



Queensland Health

The Queensland Government Critical Supply Reserve

Progress Update

Last updated: October 2021



**Queensland
Government**

The Queensland Government Critical Supply Reserve

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For more information contact

The COVID-19 Supply Chain Surety Division, Department of Health, GPO Box 48, Brisbane QLD 4001, email CSCSdivision@health.qld.gov.au

An electronic version of this document is available at health.qld.gov.au/critical-supply-reserve

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Message from Yvette D'Ath MP

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented significant challenges in all aspects of our lives, including in the planning and provision of healthcare.

Global supply chains have been impacted, leading to healthcare systems around the world experiencing critical shortages of medical supplies.

Thankfully, Queensland has not experienced the devastating impact of COVID-19 seen around the world.

Our health system responded quickly, protecting our communities and undoubtedly saving lives.

However, the experience has highlighted the importance of improving our preparations for future public health emergencies and natural disasters.

We are not immune to global supply chain disruptions or the huge demand for critical medical supplies.

We have worked hard to keep Queenslanders safe and now we are putting the necessary measures in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our community and our frontline workers.

The supply reserve will secure critical goods, equipment, medicines and other supplies vital to delivering essential services.

It is crucial that our doctors, nurses, emergency workers and other frontline staff can access the supplies and equipment they need to keep them safe and continue caring and protecting our communities.

Investment in the Queensland Government Critical Supply Reserve will improve our preparations and protect our ability to respond to not only pandemics, but also other emergencies, including natural disasters.

When Queensland is faced with a future public health emergency our frontline staff will continue to be able to access the critical supplies they need, where and when they need them.



Message from Dr John Wakefield PSM

Director-General, Queensland Health

Queensland's health system is world-class, providing the best care to our communities.

This is made possible by our frontline workers having access to the materials and equipment they need.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of being well-prepared to respond to public health emergencies and to protect the safety and wellbeing of our community.

Supply chains across the globe have been disrupted by the pandemic, but in Queensland we responded quickly to the resultant supply shortages.

Our swift action allowed us to significantly increase our stockpile for critical supplies.

We have continued to secure the personal protective equipment (PPE) and other essential supplies and distribute these efficiently and effectively to ensure our community continues to receive first-class healthcare.

Queensland's supply and distribution systems are working well, allowing us to enhance the resilience of our supply chain and storage networks from a position of strength.

We have an opportunity to make our systems even more resilient and improve the availability and distribution of critical supplies.

To reduce the impact of global supply disruptions we need to have local supply and manufacturing options for essential products and a reserve of critical goods and equipment that can be quickly moved around the state when needed.

By learning from the pandemic, we can safeguard the necessary supplies, improve our readiness for future events and continue to protect the health and safety of all Queenslanders.

Supply chain disruption

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused disruptions to global supply chains for critical personal protective equipment (PPE) and other products since early 2020.

The experience has demonstrated that changes needed to happen to critical stock supply arrangements, both within Australia and globally.

It has highlighted the importance of robust supply options and storage arrangements that can adapt to deal with uncertainty, complexity and provide security to the state.



Securing supplies for critical care

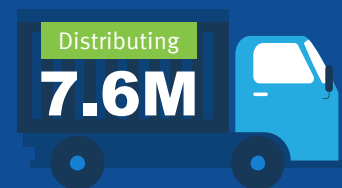
Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic the Queensland Government has responded to global supply chain pressures to secure and safeguard PPE and other critical supplies, including for Intensive Care Units (ICU) and the vaccination rollout.



