



# CENTRAL AND WESTERN QUEENSLAND INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

March 2023



The Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning connects industries, businesses, communities and government (at all levels) to leverage regions' strengths to generate sustainable and enduring economic growth that supports well-planned, inclusive and resilient communities.

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*Cover image: Gladstone Harbour looking south east (Source: Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (DRDMW))*

*Inside cover image: High voltage transmission lines crossing the Calliope River, Gladstone (Source: DSDILGP)*

# Contents

▼ Foreword	6
▼ Introduction	7
▼ Regional opportunities and challenges	10
▼ Central and Western Queensland's strategic regional priorities	12
▶ <u>Healthy and growing communities</u>	14
▶ <u>Resilient and connected region adapted to climate change</u>	16
▶ <u>Diversify agriculture, mining and tourism</u>	18
▶ <u>Harness the opportunities of decarbonisation</u>	22
▼ State infrastructure response	27
▼ Future opportunities	39
▼ Implementation and review	42

# Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP) acknowledges the First Nations peoples in Queensland: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their connections to the lands, winds and waters we now all share.

We pay our respect to Elders, past and present. We also acknowledge the deep relationship, connection and responsibility to land, sea, sky and Country as an integral element of First Nations identity and culture.

The Country is sacred. Everything on the land has meaning and all people are one with it. We acknowledge First Nations peoples' sacred connection as central to culture and being. We acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of First Nations peoples and commit to shaping our state's future together. DSDILGP recognises the contribution of First Nations peoples and communities to the State of Queensland and how this continues to enrich our society more broadly.

## THE YHURRI GURRI FRAMEWORK 2021-2024

The Yhurri Gurri Framework 2021-24 (the Framework) outlines DSDILGP's ongoing commitment to grow First Nations participation in its everyday business with initiatives that support First Nations communities, businesses and peoples across Queensland. It is part of DSDILGP's commitment to support the reframed relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through the Statement of Commitment.

Regional infrastructure plans support the Framework's 'Structural Reform' initiative which recognises the need to draw on perspectives and knowledge of First Nation peoples in legislation, policy and program design. Regional infrastructure plans are developed in consultation with First Nations peoples, embedding their perspectives, priorities and knowledge into each plan's strategic economic and social priorities, and infrastructure priorities to guide place-based State infrastructure planning and investments.

*The Yhurri Gurri design conveys the different pathways to growth and building which speaks to the department's approach to bringing community together, both physically and philosophically (Source: DSDILGP)*



## ▼ CASE STUDY

### Darumbal Agreement – an enduring legacy

The Queensland Government and the Darumbal People Aboriginal Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporate – the Traditional Custodians of the land at the Rookwood Weir site – have signed an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) that will deliver benefits to the Darumbal People for generations to come.

An ILUA is a voluntary agreement entered into by the Traditional Custodians and the project owner which for Rookwood Weir is the Queensland Government. The agreement gives certainty around the anticipated footprint of the Rookwood Weir Project on Country and offers a range of benefits to compensate and mitigate for any footprint impacts.

The Darumbal People Rookwood Weir Project ILUA was registered on 27 June 2022. In a first for Queensland, the agreement will provide the Darumbal People with a water allocation from Rookwood Weir in perpetuity once the weir is completed. This agreement provides the Darumbal People with a benefit that can provide an income stream for many years and be used to support the programs of the Darumbal People's choosing.

A second agreement has also been signed by the Gaangalu Nation People and the Queensland Government within the footprint of the Rookwood Weir Project further upstream of the weir site. The agreements recognise how important the land and water are to the Traditional Custodians and have served to provide both a path for the project to progress and continued access to sacred waters for cultural, spiritual and environmental use.



*The Fitzroy River including the landscape and water resources the Queensland Government are working with the Traditional Owners on (Source: Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (DRDMW))*

*Riverside Park walkway on the bank of the Fitzroy River, Rockhampton (Source: Tourism and Events Queensland)*

# Foreword

## DEPUTY PREMIER'S FOREWORD

Central and Western Queensland's future is looking bright.

The region that has powered some of the state's greatest advances looks to grow and prosper even more in the next two decades as a key location for the new industries that the world will need as global economies transform to be powered by clean, renewable energy.

Central and Western Queensland has always been a resource industry superpower, but in the years to come, the changing demand for renewable energy will create more jobs in more industries.

The Central and Western Queensland Infrastructure Plan (CWQIP) will enable us to use that demand to locate more of the value chain here in Queensland. We'll become not just a resources superpower but a manufacturing innovation superpower as well. And we'll ensure the value from that economic change drives better health, housing, connectivity and water security for this region.

We can't do this work alone. The CWQIP, informed by local government, industry and local stakeholders, can only be delivered in partnership.

We are committed to seeing this plan deliver outcomes for the people of Central and Western Queensland. More jobs in more industries, diversification of the economy in emerging and growth industries and thriving, liveable communities where Central and Western Queenslanders love living, working and playing.



**The Honourable  
Steven Miles MP**

Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure

## MINISTER BUTCHER'S FOREWORD

The Central and Western Queensland region already contributes so much to the Queensland economy.

As a long-time Gladstone local and the proud State Member for Gladstone, I understand the importance of planning for long term infrastructure to ensure this growth continues.

Based on local consultation, the CWQIP outlines key infrastructure challenges and opportunities and strategic regional priorities for the next 20 years to foster investment partnerships to drive regional economies.

As with all major regional development, new infrastructure and industries will be balanced with the social and environmental aspects to ensure the fantastic lifestyle Central and Western Queensland offers is maintained.

I am confident we can achieve this, as this plan takes a holistic and collaborative approach to the region's development.

As the world seeks to decarbonise, this region is on the cusp of a new economic boom and becoming a leader in clean manufacturing and hydrogen. The CWQIP will support the development of these industries through highlighting the common-user infrastructure, affordable housing, health, skills and training facilities and services and other infrastructure opportunities the community will need for decades to come.



**The Honourable  
Glenn Butcher MP**

Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water

# Introduction

Regional infrastructure plans are a new Queensland Government initiative supporting the State's intent for a greater focus on place-based infrastructure planning to deliver upon the key strategic priorities of a region, identified by the region.

Regional infrastructure plans have a long-term 20-year outlook identifying strategic economic and social priorities, and infrastructure priorities for the region to guide State infrastructure planning and investments, in partnership with other levels of government and industry where possible.

The priorities identified by the regions through the regional infrastructure plans will inform the State's Statutory Regional Plans (SRPs) (developed under the *Queensland Planning Act 2016* and *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014*) and complement the State's industry development priorities. Collectively, this new integrated approach to planning will set the strategic direction for regional growth and provide timely regional responses to economic, social and environmental changes, combining economic strategy with land use and infrastructure planning.

The regional infrastructure plans also align with the *State Infrastructure Strategy 2022* (SIS) which sets policy objectives for infrastructure planning by agencies to ensure that infrastructure delivery meets the changing needs of Queensland's population and economy.

The CWQIP is the first of the seven regional infrastructure plans to be developed to support the implementation of the SIS. The diverse region stretches from Rockhampton, Gladstone and Yeppoon in the east to the remote outback communities of Birdsville, Bedourie and Boulia along the western border. It includes the local governments of Banana, Barcaldine, Barcoo, Blackall-Tambo, Boulia, Central Highlands, Diamantina, Gladstone, Livingstone, Longreach, Rockhampton, Winton and Woorabinda.

The CWQIP identifies four strategic regional priorities focusing on traditional and emerging industries, connectivity and liveability to ensure regional businesses maximise opportunities presented by decarbonisation and a changing industrial landscape so that the region remains an attractive place to live, work and visit. State infrastructure planning activities that align with and support these priorities have also been identified.

The challenges, opportunities, strategic regional priorities, and regional infrastructure priorities identified in the CWQIP were developed in partnership with the local governments across the region and other key stakeholders including industry, community groups, and First Nations stakeholders including Darumbal Group and Port Curtis Coral Coast Group. Consultation involved workshops as well as individual stakeholder meetings.

The Central and Western Queensland region and its emerging growth industries will play a key part in the decarbonisation of the Queensland economy. To this end, the CWQIP builds on the *Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan* (QEJP), the *Queensland Hydrogen Industry Development Strategy* and the *Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan*. The CWQIP is informed by and aligns with key policies across the State and other levels of Government and industry to collectively ensure a smooth transformation of local economies and accelerate development of emerging priority industries to maximise the opportunities of decarbonisation and future industry development in the region.

By articulating the region's economic advantages and priorities, the CWQIP can help drive private investment through increasing investor confidence. The CWQIP will inform the strategic planning of all levels of government, business and industry to support a more coordinated approach to sequencing and prioritising infrastructure planning and investment.

# Central and Western Queensland Infrastructure Map

THE REGION'S KEY INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS THAT UNDERPIN THE ECONOMY

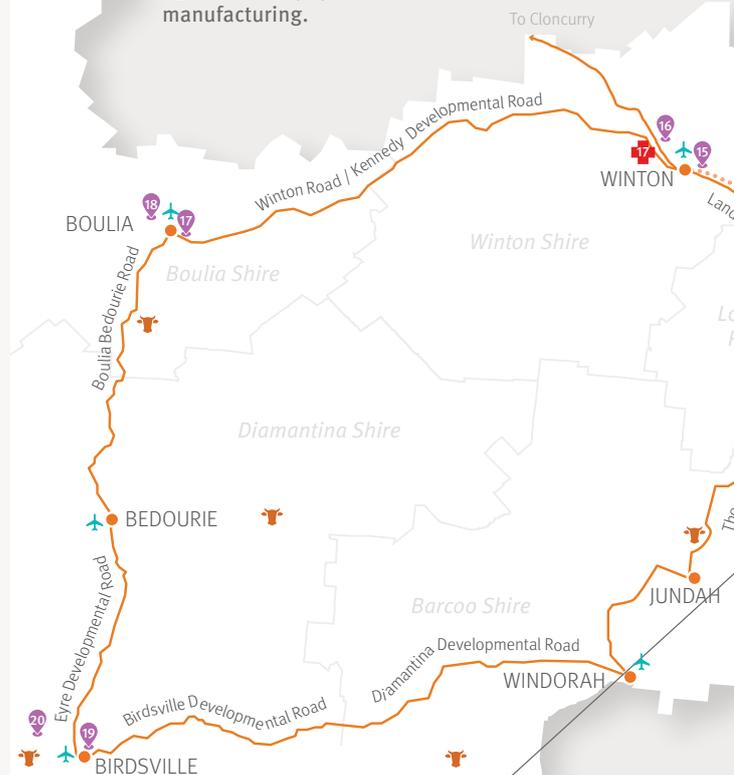
## LEGEND

	Port		Hospital
	Airport	1. Gladstone	
	Coal fired power station	2. Rockhampton	
	LNG plants	3. Yeppoon (Capricorn Coast Hospital)	
	Gas fired power station	4. Mount Morgan	
	Rail network	5. Biloela	
	Solar farm	6. Moura	
	Large cattle station	7. Baralaba	
	Coal mine	8. Theodore	
	Meat processing plant	9. Woorabinda	
	Feral pest fencing	10. Blackwater	
	Water storage	11. Emerald	
	1. Eden Bann Weir	12. Springsure	
	2. Fitzroy River Barrage	13. Alpha	
	3. Awoonga Dam	14. Barcaldine	
	4. Rookwood Weir	15. Blackall	
	5. Callide Dam	16. Longreach	
	6. Fairbairn Dam	17. Winton	
			Tourist attraction
		1. Lady Musgrave Island	
		2. Heron Island	
		3. Town of 1770	
		4. Auckland Hill and East Shores	
		5. Great Keppel Island	
		6. Byfield State Forest	
		7. Rockhampton Museum of Art	
		8. Capricorn Caves	
		9. Blackdown Tableland National Park	
		10. Carnarvon National Park	
		11. Blackall Woolscour	
		12. The Tree of Knowledge and Aust. Workers Heritage Centre	
		13. QANTAS Founders Museum	
		14. Stockman's Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre	
		15. Waltzing Matilda Centre	
		16. Australian Age of Dinosaurs	
		17. Min Min Encounter Tourism Centre	
		18. Boulia Camel Races	
		19. Simpson Desert Racing Carnival: Betoota, Birdsville and Bedourie	
		20. Big Red Bash	



## Central Queensland Renewable Energy Zone region

The Central Queensland Renewable Energy Zone (Central QREZ) region is located in a strong part of the network with multiple power stations and proximity to heavy industries near Gladstone. The Central QREZ region will support the emerging renewable hydrogen sector and energy-intensive industries looking to switch to renewable energy such as intensive minerals processing, ag-tech, agricultural equipment and low-emission cement manufacturing.



