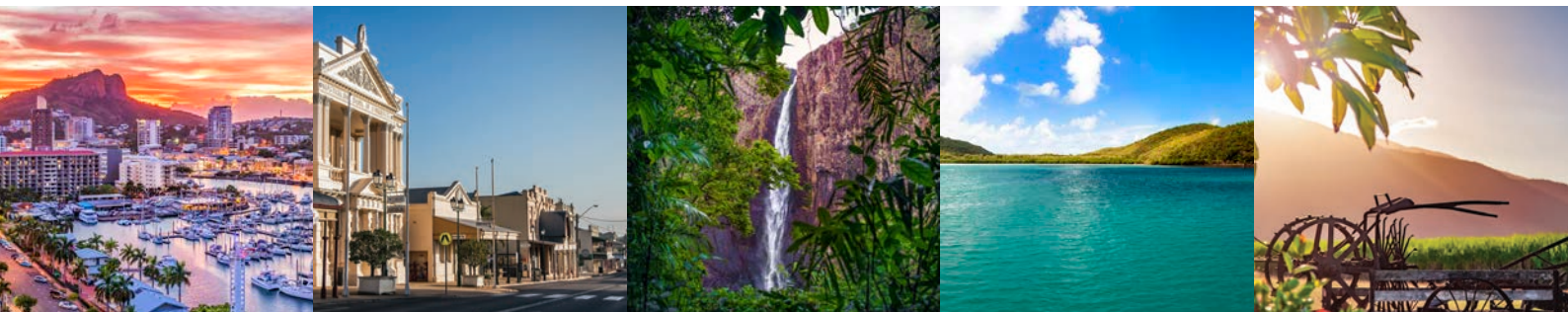


# UNLOCK THE NORTH



## Townsville North Queensland Projects and Policies



# Foreword

As the largest city and region in Northern Australia, Townsville North Queensland encompasses five major regional centres: Townsville, Charters Towers, Burdekin, Palm Island and Hinchinbrook. The region traditionally contributes over \$16.6B annually to the Queensland economy and is home to nearly 240,000 people.

However, as our state, nation and globe grapples with the unfolding COVID-19 pandemic, our economic landscape has dramatically shifted, and public funds have never been more competitive. In this current environment, where every dollar and every job counts, we must throw all we can to get business and people back to work whilst managing the ongoing health crisis.

This is why Townsville Enterprise, TaskforceNQ, North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (NQROC) and North Queensland's business community are working closer than ever before in advocating for the region as one voice. The continued focus on economic recovery is critical to the future of North Queensland and the partnership between business and Government has never been more important.

This document identifies the robust pipeline of projects and key policy levers in North Queensland that can not only ensure a strong future and sustained job creation for the region but support Queensland and Australia's long-term economic recovery.

We acknowledge the State and Federal Governments for standing up across this dual health and economic crisis and providing businesses and households invaluable support to weather this unprecedented storm. But due to the short runway into a Federal Budget and Queensland State Election, we are making a strong case as a united voice for targeted investment and policy support to ensure the North not only recovers but emerges stronger than ever.

Over the past decade, the people of Townsville North Queensland have experienced some of the toughest economic conditions in its 154-year history. The downturn in commodities, the drought and dramatic changes in the makeup of the economy saw unemployment in 2012 at an unprecedented 14%, with youth unemployment over 20%.

Water security and skyrocketing energy prices threatened the closure of our remaining manufacturing and production industries and business confidence hit historic lows. Adding to this, in February 2019 our region experienced one of the worst natural disasters in North Queensland's recent memory.

This has now been compounded with the double-edged health and economic sword of COVID-19 in what was considered by the North Queensland community as "our year" with several game-changing projects coming online and green-shoots emerging. This included the

\$293M Queensland Country Bank Stadium opening, a strong events and cruise ship calendar, delivering the Big Rocks Weir Business Case, the Port Channel Widening, construction of Adani's Carmichael Mine, renewed private sector investment into the Townsville CBD, the first stage of the Museum of Underwater Art, and Government policy agreements like the landmark City Deal and the Australia-Singapore Comprehensive Strategic Partnership providing momentum and funding for future developments.

We are not solely focused on cushioning the immediate and flow-on impacts of COVID-19, but additionally deal with the pre-existing structural issues that undermine future resilience and the investment necessary to resolve impediments that have hamstrung our region from reaching its full potential. We implore governments to continue building upon the visions for the north set out in the North Queensland Regional Plan, the North West Minerals Province Strategic Blueprint and Economic Diversification Strategy, and the Northern Australian Agenda.

This can be achieved through further investment into key infrastructure and industries that are the lifeblood of regional Queensland and policy levers that can support and grow Queensland and Australia's economy, through:

- › Agriculture, Minerals & Advanced Manufacturing;
- › Destination Development;
- › Defence;
- › Health, Research & Social Infrastructure; and
- › Locals Building Up Locals.

The targeted priorities included in the 2020 North Queensland Projects and Policies document have been defined based on their capacity to stimulate economic recovery and growth, encourage industry and private sector investment, influence business confidence and create jobs. This is more important than ever with the additional economic challenges our region is facing from the impacts of COVID-19 following a decade of downturn.

The State and Federal Governments play a key role in the economic recovery of North Queensland and the outlined economy building package is about giving communities and people hope for a better future. We encourage all levels of government to work in partnership with each other and with the North Queensland community to fast-track investment and implement policies that will not only get the region back on its feet but secure its long-term future and economic resilience.

We have the projects, we have the people, and we have the potential. Now North Queensland needs the keys to unlock the north so we can play a meaningful and capable role to progress the state and the nation. Not just because we can, but because we want to.



# North and North West Queensland Zone of National Significance

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

The North and North West Queensland region is the most strategically important export supply chain in Northern Australia. The area contains up to \$680B of known in-ground resources, \$500B of which are new economy minerals. Maximising the potential of the population, infrastructure and skills capability in this region is vital to a prosperous Queensland and National economy. Many Australian and international businesses wish to take advantage of the opportunities available in North and North West Queensland. However, the vast distances and cost structure of the region continue to constrain investment and employment.