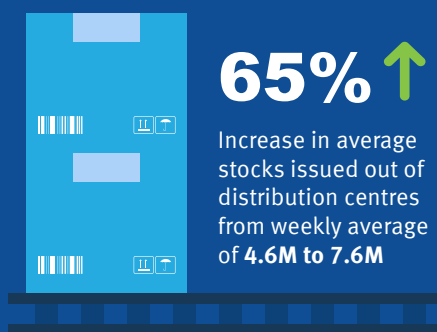
Since January 2020 we have secured

450M

items of critical PPE



items to Queensland hospitals every week
—an increase of **3M items per week**

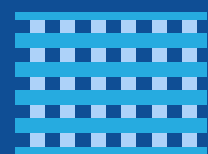


Increased stock of PPE by

630% ↑

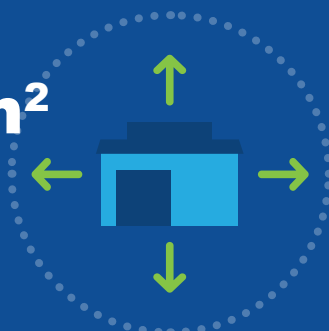
based on an average of 44 days' supply of PPE items pre-COVID-19 and current average of 279 days of supply

Increased our supply reserve capacity by



16,000 ↑
pallets

Secured
19,000m²
of additional capacity across the state for the storage of critical supplies



Supporting the COVID-19 vaccination rollout

7M+

syringes and needles

The way forward

Queensland Government Critical Supply Reserve (QGCSR)

The Queensland Government is establishing a statewide reserve of critical supplies with up to 12 months of stock.

During periods of supply disruption the QGCSR will be accessible by frontline essential services. Goods, equipment, medicines and other critical supplies required to support frontline staff and essential services will always be available to the state.

It will also ensure supply arrangements are not disrupted during a public health emergency. This will mean services to patients and the community are not impacted by supply availability.

When required, the QGCSR will have the ability to expand and rapidly take on additional stock, providing further protection from supply chain disruption.

The supplies will be strategically stored across the state, allowing frontline services better access to stock when they need it.

The QGCSR will operate to

- ✔ Support Queensland in its response to public health emergencies
- ✔ Provide a more robust and lower-risk approach to maintaining critical goods
- ✔ Ensure frontline workers are supported with necessary supplies and equipment to safely do their jobs
- ✔ Support the requirements of Queensland Health and other essential frontline services.
- ✔ Enhance the resilience of supply chain and storage networks
- ✔ Identify supply volumes required to support the safe delivery of essential services
- ✔ Act as a 'buffer' to provide surety for any supply chain volatility



Safeguarding critical supplies

Queensland is securing vital supplies and equipment to strengthen the state's preparedness for responding to any public health emergency.

The QGCSR will hold critical supplies that are vital to delivering frontline services.

The QGCSR will hold the following essential items:

- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Intensive care equipment
- Intensive care consumables
- Specialised drugs and select pharmaceuticals
- Sanitisers, cleaning products and disinfectants
- Medical gases
- Critical pathology supplies.

These items play an essential role in protecting our frontline staff and the community, not only in responding to a pandemic, but also in other emergencies, such as natural disasters.



Supply chain transformation

Transforming how the state stores, supplies and distributes critical stock is an essential part of strengthening the resilience of Queensland's supply chain and reducing the impacts of public health emergencies.

Expanding local supplier and manufacturing options for supplies will further safeguard the availability of critical goods and equipment for frontline services.

Improvement opportunities

Maintaining secure and resilient supply for Queenslanders requires all aspects of procurement, supply and logistics to work together.

