Alongside the adversity of the past few months, Queenslanders have shown great resilience, initiative and innovation. We have seen distilleries adapt their craft to manufacture hand sanitiser which kept Queenslanders and health workers safe; hospitality businesses pivot to contactless home delivery and takeaway; and everything from fitness classes to music lessons and healthcare delivered online or virtually.

This ability to respond and adapt in the face of adversity is not new to Queensland. History has shown us that when the chips are down, Queenslanders support each other to get back up again, and this pandemic has been no different.

Our health system’s early and swift response to this pandemic not only led the nation, it saved lives. Our economic support packages have helped business and industry survive and in May the release of our Economic Recovery Strategy set out a plan to kick start the economy and get Queenslanders back to work in more jobs and more industries.

Now, in this second phase of the Strategy, we are announcing additional measures to help Queensland businesses and industry rebuild and take advantage of new opportunities.

While there is still a long way to go, the shared commitment of the government, the private sector and the community to unite and recover to put Queenslanders and Queensland jobs first, will see our economy bounce back better than ever.

This year, Queensland has faced one of our greatest tests. This pandemic has not only threatened the health and lives of Queenslanders, it has tested our resilience and has resulted in one of the worst economic crises the world has ever seen.

Queensland will recover. Natural disasters have long made Queensland battle-hardened as we recover from upheaval. We have proven our resilience in the past and will do it again.

While our small business, tourism, hospitality and retail sectors have been among the hardest hit, our mining and agriculture industries have helped us to power on, generating important export dollars that have also delivered dividends for the people of Queensland.

In our diversified economy, these regionally based industries are among the foundations of our economy and support a huge number of Queensland jobs. They have been critical in building the Queensland of today.

Queensland’s Economic Recovery Strategy is focussed on measures which will ensure the resource and agriculture industries can continue to power on and take advantage of new opportunities, while also providing more support to the tourism, construction and small business sectors which we know face a long and difficult recovery.

The next steps in our Economic Recovery Strategy will save and create jobs and help to rebuild a stronger and more resilient Queensland economy.
FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH

Prior to COVID-19, the Queensland economy was strong, diversified and growing faster than the national average.

Queensland had:

- An economy growing faster than the nation at 2.5 PER CENT
- FIVE budget surpluses
- LOWER DEBT POSITION than in 2015
- A record health budget $19.2 billion
- A record education and training budget $14.9 billion
- The largest 4 year infrastructure spend in nearly a decade $51.8 billion

As Queensland came together to flatten the curve and save lives, the Queensland Government was the first to act in Australia with a $6 billion support package to respond to COVID-19.

The Queensland Government was only able to provide this support because Queensland was in a strong economic position well ahead of the virus.

As we unite and recover, the Queensland Government is focused on rebuilding a stronger and more resilient economy.
STRATEGY TO PLAN

The Queensland Government has responded quickly and decisively in our health and economic response.

Our quick and decisive action through strong health measures and economic stimulus has meant the impacts so far have been significantly less than originally forecast.

As health restrictions continue to ease, the Government is providing additional assistance and support to re-open businesses, drive economic growth, capitalise on our strengths and seize the opportunities to innovate and rebuild the economy better than it was before.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

- **FEBRUARY – APRIL 2020**
  - Immediate economic stimulus.

- **MAY 2020**
  - Economic Recovery Strategy announced.
  - Stage One initiative announced.

- **JUNE 2020**
  - Stage Two initiative announced, focused on our sector strengths.

- **JULY 2020**
  - Further Stages of Economic Recovery.

- **AUGUST 2020**
  - Further Stages of Economic Recovery.

- **SEPTEMBER 2020**
  - Economic Recovery Plan announced to drive the State’s longer term economic response.
The Queensland Government has outlined a staged approach to supporting Queenslanders to travel again, participate in more activities and hold more gatherings. The Roadmap to Easing Restrictions provides sensible and gradual steps to a COVID-19 recovery that will reconnect our communities and keep our economy moving by supporting business, industry and Queensland jobs.

**IMMEDIATE ECONOMIC STIMULUS**

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Queensland Government has invested $6 billion in initiatives to manage the health response and also to support Queensland businesses and families and protect local jobs.

These include:

- **$1.2 billion** to expand fever clinics, emergency department capacity, acute care services and regional aeromedical services for remote communities.
- A **$1 billion** concessional Jobs Support Loan facility, interest free for the first 12 months, to support businesses to keep Queenslanders in work.
- A **$1 billion** Industry Support Package focused on large and regionally significant businesses to ensure they will be able to scale up and service the community when economic activity improves.
- Up to **$950 million** in payroll tax relief including refunds, payment holidays and deferrals for eligible businesses as well as a tax exemption for JobKeeper payments.
- Up to **$500 million** to assist workers and businesses who lose their job or income, including the creation of the Jobs Finder portal.
- **$500 million** in utilities bill relief for households and businesses, including a $200 credit for all 2.1 million Queensland homes to offset the cost of water and electricity and $100 million in electricity bill rebates for eligible small and medium sized businesses.
- **$400 million** in support for retail and commercial tenants, delivered as land tax relief and payment deferrals.
This Economic Recovery Strategy allows for a staged, adaptable approach with the first stage being a set of immediate initiatives to get Queenslanders back to work and kick start our economy. Our Economic Recovery Strategy recognises the importance of building vital infrastructure, strengthening Queensland’s industries and enabling future growth.