The region requires a framework for major infrastructure, policy setting, and private sector investments to unlock its potential as the economic powerhouse of Northern Australia. These outcomes are best achieved through declaring the area that includes North Queensland and the North West Minerals Province a Zone of National Significance. The establishment of the Zone will drive the development of agriculture, minerals, and advanced manufacturing sectors.

The North and North West Queensland Zone of National Significance will utilise targeted company, employee, and infrastructure development incentives to attract investment, resident population, and industry development in a range of sectors which will leverage the region's existing industry base and export infrastructure.

### Key components of the Zone:

- › Establishment of a 'one-stop-shop' for streamlined development approvals within the precinct;
- › Increased zonal offset incentives, reflecting the costs of permanent residency in the rural/remote parts of the region;
- › Strong local content policy for all Government led infrastructure projects;

- › Support for new business investment, potentially including reduced/deferred payroll tax, accelerated depreciation for major capital and maintenance works, and allowances for increased exploration activity; and
- › Commitment to funding and fast tracking leading infrastructure that will support cost-competitive supply chains and industry expansion:

### Supply Chain Infrastructure:

- › CopperString 2.0;
- › Mount Isa to Townsville rail line; and
- › Port of Townsville Expansion
- › Investment in trunk infrastructure in industrial land at Lansdown and the Townsville State Development Area.

### Water Security:

- › Build Big Rocks Weir;
- › Raising of the Burdekin Falls Dam;
- › Progress works towards Hells Gates Dam; and
- › Fast track water allocations and approvals for HIPCO, Richmond Agricultural Project, and Wet Tropics Resource Operations Plan.

For the North and North West Queensland region, economic development and diversification through the Zone of National Significance framework will ease ongoing cost pressures, insulate the region against the commodity cycle, and provide economic opportunity for residents.

For Queensland and Australia this will lead to more stable regional communities, and cost-competitive mining and agricultural sectors. These key export and employment sectors will become more able to sustain operations during the down-cycle, and capture a greater share of the value chain generated by the North and North West Queensland region's natural resources and agricultural wealth.

# AGRICULTURE, MINERALS & ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

The importance and interconnectedness of agriculture, minerals and advanced manufacturing in North Queensland cannot be overstated, with the growth of these sectors critical to Queensland's and the nation's economic recovery. Support for the projects and policies across these industries in North Queensland will also assist in driving down the cost of energy encouraging private investment and job creation.

COVID-19 has revealed Australia's reliance on international supply and concerns around the ability to continue exporting to some regions of the globe. Industries of the future powered by renewable sources can complement our traditional and core industries of mining and resources, through projects such as CopperString 2.0 and the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct.

Development of emerging industries and support for those across North and North West Queensland will immediately attract supply chain providers and supporting supply industries. Facilitating the upgrade of the Mount Isa to Townsville Rail Line and development of the Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor then provides a direct link to nearshore and export supply chains and facilitates further product through the Port of Townsville.

Additionally, as global food demand increases, protection and security of sources becomes critical, as does opening untapped cropping potential. Support towards water and agriculture projects such as Big Rocks Weir and Hells Gates Dam will support securing food for the future.

## POTENTIAL JOBS FROM COMBINED PROJECTS

**14,990**

CONSTRUCTION  
JOBS

**5,923**

PERMANENT  
ONGOING JOBS

**44,623**

INDIRECT  
JOBS

PROJECT JOB SUMMARY	Construction	Permanent Ongoing	Indirect
> Big Rocks Weir	133	115	749
> CopperString 2.0	400	20	3,500
> Mount Isa to Townsville Supply Chain (TEARC jobs)	1,035	87	2,484
> North and North West Queensland Water Supply (Hells Gates Jobs)	11,867	3,885	25,303
> Raising of Burdekin Falls Dam	904	40	2,169
> Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct	160	1,603	9,120
> North Queensland Hydrogen Hub	90	164	216
> Ayr Industrial Land	17	3	57
> Ayr Macro-algae Bioremediation Demonstration	20	3	48
> Hinchinbrook Agricultural Diversification	4	3	113
> Tropical Aquaculture Accelerator	360	N/A	864



# Big Rocks Weir

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

### THE FIRST STEP IN REALISING THE VISION OF THE HELLS GATES SCHEME

The proposed Big Rocks Weir (BRW) is located approximately 26km north-west of Charters Towers, capable of storing at least 10,000 ML of water.

The purpose of the weir is water supply for irrigation, industrial development and to meet future urban water demands for Charters Towers and the surrounding region.

The project comprises a mass concrete gravity weir and associated infrastructure including a small saddle dam, outlet works, fishway and access track.

Previously considered as part of Hells Gates Feasibility Study, the current BRW Business Case has been undertaken in parallel with the Hells Gates Dam project to enable early decisions on potential construction.

The Business Case has been prepared by Townsville Enterprise Limited, working with the North Queensland Water Infrastructure Authority and the Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.

The Business Case is currently in the final drafting stage of being prepared for submission to both the state and Commonwealth governments, however the following benefits have already been identified:

### Benefits

- A strongly positive benefit/cost ratio, based on realistic economic analyses;
- Approximately 133 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions directly supported during the construction peak in 2022;
- Additional economic activity and employment opportunities associated with the operations of BRW and use of the additional water supplied by the weir;
- At full production, an additional \$35 million per annum in additional agricultural revenue, and 115 FTEs each year will be directly supported by the additional agricultural production associated with BRW (assuming a 10,000 ML water entitlement is granted by the Qld government; these numbers are larger if a greater volume of water is granted); and
- Greatly improved reliability of water supply for urban and industrial users including potential to support expansion activities for industrial users or new industry in Charters Towers.

