



FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND REGIONAL RECOVERY ACTION PLAN

A MESSAGE FROM

THE PREMIER

THE HONOURABLE ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP

AND

THE TREASURER

THE HONOURABLE CAMERON DICK MP



The COVID-19 pandemic has touched everyone and communities in Far North Queensland have not been immune to its effects.

The Far North Queensland Regional Recovery Action Plan builds on our

immediate commitment to keeping the region moving through extra support for businesses, workers and households – from payroll tax waivers to electricity bill relief.

Our recovery approach recognises that Far North Queensland is a diverse region with tourism, agriculture, education, mining and construction contributing substantially to the region’s economy.

The region’s world-renowned tourism industry has enormous potential to revitalise offerings to attract domestic visitors and grow the sector. But we know there is more to do.

This Government continues to deliver \$1.8 billion over four years in better roads and transport across the Far North, including the Cape York Region Package, a \$480 million Bruce Highway upgrade between Edmonton and Gordonvale, and the \$164 million Smithfield Bypass.

In recognising that our COVID-19 response is a long-term challenge, this approach charts the way forward for delivering on one of our key priorities identified through Queensland’s Economic Recovery Plan – growing our regions.

We know that lasting recovery can only be achieved through genuine, community-based partnerships. That’s why we will continue working with all levels of Government and key stakeholders to drive the best outcomes for the Far North.

Together we will support our existing industries as well as invest in emerging industries, more infrastructure and more businesses. This plan backs local jobs and local opportunities.

There will be challenging times ahead as we navigate our way through the pandemic.

One thing is certain, however – the Government stands as a ready partner to the Far North Queensland community as we work towards better days to come.

The Queensland Government has committed more than \$8 billion to support COVID-19 health and economic recovery initiatives across the State.

\$500M

in **electricity and water** bill relief, with a \$200 rebate for households, and a \$500 rebate for eligible small business and sole traders

\$90M

for **jobs and skills**, including funding for the Back to Work, Skilling Queenslanders for Work and Reef Assist programs.

\$400M

land tax relief for property owners which must be passed onto tenants in the form of rent relief

\$267M

building boost to support home owners, ‘tradies’ and construction, including a **\$5,000 regional home building grant**

Support for the Far North Queensland region’s small businesses includes:



Up to \$950M

in **payroll tax relief** statewide, supporting **23,640 jobs** in the Far North Queensland region



\$66.6M

in **Job Support Loans** of up to \$250,000 for 461 businesses supporting 4,949 jobs



\$15.7M

in **1801 Small Business Adaption Grants** of up to \$10,000 in the Far North Queensland region



GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

1 Saibai Island new Community Safety and Security Facility
\$8.7 million in 2020-21 out of a \$13.1 million total spend to complete the Community Safety and Security facility at Saibai Island.

2 Mer (Murray) Island Building Replacement
\$580,000 in 2020-21 out of a \$7 million total spend to replace the Mer (Murray) Island Primary Health Care Centre to support the provision of quality and safe services for current and future healthcare needs.

3 Thursday Island Community Centre
\$2.6 million in 2020-21 out of a \$5.5 million total spend to design and construct a neighbourhood centre to support the Thursday Island community.

4 Horn Island Splash Park
\$2.4 million in 2020-21 out of a \$3 million total spend to build a splash park on Horn Island, contributing to positive recreation activities and community connections for families and young people.

5 Aurukun police facility upgrade
\$2.9 million in 2020-21 out of a \$6.7 million total spend to upgrade the police facility at Aurukun.

6 Pormpuraaw replacement police facility
\$6.1 million in 2020-21 out of a \$8.2 million total spend to continue the replacement of the police facility at Pormpuraaw.

7 Peninsula Developmental Road (Laura - Coen), Kennedy to Rocky Creek
\$12.3 million in 2020-21 out of a \$23.8 million total spend to pave and seal sections of the Peninsula Developmental Road between Kennedy and Rocky Creek. Part of the Cape York Region Package Stage 2 and Roads of Strategic Importance initiative, delivered in partnership with the Commonwealth Government.

8 Newell boat ramp (north bank of Mossman River)
\$2.4 million in 2020-21 out of a \$3.2 million total spend to upgrade boat ramp at Newell Beach, north bank of Mossman River.

9 Tropical North Learning Academy - Trinity Beach State School
\$7.9 million in 2020-21 out of a \$10 million total spend to construct a new multi-storey general learning centre and renewal of the special education unit. Part of the Renewing Our Schools program.

10 Smithfield Bypass
\$42.4 million in 2020-21 out of a \$164 million total spend to construct bypass route continuity on the Captain Cook Highway between McGregor Road roundabout and Caravonica roundabout. Part of the State Infrastructure Fund.

11 Cairns Western Arterial Road, Harley Street Intersection Upgrade
\$5.4 million in 2020-21 out of a \$17.1 million total spend to upgrade the intersection on the Cairns Western Arterial Road at Harley Street. Part of the State Infrastructure Fund.

12 Redlynch State College
\$7 million in 2020-21 out of a \$8.3 million total spend to construct a new building containing two general learning spaces and five specialist spaces.