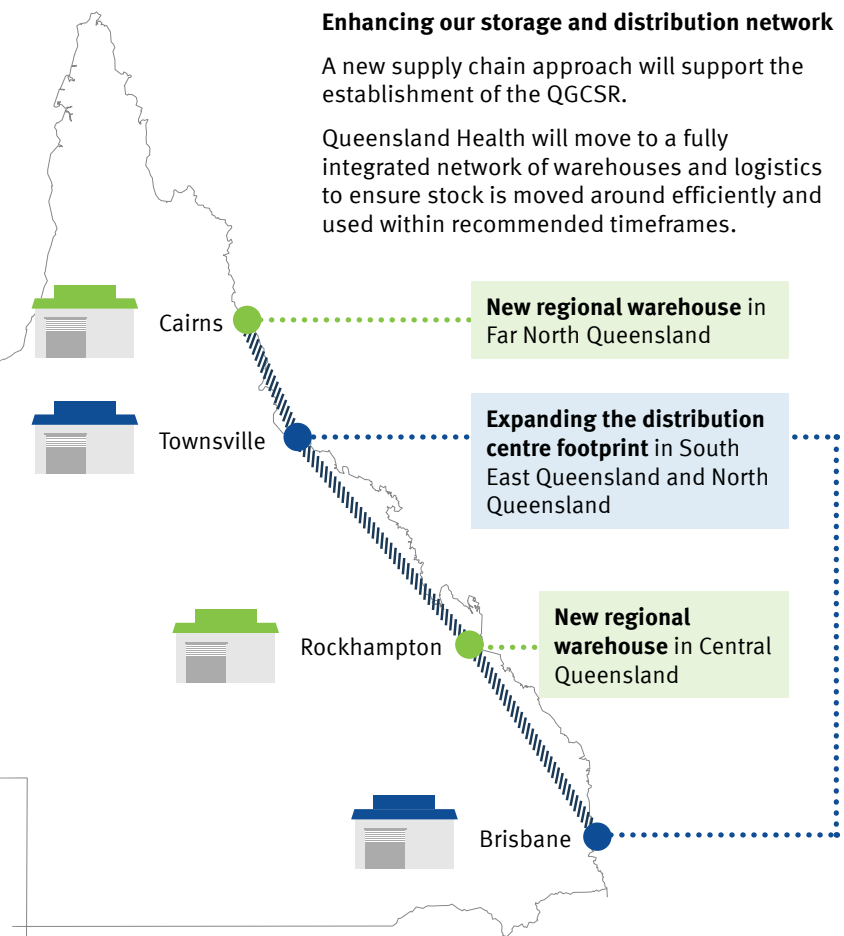
The QGCSR presents an opportunity to improve procurement and supply chain practices to achieve better outcomes across the state.

Initiatives are underway to enhance the overall procurement function to leverage market forces and innovation and to achieve system-wide improvements.

Enhancing our storage and distribution network

A new supply chain approach will support the establishment of the QGCSR.

Queensland Health will move to a fully integrated network of warehouses and logistics to ensure stock is moved around efficiently and used within recommended timeframes.



The enhanced supply chain system:



Strategically disperses critical stock across the state



Increases the number of locations stock can be delivered from



Enables faster delivery times



Provides better access to a wider range of items in more locations



Provides additional solutions for supply if access to a distribution centre is lost (e.g. due to a natural disaster)



Mitigates against supply chain disruption



Benefits Queensland's freight network; with shorter routes, improved fatigue management and cost savings.

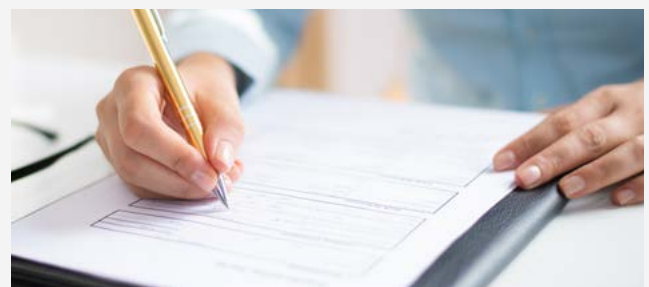


Far North Queensland Regional Warehouse

QGCSR progress update



QGCSR activated — a reserve of supplies is available for approved Queensland Government agencies to access in an emergency event



QGCSR governance formalised and aligned to existing disaster management arrangements



