

Queensland Government **BACKING THE BUSH**

Bush communities at the heart of Queensland's future

We want investment in our resources to deliver for Queensland's bush communities. From Cape York Peninsula to the Lake Eyre Basin, and from Cunnamulla to Cloncurry, the bush is central to Queensland's past and future prosperity.

Our state remains the most decentralised on the mainland, and we welcome the National Bush Summit to Queensland.

Over half of Queenslanders live outside Brisbane and more than 65 per cent of the largest infrastructure program in our state's history is committed to regional Queensland, supporting more than 38,000 jobs this year.

This Big Build includes \$5 billion for CopperString, connecting nation-leading wind and solar resources to the grid, and unlocking thousands more good jobs in mining and refining critical minerals.

Queensland's largest dam will increase its capacity by one-third with the \$440 million down payment on raising and improving Burdekin Falls Dam, while water security priorities include completing the \$569 million, 80,000 megalitre Rookwood Weir and starting works on the \$983 million Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline and \$273 million for water security in Toowoomba and Southern Downs Region.

We are easing the way to market for Queensland products through the Gladstone Port Northern Land Expansion Project, Mackay Port Access, widening the Capricorn Highway and replacing Bowen Wharf.

In global trade and biosecurity, Queensland is on the front line and we are increasing skills and preparedness against the threat of emergency animal diseases and plant pests.

Protecting the environment and productive farms have much in common and we are growing confidence in carbon farming through the Land Restoration Fund and finding opportunities to work with industry to accelerate agtech innovation.

The Queensland Government is backing the bush and our growing regions.



The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk
Premier and Minister for the Olympic
and Paralympic Games





CopperString 2032

North Queensland will see the largest grid expansion in Australia through the \$5 billion CopperString 2032 project.

The 100 per cent state-owned project, led by Powerlink, will connect the North West Minerals Province to the nation and deliver:

- 800 direct jobs in construction
- 500 kV line from Townsville to Hughenden, 330kV from Hughenden to Cloncurry, 220kV from Cloncurry to Mount Isa
- \$90 million for two SuperGrid Training Centre and Transmission Hubs, with interim hubs open in Townsville and Gladstone



- Over \$500 billion resources boom in critical minerals. Thousands of new jobs in critical minerals mining, refining and renewables will propel Queensland closer to a low-carbon future. CopperString 2032 is essential to the new Queensland

SuperGrid backbone, under the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.

By integrating the nation-leading wind and solar resources with the grid, CopperString 2032 will secure North Queensland's energy future and a powerhouse future for all Queenslanders.

Wild dog exclusion fencing sets sheep and goat sectors up for success

Queensland's sheep and goat industries continue to flourish thanks to a successful partnership between graziers, councils and the state government.

Since 2015, \$27.1 million has been invested in the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative, supporting councils and landowners to deliver 9000km of cluster fencing to enclose 6.5 million hectares of grazing land and providing grants for other pest management programs.

This has helped reinvigorate Queensland's sheep, wool and goat

sectors which have experienced significant livestock losses due to wild dog attacks and feral pest impacts.

Last year, the state government invested a further \$4 million in Rural Agricultural Development Grants, providing up to \$200,000 per business with a sheep and goat export focus to help them leverage the benefits of cluster fencing.



The first round of grants awarded a combined \$1.8 million to 10 successful applicants earlier this year, creating up to 77 Queensland jobs.

Preparedness and partnerships key to protecting \$23 billion ag industry



Global trade and climate change bring the threat of emergency animal diseases like Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) closer.

Although the disease has not touched Australian shores since the 19th century, recent detections in Indonesia of FMD and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), have raised concerns about the risk to the nation's livestock industries.

Biosecurity Queensland responded to these detections by testing current biosecurity measures, implementing

the \$22 million investment in another 10 biosecurity officers and working with Queensland livestock industries to raise preparedness.

These partnerships are critical because livestock producers are on the front line of Queensland's defence against FMD and LSD.

To protect livestock:

- have a biosecurity management plan in place
- ensure registration as a biosecurity entity is up to date
- display biosecurity signage on properties
- use the Farm Check-in app when people visit the property.

To find out more about what you can do to prepare, visit daf.engagementhub.com.au/animal-disease-preparedness

Rookwood Weir project essential for agricultural growth

Construction of the \$568.9 million project is now more than 80 per cent complete and the weir is on track to be built by the end of 2023.

At least 50 per cent of water from Rookwood Weir will be for agricultural use, allowing farmers to expand or diversify their operations.

Underpinning the future of the Fitzroy Food Bowl, it will mean more produce grown locally, greater investment in horticulture, cropping and livestock production.

The project has already provided a significant economic boost for the Central Queensland region with more than 300 construction jobs and flow-on benefits for local businesses and suppliers.