1 BUILDING VITAL INFRASTRUCTURE
Investing now in the infrastructure we need for the future will keep Queenslanders in jobs and create new jobs.
- Fast track the delivery of the State Infrastructure Plan
- Invest in new infrastructure to position our State for future success
- Identify and support private projects which deliver economic benefit and support jobs

2 STRENGTHENING QUEENSLAND’S INDUSTRIES

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3 ENABLING FUTURE GROWTH

- Skills, training and education
- Innovation and research
- Competitive regulatory environment
- Trade and investment
STAGE ONE INITIATIVES

Stage One of the Economic Recovery Strategy built on the Government’s initial response to the crisis and included:

$51.8 billion
State infrastructure program over the next four years – to give the building and construction industry certainty and confidence.

$400 million
Boost to roadworks – to create jobs for civil contractors.

$200 million
For local government to provide local jobs and build productive community infrastructure.

$50 million
To fast track tourism projects and assist tourism icons.

$100 million
To struggling small business to help them survive as they hibernate.

$50 million
For the Making it for Queensland program to grow the State’s advanced manufacturing capacity.

CopperString 2.0 project feasibility
To provide energy to the north-west to open up the minerals province.

An additional $20 million
To help Queenslanders retrain to find work.

Supported the Queensland Apprenticeship Centre
To position Queensland at the forefront of the exciting opportunities provided by hydrogen energy.
Queensland is a diversified economy. Its great strengths are the regionally based industries of tourism, resources, construction and agriculture that will continue to be the foundations of the State’s economy well into the future.

While some, like tourism, need support through what will be a long and difficult recovery, others, like agriculture are positioned to take advantage of new opportunities.

That is why the Queensland Government is backing these sectors in the Stage Two Economic Recovery initiatives.

**AGRICULTURE**

Supporting digital transformation in the agribusiness and food industry, reinvigorating trade relationships and diversification in a post COVID-19 environment.

- **$5.5m digital transformation in agribusiness** – to develop integrated supply chains that improve traceability, biosecurity and food safety.
- **$5m reinvigorated agricultural trade relationships** – to support e-commerce and virtual trade facilitation in key markets and assist coordination of demand for additional regular air freight services.
- **$2m agribusiness diversification assistance** – to build capability and explore potential diversification opportunities in agricultural businesses, including for tourism.

**CONSTRUCTION**

Targeting social and affordable housing investment and regulatory strategies to sustain jobs and recognise hardship in residential construction.

- **$100m housing construction – works for tradies** – to boost housing supply, drive economic activity and support construction across Queensland.
- **$50m SEQ community stimulus program** – further funding to local government to support minor works and projects that create local jobs in our most impacted areas.
- **$106m support for home building: to stimulate the building market for new homes valued at less than $750,000**:
  - **first home owners grant** - re-affirm our commitment to the $15,000 first home owner grants program for any Queensland first home buyers purchasing a new home.
  - **regional home building boost** – to provide a $5,000 grant for buyers of a new home (as principal place of residence) in a regional location (in addition to the $15,000 for first home owners)
- **$10m seniors and accessibility assistance** – to continue providing services for seniors and people with disabilities to conduct critical home maintenance.
- **$1.175m regional training infrastructure** – to upgrade existing TAFE training campuses.
TOURISM

Continuing to provide immediate assistance to the tourism sector by strengthening tourism assets to ensure the sector is ready to respond when the economy is back on its feet.

- **$15m airline route support** – to support and encourage domestic tourism spend across Queensland.
- **$8.93m national parks works and jobs boost** – to provide visitor infrastructure upgrades and enhancements to re-energise nature-based tourism.

ARTS AND CULTURE

Assisting our galleries, museums and performance venues along with artists, arts workers and musicians to support our cultural and tourism recovery.

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

RESOURCES

Supporting the continued diversification of the resources sector through exploration and the commercialisation of Mining Equipment Technology and Services businesses, start-ups and innovators.

- **$10m new economy minerals initiative** – to upscale the Collaborative Exploration Initiative and support exploration activity for new economy minerals for emerging technologies and products to meet domestic and international demand.
- **$650,000 Regional Mining Equipment, Technology and Services (METS) Accelerator Program and Queensland METS Accelerator Program** – to accelerate METS small to medium sized businesses by enhancing business capabilities.
- **$23m renewable energy training facility** – providing $17m to support industry to build a state of the art facility in Brisbane that provides world class training for solar and renewable energy.
- **Valeria coal mine** – declare the $1.5b Valeria Project a coordinated project.

SMALL BUSINESS

Supporting small businesses with a further round of direct grants to help them survive and keep providing jobs.

- **Up to $100m in small business grants** – further funding to help sustain small businesses so they can respond quickly post COVID-19 with half of the funding allocated to small businesses in regional Queensland.

INDUSTRY INITIATIVES

- **$100,000 Qld NZ export program** – to establish Trade and Investment pathways and opportunities for new and existing exporters between Queensland and New Zealand.
- **$23.16m taxi support package** – to provide one off and up front payments to operators, licence holders and booking entities.
For more information about the Queensland Government's COVID-19 Response, please visit covid19.qld.gov.au