## Wild dog cluster fencing

The Queensland Feral Pest Initiative cluster fencing program has covered 130 properties in 30 clusters, enclosing 1.58 million hectares of land. Sheep numbers are rebounding with the RAPAD region forecast to have 950,000 sheep in 2026, up from 400,000 sheep in 2016.

## Port of Rockhampton and the Bajool Explosives Reserve

The Port of Rockhampton is the hazardous goods hub in Australia, handling ammonium nitrate, tallow, explosives, and general cargo, while the Bajool Explosives Reserve provides for the safe storage and distribution of explosives across the region. Together, the two facilities are strategically important for Queensland's mining industry and national security.

Map for illustrative purposes only

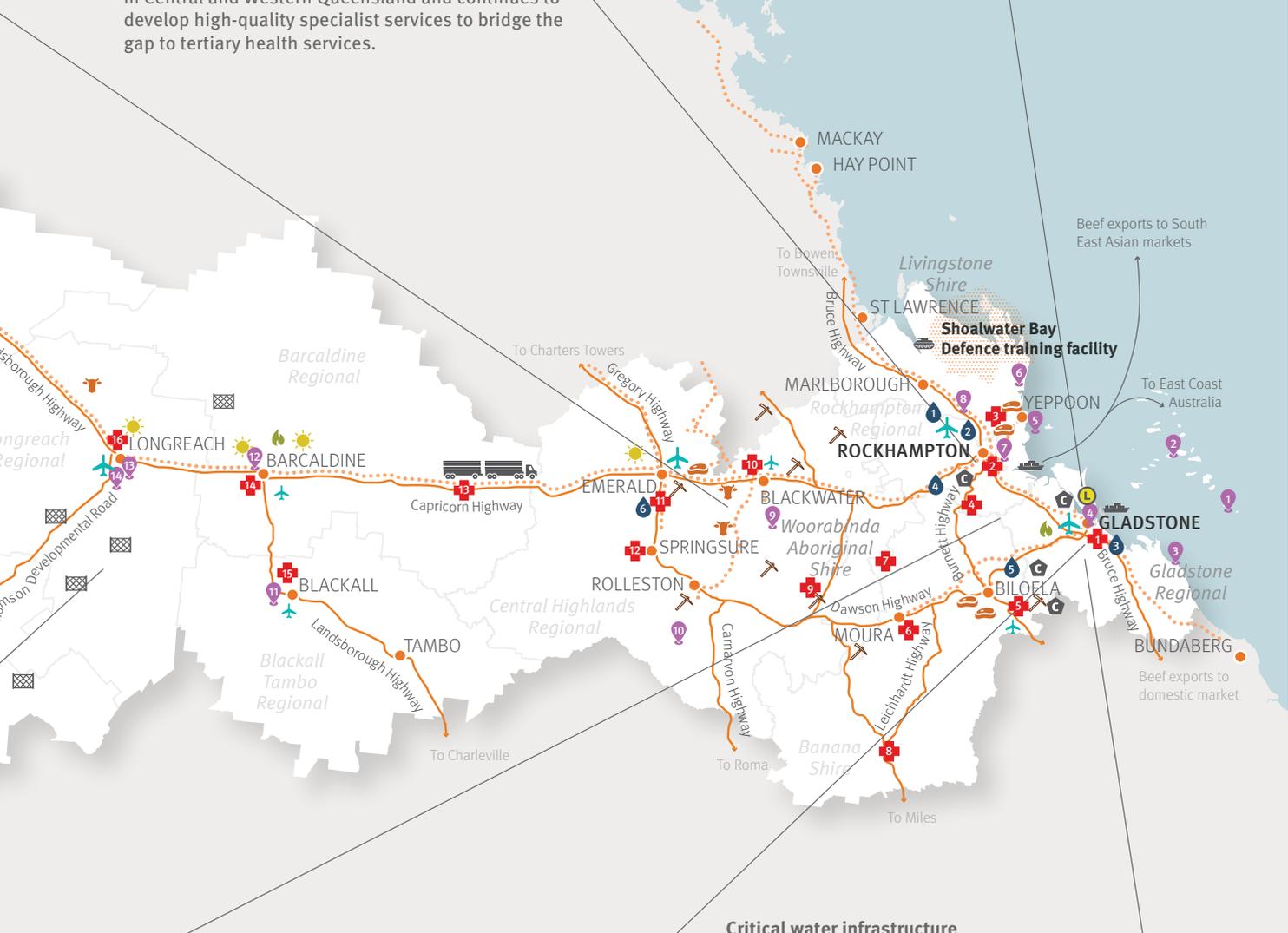


**Port of Gladstone**

Located in a natural deep-water harbour, the Port of Gladstone is Queensland's largest multi-commodity port. The port has eight main wharf centres (20 wharves total) handling over 30 different products including coal, LNG, aluminium, cement, petroleum, timber, grains, and containers, and has significant development and expansion potential. As a priority port under the *Sustainable Ports Development Act 2015*, the port is permitted to undertake capital dredging to enable expansion of port facilities.

**Health infrastructure – Rockhampton Hospital**

Rockhampton Hospital is one of the major hospitals in Central and Western Queensland and continues to develop high-quality specialist services to bridge the gap to tertiary health services.



Beef exports to South East Asian markets

To East Coast Australia

Beef exports to domestic market

**State Development Areas**

State Development Areas (SDAs) are established by the Coordinator-General to promote economic development in Queensland. The five SDAs in Central and Western Queensland are a combination of industrial hubs located close to transport networks (Gladstone SDA) and infrastructure corridors for the co-location of infrastructure (Callide Infrastructure Corridor, Galilee Basin SDA, Stanwell-Gladstone Infrastructure Corridor, and Surat Basin Infrastructure Corridor).

**Critical water infrastructure**

Sunwater's Awoonga-Callide pipeline and Stanwell pipeline provide critical water supplies to the Callide and Stanwell power stations. Rockhampton Regional Council's Fitzroy River Barrage provides urban, industrial and commercial water supply along with water for the Stanwell power station. The Gladstone Area Water Board owns and operates the Awoonga Dam, along with more than 200 kilometres of bulk water pipelines, pump stations, reservoirs and treatment plants to ensure supply and security of water to industrial, commercial and urban customers.

the largest... Explosives... storage... Queensland's supply chains.

# Regional opportunities and challenges

The Queensland Government consulted Central and Western Queensland local governments, industry and community to identify the most important opportunities and challenges influencing the region's future prosperity. All levels of government, the private sector and community have a role in realising the opportunities and addressing the challenges.

Key opportunities identified by stakeholders include the potential to:



- ▶ plan and deliver **residential development** that supports sustainable growth
  - ▶ **capitalise on significant solar and wind renewable energy resources** with new investment in the Central QREZ region to support industry decarbonisation and energy stabilisation for all communities
  - ▶ **capitalise on investment potential for a major new renewable energy and green hydrogen industry** as global demand for these growth industries continue to grow and international partnerships are forged
  - ▶ **manufacture renewable energy and hydrogen components** to be used locally and exported globally, such as wind towers, electrolysers and batteries, through maximising local supply chain capabilities
- ▶ **develop and grow** emerging industries such as:
    - ▶ AgTech (innovation across the value chain to improve efficiency, profitability or sustainability)
    - ▶ new economy minerals
    - ▶ drone technology
    - ▶ defence supply chains
    - ▶ aviation maintenance, repair and overhaul
    - ▶ mining innovation and decarbonisation
    - ▶ green chemical manufacturing
    - ▶ resource recovery
  - ▶ **expand and diversify tourism**, capitalising on increased demand for cultural tourism experiences and leveraging the region's existing natural and built tourist attractions
- ▶ **improve the resilience, sustainability and capacity of water infrastructure** to meet forecast water demand from existing and new industry
  - ▶ improve inter- and intra-regional transport and freight **connectivity** to support industry growth and access to and between communities
  - ▶ deliver **digital infrastructure** that keeps pace with evolving service delivery and e-commerce needs across the region
  - ▶ plan and support development at the **Port of Gladstone** to increase trade in the freight and containerisation market and export of renewable energy products
  - ▶ implement a place-based approach to **social infrastructure planning** which combines public, private and not-for-profit services in one location
  - ▶ **develop the training offered locally** to build a workforce pipeline across new and traditional industries and service sectors

## Strong and collaborative regional leadership

Regional leadership groups provide a vital role in informing future planning priorities for new infrastructure. Strong community and industry leadership groups serve the region in understanding and developing solutions to regional challenges and maximising opportunities including:

- ▶ local governments and the Central Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (CQROC), Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD) and Regional Roads and Transport Groups
- ▶ economic development and industry groups including Advance Rockhampton, Capricorn Enterprise, Central Highlands Development Corporation, Gladstone Engineering Alliance, Gladstone Industry Leadership Group
- ▶ Australian Government's Regional Development Australia Central and Western Queensland Committee
- ▶ Queensland Government's OneGovCQ regional leadership network

## Competing land, water and energy interests

The region is committed to the continual growth of its traditional industries alongside its new industry opportunities. Careful planning for the competing demands for land, water and energy between new and existing industries such as the renewable energy, hydrogen production, agriculture, manufacturing,

mining and urban requirements will continue to be managed while maintaining the preservation of the World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef. Strategic land-use planning matters will continue to be addressed through the statutory regional planning process.

### Key challenges identified by stakeholders include:



- ▶ the need to **manage growth** to ensure it is financially, economically, environmentally and socially sustainable and inclusive, and builds on and improves community liveability
- ▶ the **greenhouse gas emissions-intensive** nature of the existing industry base
- ▶ the impacts of **severe weather and drought** on infrastructure, industry and community
- ▶ the need for adequate **water availability** to meet the needs of existing users and to support economic and industry development and agricultural growth amidst climate change and rainfall variability
- ▶ the importance of a well-functioning **transport network**, particularly end-to-end connectivity between key nodes and modes of the freight network and cross-regional connectivity
- ▶ the need for **digital and telecommunications infrastructure to keep pace** with industry needs and community expectations (e.g. NBN Fixed Line Broadband covers 75 per cent of premises in the region, compared to a national average of 91 per cent<sup>1</sup>)
- ▶ **challenges in the operation of local housing markets** including financing, land availability, investment cycles, affordability and diversity of housing supply to ensure new residents can move to the region
- ▶ difficulties **attracting and retaining workers** (including professional and skilled workers), particularly in remote areas, can lead to lower levels of service provision
- ▶ limited availability of **affordable childcare**, particularly in remote areas negatively impacts workforce participation
- ▶ an **ageing population** which poses challenges for service delivery and workforce capability
- ▶ **slow growth or decline in population** which can lead to a reduction of services
- ▶ the need to continue to invest in **health services**, including mental health and telehealth which can discourage people from moving to, or staying in, a place
- ▶ **vast distances** between communities which presents challenges for delivery of social services
- ▶ a **small ratepayer base** which impacts local governments' ability to supply and maintain infrastructure to keep pace with maintenance requirements, community needs and population growth
- ▶ the **impacts of major population variations on infrastructure** during the tourist season and major events (e.g. outback towns' populations can more than double in size)
- ▶ the need to **skill local workforces** in response to new technologies and industries particularly in remote communities

## Responding to Global Climate Change

Global market and policy shifts will create both challenges and opportunities for Central and Western Queensland as the global economy decarbonises. Queensland has committed to achieving zero net emissions by 2050, with an interim target to reduce emissions by 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. This includes a commitment to achieve new renewable energy targets of 70 per cent by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035. Meeting these targets in a way that provides investment certainty and jobs

growth across the region will require a clear policy pathway and innovation in all sectors of the Queensland economy. As global decarbonisation picks up pace over the next decade and beyond, the challenges and opportunities associated with transitioning existing high-carbon emitting industries to maintain and extend their competitiveness while driving the development of emerging clean energy growth industries will be the priority of the Queensland Government. The QEJP is a significant step to achieve this.

<sup>1</sup>Estimates provided by Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (DCHDE)



## ▶ CENTRAL AND WESTERN QUEENSLAND STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Central and Western Queensland's strategic regional priorities for economic and social development.

*Rockhampton central business district alongside the Fitzroy River (Source: DSDILGP)*

Four strategic regional priorities were identified for Central and Western Queensland, informed by consultation with regional stakeholders including local government, peak bodies, industry, community and First Nations stakeholders including Darumbal Group and Port Curtis Coral Coast Group, and a review of the region’s existing strategic documents and available data.

The four strategic regional priorities are complementary and interconnected, setting out where Central and Western Queensland wants to be in 20 years.

The strategic regional priorities leverage the Central and Western Queensland’s competitive strengths in emerging industries and support traditional industry strengths of agriculture, resources and tourism. Central and Western Queensland’s aspirations for industry and economic growth are underpinned by improved digital, transport and freight connectivity across the region and social and community infrastructure that increases liveability for residents and visitors.

