

Hawker Britton

Government Relations Strategy

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Queensland Economic Update – Premier’s CEDA Address

Premier Palaszczuk addressed CEDA for the annual ‘State of the State’ presentation to outline the Government’s economic plan for Queensland.

The plan provides unprecedented support to Queensland businesses, supports local manufacturing, guarantees \$51.8 billion in infrastructure over four years, and delivers critical new energy and water projects in the regions.

Only through a strong health response the Palaszczuk Government is able to deliver a strong economic response.

The plan contains a \$145 million commitment to develop three new Queensland Renewable Energy Zones in southern, central and western Queensland. The goal of this investment is to connect new renewable energy to the existing grid across the State.

The Treasurer, the Hon Cameron Dick MP, concurrently released the Government’s \$13.9 billion Capital Program Update. The 900 initiatives within the plan provides clarity and business certainty for the State’s investment pipeline over the next eighteen months.

Premier Palaszczuk’s economic plan supports 55,000 jobs over the net financial year and builds on the initial response which has assisted businesses which employ 334,000 Queenslanders.

The plan has six key parts:

1. Deliver a health system suitable fit for purpose in a COVID-19 era.
2. Support small and medium size businesses through grants.
3. Support local manufacturing through a \$50 million investment in the ‘Making it for Queensland’ program aimed at supply chain modernisation.
4. Building Queensland with unprecedented infrastructure investment.
5. Supporting the regions with energy and water infrastructure investments
6. Invest in skills and training.

Today’s presentation included new announcements and further clarity around previously announced funds.

Queensland Renewable Energy Zones

The Queensland Government is investing \$145 million to establish three Queensland renewable energy zones (QREZ) across Queensland – the southern, central and northern QREZ. In these areas, it will undertake strategic network investments, streamline the development of new renewable energy projects and work to match industrial energy demand with our cheap, clean renewable energy. Part of this program will also support the deployment of new energy storage in Queensland to power industry over the long-term. The Government will be providing further details around this program in the coming days.

Skills and Training

The Labor Government will seek to continue its major skills and training agenda by extending the ‘Skilling Queenslanders for Work’ program. This extension represents a \$10 million investment in

skills and training. The Government have further announced a \$70 million extension to the successful Back to Work program to encourage employers to hire eligible unemployed Queenslanders; this includes a new Apprentice and Trainee Boost of up to \$20,000. In a regional context, there is a new \$10 million Reef Assist Program to deliver priority environmental projects and create up to 200 jobs in the Great Barrier Reef catchments.

Infrastructure

The Government's infrastructure outlay will include \$13.9 billion in capital works this financial year, \$200 million for a Building Acceleration Fund, \$250 million for local councils to disperse for construction, \$50 million for tourism projects, and \$220 million for housing construction.

Some highlights of the capital works program includes:

- \$6.1 billion in transport infrastructure projects across Queensland including the Ports of Gladstone and Townsville, Cross River Rail, Bruce Highway, Pacific and Ipswich motorways and a wide range of regional roads
- health facility investments such as the \$70 million redevelopment of Cairns Hospital mental health facilities
- over \$16 million for new ambulance stations at Ormeau, Yarrabilba, Munruben and Urraween
- a new QCN Fibre partnership with Toowoomba's Pulse Data Centre to provide better internet for thousands of Darling Downs businesses
- \$20 million towards the new Queensland Apprenticeships Centre at Beenleigh delivering training for high demand industries including renewable hydrogen
- \$3.4 million towards collaborative projects with Balonne, Bulloo, Maranoa, Murweh and Paroo councils to enhance digital connectivity, and
- investment in public safety such as \$16.9 million for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services' regional headquarters at Charlton, near Toowoomba, and the \$52.2 million Wacol Counter-Terrorism and Community Training Centre, as well as new and upgraded fire and police stations around the state.

Further Information

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