**133**

CONSTRUCTION JOBS

**115**

PERMANENT ONGOING JOBS

**749**

INDIRECT JOBS

### WHAT WE NEED

#### Relevant Level

State Federal

➤ \$30M from Federal Government for capital works (already committed by the government)		●
➤ \$30M in matching funds from State Government for capital works	●	
➤ State government to expedite all approvals to allow construction to commence early 2021	●	

“

“Big Rocks presents big opportunities for agriculture, including more on-farm employment and capital works, as well as food processing and handling services to supply domestic and export markets. Importantly, it will deliver an immediate jobs boost during construction. We’re sure this opportunity will be top of mind for Governments when they consider the business case, especially given the economic impact of COVID-19.”

– Mayor Frank Beveridge,  
Charters Towers Regional Council

”



**AGRICULTURE, MINERALS AND ADVANCED MANUFACTURING**

# CopperString 2.0 Electricity Transmission Network

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

The North West Minerals Province is the location of a vast array of natural minerals resources, namely Lead, Zinc, Copper, Gold and Phosphate; the region also has strong potential in rare earth minerals. Deposits in the region are of varying grades making some deposits not economically extractable while energy costs are so high.

A solution to this issue is to reduce the costs associated with extraction and processing. Energy currently makes up a significant portion of the expenses for miners operating in the North West Minerals province, lowering this expense significantly improves the viability and potential of the North West’s mineral resources.

CopperString 2.0 offers a solution in the form of access to less expensive energy from the National Energy Market (NEM). The 1,100km long, high-voltage transmission line is estimated to generate 750 direct construction jobs and 33 direct operational jobs. Access to power from the NEM will open up the \$680B of known minerals resources, forecast to increase production by \$154B and sustain 3,560 full-time jobs for 30 years.

In addition to a renewed natural minerals resources industry in the North West, the project will improve geographic diversification of renewable energy infrastructure and provide free access to a fibre-optic cable running the length of the line, improving data connectivity and internet speeds.

<b>400</b> CONSTRUCTION JOBS	<b>20</b> PERMANENT ONGOING JOBS	<b>3,500</b> INDIRECT JOBS	 <b>\$79 BILLION</b> ECONOMIC ACTIVITY FOR 30 YEARS
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WHAT WE NEED	Relevant Level	
	State	Federal
CopperString 2.0 to continue on schedule to commence construction (750 jobs, 3 yr construction program) in mid-2021, and provide long-term sustainability to the NWMP	●	
CopperString Implementation Agreement to be executed between CuString and the State in August 2020	●	
Provide additional development funding contribution to align with Queensland Government and private sector contributions		●
Financing support to ensure NAIF capital contribution is maximised, delivering lowest prices for customers and maximum economic benefits		●

“**CopperString is one of the most important enabling projects for our region’s long-term growth.**

**The impacts from lower energy prices on our community will lead to enormous opportunities in the resource sector and help to grow the Australian economy.**

**At Dugald River, CopperString will provide our site and our local community with access to a reliable, cheaper source of energy as well as provide an ability to tap into our abundant renewable energy resources and improved communication through the fibre-optic cable running the length of the project.”**

*- Tim Akroyd, MMG, Dugald River Acting General Manager*



## AGRICULTURE, MINERALS AND ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

# Mount Isa to Townsville Supply Chain

### GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

The Mount Isa to Townsville Rail Line is a critical piece of freight infrastructure supporting mining, agricultural and manufacturing industries in North and North West Queensland, and servicing the freight needs of communities across the region.

Townsville North Queensland services the North West Minerals Province (NWMP) as well as the broader Mount Isa to Townsville Economic Development Zone (MITEZ). The NWMP is one of the world's richest mineral producing areas containing copper, lead and zinc as well as major silver and phosphate deposits and strong rare earth potential.

Product from the NWMP is railed and trucked to Townsville Port for export to global markets. Railing of product on the Mount Isa to Townsville Rail Line has decreased in recent years with increased trucking of product. A lack of reinvestment in the rail line has resulted in inefficiencies of rail line speed/ restrictions, lack of passing loops, and lack of multi-user terminals for loading and unloading of product which has led to a modal shift of product to road transport. This modal shift places greater pressure and cost onto the road network and has resulted in inefficiencies in the logistical supply chain. There is a real need to develop a competitive supply chain for agriculture and mining products from Mount Isa to Townsville port.

This is vitally important, as reducing the cost and capacity issues of the supply chain will assist to unlock the potential of the Mount Isa to Townsville corridor development.

In addition to this, direct access into the port from the Mount Isa and North Coast lines will significantly improve efficiencies.

### The Solution:

- 1. TEARC** – Building the Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor (TEARC) will significantly improve port access through provision of a multi-modal road and rail corridor that provides direct access to Townsville Port from the Mount Isa and North Coast lines and the State road network. It will reduce bottlenecks, facilitate the use of 1,400 metre-long trains and improve the urban amenity of Townsville.
- 2. Subsidy** – A commitment to reviewing the current subsidy for the below rail component is necessary to ensure that it is achieving the objective that it is set out to do, which is to reduce input costs and encourage more tonnes on the line. Feedback from users indicates that a competitive and efficient supply chain is an important consideration in future expansion projects.
- 3. Investment** – A commitment to reinvest in rail and road infrastructure from Mount Isa to Townsville over the next five years, starting with the fast-tracking of the Queensland Rail re-sleeper program. In addition to this, any increases in North West Minerals Province government royalty income (using 2019-2020 financial year as a base) should be reinvested into infrastructure in this corridor. This will create a partnership between industry and government with aligned growth objectives.
- 4. Plan** – A 10-year updated master plan should be published for the Mount Isa to Townsville Rail Line detailing the planned investments to meet forecast demand and the key indicators to be monitored to ensure the supply chain is resilient, competitive and efficient in supporting growth in mining and agriculture sectors in North and North West Queensland.
- 5. Port** – The Port of Townsville is Northern Australia's largest port and gateway to Asia and the world for the region's growing economy and vast minerals industry. The approved Port Expansion Project (PEP) will provide six new berths in the outer harbour. The first stage channel widening is currently underway, creating the first 60 hectares of land. Investment for constructing the full PEP rockwall perimeter will secure the overall expansion footprint, enabling the Port to facilitate new trade projects in Northern Australia.