13 Cairns Hospital Mental Health Unit
\$3.8 million in 2020-21 out of a \$70 million total spend to construct a new 53 bed mental health facility to replace the existing facility.

14 Cairns Convention Centre expansion and refurbishment
\$85 million in 2020-21 out of a \$176 million total spend towards the refurbishment and expansion of the Cairns Convention Centre to capitalise on the national and international convention markets.

15 Bruce Highway (Cairns Southern Access Corridor Stage 4)
\$30.4 million in 2020-21 out of a \$104.1 million total spend to widen from four to six lanes on the Bruce Highway from Kate Street to Aumuller Street. Part of the Bruce Highway Upgrade Program, delivered in partnership with the Commonwealth Government.

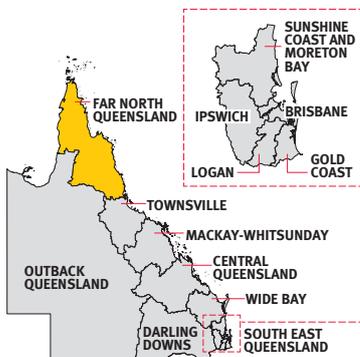
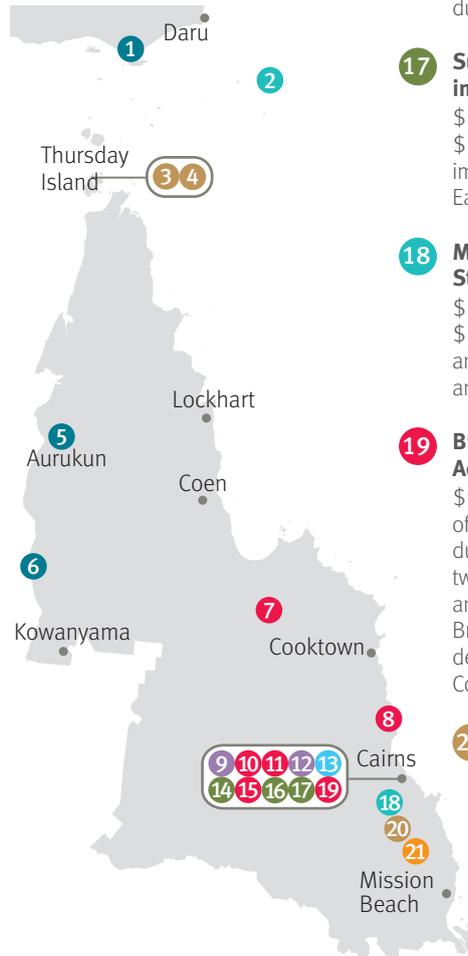
16 Yorkeys Knob boat ramp
\$11 million to build a new multi-lane boat ramp at Yorkeys Knob alongside 135 car trailer parks. This project will support 18 jobs during construction.

17 Sustainable Acid Sulphate Soils infrastructure program
\$1.8 million in 2020-21 out of a \$3.2 million total spend to manage impacts of Acid Sulphate Soils in East Trinity Environmental Reserve.

18 Mareeba Replacement Ambulance Station
\$1.2 million in 2020-21 out of a \$2.5 million total spend for planning and construction of a replacement ambulance station at Mareeba.

19 Bruce Highway (Cairns Southern Access Corridor Stage 3)
\$90.6 million in 2020-21 out of a \$481 million total spend to duplicate the Bruce Highway from two to four lanes between Edmonton and Gordonvale. Part of the Bruce Highway Upgrade Program, delivered in partnership with the Commonwealth Government.

20 Atherton Community Centre
\$1.9 million in 2020-21 out of a \$2.1 million total spend to design and construct a neighbourhood centre to support the Atherton community.



\$1,125M in Queensland Government capital investment in Far North Queensland, supporting an estimated 3,900 jobs in 2020-21

21 Kareeya Hydro Bridge upgrade and other projects
 \$5.7 million in 2020-21 out of a \$19.4 million total spend to maintain existing assets including upgrades to the control system, upgrade to turbines, network activity, concreting, Tully River bridge deck and access road. Part of the Renewable Energy Target 2030.

22 Arts and Cultural Recovery Package
 S/R \$15.4 million in 2020-21 out of a \$22.5 million total spend to reactivate cultural and creative spaces and provide jobs for local artists and arts workers bringing communities together and boosting cultural tourism.

23 Rural and Regional Infrastructure Package - Torres Straits Primary Health Care Centre Redevelopment Project
 S/R \$976,098 in 2020-21 out of a \$3.5 million total spend for upgrades to five Primary Health Care Centres at Yorke Island, Coconut Island, Stephen Island, Dauan Island and St Pauls Community on Moa Island.

24 Wangetti Trail
 \$33.4 million for the construction of the \$41.4 million, 94 kilometre Wangetti Trail. Delivering in partnership with the Commonwealth Government.

Please note: Not all Government expenditure for the region is shown. Dollar amounts may include capital and operating expenditure, though may not represent the entire funding allocated.