The strategic regional priorities will guide and coordinate infrastructure planning and prioritise investment by state agencies, local government and industry, as well as align other state-wide policies and strategies through a place-based planning framework. These strategic priorities will also inform land use planning considerations as part of the review of relevant SRPs for the region.

As a guide for strategic infrastructure investment over the long term, each strategic regional priority includes a snapshot of what future success looks like, focus areas, and priorities for infrastructure.

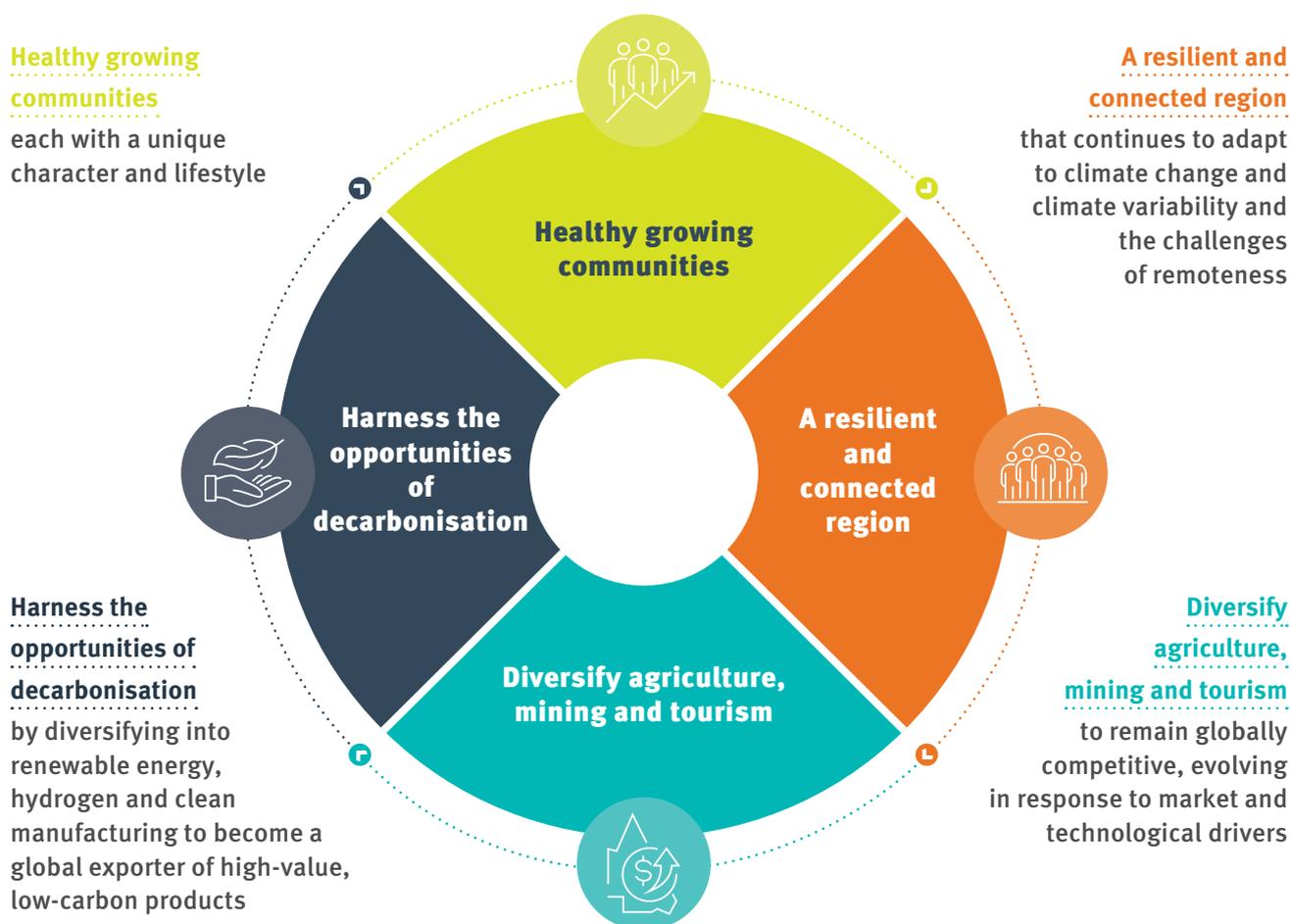


Figure 1: Strategic Regional Priorities



# Healthy, growing communities

Healthy growing communities each with a unique character and lifestyle.

## Our vision for the future

Central and Western Queensland is a highly liveable region that retains its existing population and attracts increasing numbers of people who proudly make this place their permanent home. The region's environment is maintained and enhanced, further boosting liveability.

The region's population is among the fastest growing in the country due to the excellent lifestyle and economic opportunities available. Services keep pace with industry and population growth in key industrial centres, with planning for housing, health, and education well prepared for future growth. Arts, culture and recreation facilities meet the needs of residents, leveraging the region's natural environments. Innovation in housing design is in response to changing climatic conditions across the region. New housing supply also caters for changing demographics including household sizes, household income levels, an aging population and people with disabilities. Critical health services are provided in person or remotely according to need. Place-based approaches to social service provision bring economies of scale. Excellent digital infrastructure means technology can deliver many services remotely.

The region's training and education facilities support programs to ensure high educational attainment levels and produce highly knowledgeable and skilled people keen to stay in the region and contribute to its economic and social future. Major infrastructure projects maximise opportunities for local business and workforce participation.

## REGIONAL FOCUS AREAS



### Health

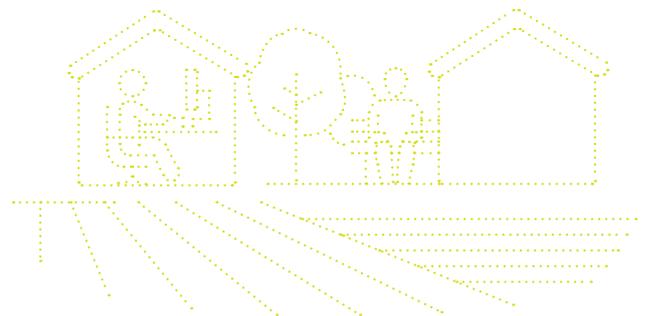
A range of hospitals, multipurpose health services, primary health centres, outpatient clinics, general practices, dentists, allied health services and pathologists provide health care across the region. The location of health services is population driven with fewer services permanently located in remote communities. The Royal Flying Doctor Service plays an important role in the region providing and connecting people to health care.

There is a regional demand for more health services, delivered as close to home as possible and more specialist health services at key regional health facilities. The increasing trend of telehealth (complementary to in-person care) provides opportunities to extend health services across the region.



### Housing

Housing is a fundamental building block for sustainable economic development, with an appropriate and affordable supply of purchase and rental housing supporting workforce attraction and retention. There is currently a housing and rental shortage across the region. The drivers of the housing market differ across the region and responses need to involve all levels of government, the not-for-profit and the private sector, to address the complex mix of variables including regulations, policies, financing, cost and type of materials and development risk.



## REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

The following regional infrastructure priorities outline the types of infrastructure needed to realise the strategic regional priority. They have been developed in partnership with Central and Western Queensland stakeholders. All levels of government and the private sector have a role in planning and delivering on the below priorities.

- ▼ **Upgraded aging healthcare assets** to better support contemporary healthcare models aligned with delivering care closer to home, virtual care and patient transfer between clinic and home
- ▼ **New, innovative and affordable housing for rent or purchase** for all members of the community to support the attraction and retention of workers with proposed solutions, especially in small and remote communities
- ▼ **Accommodation** to support the attraction, retention and safety of staff, through the delivery of more onsite accommodation and renovating existing accommodation
- ▼ Continued investment in **education and training infrastructure** that support local workforce training to meet the needs of existing industries; the growing service industries of health, disability services, aged care, tourism and hospitality; and new industry skills in AgTech, robotics, renewable hydrogen and other renewable energy technologies
- ▼ Continued investment in **childcare facilities** and services, particularly for outer regional and remote areas
- ▼ **Digital and telecommunications infrastructure** that improves connectivity and support the provision of services in schools, hospitals, clinics, homes and businesses, to enhance liveability, for example, in remote locations which may lack the digital capacity to increase bandwidth and can suffer from Information and communications technology (ICT) outages
- ▼ Provision of **aged care facilities** as well as improving and expanding existing facilities, including facilities to support ageing in place
- ▼ Investigate options for **multi-use or shared use facilities** for the delivery of public, private and not-for-profit services in the one location to improve access and support for the community
- ▼ **Inclusive and sustainable arts, culture and recreation infrastructure** is supported through targeted investment to enhance community access
- ▼ New infrastructure considers opportunities to incorporate and make sustainable **use of the natural environment and support biodiversity**
- ▼ **Recognition and promotion of First Nations languages** through use of First Nations place names
- ▼ **Leverage local governments' funding and delivery of sustainable infrastructure** to support their economic development and community liveability, including:

  - local government infrastructure maintenance
  - trunk infrastructure, particularly in remote communities and regional communities experiencing rapid population growth
- ▼ **Long-term strategies for sustainable infrastructure** planning to underpin core and essential services, including electrical, water, telecommunication and data networks, **for remote communities** to support community liveability and industry sustainability
- ▼ **Capitalising on major infrastructure projects** with major workforces (relative to the community):

  - explore opportunities for support buildings (e.g. site offices, work camps, etc) to deliver benefits to community beyond the project
  - considers the capacity of the local area to accommodate and service the temporary increase in population



### Education & Training

Public, private and independent schools provide primary and secondary education across the region. Early childhood education and care is available in most places, however remote communities have fewer services, and sometimes none. Vocational training is generally accessible across the region, again with fewer options for remote communities. Central Queensland University has a significant presence, providing vocational training and tertiary education, with four university campuses in the region.

Continual evolution of the knowledge and skills required by industry will drive education and training needs. While service provision tends to be driven by population, increasing digital access across the region provides new opportunities for increased access and ways of learning. Innovative training models can also improve access and participation, particularly for remote communities.



# A resilient and connected region

A resilient and connected region that continues to adapt to climate change and climate variability and the challenges of remoteness.

## Our vision for the future

While distances remain great and the climate continues to present new challenges, the region has dealt with these challenges, remaining strong and adaptable. Improved digital infrastructure means people are connected, irrespective of where they live. Resilient transport and digital infrastructure enable communities to remain connected and able to function effectively even under the most challenging circumstances. Coastal infrastructure is able to withstand the impacts of sea level rises and water infrastructure adapts equally well to floods and drought. A focus on building sustainable infrastructure around a clean energy economy brings sustainable prosperity that mitigates the potential for a repeat of boom-and-bust cycles of the past.



Road train on unsealed roads in Boulia Shire  
(Source: Tourism and Events Queensland)

## REGIONAL FOCUS AREAS



### Climate resilience

Central and Western Queensland is no stranger to extreme weather, and climate change is likely to exacerbate the frequency and severity of these events. Predicted regional climate change impacts include higher temperatures, hotter and more frequent hot days, more intense downpours and more frequent severe bushfires. Harsher fire weather is predicted in the region's remote west, while fewer frosts, rising sea levels, more frequent sea-level extremes, and warmer and more acidic oceans are predicted in central and coastal areas. Climate change creates increased risk to infrastructure and supply chain resilience, with resilient infrastructure imperative to community and business recovery and the continuous movement of road, rail, and air freight. To thrive, the region needs resilient townships along with water, energy and digital infrastructure that is connected, reliable and robust. Connectivity across road, rail and air transport is imperative to keep the region strong and agile.



### Regional connectivity

Regional connectivity enhances liveability, attracting new residents for new jobs. Communities are connected to each other and export markets by a vast transport network comprising road, rail, air, and sea, and increasingly through digital means. E-commerce and the development of new export markets are putting more freight on the network, and digital transformation of businesses and services will create new economic opportunities for the region and drive demand for new and upgraded infrastructure.

## Queensland Electric and Hydrogen Super Highways

Queensland is extending its Electric Super Highway out west, building 24 new fast-charging stations in western Queensland as part of the state's commitment to reducing transport emissions and improving connectivity for electric vehicle road users. New sites include Winton, Longreach, Barcaldine, Blackall, Emerald and Injune.

The Queensland Hydrogen Super Highway is also being planned along the state's heavy haulage transport routes. A number of projects are proposed, or in development, that will be leveraged as the Hydrogen Super Highway is developed. These include Emerald Coaches plans to convert its full fleet to hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles, and Sealink Marine and Tourism's plans to design, construct and use a passenger ferry (operating between Gladstone and LNG facilities on Curtis Island) powered by hydrogen fuel cells.