### WHAT WE NEED

#### Relevant Level

State Federal

	State	Federal
> TEARC – EIS Approvals and Corridor Acquisition	●	
> Allocate \$391M (\$195.5M State and Federal) over the next four years to complete delivery of the TEARC	●	●
> Allocate \$100M for the Port of Townsville perimeter rock wall	●	

### TEARC JOBS

**1,035**

CONSTRUCTION JOBS

**87**

PERMANENT ONGOING JOBS

**2,484**

INDIRECT JOBS

# North and North West Queensland Water Supply

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

As demand for global food consumption from reliable and safe producers increases, North and North West Queensland is perfectly positioned to deliver clean and green food to the world, particularly to South East Asia, in addition to beef exports.

North and North West Queensland agricultural production remains dominated by extensive cattle grazing operations, focussed heavily on low-value breeder properties, with limited regional value-adding or intensive employment opportunities. The industry also endures significant variability due to severe weather events, such as the recent February 2019 floods that caused the devastating loss of 664,000 head of stock across the region.

To unlock the extensive opportunities across this sector, all levels of government can work together to deliver the following for North Queensland:

- › Water Storage – a coordinated plan for appropriate water storage;
- › Affordability – to ensure water use is competitively priced to enable an increase in agricultural production;
- › Allocation – timeframes and approvals for water allocations need to be reduced and with the assurance that where allocations are available, they are used for an increase in production; and
- › Land Use – water security, pricing and allocations are insignificant unless there are expanded opportunities for land use.

Given the challenges of extreme distances and limited water storage infrastructure for irrigation, the region would benefit from greater commitment to a coordinated approach to large-scale water storage and associated infrastructure. We note the recent developments in relation to the Houghton Pipeline Stage 2 and believe this is a critical part of infrastructure for the region and we will continue to advocate for commencement and completion as soon as possible.

The region hosts several promising agricultural projects that would support the development of a sustainable agricultural supply chain from across North and North West Queensland, including:

### North West Irrigation Projects

Key developments seeking specific support include the Hughenden Irrigation Project Corporation (HIPCO) development in Flinders Shire, the Cave Hill Dam proposal at Cloncurry, and the Richmond Agriculture Project which involves sustainable gravity diversion to an off-river storage supplying 8,000 hectares of irrigated cropping land.

### HELLS GATES IRRIGATION SCHEME

The 2015 Northern Australia White Paper called for a 100% increase in irrigated agriculture across the North. The realisation of the Hells Gates Dam project has the potential to deliver up to 35% of that growth target (50,000+ha) in one large scale, scalable development that would harness rich soils adjacent to the largest peak flow river in Australia and in close proximity to critical logistical infrastructure supportive of efficient delivery to burgeoning export markets.

In 2018, the \$2.2M Hells Gates Dam Feasibility Study confirmed the viability of the \$5.35B irrigated agricultural and power project on the upper Burdekin River. The findings of the study defined that the Hells Gates Dam Irrigation Project has the potential to redefine Northern Queensland's agriculture sector and underpin long term export market growth and investment.

The Australian Government has since committed \$24M to the business case for the Big Rocks Weir and Hells Gates Irrigation Scheme. The Hells Gates Dam Scheme is a potentially nation-building undertaking, involving around \$6B in enabling infrastructure, supporting up to 50,000ha of irrigation via a 2,100 GL dam, three downstream irrigation weirs and a further weir located at Big Rocks near Charters Towers.





Also, under consideration as part of this project is an extensive pumped hydro system generating up to 1,000MW that is intended to integrate into the National Electricity Grid.

As the Hells Gates project progresses, there is increasing risk that it (and others) will become “policy stranded” because there is no consistent and shared understanding by government agencies and local/regional communities, about how each project fits into a cohesive government agenda. The most logical of these agendas being the Northern Australia White Paper agenda, managed by the Office of Northern Australia, as one of the few areas with the remit to progress cross cutting policy strategies. There is a wide range of major projects underway or under active consideration in the region within 300km of Townsville, with a need to better understand how they might link (e.g. energy, transport, workforce skills, etc.) and what the requirements will be for avoiding regional logistic and other supply bottlenecks in bringing the projects to fruition. While COVID-19 has required focus on shorter term job creation there remains an imperative for longer term and strategic economic developments, targeted at unlocking the north’s potential over the next five years and with at least a 10-year time horizon for delivery and benefits realisation.

**11,867**

CONSTRUCTION JOBS

**3,885**

PERMANENT ONGOING JOBS

**25,303**

INDIRECT JOBS

### Raise Burdekin Falls Dam

The Burdekin Falls Dam is Queensland’s largest dam (1,860,000ML). The Dam supplies irrigation in the Lower Burdekin as well as mining in the Bowen Basin, and is currently an alternative source of urban water supply for Townsville (pumping commenced 13 November 2017).

As the Burdekin region’s population grows, so too does the pressure on dam water allocations. A dam safety upgrade and wall height upgrade of at least two metres is required to comply with ANCOLD national safety standards and State guidelines and was always designed to be eventually developed to Stage 2 (Dam wall raised two metres, to deliver 150,000ML). In addition to increased water supply, the raising of the wall will improve the viability of the proposed pumped hydro and increase the long-term efficiency of directly supplying Townsville’s water.

There are benefits of incorporating Stage 2 into the Dam safety upgrades required by 2035. The Queensland Government approved the development of a detailed business case in September 2019, which Sunwater is working on with Building Queensland to further investigate raising the dam. This will determine the preferred raising option based on detailed demand assessments, as well as any other associated water storage and distribution efficiency upgrade options. The findings of this business case will be important for future decision making.

