



Returning jobs and investment to the North

June – December 2016



Queensland
Government

Returning jobs and investment to the North

As a passionate North Queenslander, I know the region has been doing it tough.

What I've heard from you is that we need large scale investment and more local jobs—and we need to do it on our terms.

I am pleased that this is exactly what the Queensland Government has been doing, with investment across the five priority areas of *Advancing North Queensland* and new jobs being created every day.

When we released *Advancing North Queensland*, I committed to keep you updated on our progress.

I am delighted to present you with highlights of what our government has achieved and work our government is progressing in North Queensland since the release of *Advancing North Queensland*.

I want to keep hearing from you, so North Queensland keep talking, I'm listening and delivering.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Coralee O'Rourke'.

Coralee O'Rourke MP
Minister for Disability Services,
Minister for Seniors and
Minister Assisting the Premier
on North Queensland

Roads



Water and energy



Research and innovation



Tourism, trade and investment



North Queensland Stadium



Roads



✓ Partnering and investing in roads

✓ Connecting people and supply across the North

✓ Creating local jobs

We are building roads, leveraging investment from partners and fast tracking projects to create jobs sooner

- Securing Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program funding, in partnership with the Federal Government:
 - **\$1.2 billion** for Mackay and Whitsunday road infrastructure, **supporting 986 direct jobs** (includes **\$560 million** for the Mackay Ring Road—**supporting more than 600 jobs**), including:
 - Bringing forward the Vines Creek Bridges Replacement project under the Accelerated Works Program, with **\$28 million** over the next four years
 - **\$57 million** to upgrade Sandy Gully Bridge and approaches on the Bruce Highway north of Bowen
 - **\$200 million** for the Townsville Ring Road – open to traffic six months ahead of schedule and 80 per cent of labour, plant, subcontractors and materials sourced locally, injecting **\$106 million** into the local economy
 - **\$76.9 million** for the Gregory Developmental Road (called for tenders for the **\$34.6 million** Cape River Bridge Upgrade, supporting 34 jobs)
 - **\$19.6 million** for the Hann Highway
 - **\$58 million** for the Cairns Southern Access Corridor
 - **\$46.7 million** for a package of four projects set to start on the Bruce Highway in central Queensland, supporting 128 jobs in construction
 - **\$450,000** to begin planning for three overtaking lanes on the Flinders Highway between Townsville and Charters Towers
 - Fast-tracking a range of projects through the Accelerated Works Program

Securing deserved funding from the Federal Government

- Northern Australia Roads Program and Northern Australia Beef Roads Program, which will create local projects worth **\$355 million** and support **394 jobs**

Delivering or jointly funding other key projects

- **\$34.2 million** Bill Fulton Bridge duplication underway, supporting **97 jobs**, as part of the Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program
- **\$70 million** Peaks Downs Highway bridges upgrade underway, supporting **114 jobs** (jointly funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments)
- Called for expressions of interest for **\$30 million** Riverway Drive duplication, supporting **82 jobs** as part of the State Infrastructure Plan
- **\$8.69 million** Bruce Highway Burdekin upgrade, generating **25 jobs** (jointly funded—includes \$1.74 million Queensland Government contribution)

Returning jobs and investment to the North

Roads



- Continuing delivery of the **\$260.5 million** Cape York Region Package (jointly funded with the Australian Government providing \$208.4 million and the Queensland Government providing \$52.1 million) including works on the Peninsula Development Road

We are improving connectivity for people and businesses

- Progressing the business case for the Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor, supported by the Federal Government
- Committing **\$15 million** to build water and roads infrastructure for Elliot Springs, housing 27,000 people in Townsville

Water and energy



✓ Making sure water is available for personal use and industry

✓ Future-proofing water for the North

✓ Exploring new ways to power the North

We are making sure North Queensland benefits from investment in water and energy sources

- Securing a share of the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund (NWIDF):
 - secured up to **\$5 million** for a feasibility study for the Nullinga dam
 - secured **\$2 million** for the Lower Fitzroy River Infrastructure business case
 - Queensland Government is facilitating **\$15 million** in interim funding for successful NWIDF project proponents to make sure studies can go ahead

We are working with locals to future-proof North Queensland's water supply

- Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Charters Towers and Whitsundays Regional Water Supply Security Assessments published
- Mount Isa, Mackay, Mossman and Cloncurry assessments underway
- Offering more than **100,000 megalitres** from the Gulf catchment area

We are exploring new approaches to water and energy supply and creating local job opportunities in the process

- Currently 10 renewable energy projects being developed in North Queensland, with a total installed capacity of **620 megawatts**—including the Whitsunday Solar Farm, the Kidston Solar project and the Collinsville Solar Farm, which are being supported under the Queensland Government's Solar 150 program
- These 10 projects are expected to deliver **\$1.4 billion** in new investment into North Queensland, with more than **1000 jobs** supported during construction
- There are another **435 megawatts** of projects in earlier stages of development
- Mount Isa Water Board investigating the possibility of housing Queensland's first solar powered water supply option
- One of the six key initiatives in the Townsville City Deal is enabling infrastructure—to successfully accommodate growth now and into the future with a reliable and secure energy and water supply