Queensland Government's Zero Emission Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Co-fund Scheme will strengthen the State's electric vehicle charging network by co-funding more public fast-charging infrastructure in partnership with industry and local government (Source: Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR))

### REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

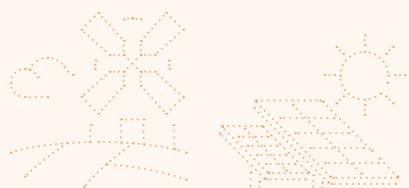
The following regional infrastructure priorities outline the types of strategic infrastructure needed to realise the above strategic regional priority. They have been developed in partnership with Central and Western Queensland stakeholders. All levels of government and the private sector have a role in planning and delivering on the below priorities.

▶ **Targeted improvements** to the region's **transport, freight and active travel networks** to **increase resilience** to extreme weather events improve linkages between communities and support active tourism, including:

- ▶ Rockhampton Airport flood mitigation to improve airport access and resilience to flooding
- ▶ investigation of resilience options in relation to upgrades for key regional road corridors to mitigate risks against extreme weather events, rising sea levels and more frequent severe bushfires
- ▶ consideration of storm surge risks and likely sea level rises in infrastructure planning
- ▶ infrastructure repair and replacement focusing on 'building back better'

▶ **Investigation of opportunities** at the region's **airports** to improve connectivity and business opportunities

▶ **Digital and telecommunications infrastructure** that support **disaster response and recovery** and visitor and resident **safety** (particularly in remote locations) as well as increased access to digital services such as health, education, and e-commerce



▶ **Cost-effective water infrastructure**, including dams, weirs and pipelines to support drought resilience of communities, growth in the agricultural and industrial sectors and the growth of new priority industries including the emerging hydrogen industry

▶ **Resilience and redundancy built into core and essential services**, including electrical, water, telecommunication and data networks, particularly, for remote communities





# Diversify agriculture, mining, and tourism

Diversify agriculture, mining and tourism to remain globally competitive, evolving in response to market and technological drivers.

## Our vision for the future

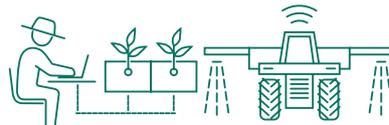
Agriculture, mining, and tourism industries are still mainstays of the Central and Western Queensland economy and a significant provider of jobs and prosperity. Digital infrastructure has evolved to support the adoption of the latest technologies across these industry sectors including advanced manufacturing to support diversification into ag-tech and mining-tech value chains. Because we held on to more of the value chain of our exports, we get more of the benefits.

High-security water is guaranteed through cost-effective and resilient water infrastructure that meets the needs of farmers, industry, and the community. Transport infrastructure enables tourists, workers, and freight to move seamlessly into, out of, and across the region, efficiently transporting people and goods to where they need to be. New markets are opened as new products are developed and exported to the world, including new income streams for landholders leveraging natural capital markets.



*The shift to low-carbon and nature positive economy presents opportunities for new and traditional industries alike (Source: Stockphoto)*

## INDUSTRY FOCUS AREAS



### Agriculture

Agriculture covers nearly 90 per cent of Central and Western Queensland, dominated by beef cattle grazing and broadacre cropping as well as irrigated cotton, and increasing amounts of horticulture and sheep farming. Future growth in the sector will be driven by responding effectively to the challenges of climate change and changing weather patterns, addressing biodiversity loss, securing access to cost-effective water, and adopting technology to improve productivity. A growing agricultural sector can support the increased manufacture of parts and equipment in the region. These actions enable the sector to increase the regional economy's production of high-value produce, increase the processing of produce in the region and create new and diversified products and economic activity including organic produce and wool processing.

The region is well placed to develop its offsets industry associated with carbon markets, carbon farming, and carbon capture technologies to contribute to the state's target of zero net emissions by 2050.

The shift to a low-carbon and nature positive economy presents significant opportunities for new industries to grow. For the region's land and agriculture sector there are emerging opportunities to deliver productivity, profitability, social, cultural and environmental benefits by embracing the adoption of innovative circular economy principles, new technologies to improve energy efficiency and adoption of regenerative agriculture principles aligned with the delivery of nature-based solutions through natural capital markets to sequester carbon and enhance biodiversity.

*Conserving Nature – a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Queensland* highlights that protecting what we already have and keeping it in good condition is the most efficient and cost-effective approach to conservation of biodiversity. The ecosystem services provided by biodiversity and a stable climate are critical to sustaining the region’s agriculture industry into the future. Therefore, promoting avoiding negative impacts on biodiversity remains a key focus of our efforts.

By strengthening climate and environmental credentials, agriculture within the region can ensure long-term market access, particularly to premium and sensitive markets, and maintain access to investment capital. The region, in its transition to low emissions agriculture, is well positioned to harness decarbonisation opportunities across the agribusiness supply chain.



Queensland Alumina Ltd alumina refinery, Parsons Point, Gladstone  
(Source: DSDILGP)



## Mining and Resources

As Central and Western Queensland covers portions of both the Bowen and Galilee coal basins, the region contains many of the state’s metallurgical coal mines, supported by major engineering and fabrication houses and manufacturers based in the region. The basins are rich in a variety of minerals including cobalt, gold, limestone, magnesite, molybdenum, nickel, oil shale and gemstones. The region also contains a significant number of Key Resource Areas for extractive materials. Potential exists to identify new Key Resource Areas to protect supply of construction materials (e.g. sand, quarry rock) to meet future market demand for infrastructure projects.

The region provides approximately 25 per cent of the global liquefied natural gas (LNG) supply<sup>2</sup>. Three major Coal Seam Gas–LNG facilities on Curtis Island off Gladstone convert natural gas from coal seams in the Surat and Bowen basins for export to markets including China, Malaysia, Japan, South Korea and Singapore. The LNG industry is also supported by extensive infrastructure corridors for the co-location of gas pipelines, as well as rail lines, water, and electricity transmission lines. The Callide Infrastructure Corridor State Development Area (SDA) co-locates three active coal seam gas pipelines to transport gas through to the liquefied natural gas plants on Curtis Island. The potential of oil and gas reserves in the remote west of the region is also being explored.

The Bajool Government Magazine is one of the most strategically important explosives reserves in Australia and services the region’s mining industry and beyond. It imports via the Port of Rockhampton, transports to Bajool and assembles, stores and distributes explosives from Bajool to regional consumers.

Decarbonisation, automation and onshoring operations will change how mining businesses operate over the longer term.

<sup>2</sup><https://www.tiq.qld.gov.au/international-business/invest-in-queensland/industry-opportunities/resources>



## Tourism

The tourism sector has significant growth potential, particularly in the outback, targeting the family, drive and fly-drive markets and benefitting from higher visitor spend. New accommodation and development of authentic experiences, products and events that reflect the unique characteristics and heritage of the regions within Central and Western Queensland can drive visitation into the future and encourage dispersal of tourism's economic benefits. The region has the potential to build on its range of eco, adventure and authentic First Nations cultural experiences, historic towns, homesteads and mining sites, local events and festivals, trails, and place-based attractions such as museums and galleries.

The region's tourism industry relies on Queensland's nature and biodiversity being a healthy and beautiful attraction. Southern Great Barrier Reef attractions such as Great Keppel Island and the World Heritage-Listed Marine National Park Heron Island have important biodiversity conservation values that are valuable for tourism with the increased global demand for natural experiences. Mitigating threats/negative impacts to the ecosystems that support these places is therefore both an environmental and economic imperative.

Agritourism—tourism-related agricultural experiences, services or products that connect visitors with people, places, or products on a farm—presents opportunities for farmers and farming communities to grow both their agricultural and tourism economies.

### ▼ CASE STUDY

#### Infrastructure Underpinning Regional Agriculture

The **Longreach Saleyards** are being redeveloped to become the **Western Queensland Livestock Exchange**. This project is being delivered through the Queensland Government's Jobs and Regional Growth Fund and Building our Regions initiative and is supported by Longreach Regional Council and AAM Investment Group who are undertaking a four-stage redevelopment. The \$3.2 million second stage will include new cattle weighing and drafting infrastructure, ring selling and amenity facilities to provide expanded selling and export opportunities for cattle throughout Queensland and beyond.

The **Central Queensland Smart Cropping Centre** in Emerald is a flagship facility bringing together research, development, and extension in areas like farming systems, agronomy, crop innovation and plant protection. Enhanced by the latest innovations in AgTech and data sciences, the centre will deliver world class research for Queensland's cropping sector. Collaboration will be at the heart of the Centre's work, bringing together a network of organisations to build an AgTech ecosystem focused on future farming systems for a variable climate.

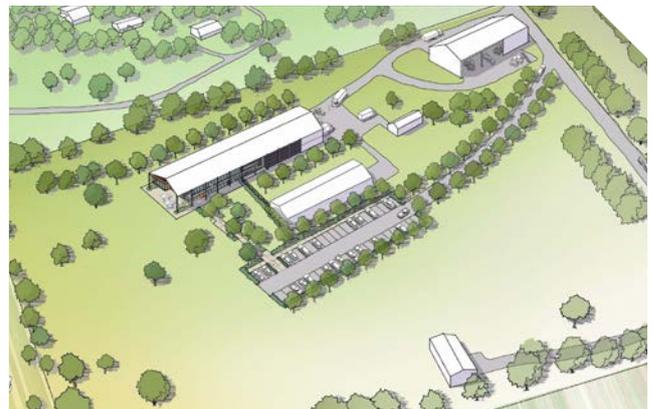


Figure 2: Smart Cropping Centre Precinct Design Drawing

## REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

The following regional infrastructure priorities outline the types of infrastructure needed to realise the strategic regional priority. They have been developed in partnership with Central and Western Queensland stakeholders. All levels of government and the private sector have a role in planning and delivering on the below priorities.

▼ **Continued investment in the region's transport network** to support industry supply chains, drive-in drive-out workforce, and tourism to enable end-to-end connectivity between key nodes and modes of the freight network, with particular focus on east-west connectivity including:

- ▶ investigating options to improve road and rail freight efficiency and rail freight access to and from the Port of Gladstone
- ▶ continuing to invest in the National Land Transport Network
- ▶ continuing to invest in sealing and upgrading outback roads, which supports tourism and local economies and key roads for the transport of cattle
- ▶ investigating the viability of extending Inland Rail to the Port of Gladstone

▼ **Telecommunication infrastructure that enables access digital services** such as health, education, and e-commerce, support growth and adoption of new technology in industry, and improve tourist and resident safety when travelling and working in remote areas

▼ **Tourism infrastructure** which recognises and celebrates the region's historic past and matches modern aspirations and capability. This includes safe transport access and signage, ecotourism experiences and event facilities; and high-quality accommodation, modern public amenities and reliable Wi-Fi to enhance visitor experiences

▼ **Increased support for local governments' delivery and maintenance of sustainable infrastructure** that supports the tourism industry

▼ **Integrated arts and culture** into assets such as public buildings and infrastructure

▼ **Improved marine infrastructure, and public transport infrastructure** and services in line with industry, needs and broader population growth

▼ **Maintenance of shipping navigation channels** consistent with relevant state and federal approvals to facilitate the future growth of the **Port of Rockhampton**



▼ **Strategic investment in water infrastructure** to create new growth opportunities in key economic sectors and increase security of access to water across the region, including:

- ▶ bulk water storage and water supply schemes that provide opportunities for market driven change to higher value crops and sectors
- ▶ water supply to industry enablers to support value adding, processing and improved access to higher value markets and supply chains.

▼ Development of **common-user port infrastructure** that supports multiple customers to facilitate industry demand such as Port of Gladstone container handling facilities and other commodity specific infrastructure

▼ **Development and maintenance of shipping navigation channels** consistent with relevant state and federal approvals to facilitate the future growth of the **Port of Gladstone**



Australian Age of Dinosaurs museum, Winton (Source: Tourism and Events Queensland)



# Harness the opportunities of decarbonisation

Harness the opportunities of decarbonisation by diversifying into renewable energy, hydrogen and clean manufacturing to become a global exporter of high-value, low-carbon products.

## Our vision for the future

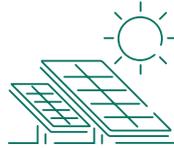
Central and Western Queensland has been the State's energy powerhouse and will continue to play a key role in the transformation of Queensland's energy system. As the world shifts away from carbon-intensive energy sources, the region has diversified its energy generation with new investments in renewable generation.

Affected workers have been supported through the energy transformation through a Jobs Security Guarantee and landmark Queensland Energy Workers' Charter. New regional transmission and training hubs have been built in Gladstone (and Townsville) for critical skills as part of the energy transformation. These hubs have provided workers with access to world class transmission training facilities with technology to deliver remote support solutions to help build Queensland's SuperGrid.

Cleaner energy has transformed heavy industries into exciting new industries and focused training has brought a new skilled workforce in renewable hydrogen and clean energy manufacturing.