### Raising of Burdekin Falls Dam Jobs

**904**

CONSTRUCTION JOBS

**40**

PERMANENT ONGOING JOBS

**2,169**

INDIRECT JOBS

## WHAT WE NEED

### Relevant Level

State Federal

> Federal Government to provide continued support to major water infrastructure projects across the North and North West via the NWIDF, including the HIPCO development in Flinders Shire, the Cave Hill Dam proposal at Cloncurry, the Richmond Agriculture Project, and the Hells Gates Dam and Big Rocks Weir near Charters Towers.



> A commitment to reviewing water pricing and allocation to ensure affordability and industry are met with a regulatory environment that creates certainty and encourages investment.



> Support the North Queensland Water Infrastructure Authority proposal to work with the Office of Northern Australia to support the Hells Gates Irrigation Scheme from Business Case to Construction.





**AGRICULTURE, MINERALS AND ADVANCED MANUFACTURING**

# Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

The Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct will secure long-term, high-growth, high-skilled jobs for North Queensland through the attraction of environmentally sustainable, circular economy-focussed advanced manufacturing and emerging industries.

The Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct will be Northern Australia’s first environmentally sustainable, advanced manufacturing, processing and technology estate powered by locally generated renewable energy ensuring the long-term sustainability of the North Queensland economy. The precinct addresses Australia’s pervasive manufacturing challenge by co-locating industry with low-cost power supplied from the adjacent 400MW solar farm by Edify Energy thus reducing ongoing operating costs, and regionalising manufacturing job creation, outputs and outcomes. The Precinct offers direct access available to the Great Northern Railway (connecting Port of Townsville to Mount Isa), close proximity to the Port of Townsville via high volume road corridors (Flinders Highway, Bruce Highway and Southern Port Access Road) including B-Triple carriageway capacity on major routes to Port, immediate adjacency to the North Queensland Gas Pipeline for future renewable hydrogen expansion, and future connection to Houghton Pipeline for provision of raw water supply to industrial users.

The Lansdown Eco-Industrial Estate has already attracted substantial private sector interest with over half of the developable land committed or conditionally committed to advanced battery manufacturing, clean energy, and battery minerals processing industries.

A \$50 million investment would deliver:

- › Intersection upgrades to provide road access to the

precinct, which would also have safety outcomes for Woodstock residents;

- › Relocation of the rail infrastructure to maximise strategic opportunities for creation of a multi-user rail siding within the precinct providing a second method of transporting product to and from the site through to the Port of Townsville and the North West Minerals Province;
- › Provision of a raw water supply for proponents from the Houghton Pipeline Duplication Project located just 13km from the Precinct;
- › Creation of internal access roads that will immediately facilitate finalisation of the first stage of DriveIT NQ and enable operations for all early Precinct users to commence; and
- › A precinct-wide gas microgrid that will support 24-hour industrial operations within the precinct, supplementing low-cost solar power feed for day-time uses.

### Outcomes

Investing in enabling infrastructure will:

- › Unlock rapid delivery of Stage 1 of the Imperium 3 Battery Manufacturing Facility, generating 205 jobs and at completion of Stage 3 achieve 1,150 jobs;
- › Accelerate the first stage of the Pure Minerals battery materials refinement plant, generating a further 100 jobs for the region;
- › Facilitate completion of DriveIT NQ, realising 147 jobs when fully operational, and an injection of \$1.4 billion in the economy over the next 40 years; and
- › Attract further private investment in advanced manufacturing, hydrogen and high-tech processing facilities for the remaining available land.

## WHAT WE NEED

### Relevant Level

State Federal

› A commitment to invest \$50M is essential for the construction of access roads, rail and water infrastructure. This commitment will give certainty to investors looking to develop projects on this site



**160**

CONSTRUCTION JOBS

**1,603**

PERMANENT ONGOING JOBS

**9,120**

INDIRECT JOBS



**AGRICULTURE, MINERALS AND ADVANCED MANUFACTURING**

# North Queensland Hydrogen Hub

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

Townsville is ideally located for the creation of a Hydrogen Hub powered predominantly by green energy.

Due to the many renewable energy projects currently proposed or under construction in the region, Townsville is uniquely placed to contribute to supplying green hydrogen for domestic and export markets.

There is currently strong interest from local large-scale industrial operators, including the Port of Townsville, Sun Metals, ITM Power and Edify Energy, in being part of a hydrogen energy hub. In addition, Queensland University of Technology have indicated a strong desire to be involved. The Hydrogen Hub would underwrite demand for new renewable energy required to meet the State Government’s 50% renewable energy target by 2030.

With the appropriate investment into the Hydrogen Hub, the Queensland Government can secure a sustainable future for Townsville, North Queensland based on clean advanced manufacturing and green hydrogen production.

Building upon investments in recycled water, and private investment into solar power, Townsville has the immediate opportunity to leverage private sector interest into this emerging industry.

To ensure that North Queensland can play a part in the establishment of Queensland’s Hydrogen industry, it is proposed that \$28.3 million in funding is allocated to the creation of a Hydrogen Hub in Townsville North Queensland, which would drive the production of green hydrogen using renewable energy and recycled water.

## WHAT WE NEED

*Relevant Level*

	State	Federal
\$28.3M in funding allocated to the creation of a Hydrogen Hub in Townsville North Queensland, for Hydrogen produced from renewable energy and recycled water.	●	●

\$28.3M in funding allocated to the creation of a Hydrogen Hub in Townsville North Queensland, for Hydrogen produced from renewable energy and recycled water.



