic, demand for agricultural and resources exports, and workforce capacity. This makes it important to maintain the region's reputation as a safe travel destination and to secure investment opportunities that support continued growth in economic diversity in the region.

The Queensland Government has worked with stakeholders to identify strategic opportunities in the region. Throughout the regional recovery forums and workshops, Far North Queensland has demonstrated commitment to collaboration and bringing everyone, including their most vulnerable, on the journey towards a diverse and inclusive recovery.

Through consultation, region-building infrastructure such as ports, health, energy, water security, and cultural, tourism and international education facilities have been identified as key opportunities for public and private sector investment. These initiatives can enhance business opportunities and exports, and with community infrastructure, further enhancing liveability.

The Far North Queensland Regional Community Forum also identified support for youth employment and renewable and sustainable energy as priorities.

Infrastructure has already been boosted in the region through \$36.7 million COVID-19 Works for Queensland funding provided to Far North Queensland councils for 108 maintenance projects.

The future of health services in the region has been enhanced with the Queensland Government commitment to planning for a university hospital in Cairns. Queensland Health is investing \$67.9 million to kickstart the transformation of Cairns Hospital into a university hospital for the city, plus an additional \$15 million to acquire land for a research, education and innovation precinct, fully integrated with the hospital.

Regional recovery initiatives will support productive infrastructure to ensure efficient supply chains and support tourism, recreation attractions and emerging industries. Initiatives include a \$3.5 million grant support to Cairns Aquarium to help local tourism sustain and recover.

The Queensland Government is capitalising on emerging defence and marine industry opportunities by contributing \$30 million to upgrades at the Cairns Marine Precinct, including \$2 million towards business case development, supporting around 150 jobs. The business case will consider broader development of the precinct and expand Cairns' capacity to carry out in-water maintenance on Australian Defence Force and Border Force marine vessels. The Cairns Reshoring Shipbuilding Project business case will also investigate the opportunity to re-establish a ship building industry in Cairns that can assist with the manufacture of commercial vessels required for servicing the region. This project would bring new jobs to the city, potentially creating 100 jobs over the next 10 years.

As part of the effort to protect the agriculture sector, the Queensland Government is also investing \$450,000 in grant funding to boost the capability of local government and regional communities to manage invasive plants and animals.

For Far North Queensland to recover we need to continue to work in partnership. The Queensland Government will continue to work with regional leaders to reflect stakeholder ambitions for the region. Recovery requires a long-term commitment from all partners and working together will play a key role in securing a strong recovery in the months and years ahead. This will ensure that Far North Queensland builds back better.

CASE STUDY

NEW BARGE RAMP BRIDGES REMOTE COMMUNITIES

One of the most remote barge ramps in Queensland is now complete and in use by Cape York communities despite COVID-19 restrictions, thanks to an investment from the Queensland Government.

On the southern side of the Archer River near Aurukun, the ramp is seven hours by road from Aurukun but only two hours by water.

The new Archer River Barge Ramp gives the people of Aurukun access to traditional Homelands, enabling them to get back on country for cultural and recreational purposes.

As most of the contractors were local to the Aurukun Shire and the surrounding country,

work was able to continue during the COVID-19 lockdown.

The ramp was an initiative of the Queensland Government and Ministerial Champions and was funded and project managed by the Department of State Development, Tourism and Innovation with a contribution from the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Six local Indigenous workers were employed at the site and a local Indigenous group supplied rock and gravel for the works as well as hiring out equipment. This allowed the benefits of construction to remain within the community.



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Queensland
Government