The Rookwood Weir project is jointly funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments, delivered in partnership with Sunwater.



Wind and solar projects powering up Queensland

Landholders whose properties host transmission for wind and solar projects are earning more under a new payment framework with Powerlink.

The new framework offers boosted payments based on property values and impacts, higher than flat rates, and extends to landholders adjacent to new transmission infrastructure.

Landholders can choose a lump sum or annual payments.

This comes as major solar and wind projects in the regions are powering Queensland on its way to 70 per cent renewable energy by 2032.

This includes construction of Australia's largest solar farm – the 1500-hectare Western Downs Green Power Hub.

The Hub has the capacity to power the equivalent of 235,000 Queensland homes.

Another Western Downs project, Dulacca is home to Australia's tallest wind turbines, standing at 230m high, and will generate enough energy to power more than 54,000 homes.



‘Battery of the north’ awaits with Pioneer-Burdekin project

Pumped hydro energy storage will power a reliable energy supply when renewable energy generation from wind and solar is low.

The potential capacity of the project is two and a half times that of Snowy Hydro 2.0 in New South Wales.

This would make Pioneer-Burdekin the largest pumped hydro project in the world, creating thousands of local jobs during the construction phase.

A new public entity, Queensland Hydro, has been established to lead development of pumped hydro projects in Queensland.

Queensland Hydro has begun detailed analysis into the site for the Pioneer-Burdekin project, including geology, hydrology and environmental conditions.

Backing the bush with land restoration and carbon farming

The Queensland Government’s Land Restoration Fund backs the environment, farmers and jobs by demonstrating new revenue for landholders from sustainable land management.

- Two investment rounds
- \$99.2 million for 23 projects
- 17 local government areas
- Third investment round in progress

The Carbon Market Institute credits Queensland as leading the nation with ‘significant direct investment, integration of co-benefits and support for research, innovation and market development’.

Land Restoration Fund projects are providing training and job opportunities for plant operators, project managers and scientists, and First Nations roles on Country for Indigenous Rangers.

Landholders can access up to \$10,000 of carbon farming advice through QRIDA.



Major pipeline projects moving forward

Two major water projects representing more than \$1.3 billion of Queensland Government investment have reached significant milestones.

The first pipes have been delivered for the \$983 million Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline project to deliver water from the Lower Fitzroy River in Rockhampton to Gladstone.

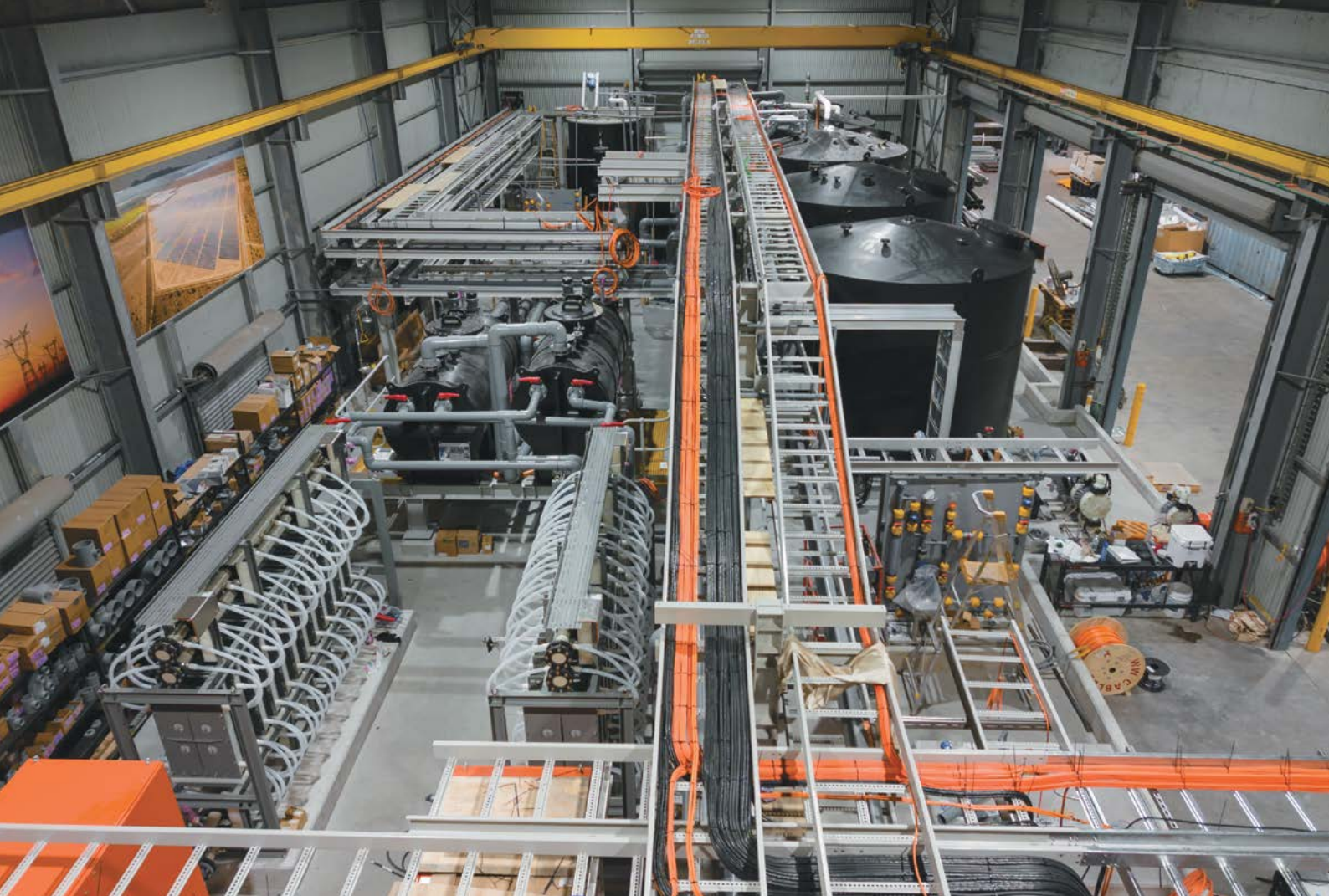
This 117 km pipeline will support long-term water security and provide water for Gladstone’s growing industrial sector, with capacity for 30 gigalitres per annum from the Fitzroy River.