The region's focus on clean energy manufacturing means it is now an integral part of the global supply-chain for hydrogen as well as the manufacture and maintenance of renewable energy components. Infrastructure, land use planning, and industry development has proceeded in a coordinated and sequenced manner with government and industry working together, whilst planning proactively for community well-being, social cohesion, and liveability.

## INDUSTRY FOCUS AREAS



### Renewable energy generation and storage

The Central and Western Queensland region has significant solar and wind resources and is in a strong part of the electricity network, facilitating the supply of existing and future industries. The QEJP and the Queensland SuperGrid Infrastructure Blueprint identify the Central QREZ region as an area for large-scale renewable energy development. The Central QREZ region will be progressively developed, with the Blueprint identifying investments to unlock an initial (up to) 3.3 gigawatts (GW) of additional renewable energy capacity

Renewable energy and storage also present energy sustainability opportunities for the region's small remote communities. The development of Indigenous Land Use Agreements between proponents and Traditional Owners presents an opportunity to share the benefits of renewable energy development with First Nations peoples. Battery energy storage is a focus of the QEJP and is gaining momentum with multiple projects identified across the region by domestic and international proponents.



Ergon Energy's Windorah Solar Farm, uses five concentrated solar dishes (Source: DSDILGP)

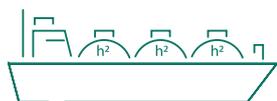
## Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan

Decarbonisation is complex and significant challenge facing the region with the pace and scale of change likely to escalate in the next decade. The QEJP outlines a pathway to transform Queensland's energy system and achieve the existing 50 per cent Queensland Renewable Energy Target by 2030, as well as two new targets of 70 per cent renewable energy by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035. The energy transformation will support industries and the Central and Western Queensland region to decarbonise.

The Queensland SuperGrid Infrastructure Blueprint, which supports the QEJP, outlines the critical infrastructure investments needed to transform the system. This includes the connection of new renewable generation, the delivery of new transmission and storage, including pumped hydro, and the conversion of publicly owned coal-fired power stations into clean energy hubs. The energy transformation will require both public and private sector investment and has the potential to deliver substantial new economic growth and employment opportunities. A collaborative and place-based approach to the transformation will ensure the new growth opportunities are captured, regional benefits maximized and that regions are support to transition to a low carbon future.

The QEJP outlines:

- ▼ how Queensland will position the manufacturing sector to capitalise on the emerging opportunities arising from the energy transformation. This includes building capacity to manufacture components for priority technologies (e.g. wind, batteries)
- ▼ a commitment to develop a Future Energy Workforce Roadmap which will outline steps to build and develop workforce capability across the renewable energy industry, while making sure the right training is available in the right locations
- ▼ a commitment to partner with communities to realise the benefits and opportunities created by the energy transformation, including a \$200 million Regional Economic Futures Fund



### Hydrogen production and export

The Queensland Government, through multiple agencies and government-owned businesses, is actively involved in responding to the opportunity that green hydrogen<sup>3</sup> represents for regional development and economic growth. With existing industrial precincts already established in the Gladstone SDA, its expandable world class priority port and renewable energy resources, Gladstone is well-placed to harness the opportunities a renewable hydrogen industry will bring. Strategic planning is underway to look at the impacts of potential hydrogen value chains on infrastructure corridors including separation distances, land availability, water availability, renewable generation capacity and network requirements.

Significant infrastructure development and augmentation particularly for energy and water will be required to service the demand for large-scale hydrogen production and also activate broader economic opportunities. This may provide opportunities for common user infrastructure to maximise the size of the industry while reducing overall costs and impacts to the community and the environment. As infrastructure expands, and industry is connected to the renewable energy backed Queensland SuperGrid, opportunities will present throughout the region to capitalise and make the Central and Western Queensland region a major hub for renewable hydrogen.

<sup>3</sup> Green hydrogen is hydrogen generated by renewable energy



## Clean and advanced manufacturing

The manufacturing sector underpins many other sectors of the Central and Western Queensland economy and the Gladstone and Rockhampton Manufacturing Hubs are working with local manufacturers to ensure new technologies and practices are adopted to enhance production and competitiveness. Central and Western Queensland's manufacturing sector is well positioned to harness the opportunities of a low carbon future through capturing local manufacturing opportunities from the significant infrastructure investment required under the QEJP.

Building Queensland's SuperGrid will support onshore manufacturing of components for renewable energy, storage and transmission infrastructure to create more jobs in Central and Western Queensland.

Queensland Government funding under the QEJP also commits to help build capacity in the manufacturing sector and encourage local content in Queensland to supply future projects. This commitment includes undertaking detailed local supply chain studies across priority renewable technologies and in the Central QREZ region. Funding has also been invested to deliver a grant program for energy efficiency initiatives for small and medium manufacturing enterprises to increase their competitiveness in a low carbon future. The Queensland Government's *Advanced Manufacturing 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan* will support Central and Western Queensland manufacturers to grow their business and create jobs with more local content on renewable energy projects.

## Gladstone State Development Area

State Development Areas are established by Queensland's Coordinator-General under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* to provide dedicated land to facilitate economic development. The Gladstone SDA is Central and Western Queensland's economic powerhouse with a concentration of existing large-scale industry, linear infrastructure and land for future industrial development. Established in 1993, the 26,934 hectare SDA is adjacent to the Port of Gladstone, with connections to major rail networks and Australia's national highway.

The Coordinator-General controls planning and development in the SDA through a development scheme and supports the Queensland Government's strategic priorities for the region, including those related to the hydrogen industry, through a wide range of powers to plan, deliver and coordinate large-scale infrastructure projects. The Coordinator-General is planning for the hydrogen industry by working with proponents and government agencies to coordinate infrastructure and land use planning in the SDA.

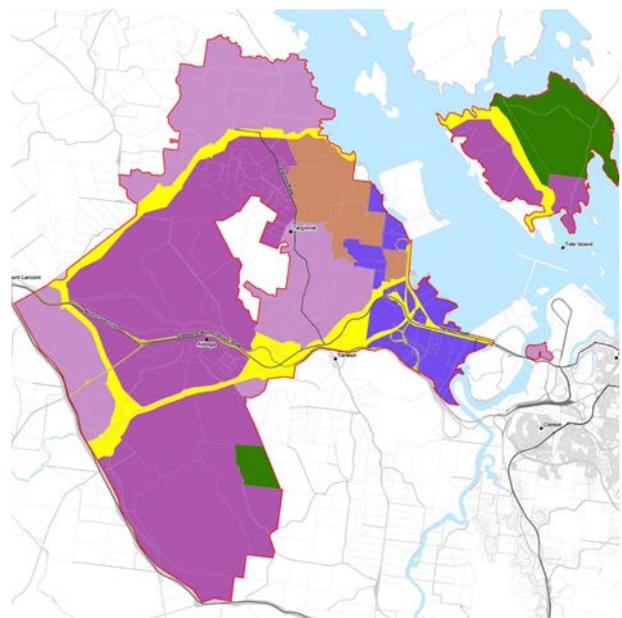


Figure 3: Gladstone State Development Area

## ▼ CASE STUDY

### Central QREZ region

The QEJP outlines substantial investment in generation, transmission and storage to build the Queensland SuperGrid. Powerlink will invest \$365 million into the Central QREZ region to enable up to 3,300 megawatts (MW) of new renewable capacity to connect to the grid. This short-to-medium term investment will increase renewable connection capacity and reinforce the Gladstone grid to support decarbonisation of the region.

This foundation investment will unlock additional renewable energy capacity and support existing industrial consumers in the region to transition to clean, reliable and affordable electricity. The investment will also form the foundation for further growth and connection of more renewable energy and help establish the Banana Range Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) and Fitzroy REZ.

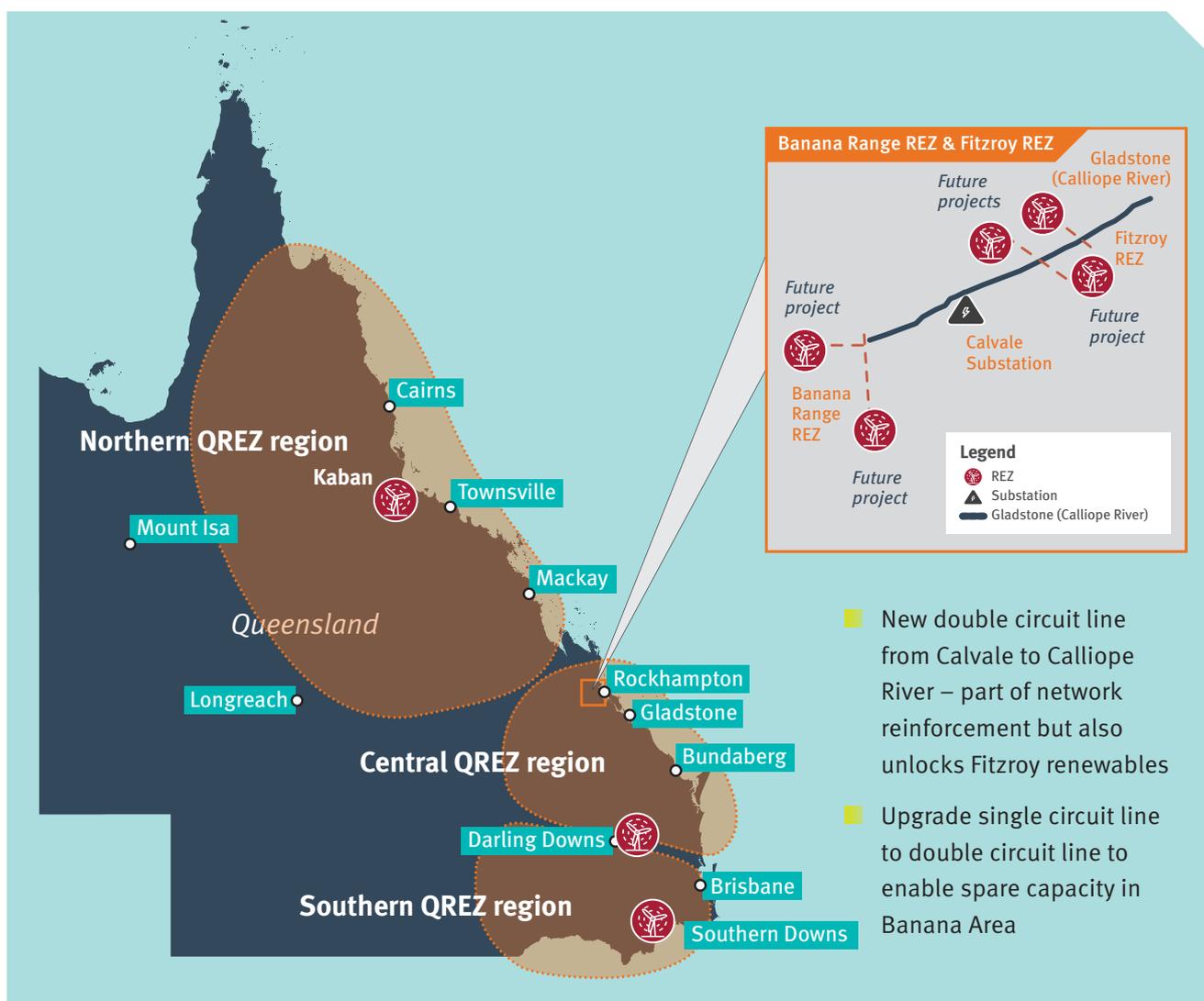


Figure 4: SuperGrid Infrastructure Blueprint (Central QREZ Region)

## ▼ CASE STUDY

### Green Energy Manufacturing Centre



FFI GEM Centre Artist Impression (Source: FFI)

The Queensland Government's commitment to developing a sustainable hydrogen industry is attracting several domestic and international hydrogen proponents, with many investing significant funding into renewable hydrogen projects.

Fortescue Future Industries' (FFI) Green Energy Manufacturing (GEM) Centre will see Gladstone become a hydrogen and renewables manufacturing superpower as it commences the manufacture of electrolyzers with future stages planned for the production of green energy components including wind turbines, solar panels and batteries.

The GEM Centre will be powered by green energy and become a major new pollution free green manufacturing hub. GEM will be the first facility in Australia able to make multi-gigawatt-scale electrolyzers used worldwide in hydrogen production.

## ▼ REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

The following regional infrastructure priorities outline the types of infrastructure needed to realise the strategic regional priority. They have been developed in partnership with Central and Western Queensland stakeholders. All levels of government and the private sector have a role in planning and delivering on the below priorities.