**90**

CONSTRUCTION JOBS

**164**

PERMANENT ONGOING JOBS

**216**

INDIRECT JOBS



**AGRICULTURE, MINERALS AND ADVANCED MANUFACTURING**

## Ayr Industrial Land

### GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

The Burdekin Shire Council proposes to develop additional land for industrial purposes in Ayr as the existing industrial estate is now close to capacity. Land owned by Council and previously identified for future expansion of the estate is partly affected by a State Government ‘wetland’ overlay that impacts its future development. The Council has therefore recently purchased additional vacant land adjoining the existing industrial estate, undertaken detailed engineering designs and obtained relevant planning approvals to enable the land to be reconfigured into a number of industrial lots.

The provision of suitably located and serviced industrial land in Ayr will help meet business and industry needs. The requested funding will act as a catalyst to develop further stages of the industrial estate as the land sales from stage one will enable infrastructure provision in future stages, thereby multiplying the initial investment and job creation opportunities.

**Status:**

The project is shovel ready but requires funding support to construct the necessary infrastructure to develop the land for industrial purposes, allowing for business growth and development in the Shire. The project is identified as essential economic infrastructure in the recently adopted Outlook 2025: Burdekin Economic Development Strategy 2020-25.

### WHAT WE NEED

Relevant Level	
State	Federal

> The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$5.2M, with Council being prepared to fund up to 50% of the project cost



**17**

CONSTRUCTION JOBS

**3**

PERMANENT ONGOING JOBS

**57**

INDIRECT JOBS

## Ayr Macro-algae Bioremediation Demonstration

### GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

The proposed project involves the construction of a demonstration facility using fresh water macro-algae to remediate nitrogen and phosphorous from the discharge effluent of the Ayr/Brandon Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP). These two nutrients represent a significant threat to the ongoing health of the Great Barrier Reef. Research trials undertaken with JCU indicate the algae can significantly reduce the levels of nitrogen and phosphorous from the wastewater produced by the WWTP. Council is working in partnership with company Pacific Biotechnologies Pty Ltd, which holds

the intellectual property for the macro algae treatment process, to secure funding to build the demonstration facility at the Ayr/Brandon STP.

**Project Benefit:**

The construction of a 5.5 hectare bioremediation facility at the Ayr/Brandon WWTP will enable a full scale demonstration facility to be developed and operated. Subject to its success, the facility could be duplicated at a number of other WWTP sites throughout Queensland that are discharging to the Great Barrier Reef lagoon. The technology has significantly lower capital and operating cost than other current conventional treatment upgrade options designed to remove nitrogen and phosphorus.

### WHAT WE NEED

Relevant Level	
State	Federal

> \$6.5M funding



**20**

CONSTRUCTION JOBS

**3**

PERMANENT ONGOING JOBS

**48**

INDIRECT JOBS



**AGRICULTURE, MINERALS AND ADVANCED MANUFACTURING**

# Hinchinbrook Agricultural Diversification

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

Hinchinbrook Shire Council is endeavoring to promote cultivation of alternate crops complementary to, and in rotation to sugar cane utilising current sugar cane fallow practices. The objective is to create additional cash crop opportunities for the district increasing jobs and employment opportunities. Recently commissioned studies have identified that the district climate soils and existing infrastructure will allow establishment of commercial crops including capsicum, industrial hemp, kenaff, melons, pumpkins, mung bean, peanut, rice, sweet potato and taro.

The establishment of a district grain storage and drying facility will facilitate the handling and processing of crops such as pulse, dryland rice and peanuts.

This project entails purchase, acquisition, erection and installation of silo storage and equipment to dry and temporarily store new product pending transport to established processors in Tolga and Ayr. This will encourage and promote diversification in agriculture,

complementary to sugar cane production, by value-adding during crop rotational/fallow cycles, utilising dryland rice cropping and legumes.

This facility will act as a depot for SunRice processing facilities already at Brandon and subsequent export opportunities through the Port of Townsville.

**Outcomes:**

1. Improvement of economic yield of sugarcane in the district through soil health improvement. This will be achieved by breaking of current monoculture;
2. Creation of new agricultural industries for supply of agricultural product for both domestic and export Markets. This aspect will also support agricultural growth on a regional scale supporting the Queensland Government Agricultural Strategy 2030 and North Queensland Agriculture and Supply Chain Study; and
3. Improved utilisation and protection of cleared cropping land by promoting and facilitating cover crops on traditional cane fallows over the summer/wet season periods.

## WHAT WE NEED

*Relevant Level*

	State	Federal
Funding of \$750,000 for earthworks and installation of two silos, one dryer and associated equipment.	●	

› Funding of \$750,000 for earthworks and installation of two silos, one dryer and associated equipment.



**4**

CONSTRUCTION JOBS

**3**

PERMANENT ONGOING JOBS

**113**

INDIRECT JOBS



# Tropical Aquaculture Accelerator

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

Food security and the rapidly growing demand for high quality seafood protein are two significant challenges across the globe. Growing at its current rate, aquaculture is set to be Australia's second largest agrifood export by 2050 and worth \$12.8B.

Australian aquaculture production systems must be able to deliver high-quality, consistent volumes of produce, operate with minimal environmental impact, and use sustainable raw feed materials. Industry has stressed that the aquaculture industry needs innovation if it is to reach its full potential. Townsville is the perfect location to leverage tropical marine science, engineering and industry skills to address research priorities.

Key issues, opportunities and competitive advantage for the aquaculture industry in Northern Australia are:

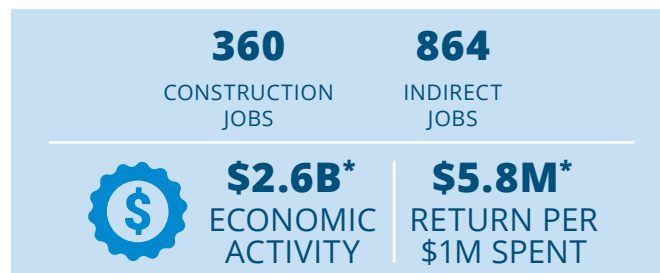
- › Maintaining technological competitive advantage including rapid phenotyping, energy efficiency, and sustainability;
- › Disease management and genomic-informed breeding to achieve strong growth rates in high quality broodstock;
- › Food security and biosecurity;
- › Bioremediation, environmental and ecological sustainability innovation;
- › Internet of Things capabilities with integrated sensor and control development;
- › Industry co-location and partnership;
- › Skilled workforce and industry exposed graduates, from VET-sector (via MoU with TAFE), undergraduate and higher degree by research, through to continuing professional education; and
- › Achieving scale.