New regional warehouse in Cairns commissioned



New regional warehouse in Rockhampton commissioned

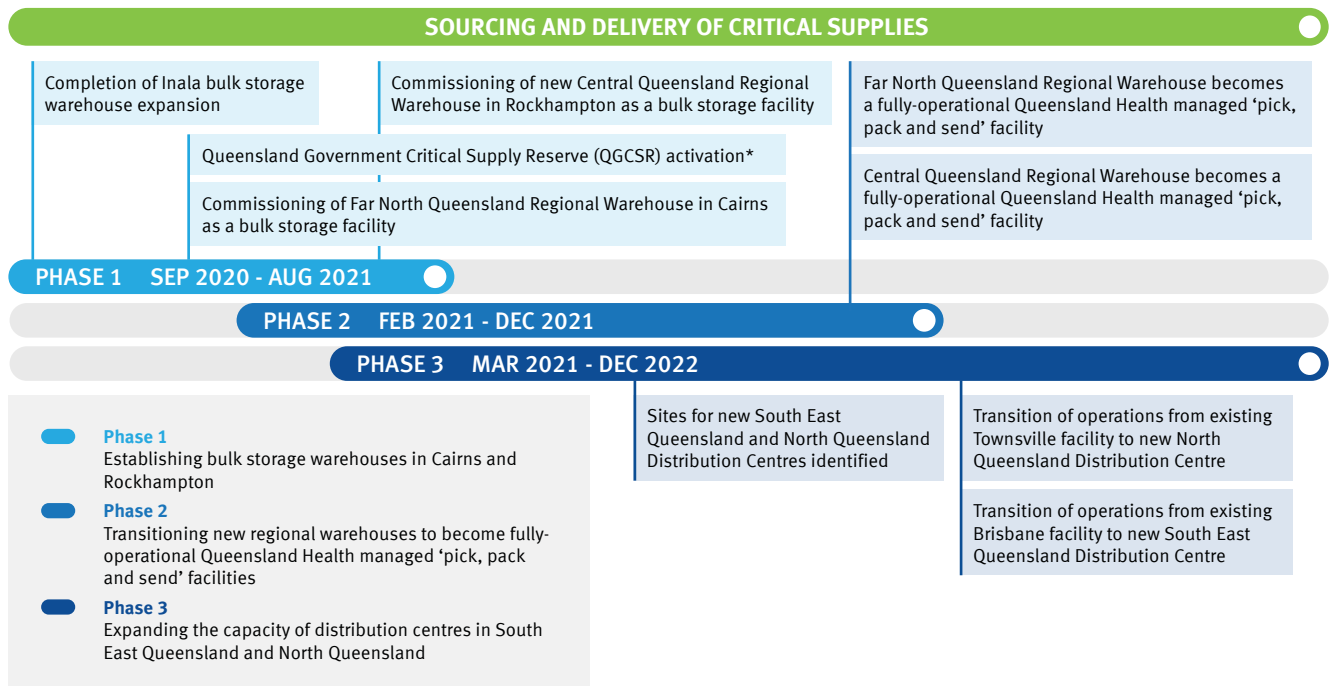
Investing in Queensland

Queensland businesses play a key role in supporting the state's requirements as we recover from the impacts of COVID-19 and build our resilience for the future.