- ▼ **New and upgraded common user energy infrastructure** leveraging the Central QREZ region, to enable large-scale renewable energy generation, transmission, and storage integration to the SuperGrid and to support decarbonisation of heavy industries, facilitate growth of hydrogen and clean manufacturing industries, and ensure reliable and cost-effective energy supply
- ▼ **Transmission infrastructure** that **unlocks** the renewable energy generation potential across the region to supply significant industrial demand

- ▼ **Investigate water supply and network infrastructure options** to meet the forecast requirements of emerging industries, focusing on climate-independent bulk water sources including desalination, while ensuring the sustainable, affordable, and reliable water supplies for existing industries and the community
- ▼ **Maximise opportunities and positive outcomes for communities and First Nations peoples** through early engagement with affected local governments and Traditional Owners by industry and government undertaking infrastructure planning

- ▼ **Investigate renewable energy microgrid opportunities for small remote communities** that improve energy reliability, security, and sustainability
- ▼ **Upgraded and expanded transport network** to meet the needs of the renewable energy, hydrogen, and clean manufacturing industries





## STATE INFRASTRUCTURE RESPONSE

Queensland Government's infrastructure planning and programs that address Central and Western Queensland's strategic regional priorities and infrastructure priorities.

*Telstra communications tower, Jundah (Source: DSDILGP)*



## STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITY

### HEALTHY, GROWING COMMUNITIES EACH WITH A UNIQUE CHARACTER AND LIFESTYLE

All levels of government and the private sector have a role in planning and delivering the social infrastructure that defines a community and ensuring that infrastructure planning benefits communities. A selection of State Government-led infrastructure planning and programs aligned to this priority across the region are provided in the following section.

#### Building Rural and Remote Health Program projects

Established to improve infrastructure critical to the delivery of health services in rural and remote communities. Funded projects in Central and Western Queensland include new and improved facilities at the Blackwater Multipurpose Health Service (estimated completion late 2023).

**Delivery agency:** Queensland Health

#### Cardiac Catheter Lab – Rockhampton Hospital

Detailed Business Case submission was considered in late 2022.

**Delivery agency:** Queensland Health

#### Capricorn Coast (Yeppoon) Renal Service (Establishment of eight treatment spaces)

Combined preliminary/detailed business case underway for consideration in early 2023.

**Delivery agency:** Queensland Health

#### Emerald Hospital emergency department expansion

The \$10 million expansion and associated works is funded under the Community Health and Hospitals Program, delivered in partnership with the Australian Government. The works will improve patient flow through the emergency department and Emerald Hospital with enhanced access to care closer to home. Estimated completion mid-2023.

**Delivery agency:** Queensland Health

#### Gladstone West Wing perioperative services

Refurbishment of the perioperative service facilities has been completed and planning for a staged transition of surgical services with pre-admission clinic relocation, followed by day surgery unit and theatre, to commence after March 2023.

**Delivery agency:** Queensland Health

#### Rockhampton Hospital Emergency Department Expansion

Business Case underway for internal consideration in February 2023.

**Delivery agency:** Queensland Health

#### Rockhampton Hospital Mental Health Ward Expansion

\$6 million refurbishment and delivery of a six-bed expansion to the mental health ward, planned completion in 2023.

**Delivery agency:** Queensland Health



Philip Street Communities and Family Precinct, Gladstone  
(Source: DSDILGP)

#### Replacement of the North Rockhampton Ambulance Station

\$5.5 million to replace the 24/7 ambulance station in North Rockhampton to support communities through the delivery of pre-hospital ambulance response services as part of improved health services to the Rockhampton region.

**Delivery agency:** Queensland Health

## Education: fit for purpose educational settings – no matter where students live

Across the region, the Department of Education is planning to deliver more than \$111 million of projects in schools. We are ensuring Queensland state schools are safe and accessible, and have contemporary and collaborative learning places where every young person realises their potential. We are delivering projects across a number of locations, including:

- ▼ \$13.8 million – Calliope State High School for additional classrooms to be completed in January 2023.
- ▼ \$15 million – Gladstone State High School for additional specialist classrooms and upgrades to skills development and training facilities including \$5.7 million to be spent in 2022-23 and completed in 2024.
- ▼ \$9.5 million – Rockhampton Special School for additional classrooms including \$3.6 million to be spent in 2022-23 and completed in 2024.
- ▼ \$458,000 – Keppel Sands State School for upgrades to specialist learning space.

**Delivery agency:** Department of Education

## Local Housing Action Plans pilot

Boulia Shire and Blackall-Tambo Shire are two of six pilot sites for Local Housing Action Plans which aim to identify needs, solutions and coordinated responses to rural and remote community housing challenges.

**Delivery agency:** Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (DCHDE), DSDILGP

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan

Under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan 2019-2023* the Queensland Government is working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Queensland to develop co-designed, place-based and community-led Local Housing Plans to respond to local housing challenges and priorities. In Central and Western Queensland, a Local Housing Plan will be delivered for Woorabinda.

**Delivery agency:** DCHDE

## Social Housing Investment

The Queensland Housing Investment Growth Initiative within the *Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025* will deliver accelerated social housing supply in the region, targeting 121 dwellings in the CQROC region, and a portion of the 118 dwellings across the Outback Queensland Housing Investment Growth Initiative region which includes the RAPAD region. The investment of \$46.4 million over four years to 2025 builds on more than 4,100 social housing homes already in the region.

**Delivery agency:** DCHDE

## Central Queensland University Rockhampton Priority Development Area (PDA)

Central Queensland University (CQU) have received \$400,000 from the DESBT in 2022-23 out of a \$8.5 million investment through the \$100 million Equipping TAFE for our Future initiative to facilitate delivery of Stage 1 of the CQ TAFE Centre of Excellence. Funds will support the progressive relocation of facilities and services from Rockhampton CBD to the CQU Rockhampton North Campus which has significant areas of open space, and offers opportunities for urban development on land surplus to university requirements. This has potential to provide residential land for up to 1500 dwellings to accommodate future population growth. Community facilities, recreation and open space areas would also be accommodated, while enhancing the university precinct. Economic Development Queensland (EDQ) will work with CQU, Rockhampton Regional Council and other stakeholders to facilitate positive community outcomes in the CQU Rockhampton PDA.

**Delivery agency:** DESBT, DSDILGP

## Government Employee Housing Investment

More than 60 new government employee residences will be delivered in Central and Western Queensland over four years to support the attraction and retention of staff, particularly in remote locations in support of the delivery of essential government services.

**Delivery agency:** The Department of Energy and Public Works (DEPW)

## Expanding face-to-face State Kindergarten program

Ambrose State School, Anakie State School, Boreen State School, Byfield State School, Lowmead State School, Nagoorin State School, Orion State School, Wartburg State School, Westwood State School, Winton State School, and Wowan State School will receive infrastructure upgrades to support the delivery of face-to-face State Delivered Kindergarten.

**Delivery agency:** Department of Education

## Woorabinda social housing

The Queensland Government will continue working with the Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council to deliver \$5.947 million in capital works for new social housing to address housing needs for the community. The proposed program of work has been determined by council through a locally led, placed-based decision-making model and the funding is proposed to be used for new dwelling constructions and new lot development.

**Delivery agency:** DCHDE



## STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITY

### HEALTHY, GROWING COMMUNITIES EACH WITH A UNIQUE CHARACTER AND LIFESTYLE

#### Bandwidth Upgrade Project

A \$187 million agreement with Telstra Corporation to upgrade the bandwidth across the State Schools network, will benefit 135 Central and Western Queensland schools and associated departmental locations who will receive 40 times more bandwidth than the previous standard by September 2023 and up to 200 times greater by 2026.

**Delivery agency:** Department of Education

#### Moura Multipurpose Health Service Residential Aged Care Extension Project

The \$7.2 million development will provide a new eight-bed residential aged care facility connected the existing hospital and is proposed to start mid-2023 for estimated completion early 2024.

**Delivery agency:** Queensland Health

#### Woorabinda Multipurpose Health Service Aged Care Extension

The \$12.5 million development will provide 10 additional beds for residential aged care, additional car parks, landscaping and outdoor open space for residents, families and visitors. The project is proposed to start mid-2023 and estimated to be complete late 2023.

**Delivery agency:** Queensland Health

#### Queensland Digital Infrastructure Plan

The Queensland Government is developing a Digital Infrastructure Plan to focus the collaborative efforts and investments required across sectors to bridge the digital divide. The Digital Infrastructure Plan aims to establish a statewide view of gaps and opportunities for future investment. While the Queensland Government does not have a direct role in the delivery of the required infrastructure as this is provided by NBN Co and commercial carriers controlled by Australian Government legislation and regulations, the Digital Infrastructure Plan will enable Government to more proactively work with carriers and stakeholders to address mobile blackspots and poor broadband connectivity.

**Delivery agency:** DCHDE

#### Rockhampton Neighbourhood and Community Centre

The State Government has commenced work to establish a new neighbourhood and community centre in Rockhampton in 2024. Other opportunities may be explored for new and redeveloped neighbourhood and community centres in the region over the next 10 years as part of the Communities 2032 strategy.

**Delivery agency:** DCHDE

#### Co-location of justice and public safety services

Opportunities to co-locate complementary justice and public safety services such as courts and police services will be investigated, and different delivery models will be explored in the longer-term.

**Delivery agency:** Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Queensland Police Service

#### Master planning for Woorabinda

Master planning has been undertaken to provide the First Nations community of Woorabinda with a strategic development plan for future growth to pave the way for future residential, industrial, and economic opportunities. Working in partnership with councils, state, and commonwealth agencies and Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate, locations have been identified for future residential and commercial development along with any impacts this may have on existing council infrastructure (water/sewer) should development occur.

**Delivery agency:** Department of Seniors, Disability Services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DSDSATSIP)



*Blackall Hospital and General Practice (Source: Queensland Health)*



Birdsville Health Clinic (Source: DSDILGP)

### Gladstone Area Water Board investment

Similar to last year's capital expenditure investment, the Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) is planning to invest \$23.4 million in capital expenditure in 2022-23. Key projects include \$3.2 million to replace the Boyne Island Reservoir roof, \$2.3 million towards replacement of the Golegumma Pipeline and \$2.3 million to planning for the Awoonga Dam spillway capacity upgrade. GAWB recently completed construction of a \$11.7 million fish hatchery which replenishes fish stocks at Awoonga Dam, consistent with regulatory requirements as well as supporting employment, education, and recreational fishing opportunities for Gladstone residents.

**Delivery agency:** GAWB

### Queensland Indigenous (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Procurement Policy (QIPP)

State Government-led or funded infrastructure planning and programs across the Central and Western region creates significant opportunity to increase procurement spend with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses, which will bolster job creation, skill building and intergenerational wealth generation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities. The QIPP provides a whole-of-government strategic approach to increase procurement spend with Indigenous businesses, which will support Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples in contributing to, and benefiting from, the Queensland economy.

**Delivery agency:** DSDSATSIP

### Browne Park Stadium redevelopment

The Queensland Government has committed \$54.326 million towards delivery of Stage 1 of the Browne Park redevelopment. Stage 1 involves replacement of the existing Jack Crow stand (western grandstand) to expand the current capacity to accommodate approximately 3500 seats, food and beverage facilities, public amenities, corporate facilities and player and officials' change facilities. The Queensland Government, in partnership with the Management Group of Browne Park and Rockhampton Leagues Club, commenced the design process in March 2022 which continues to run in-parallel to a Ministerial Infrastructure Designation process. Early demolition works of the existing western grandstand is proposed to commence in mid-2023, and the main works commencing later in 2023 with construction expected to be completed in readiness for the 2025 rugby league season. The full site master plan (including delivery of future stages) will eventually accommodate 10,000 spectators and include broadcast-standard lighting and a big screen to host professional sports events like NRL games.

**Delivery agency:** Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport (DTIS)

### New Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Economic Strategy

The new Economic Strategy will build on the strengths of Moving Ahead and will align with the Government's Statement of Commitment to a Reframed Relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders and the Queensland Government.

**Delivery agency:** DSDSATSIP



## STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITY

### A RESILIENT AND CONNECTED REGION THAT CONTINUES TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND CLIMATE VARIABILITY AND THE CHALLENGES OF REMOTENESS

Infrastructure sustainability and resilience can be enhanced through better design and location of built assets and better management of both built and natural assets to reduce their environmental impact.

Improving infrastructure resilience and adaptation in response to the increasing impacts of climate change is also vital, given the increasing frequency and scale of natural disasters. Moving to a more sustainable and renewable future includes incorporating flexibility to meet changing needs. Transport and digital infrastructure classes are particularly important in building and maintaining community connectivity. The State's infrastructure planning responses and programs supporting this priority are outlined below.