SEPTEMBER 2020

KEY	
	Community wellbeing
	Utilities
	Health
	Education
	Transport and roads
	Justice and safety
	Government services
	Recreation and culture
	Statewide/region-wide
	Election commitment

NEW ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

Targeted investments will address the specific recovery needs of the Far North Queensland region. We will continue to work in partnership to deliver new jobs, new infrastructure and realise new economic opportunities.



Cairns Marine Precinct to support economic diversification

The Queensland Government will invest \$30 million to upgrade the Cairns Marine Precinct and fund a business case for the future development of the Precinct. The new funding will deliver 150 new jobs during construction, pay for upgrade of services and expand Cairns' capacity to carry out in-water maintenance on vessels used by the

Australian Defence Force and Border Force. The Queensland Government is working with Ports North to deliver this infrastructure upgrade. Funding for a business case will identify how Cairns can capitalise on future opportunities to grow as a leading centre for large vessel repair work. The Precinct may require total capital infrastructure expenditure of up to \$150 million and future contributions from the Commonwealth Government will be sought.

Cairns Shipbuilding Project to expand marine workforce

Shipbuilding could return to Cairns with the Queensland Government leading a business case to investigate the possibility of building vessels at the Cairns Marine Precinct. The Cairns Reshoring Shipbuilding Project business case will investigate the opportunity to re-establish a ship building industry in Cairns that can assist with the manufacture of commercial vessels required for servicing the region. If it proves successful it could create up to 100 jobs over the next 10 years. There is an existing skilled-work force, contractor base and infrastructure within the Cairns Marine Precinct which has a legacy of significant ship-building undertaken in the city over many years.



Enhancing Local Government biosecurity

Thriving agriculture in regions like Far North Queensland is instrumental to economic recovery with primary industries accounting for more than a quarter of businesses across our State's rural and regional areas. To protect this essential sector, the Queensland Government is providing grants of \$450,000 to boost the capability of local government and regional communities to manage invasive plants and invasive animals. As the northern gateway to biosecurity risks, this support for Far North Queensland will expand on current programs, strengthen regional planning and coordination, safeguard jobs and support partnerships with local governments. Funding will be provided across two years with a program coordinator based in northern Queensland and aims to employ two regional coordinators including an Indigenous coordinator to engage with Indigenous councils.

Transforming Cairns Hospital into a university hospital with research centre

Queensland Health is investing \$67.9 million to kickstart the transformation of Cairns Hospital into a university hospital for the city, including \$15 million to acquire land for a research, education and innovation precinct, fully integrated with the hospital.

Working in partnership with James Cook University, this investment will provide better health care for the Far North and also attract the future generation of health professionals to Cairns. The Cairns Hospital will acquire an expanded emergency department and a new endoscopy suite and operating theatre, helping to meet the health needs of a growing and ageing population. These upgrades will deliver world-class health facilities for the region and support a further 150 construction jobs to support our economic recovery.

CYCLONE PROOFING HOMES DELIVERS JOBS FOR TRADIES

Cyclone-impacted communities in regional Queensland have been experiencing a jobs boom through the Queensland Government's Household Resilience Program.

Queensland tradies are expanding their client base as more Queenslanders are cyclone-proofing their homes.

The program, part of the Unite and Recover jobs strategy, is fully subscribed, with funding flowing to around 100 local businesses for 314 homes ahead of this year's cyclone season.

Previous rounds saw some homeowners save an average of 8.5 per cent on their home insurance premiums, with some saving up to 25 per cent.

Cairns businessman Allen Ashby, owner of A J Roofing Solutions, said he was able to employ two roofing tradies and an apprentice as a result of the program.

"The Household Resilience Program has given me the confidence to grow my business...without it I would not have been able to put on the apprentice," Mr Ashby said.

"You can sense the trepidation out there and people's reluctance to spend money particularly during COVID-19, but this program has given them the incentive as well as a helping hand." The program is part of the Queensland Government's \$8 billion Unite and Recover jobs strategy.



NORTH QUEENSLAND SAILING OPERATORS READY FOR TOURISTS TO RETURN

Port Douglas sail operators Steve and Katrina Edmondson would normally welcome up to 25,000 tourists a year to the reef, 60 per cent of whom were international, but restrictions due to COVID-19 meant their Sailaway luxury vessels are grounded.

A COVID-19 Jobs Support Loan from the Queensland Government has helped pay on-going costs to keep the marine and eco-tourism operators of 17 years afloat until tourism can return to the Great Barrier Reef.

It has also helped to support 14 skilled staff, including skippers, marine biologists and master reef guides.

Mrs Edmondson said while the business was impacted from travel restrictions and not drawing an income, there were extensive on-going costs and refunds which had to be paid.

"The impact has been extreme," she said.

"Our priority was paying our staff entitlement and local suppliers."

Mrs Edmondson said the jobs support loan allowed the business to be ready for the next tourism season in Port Douglas.

"The loan came as a really good lifeline and allowed us to have the cash in the bank to meet our commitments. It's also assisting our cash flow to get us operating again.

"We have been sailing, diving and snorkelling all our lives and it's a privilege to share the excitement of the Great Barrier Reef with people from all parts of the world in a safe environment."