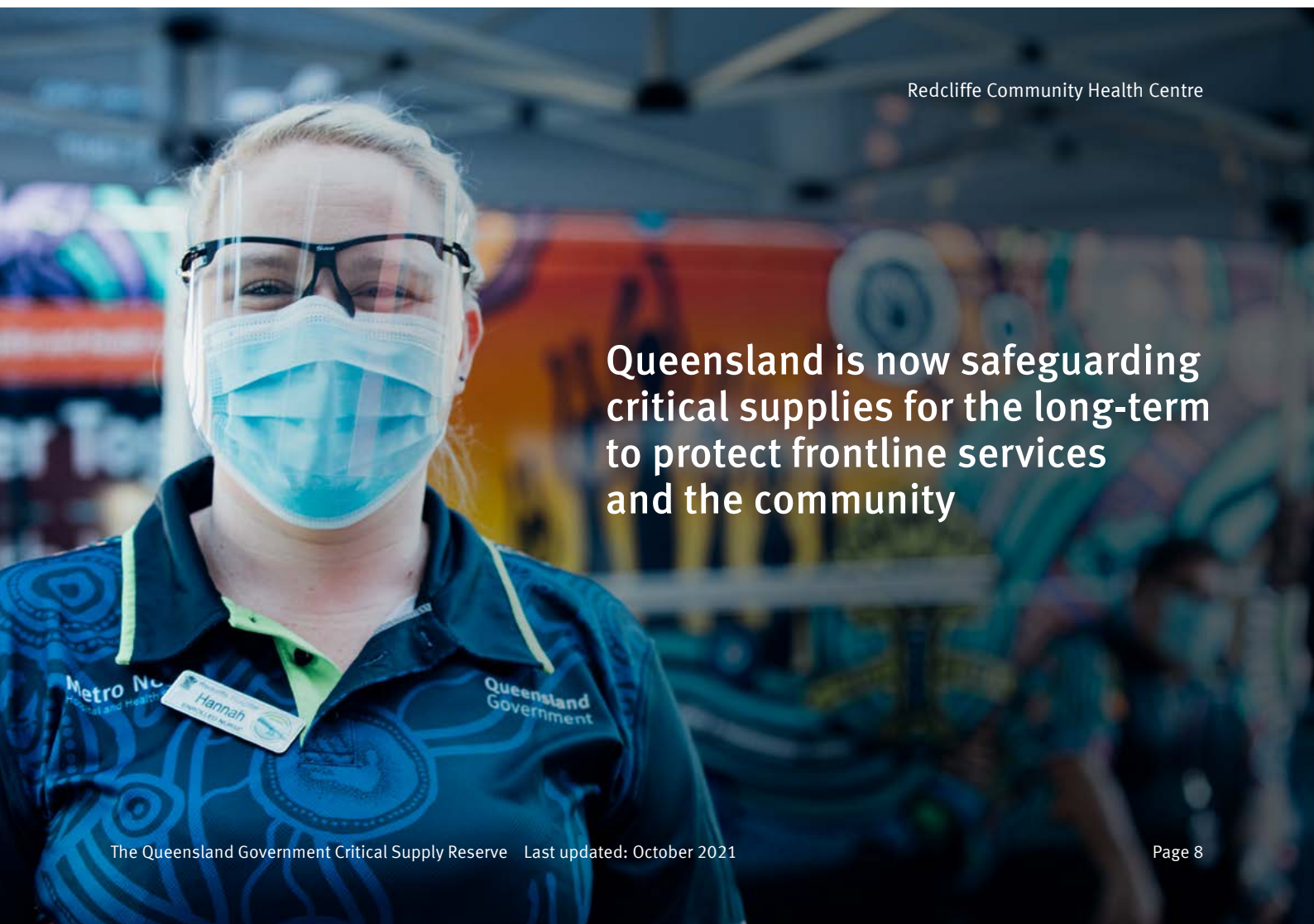
Establishing the supply reserve and enhancing Queensland's supply chain presents significant opportunities for the state, including:

- ✔ Jobs for Queenslanders
- ✔ Enabling local manufacturing
- ✔ Supporting local industry and business
- ✔ Providing certainty to local suppliers and their employees through diverse supply arrangements
- ✔ Maximising regional skills and resources by expanding logistics and distribution networks
- ✔ Delivering value for money through whole-of-government purchasing power
- ✔ Supporting the Queensland economy.

Timeline



*Queensland Government Critical Supply Reserve 'activation' – essential supplies are available in the event of an emergency.



Redcliffe Community Health Centre

Queensland is now safeguarding critical supplies for the long-term to protect frontline services and the community

Securing essential supplies for Queensland's frontline workers



www.health.qld.gov.au

Queensland Government Critical Supply Reserve