#### Regional Transport Plans (RTPs) implementation

Continue to work with stakeholders to implement the actions of the Central West RTP and Fitzroy RTP. RTP actions include:

- identify multi-modal access requirements for freight to the region's ports
- undertake transport network flooding investigations across the region to identify key flooding locations, such as low-lying areas affected by the Fitzroy River, Nogoa River and Dawson River, Bullock Creek on Muttaborra–Aramac Road, Belyando River on Capricorn Highway (Emerald–Alpha), and Cuttaburra Crossing on Eyre Developmental Road (Bedourie–Birdsville). Understand the requirements and improvements needed to reduce the impact of flooding and improve the resilience of the network
- determine investment priorities for new or upgraded rest areas
- explore the feasibility of improving long distance passenger services, including additional routes, scheduling, and service integration, including potential east-west air services and road-based services.

**Delivery agency:** DTMR

#### Regional Resilience Strategies

A Regional Resilience Strategy has been developed for the Central West region and is under development for the Fitzroy and Capricornia region. These region-specific resilience strategies are developed in partnership with local governments to encourage locally led, regionally coordinated management of disaster risks. The strategies prioritise actions to enhance economic resilience, improve infrastructure, advance disaster recovery operations and increase government capability and capacity.

**Delivery agency:** QRA

#### Improving infrastructure resilience – Queensland Betterment Programs

The Queensland Betterment Programs are jointly funded (50:50) by the Australian and Queensland Governments and enables the reconstruction of public assets to a more disaster resilient standard. Betterment increases the resilience of communities to natural disasters, while reducing future expenditure on asset restoration. Since the first betterment fund was established in 2013, over 480 projects across Queensland – valued at more than \$240 million – have been approved, helping to create stronger, more resilient communities.

**Delivery agency:** QRA

#### Regional Water Security and Development – Bradfield Regional Assessment and Development Expert Panel Report

Consistent with the Expert Panel Report, the Queensland Government is undertaking planning to invest in water infrastructure closer to where it falls through effective local use of water resources, including through the development of smaller scale regional water grids. To further assist in sustainable regional water development, the State and the Australian Government has committed \$5.5 million and \$11.5 million respectively towards strategic planning for improving water security in Queensland, which will accelerate regional development in Central and Western Queensland.

**Delivery agency:** Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (DRDMW)

#### Mount Morgan Pipeline

\$40.4 million committed additional funding to build an approximately 27.5 km drinking water pipeline from Gracemere to Mount Morgan (subject to a business case) to provide permanent water security to the town of Mount Morgan, supported by \$3.5 million contribution from the Australian Government. The project will also include an additional reservoir and pump station at Lucas Street and upgrades to the pump station and reservoir at Gracemere and is expected to start early 2023.

**Delivery agency:** DRDMW

### Remote water supplies – Great Artesian Basin (GAB) and Lake Eyre Basin (LEB)

\$81 million in State funding for GAB Rehabilitation Programs, has saved more than 214,000 megalitres so far with approximately another 89,000 megalitres to be saved. Ongoing State and Federal grants and DRDMW's GAB Industry Partnership Program provide funding for bore capping and piping in the GAB. These programs have successfully started to reverse the loss of water pressure in the GAB and will ensure the long-term sustainability of this important resource for GAB water users and the restoration of GAB-fed springs, a key environmental outcome. The State continues working with stakeholders and communities to ensure adequate protection of Kati Thanda–LEB streams and watercourses, which also supports sustainable economic development. A Stakeholder Advisory Group has been formed for the Queensland LEB region to help inform the development of a consultation Regulatory Impact Statement.

**Delivery agency:** DRDMW

### Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline

Gladstone Area Water Board has been working in partnership with the Queensland Government to investigate water security solutions for Central and Western Queensland through the delivery of infrastructure to best meet community and industry needs.

The Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline project will address the single source water supply risk from Awoonga Dam, provide water reliability for Gladstone Area Water Board's customers, and support future water demand for Gladstone's emerging growth industries to support decarbonisation, such as hydrogen and renewable energy. This 116-kilometre pipeline will run from the Lower Fitzroy River in Rockhampton and connect to Gladstone Area Water Board's existing water network at Yarwun. The pipeline comprises a water treatment plant, reservoirs and pumping stations at locations along its alignment including Laurel Bank, Alton Downs and Aldoga.

Subject to weather and other conditions, construction of the pipeline is anticipated to commence in 2023. The Queensland Government's investment in this important water infrastructure project will greatly contribute to the economic prosperity and resilience of both Gladstone and Queensland for generations to come.

**Delivery agency:** DRDMW



Figure 5: Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline (Source: DRDMW)



## STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITY

### AGRICULTURE, MINING, AND TOURISM DIVERSIFY TO REMAIN GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE, EVOLVING IN RESPONSE TO MARKET AND TECHNOLOGICAL DRIVERS

Agriculture, mining and resources and tourism are important industries not only in Central and Western Queensland but across the state.

Each has dedicated Queensland Government resources and strategies to support ongoing industry development including the:

- ▶ *Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan* which sets a 30-year plan for a resilient, responsible and sustainable Queensland resources industry that takes decisive action to decarbonise operations and leads the way in transparently demonstrating independent environmental, social and governance (ESG) credentials
- ▶ development of the *AgTech Roadmap* for digital and technological transformation of agribusiness
- ▶ *Towards 2032: Transforming Queensland's visitor economy future.*

The State's infrastructure planning responses and programs supporting this priority are outlined below.

#### Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road Upgrade

Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road forms part of the designated state freight network and fulfils an important role in supporting defence, forestry, freight, tourism, and commuter traffic demands in the region. The \$80 million upgrade project is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments. The project will duplicate 5.6 km of Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road and upgrade targeted intersections.

**Delivery agency:** DTMR

#### Capricorn Highway upgrades

Works will progressively upgrade sections of the highway and are jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments. The program will deliver corridor-level benefits by improving the route's safety, efficiency, connectivity, reliability and freight productivity, facilitating local industry and regional economic growth.

**Delivery agency:** DTMR

#### Transport connectivity

DTMR will continue to support investment in east-west connectivity to the Port of Gladstone and ensure the Gladstone SDA is supported by the road network and transport corridors.

**Delivery agency:** DTMR

#### Investigation into feasibility of new water infrastructure - Dawson Valley Water Supply Scheme

With funding from the Australian Government's National Water Grid Fund, Sunwater is assessing options for improving water security in the Dawson Valley Water Supply Scheme including consideration of a new weir (Paranui). Investigations into increasing the water security of the Dawson Water Supply Scheme will primarily benefit irrigators in the region and support any future growth in mining and urban populations.

**Delivery agency:** Sunwater, DRDMW



Port of Gladstone (Source: DSDILGP)

### Supporting development of Great Keppel Island

The Queensland Government is supporting the development of Great Keppel Island by finalising the master planning process in partnership with community and committing \$30 million for common-user infrastructure to help attract new investment to the region and improve the visitor experience on Great Keppel Island.

**Delivery agency:** DTIS, DSDILGP



Great Keppel Island east of Yeppoon (Source: Tourism and Events Queensland)

### Queensland Natural Capital Fund

The Queensland Government is investing \$35 million to establish the Queensland Natural Capital Fund, which will facilitate private sector co-investment to generate both commercial and environmental market returns while also producing positive environmental, social and economic co-benefits.

**Delivery agency:** The Department of Environment and Science (DES)

### Yamala Enterprise Area Water Supply Project

Through the Queensland Government's *Building Our Regions* program in 2020, the Central Highlands Regional Council received funding to investigate options for water supply to Yamala Enterprise Area. The Council continues to work with all levels of government, commercial water bodies and industry in relation to sourcing potential water infrastructure and supply options to the Area.

**Delivery agency:** Local government working with DRDMW

### Toowoomba to Gladstone Inland Rail extension

DTMR is partnering with the Australian Government to investigate the viability of extending Inland Rail from Toowoomba to the Port of Gladstone.

**Delivery agency:** DTMR

### Towards Tourism 2032 Transforming Queensland's visitor economy future

Towards Tourism 2032 outlines the long-term strategic priorities for the Queensland tourism industry and details the infrastructure the tourism sector needs to grow and succeed. Key strategic priorities identified in Towards Tourism 2032 include demand, supply, and connectivity to and around Queensland, and a need to ensure contemporary tourism product, experiences, infrastructure, and amenities that support visitors and communities and establishing Queensland as a leading destination for home-grown events, nature-based tourism, and First Nations tourism. Key actions include:

- ▶ Investment in tourism infrastructure, products, and experiences through grant programs such as the \$5 million Activate Ecotourism Infrastructure Fund, \$15 million Tourism Experience Development Fund, and \$27.4 million Regional Tourism Recovery Program
- ▶ Develop new Regional Tourism and Transport Action Plans to support greater connectivity, sustainable infrastructure and increase the adoption of alternative transport energy sources
- ▶ Funding to build more resilient tourism infrastructure under the \$5 million Building Resilient Tourism Infrastructure fund.

**Delivery agency:** DTIS



## STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITY

### HARNESS THE OPPORTUNITIES OF DECARBONISATION BY DIVERSIFYING INTO RENEWABLE ENERGY, HYDROGEN, AND CLEAN MANUFACTURING TO BECOME A GLOBAL EXPORTER OF HIGH-VALUE, LOW-CARBON PRODUCTS

The energy transformation will strongly impact the region's transitioning industries, along with its established workforce.

The energy transformation will strongly impact the region's transitioning industries, along with its established workforce. At the same time, new opportunities will emerge through enabling industries such as renewable energy and green hydrogen to bring about new and value-added industries and grow local supply chain capability. Mitigating against potential adverse impacts and realising these opportunities will require tailored solutions including targeted investments in enabling infrastructure and other government levers such as appropriate policy and regulatory settings, facilitation of industry projects, and targeted financial assistance. Mechanisms to proactively plan, prioritise, and integrate efforts towards decarbonisation will also be required.

The QEJP signals a significant investment by the Queensland Government laying the foundation to transform Queensland's energy system over the next 10 to 15 years and facilitate new clean industrial growth. It sets two new renewable energy targets of 70 per cent renewable energy by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035. The QEJP also commits to develop a Future Energy Workforce Roadmap for delivery in 2023, to build workforce capacity and capability.

The Queensland Government has also delivered a nationwide first with the launch of a dedicated workforce development plan to build a pipeline of skilled, hydrogen-ready workers through the *Hydrogen Industry Workforce Development Roadmap 2022-2032*.

Common user infrastructure can provide the 'right-sized', timely and strategic infrastructure solutions, that are best for industry, the community and the State as a whole, thereby supporting job creation in emerging industries and broader regional economic development. Government has a role to play in supporting the delivery of common user infrastructure, ensuring that land and other limited resources are used efficiently and avoiding the unnecessary duplication of infrastructure.

Industry development is supported through the availability of resourced industrial land for sale by the Coordinator-General and EDQ at Gladstone SDA, Clinton Industrial Estate (Gladstone) and Parkhurst Industrial Estate (Rockhampton).

Below outlines the State's infrastructure planning responses and programs supporting this priority.

#### Regional Freight Plan for Central Queensland

An integrated multi-modal regional freight plan for Central Queensland will be developed, identifying and prioritising freight network improvements to support supply chain efficiency. The plan will consider current and emerging freight demands including freight links for the agriculture industry; future freight requirements for the Galilee Basin and Diamantina Minerals Province; strategic locations for heavy vehicle rest and breakdown facilities; access and movement requirements for oversize over mass and high productivity vehicles; first and last mile links; supply chain coordination models; and the role of the region's ports, airports, rail terminals and key freight routes. As part of the consultation process the livestock, agricultural and resource sectors will be engaged on infrastructure and freight connectivity.

**Delivery agency:** DTMR

#### Rockhampton Ring Road

This significant project is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments and will deliver a western link of the Bruce Highway extending from the Capricorn Highway (at Nelson Street) in the south, through to Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road/Bruce Highway intersection in the north and will include a new crossing of the Fitzroy River. This major infrastructure project will improve road safety and support the region's economy by improving freight efficiency, flood resilience and job opportunities.

**Delivery agency:** DTMR

### Port of Gladstone upgrades

Investigate development of common user port infrastructure to facilitate demand as well as other commodity specific infrastructure, possible berth and wharf upgrades, and development of shipping navigation channels consistent with state and federal approvals to facilitate growth of the Port of Gladstone.

**Delivery agency:** Gladstone Ports Corporation, DSDILGP

### State and Federal transport planning

DTMR is considering transport implications of the renewable energy freight task associated with decarbonisation of the energy system and common-user infrastructure in Central and Western Queensland within state and federal transport planning processes. This will include consideration of potential impacts on state road and rail corridors to ensure safety and use compatibility considerations are maintained, sequencing of development is optimised and impacts on existing users are minimised.