## WHAT WE NEED

### Relevant Level

State	Federal
●	●

› Invest \$67M to create the Tropical Aquaculture Accelerator, ensuring Northern Australia and Queensland continue to enjoy our leadership advantage in aquaculture, at a time when global demand is about to soar.



\*BY 2034/5

# DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT

The tourism, hospitality and events sector has been hit first and hardest by the impacts of COVID-19. This is an industry which in North Queensland supports 37,400 jobs and contributes \$6.4B to the Queensland economy annually.

Prior to COVID-19 the Townsville North Queensland region welcomed almost 3 million visitors annually. As a region, key policy considerations as well as investment and support towards turning sod on new tourism experiences and supporting infrastructure, will accelerate recovery from COVID-19. Rebuilding and enhancing the North Queensland tourism offering is critical, this is an industry which contributes greatly to the North Queensland economy, but also supports community pride and livability.

## POTENTIAL JOBS FROM COMBINED PROJECTS

**1,824**

CONSTRUCTION  
JOBS

**4,372**

PERMANENT  
ONGOING JOBS

**7,327**

INDIRECT  
JOBS

PROJECT JOB SUMMARY	Construction	Permanent Ongoing	Indirect
> Townsville Airport Redevelopment	207	129	200
> Museum of Underwater Art Stage 3 Jobs	40	2	96
> North Queensland Trail Development	65	115	201
> Drivelt NQ Education and Motorsport Precinct	56	142	134
> Great Barrier Reef Marine Access - Dungeness	80	100	N/A
> Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium Redevelopment	95	70	468
> Wongaloo Conservation Park	N/A	N/A	N/A
> Direct International Flights	N/A	N/A	N/A
> North Queensland Country Club and Equestrian Centre	300	3,750	3,986
> North Australia Cultural Precinct	394	51	2,242
> Billabong Sanctuary: Coast to Canopy Exhibition	N/A	N/A	N/A
> Bush Oasis: Eco Tourism, Glamping and Sustainable Habitats	17	8	N/A
> Pelorus Island Retreat	30	5	N/A
> The Hive	N/A	N/A	N/A
> Great Barrier Reef House	N/A	N/A	N/A
> Palm Island Retail and Commercial Precinct	N/A	N/A	N/A



**DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT**

# Policy Levers to support Tourism and Hospitality COVID-19 Recovery

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

The tourism, hospitality and events sector has been hit first and hardest by the impacts of COVID-19. The recovery for the tourism and events sector is anticipated to be long, with modelling suggesting visitation numbers will not return to what they were pre-COVID for at least three years.

State and Federal Government policy decisions will be critical in expediting recovery for this sector. Incentives and policy reviews which reduce business overheads and create conducive operating environments will minimise business fatality and enable economic recovery.

The key policy measures that could support business recovery and growth are listed below.



**37,400 NQ JOBS**  
SUPPORTED BY INDUSTRY



**\$6.4B**  
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

## WHAT WE NEED

*Relevant Level*

State    Federal

<p>› <b>Insurance:</b> Insurance costs are at an all-time high forcing many tourism and hospitality businesses to instead opt to self-insure. In addition to the ever-increasing cost of property insurance, tourism operators are finding that public liability renewal notices now have significant premium increases or in some cases cover was outright refused. A review into the insurance registration and regulatory framework is required.</p>	●	●
<p>› <b>Regulation:</b> Remove and/or review regulation (e.g. licencing fees, trading hours) to assist businesses in adapting to the 'new normal' that has resulted from COVID-19.</p>	●	
<p>› <b>Instant asset write-off:</b> Increase the threshold for company size and the ceiling amount allowed and extend COVID-19 instant asset write-off incentives for a further financial year.</p>		●
<p>› <b>Implement FBT Tax Review</b> for hospitality and tourism businesses</p>		●
<p>› <b>Tourism Distribution System Review:</b> Regulation around the tourism distribution system to reduce the commission requirements of tourism operators and address significant concerns around the non-payment from some travel agency platforms. There are currently major travel agencies owing tourism operators millions of dollars for services which were delivered before COVID-19 restrictions were in place, putting the current commercial and legislative environment of these businesses into question.</p>	●	●





**DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT**

# Townsville Airport Redevelopment

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

Townsville Airport is the gateway to North Queensland and plays an important role in providing a first and last impression for travellers and visitors. Until COVID-19, Townsville Airport was the 11th busiest airport in Australia, supporting 3,000+ jobs and contributing \$420M to the economy annually. It is a major economic enabler for North Queensland.

Based on existing and estimated increased future passenger numbers, there is an urgent need for essential upgrades to core infrastructure at Townsville Airport. The last significant terminal upgrade occurred in 2003 and since then, Townsville Airport's passenger movements have grown 84 per cent. To address capacity constraints and passenger comfort issues, leading airport planning experts concluded the terminal's departure lounge was 42 per cent undersized and lounge seating needed to be increased by 25 per cent. Therefore, capacity constraints and passenger comfort are also key reasons for the redevelopment.

