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Queensland Government – Economic Support Package – Unite and Recover

The Queensland Government has rolled out billions in economic support to begin rebuilding from the COVID-19 pandemic. This brief occasional paper from Hawker Britton summarises the initiatives across multiple sectors of the state.

The core task of the Palaszczuk Government has been to retain and create jobs, deliver economic growth, and find new sources of investment for Queensland.

Hawker Britton's team in Queensland can help you navigate and interact with the Queensland Government on these critical schemes to rebuilding stronger from COVID-19.

COVID Response: The Queensland Government has committed over \$6 billion in initiatives to manage the health response and to support Queensland business.

1. **A \$1 billion concessional Jobs Support Loan facility**, interest-free for the first 12 months. Application information [here](#).
2. Up to **\$950 million in payroll tax relief** including refunds, payment holidays and deferrals for eligible businesses as well as a tax exemption for JobKeeper payments.
3. An **Industry Support Package** focused on large and regionally significant businesses to ensure they will be able to scale up when economic conditions improve. The Government is seeking industry engagement to determine program specifics.
4. **\$500 million to assist workers** and businesses who lose their job or income, including the creation of the Jobs Finder portal.
5. **\$400 million in support for retail and commercial tenants**, delivered as land tax relief and payment deferrals. Further information [here](#).
6. **\$500 million in utilities bill relief for households and businesses**, a \$500 rebate for eligible small and medium sized businesses. These will be automatically applied to electricity bills.

The Government continues to roll out **new announcements** and areas of investment in line with the Unite and Recover Plan:

1. The **Building Acceleration Fund**, \$200 million to fast track shovel ready projects from local councils, developers and companies that deliver significant economic benefits to local communities. Criteria have been released [here](#).
2. A **\$150 million rescue package for Queensland universities** to safeguard tertiary sector jobs and courses through a five-year loan facility.

These packages are part of the Government's Economic Recovery Strategy:

1. Build new infrastructure
 - a. **Fast-track the delivery of the State Infrastructure Plan**; initially a \$51.8 billion outlay over four years with a strong regional focus.
 - b. **Identify and support private projects** which deliver economic benefit and support jobs.
2. Industry focus

- a. Traditional strengths
- i. **Supporting the regions**
 - The \$175 million Jobs and Regional Growth Fund to increase private sector investment in the Advance Queensland priority areas and create new jobs.
 - ii. **Resources**
 - \$10m new economy minerals initiative to upscale the Collaborative Exploration Initiative and support exploration activity for new economy minerals for emerging technologies.
 - Valeria coal mine – declare the \$1.5b Valeria Project a coordinated project.
 - iii. **Tourism**
 - \$50m to fast-track tourism projects.
 - \$15m airline route support.
 - \$8.93m national parks works and jobs boost – to provide visitor infrastructure upgrades.
 - Using the Queensland Investment Corporation to negotiate with the administrators of Virgin Australia to keep the airline and its headquarters in Queensland.
 - iv. **Construction**
 - Cross River Rail construction project – investing \$4.1 million a day into the Queensland economy, employing 2, 400 people and creating over 160 apprenticeships;
 - \$100m housing construction to boost housing supply, drive economic activity;
 - \$50m SEQ community stimulus program, local government to support minor works and projects;
 - \$106m support for home building:
 - First home owners grant - \$15,000 first home owner grants.
 - Regional home building boost – \$5,000 grant for buyers of a new home (as principal place of residence) in a regional location (in addition to \$15,000 for first home owners).
 - \$10m seniors and accessibility assistance, critical home maintenance.
 - \$1.175m to upgrade existing regional TAFE training campuses.
 - v. **Manufacturing**
 - \$50m program to grow advanced manufacturing capacity.
 - vi. **Agriculture**
 - \$5.5m digital transformation in agribusiness – to develop integrated supply chains that improve traceability, biosecurity and food safety.
 - \$5m to support e-commerce in key markets and assist coordination of demand for additional regular air freight services.
 - \$2m agribusiness diversification assistance – to build capability and explore potential diversification opportunities in agricultural businesses, including for tourism.
 - vii. **Small business**
 - \$100m in small business grants to support small business through ‘hibernation’.

viii. Further industry initiatives

- \$100,000 Qld NZ export program – to establish Trade and Investment pathways and opportunities for new and existing exporters between Queensland and New Zealand.
- \$23.16m taxi support package – to provide one off and upfront payments to operators, licence holders and booking entities.

b. Emerging strengths

i. Arts and culture

- \$11.3m to offset revenue losses in our music and performing arts venues and organisations.
- \$4.2m to provide a pipeline of performing arts and live music to support our cultural and tourism recovery.
- \$2.9m partnerships with local councils, venues, artists, festivals and organisations to continue employment and provide unique experiences.
- \$4.15m to support temporary outdoor infrastructure, capital grant funding and to fund a virtual venue for performances and the development of an online Indigenous arts and crafts sales platform.

ii. Renewable energy

- \$17m to support industry to build a state of the art facility in Brisbane that provides world class training for solar and renewable energy.

iii. Mining equipment technology & services;

- \$650,000 METS Accelerator Program to grow small to medium sized businesses by enhancing business capabilities.

iv. Screen industry

- \$85.7m under the Production Attraction Strategy

v. Arts and Major Events

- Attracting national sporting codes into Queensland

Further Information

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Further Hawker Britton Occasional Papers on the activities of the Queensland Government and other State Governments are available [here](#)