Gladstone Area Water Board estimates 400 workers during the

peak of construction, and project completion in 2026.

Survey activity is underway as part of the pre-construction works for the Toowoomba to Warwick pipeline, a \$300 million project to support the long-term water security for Southern Downs and Toowoomba communities.

The 109 km pipeline is expected in 2027 and will have capacity for up to 10.3 megalitres per day from Wivenhoe Dam.



New resources boom to create thousands of good jobs in regional Queensland

The resources sector is one of the powerhouses of the Queensland economy supporting 70,000 jobs.

With minerals below the ground and renewable energy above the ground, Queensland is a resource superpower, positioned to lead the clean energy revolution.

The energy transition is driving massive demand for the raw materials needed to decarbonise our economy. If the world is to reach net zero sustainably, Queensland's critical minerals must be mined.

North Queensland has the largest renewable energy zone on the east coast of Australia, with world-leading solar and wind resources alongside mineral resources.

In the Bowen Basin, new renewable projects are being developed to produce green hydrogen, supported by the infrastructure built for our mining industry.

The Queensland Critical Minerals Strategy oversees \$245 million of investment to unlock significant critical minerals resources to accelerate growth in the sector.

The Queensland Government wants to go beyond just digging and shipping raw materials to processing and refining critical

minerals on-shore and manufacturing high value products like batteries and solar panels.

Planning has begun on the \$75 million Queensland Resources Common User Facility in Townsville that will allow critical mineral developers to prove their product's quality and their project's credentials to the market.

The strategy will future proof the next generation of jobs in Queensland, diversifying and decarbonising our economy, and ensuring Queensland's future sustainable economic prosperity.

Works for Queensland building community infrastructure

For rural and remote councils, almost \$358 million has been allocated through Works for Queensland, helping deliver 1377 community infrastructure projects.

Importantly, these projects have created or supported more than 14,200 jobs in rural and remote council areas, which is a fantastic result for local businesses, local tradies and local families.

Across the state, \$800 million has been allocated to councils outside the South East to help deliver 2199 projects, creating or supporting an incredible 25,281 jobs.

There is plenty more to come, with a further \$200 million in Works for Queensland funding committed for 2024–27.

LifeFlight spreads the safety net across all corners

Queensland is the most decentralised state in the country, with people living in some of the most rural, regional and remote parts of the state.

In times of sickness or injury, where minutes matter, having the agility and flexibility to deploy an aeromedical asset to transport critically ill patients to larger, tertiary hospitals is something we are fortunate to have access to.

This was solidified in our commitment of an additional \$586.1 million over 10 years for LifeFlight to provide surety to the lifesaving aeromedical services it delivers 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

This investment will ensure Queenslanders living in rural, regional and remote parts of the state will continue to have ongoing emergency medical helicopter services where and when they need it.

LifeFlight's aeromedical network provides a blanket of emergency care for Queensland operating as part of Retrieval Services Queensland, within Queensland Ambulance Service.

Queensland bush regions to welcome more junior doctors

Queensland Government incentives will allow medical practitioners who take a job in regional or remote Queensland to be eligible for up to \$50,000.

Queenslanders living in the bush are expected to benefit from a further \$17 million in Federal Government funding designed to attract more doctors to careers in rural healthcare.