Research and innovation

✓ Investing in research and innovation to boost the economy and create local jobs

✓ Building knowledge and infrastructure to support local research and innovation

✓ Providing support for local entrepreneurs and businesses

We are supporting local research and innovation infrastructure

- **\$10 million** committed to the Cairns Innovation Centre at James Cook University to focus on innovation, commercialisation and entrepreneurship
- Supporting the **Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine**, with the Townsville facility at James Cook University open since October 2016, Cairns facility under construction and a third facility to be built on Thursday Island
- We are waiting for the federal government to announce a decision on the Cooperative Research Centre

We are making sure funding supports ongoing research and innovation in the region, firing up new enterprise

- **\$6 million** invested in the Advancing Regional Innovation Program across Queensland—12 regional innovation funds, each worth \$500,000 over three years—to build momentum for innovation and entrepreneurship by encouraging local entrepreneurs, business leaders and key industries to connect, collaborate and boost grassroots activities in each region
- Two technology start-ups will relocate to Cairns under the \$8 million Advance Queensland Hot DesQ program—Deepblu Incorporated and KoalaSafe
- **\$10 million** Advance Queensland Ignite Ideas fund—Coral Sunscreen awarded \$250,000 to bring product to market

Tourism, trade and investment



✓ Growing the region as a high-end tourism destination

✓ Building Asian tourism

✓ Attracting more investment

✓ Promoting North Queensland globally

We are bringing more visitors to create more tourism jobs

- Advancing Tourism 2016–20 and Advancing Tourism in North Queensland launched at the DestinationQ Forum hosted in Mackay on 25 October 2016
- **\$33.5 million** Advance Queensland: Connecting with Asia Strategy
- First Connecting with Asia Forum held in Cairns in August 2016
- New direct flights from Seoul to Cairns through Jin Air—up to 5000 extra visitors and generating up to **\$7.5 million** in economic impact and jobs for North Queensland
- Two additional Hong Kong Airlines services into the Gold Coast and Cairns. Expected to deliver an extra **\$70 million** in overnight visitor expenditure to Queensland and has the potential to bring an extra 30,000 inbound passengers
- Working with high-end tourism operators to better position North Queensland and building relationships with emerging significant cities in Asia to attract visitors
- A Connecting with Asia proposal put forward by a consortium of leading tourism organisations in Cairns has been given in-principle support to secure a strategic partnership for the China tourism market

Securing investment for North Queensland jobs

- Secured commitments from Adani that its Carmichael Coal project workforce will be sourced from regional Queensland. Adani has committed to supporting up to **600 new jobs** in the next pre-construction phase alone
- Since early 2015, 23 key commonwealth, state and local government approvals have been made on the project and 33 key approval milestones have been reached

We are helping to build a new economy

- North Queensland councils are being urged to submit their job-creating projects after being allocated **\$32.35 million** through the **\$200 million** Works for Queensland, announced in December 2016, supporting jobs and upgrading important regional infrastructure
- The two-year **\$100 million** Back to Work initiative commenced on 1 July 2016 and provides incentives via a wage subsidy for regional employment, including in North Queensland
- On 10 November 2016, the Back to Work 'Youth Boost' was announced, doubling the Back to Work incentive to \$20 000 for regional businesses that hire unemployed young people aged between 15 and 24, with applications open until 28 February 2017

Tourism, trade and investment



- Announced **\$200 million** Jobs and Regional Growth Package incorporating an extra \$160 million on top of the existing \$40 million Industry Attraction Program, which includes:
 - \$130 million boost to the Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund, which will assist private sector projects, economic development and employment opportunities in regional areas facing high levels of unemployment
 - a \$20 million statewide manufacturing program dedicated to supporting Queensland's manufacturing industry
 - additional funding for more young people to be assisted across regional Queensland including in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, the outback and other regions that are facing significant youth employment challenges

Building our Regions funding is supporting North Queensland Councils realise projects supporting jobs and unlocking economic benefits

Round 1

\$28.9 million for North, North West and Far North Queensland

Round 2

- **\$7.9 million** for North Queensland
- **\$3.64 million** for North West Queensland
- **\$5.4 million** for Far North Queensland

Round 3

- Expressions of interest opened 30 January



North Queensland Stadium



✓ Creating local job opportunities and allowing local business to be part of the success

✓ Attracting more investment to the region

Building a stadium we can be proud of – using local know-how

- **750 jobs** to be supported through design and construction of the stadium
- Unveiled the winning design concept for the \$250 million stadium
- Design team appointed that combines the expertise of one of Australia's leading stadium designers with the local knowledge and expertise of Townsville firms
- Expressions of interest for the role of managing contractor closed on 18 January, with the successful managing contractor to be appointed by April 2017
- A key assessment criteria for the selection of a managing contractor will be their ability to provide opportunities **for local industry participation**
- Delivered 21 Strengthening North Queensland events since June 2016 to assist local businesses to get involved

Townsville City Deal

- Australia's first City Deal was signed in December 2016, securing \$100 million in federal funding for the stadium, in addition to the state's **\$140 million** commitment
- Early opportunities include revitalising the CBD and waterfront precinct and the State Development Area