**Delivery agency:** DTMR



Hydrogen vehicle refuelling (Source: Stock photo)

### QEJP

The Central QREZ region is identified as an area for large-scale renewable energy development. For Central and Western Queensland, the QEJP will support substantial investment and growth including:

- ▼ \$365 million foundational investment by Powerlink for the Central Queensland Grid Reinforcement, which will enable up to 3,300 megawatts renewable energy capacity to connect to the grid
  - ▼ 8 GW of renewable energy in the Central QREZ region by 2035
- The QEJP commits to partnering with regional communities with key regional initiatives including the \$200 million Regional Economic Futures Fund to support community and industry development, \$45 million to establish the Queensland SuperGrid Training Centre and Transmission Hub in Gladstone, and \$35 million for a Regional Energy Transformation Partnerships Framework to maximise local benefits.

The QEJP includes boosting the Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund to \$4.5 billion and identifies Gladstone (and Townsville) as major hydrogen hubs and commits up to \$20 million for the development of a renewable hydrogen industry. It also commits \$4 million to investigate options and pathways to expand bioenergy generation, particularly in regional Queensland.

**Delivery agency:** DEPW

### Clean energy for remote and First Nations communities

The QEJP will deliver clean energy for remote and First Nations communities by:

- ▼ implementing national reforms on third party owned microgrids and standalone power systems adapted to the Queensland context as necessary
- ▼ implementing the \$10 million Queensland Microgrid Pilot Fund
- ▼ updating the Energy Queensland *Isolated Networks Strategy 2030* and completing feasibility studies to decarbonise isolated power stations in each community
- ▼ co-designing a *Remote and First Nations Clean Energy Strategy* with remote First Nations communities and the Queensland and Australian governments.

**Delivery agency:** DEPW



## STRATEGIC REGIONAL PRIORITY

HARNESS THE OPPORTUNITIES OF DECARBONISATION BY DIVERSIFYING INTO RENEWABLE ENERGY, HYDROGEN, AND CLEAN MANUFACTURING TO BECOME A GLOBAL EXPORTER OF HIGH-VALUE, LOW-CARBON PRODUCTS

### Rookwood Weir

The new \$367.2 million Rookwood Weir currently being constructed on the Fitzroy River, 66 km south-west of Rockhampton will be operational in 2023. The weir has an 86,000 megalitre capacity and was jointly funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments. It will improve regional water security and create opportunities for agricultural expansion, jobs, and economic growth. The weir could also provide a source of water for the Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline, which would boost water security for Gladstone and assist the emerging hydrogen industry.

**Delivery agency:** DRDMW, DSDILGP

### Hydrogen training facilities at Gladstone State High School

Investment of \$2 million to upgrade training facilities at Gladstone State High School to prepare students for jobs in the hydrogen industry.

**Delivery agency:** : Department of Education

### Manufacturing Hubs in Rockhampton and Gladstone

The Hubs operate as centres of expertise for advanced manufacturing and skills. They help local manufacturers adopt advanced new technologies and techniques, explore new markets and create local jobs with a focus on Central and Western Queensland's key manufacturing strengths of rail, metal production and food innovation. A recent beneficiary of the Rockhampton manufacturing hub's services is All Industries Group which supports the local steel supply chain, by building innovative products such as ballistic doors for the Australia Singapore Military Training Initiative.

As part of the Queensland Government's commitment to supporting regional manufacturing, it has purchased the Rockhampton railyards, an important part of the Rockhampton community for more than 100 years, to create a manufacturing ecosystem and major rail supply chain which will strengthen, transform and revitalise the state's rail manufacturing centre. New jobs will be created in Rockhampton through Austrac's \$143 million contract with the Australian Government to manufacture sleepers for the Inland Rail network.

### Central Queensland Statement of Cooperation

The Statement of Cooperation between government and key Central and Western Queensland stakeholders (including Stanwell, Rio Tinto, Orica, Alpha HPA, ACCIONA) unlocks more opportunities for Central and Western Queenslanders as a green industrial and advanced manufacturing powerhouse. The shared focus includes establishing certainty for current industry, delivering competitive low-carbon energy solutions, and planning for the future economy by strengthening regional skills and infrastructure. The ongoing implementation of CWQIP provides a place-based mechanism to engage the Statement of Cooperation signatories.

*Statement of Cooperation being signed (Source: DSDILGP)*





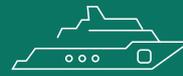
## FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Emerging and expanding industries across Central and Western Queensland.

*Rockhampton Museum of Art (Source: Tourism and Events Queensland)*

# Future Opportunities

A range of economic opportunities were identified through research and consultation on the plan; some of these are still maturing and state infrastructure implications are still being determined. In some cases, further development of the industry is subject to major investment or policy decisions. The following industry opportunities will be further reviewed at the two-yearly review of the CWQIP.



## Aviation and Drones

Recent private and public investment is supporting the growth of the region's aviation sector. The Queensland Government's Jobs and Regional Growth Fund is supporting Alliance's Airlines' \$60 million aviation maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility at Rockhampton Airport. Alliance Airlines will onshore the major maintenance activities previously carried out overseas. The MRO facility will create 98 new long-term jobs, including 81 highly skilled aircraft maintenance engineers by 2024 and boost the Queensland economy by almost \$195 million over the next 10 years. The MRO facility is expected to be a catalyst for further regional development, attracting high-value specialty freight and logistics suppliers and a range of aeronautical support companies, including suppliers of avionics and aerospace technologies, engine maintenance, wheels, tyres, brakes and landing gear, interiors and upholstery and cabin accessories.

The growing unmanned aerial vehicle (drone) sector presents significant opportunities particularly for the region's remote areas, given these areas' geographical advantages and restrictions on usage in more populated areas. The region aims to grow its drone technology industry, pursuing opportunities including recreational tourism (for example, competition flying, recreational photography); value adding to agriculture, mining and local government (e.g. asset management); and other uses (hazardous tasks and disaster management, medical delivery services).

## Defence

The region has the potential to expand its defence industry to become a major logistical base and heavy vehicle maintenance facility for Australian Defence Force (ADF) activities. It is already home to Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA), an ADF training facility approximately 100 km north of Rockhampton. SWBTA hosts the Talisman Sabre (TS) exercises every two years; the largest bilateral combined training activity between the ADF and the United States military, with the 2019 TS series involving up to 25,000 personnel. It also hosts the Singaporean defence force annually and many ADF training activities. Major projects underway include SWBTA expansion as part of the Australia-Singapore Military Training Initiative, and the SWBTA remediation project to improve key training facilities, with work scheduled for completion in 2024. The CQROC has released its Defence Strategy advocating for new military bases in the region. An ILUA between Defence and the Traditional Owners of the Shoalwater Bay Training Area, the Darumbal people was registered in 2019, establishing pathways for working in partnership. The region also sees potential for its remote central areas to support training exercises.



## Resource recovery industry

DES is developing Regional Waste Management Plans (RWMP) to identify waste and resource recovery infrastructure investment opportunities within Central and Western Queensland to support the diversion of material from landfill and build the region's resource recovery industry. The Queensland Resource Recovery Industries 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan outlines resource recovery precincts as a key mechanism to advance the development of a sustainable industry and support the Queensland Government's Waste Strategy. DSDILGP has commenced development of Resource Recovery Precinct Planning which will complement the RWMP and work alongside the CWQIP.

As Queensland develops a more a circular economy, there may be opportunities within the region for resource recovery activities, recycling and remanufacture, supported by certainty of supply and offtake markets, including identifying products, end users and customers. Emerging waste and material streams resulting from growth in renewable energy technologies (e.g. solar and wind farms) will place pressure on existing waste management and resource recovery infrastructure capacity, however there is potential for establishment of collection, processing, remanufacturing hubs for end-of-life arisings and identification of market development opportunities for processed material.



## Growing the NDIS market in Central and Western Queensland

There is an opportunity to work with the Australian Government to develop the NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme) market in Central and Western Queensland. Opportunities include the attraction and retention of disability service providers, building capacity of the local workforce to provide disability supports, attracting allied health professionals and the development of specialist disability housing.

# Implementation and review

## IMPLEMENTATION

Communities and regions are central to the economic transformation of the State as it moves towards decarbonisation and regional infrastructure plans will help inform State Government funding decisions in relation to the region's infrastructure investment priorities.

This includes early and meaningful engagement with First Nations peoples during infrastructure planning to support the realisation of First Nations peoples' aspirations for their country as well as identifying economic development and participation opportunities during all stages of infrastructure development. Government will continue to work towards embedding this place-based approach to infrastructure priorities into its planning and processes.

Given the key role of the regions in the renewable energy transformation pathway, the implementation of the CWQIP will be strongly aligned with key implementation actions and funding committed to in the QEJP (along with other key strategies such as the regional Workforce Plans being developed in line with the Queensland Workforce Strategy).

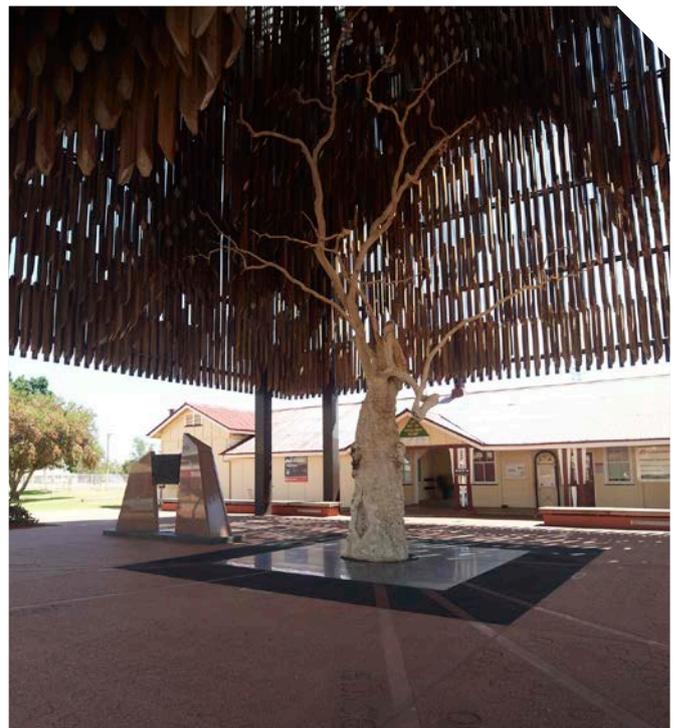
Importantly, the QEJP commits to work with communities to develop a mechanism to support economic and community development initiatives to facilitate the regional transformation that will occur with the renewable energy transition. This includes the delivery of a \$200 million Regional Economic Futures Fund. The CWQIP will provide a strategic framework to guide this work.

Further to this, as the CWQIP identifies the region's strategic regional priorities, it will also inform SRPs and local government planning scheme reviews. Monitoring the progress of government responses towards the identified strategic regional priorities will be ongoing (using regionally specific performance measures), along with the CWQIP's contribution towards the SIS objectives.

## REVIEW

The CWQIP will be reviewed every two years to ensure they are current and remain aligned with Government and regional stakeholder priorities.

CWQIP reviews will be led by DSDILGP in consultation with key regional stakeholders, including local government, industry, peak bodies, community groups and First Nations peoples, including Local Decision-Making Bodies in line with the Local Thriving Communities (LTC) reform.



*Tree of Knowledge Memorial, Barcardine (Source: Tourism and Events Queensland)*

# Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
ADF	Australian Defence Force
Central QREZ	Central Queensland Renewable Energy Zone region
CQROC	Central Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils
CQU	Central Queensland University
CWQIP	Central and Western Queensland Infrastructure Plan
DCHDE	Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy
DEPW	Department of Energy and Public Works
DES	Department of Environment and Science
DRDMW	Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water
DSDILGP	Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
DSDSATSIP	Department of Seniors, Disability Services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
DTIS	Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport
DTMR	Department of Transport and Main Roads
EDQ	Economic Development Queensland
GAB	Great Artesian Basin
GAWB	Gladstone Area Water Board
GEM	Green Energy Manufacturing
GW	gigawatts
ICT	Information and communications technology
ILUA	Indigenous Land Use Agreement

Acronym	Definition
km	kilometre
LEB	Lake Eyre Basin
LNG	liquefied natural gas
LTC	Local Thriving Communities
MRO	maintenance, repair and overhaul
MW	megawatt
NBN	National Broadband Network
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
PDA	Priority Development Area
QEJP	Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan
QIPP	Queensland Indigenous Procurement Policy
QRA	Queensland Reconstruction Authority
RAPAD	Remote Area Planning and Development Board
REZ	Renewable Energy Zone
RTP	Regional Transport Plans
RWMP	Regional Waste Management Plans
SDA	State Development Area
SIS	State Infrastructure Strategy 2022
SRP	Statutory Regional Plan
SWBTA	Shoalwater Bay Training Area
TS	Talisman Sabre

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