The John Flynn Prevocational Doctor Program will support almost 340 junior doctors to broaden their skill base in regional and remote towns.

This partnership with the Federal Government will mean regionally based doctors have a chance to impart their knowledge to the next generation of junior doctors and encourage them to pursue a career in regional and remote communities.

These programs are also supported by a \$3.6 billion investment in new or expanded hospitals in Moranbah, Mackay, Cairns, Townsville, Bundaberg, and Fraser Coast.



QCN is connecting Queensland Queensland's new SuperGrid will do more than just transmit renewable energy.

Fibre optic cable on top of the SuperGrid transmission lines will be unlocked by government owned business, the Queensland Capacity Network (QCN).

With the potential to support access to nearly 20,000 kilometres of fibre and create one of the largest regional fibre networks in Australia, regional industries will be able to connect to the internet at the same speed and cost as capital cities.

QCN is also working with Queensland Rail on opportunities to further improve digital connectivity with 2000 kilometres of optical fibre in the rail network.

Since 2020, QCN has worked to utilise 13,000 kilometres of government-owned fibre networks to provide a twelve-fold increase in internet capacity across Queensland.





Building better roads to support regional growth

Regional roads are the lifeblood of our state. We rely on our road network to move stock, freight and goods.

With Queensland growing rapidly, the State Government is focusing on building and improving safe and accessible transport routes to benefit the growth of regional Queensland.

This is shown by more than half of the \$32.1 billion Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP), announced in this year's State Budget, being focused on regions (outside Brisbane, Ipswich and Redlands).

The pipeline of investment outlined in QTRIP across regional Queensland is estimated to support an average of 14,850 direct jobs and fund major regional projects, including:

- \$1.065 billion Rockhampton Ring Road, including a \$280 million package of works committed in the forward estimates for the first phase of construction (early works).
 - \$1 billion Bruce Highway (Cooroy to Curra) Section D, construction
 - \$1 billion funding commitment for the Inland Freight Route, Charters Towers to Mungindi
 - \$359 million Captain Cook Highway, Cairns CBD to Smithfield, upgrade
 - \$336 million Bruce Highway, Tiaro Bypass, construct four lane bypass
 - \$300 million Cairns Western Arterial Road, Redlynch Connector
- Road to Captain Cook Highway duplication
 - \$280 million Townsville Ring Road (Stage 5)
 - \$262.5 million funding commitment for Kuranda Range Road upgrade. Project details and timing subject to further planning and negotiation with the Australian Government.
 - \$187.4 million towards Walkerston Bypass
 - \$182.5 million funding commitment for Outback Way future priorities.

These projects are jointly funded with the Australian Government.

Bringing resources and agriculture together

Coexistence between Queensland's traditional industries is vital for the state's economy and for jobs in our regions.

Queensland's coexistence framework balances the interests of resource companies with those of landholders.

In partnership with the Queensland Farmers' Federation, a toolkit is available for landowners to draw new and reliable income. The toolkit will help guide rural producers in maximising the benefits from renewable energy projects.

A new mapping layer has been added to the Queensland Globe website, showing where resources, agricultural and approved or planned renewable energy projects are in relation to one another.



AgTech revolution rises from Queensland's fertile soils

Queensland's agtech transformation is being built from the ground up.

The Queensland Government is drafting the AgTech Roadmap, working with industry, startups, entrepreneurs to identify opportunities to accelerate agtech innovation.

Technology will play a key role going forward to establish and verify Queensland agriculture's sustainability and biosecurity credentials to consumers and trade partners.

New assistance scheme helps farmers prepare before the drought

As drought-declared areas in Queensland reach a 10-year low, producers can now prepare vital sustainability measures before the next drought hits.

Assistance is reaching beyond livestock farmers for the first time to all sectors, including horticulture growers and broadacre croppers. The Farm Business Resilience Program provides free information and training sessions to improve drought preparedness.

Farm Management Grants provide a rebate of 50 per cent up to a maximum of \$2500 for professional assistance to develop a plan. These are jointly funded by the Queensland and Australian Government.

Once a plan is in place, Drought Preparedness Grants of up to \$50,000 and Drought Ready and Recovery concessional loans up to \$250,000 are available in any year, for sustainability projects like water infrastructure.

Improving rail access for cattle freight

Transport and Main Roads is upgrading the Maxwellton rail line siding in North Queensland to improve access for cattle and freight rail services.

In July 2022, cattle were loaded at Maxwellton onto a train travelling to Rockhampton for the first time in years, confirming the location is well positioned to support services on the Mount Isa rail line.

Queensland Rail is delivering the upgrade to increase the siding length from 340 to 1200 metres – long enough to accommodate a full-length train and providing greater freight capacity.

A full-length siding will allow other traffic to pass, which increases the overall capacity of the Mount Isa rail line.



Queensland
Government