Last year, Townsville Airport management was successful in securing a loan from the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF), enabling early works to proceed. A refresh of the terminal design has progressed well and roof and other related works have been

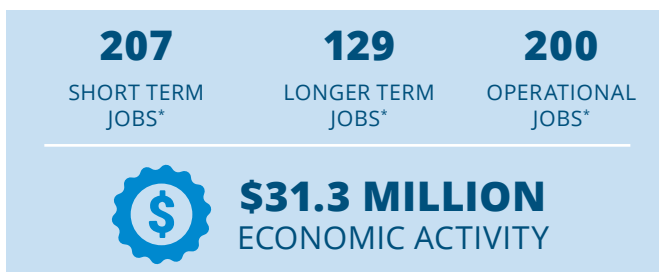
completed. A significant early works package was also scheduled to commence when the COVID-19 crisis struck. As a result of the impacts of management measures relating to the COVID-19 health crisis on the aviation sector, Townsville Airport management is currently unable to proceed with the redevelopment, in accordance with the NAIF loan provisions.

This project will ensure improvement to the essential services of one of North Queensland's critical infrastructure and tourism assets continues. Overall, this \$50M project will support 207 construction-related jobs and 50 operational jobs when complete. Progressing with the next stage will deliver 25 jobs, most of them trade-related, this year and construction work for a period of six months.

### Status\*\*:

- Stage one: Critical enabling core infrastructure works: Shovel Ready – 6 month construction timeframe;
- Stage two: Terminal redevelopment design completion: Currently at schematic design phase – 4-month design completion.

*\*\*contingent on funding*



*\* Figures based on whole project*

## WHAT WE NEED

	Relevant Level	
	State	Federal
➤ \$8.32M in funding to complete core infrastructure and associated building work	●	●
➤ \$1.5M in funding to complete terminal design	●	●

“The Townsville Airport is a major economic driver for North Queensland and the terminal redevelopment is critical to ensuring that as a region we can truly realise our potential.

For us, and everyone within the tourism sector, aviation access is the lifeblood of our business. We need to ensure the infrastructure is to a standard that will attract new flight routes and help us to further build our tourism potential.”

– Troy Scott, General Manager,  
Grand Hotel & Apartments Townsville

# Museum of Underwater Art

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

Townsville North Queensland is the global centre of excellence for marine science, education and research. The Museum of Underwater Art (MOUA) is establishing a world class underwater art, science and educational experience for visitors on the Great Barrier Reef in the key locations of Townsville, John Brewer Reef, Palm Island and Magnetic Island. MOUA is the first of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere and is a catalytic tourism project that will enhance the nation's tourism offerings. This project will strengthen the region's art and reef experiences to leverage global tourism trends and is anticipated to attract approximately 50,000 visitors from across the globe each year.


The project's principal artist is acclaimed international sculptor, Jason deCaires Taylor who together with local

artists and tourism operators will bring together a multi-day educational eco-tourism experience highlighting the importance of our ocean and reefs, climate change and reconciliation. Using internationally renowned artist Jason deCaires Taylor brings a wealth of media, marketing and PR opportunities across national and international channels which will support the global relaunch of tourism to Australia and Queensland post COVID-19.

### Status:

- > **Stage One (John Brewer Reef and The Strand, Townsville):** \$2M Project Completed – launched in August 2020;
- > **Stage Two (Palm Island):** \$2M project – design underway and project to be completed by end of 2021; and
- > **Stage Three (Magnetic Island):** \$1M funding secured, still seeking \$1M matching funding – design underway and project to be completed by end of 2021.

## STAGE THREE JOBS

<b>40</b> CONSTRUCTION JOBS	<b>2</b> PERMANENT ONGOING JOBS	<b>96</b> INDIRECT JOBS	 <b>\$42 MILLION</b> ECONOMIC ACTIVITY
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WHAT WE NEED	Relevant Level	
	State	Federal
> \$1M in funding towards Stage 3 of MOUA to complete project	●	●
> Dedicated marketing funding for project	●	●
> Removal of GBRMPA Bond requirement for Stage 1 acknowledging that the adequate insurances are in place		●
> Assistance to build first nations tourism business development around MOUA	●	
> Citizen science collaboration through Federal Government GBR institutions		●

“North Queensland’s proposed Museum of Underwater Art is a project that will engage and inspire people from across the globe to visit and love the Great Barrier Reef. It brings together science, art and first nation’s culture, into a multi-day tourism educational experience in the region.

MOUA will allow our region to develop its Great Barrier Reef story, enabling Australia’s newest eco-tourism experience to engage and inspire locals and visitors alike.”

– Paul Victory, General Manager SeaLink, Chair MOUA Ltd



**DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT**

# North Queensland Trail Development

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

Townsville Enterprise recently commissioned ‘Destination Think’ to undertake a Tourism Sentiment Index (TSI) report for the Townsville North Queensland region. The TSI study analysed over 15 million online conversations about the region from across the globe to understand the quality of the visitor experience as well as what elements of the destination are the biggest attractors for tourism. The YE 2019 report demonstrated that when compared to similar sized destinations across the globe, Townsville leads in experiences centred around fishing, wildlife and hiking. As a region, there is significant opportunity to leverage our destination’s strengths and further build the experience offering through multi-purpose trail development and commercialisation.

Hiking and mountain biking is a key growth segment within the tourism industry. Iconic trails from across Australia and New Zealand such as the Overland Track, Great Ocean Walk and Milford Sound Track attract thousands of high value visitors annually, injecting millions in economic value and placing regional destinations on the map for tourists from across the globe.

### Identified trail opportunities:

- › **Paluma to Wallaman Falls Multi-Day Trail:** A proposed 125km, 7 day/6 night mixed use trail to be established in the Townsville North Queensland region. This trail not only offers world-class scenery and landscapes but would provide visitors a spiritual and immersive experience travelling in the footsteps of ancient Indigenous tribes;
- › **Magnetic Island Trails:** Development of trails in line with Magnetic Island Trails Vision and redevelopment of Magnetic Island foreshores; and
- › **Palm Island Trails:** Multi-purpose trail development on Palm Island to complement new tourism offerings and introduce a new events and tourism industry to the community.

### Status:

- › **Paluma to Wallaman Falls Trail:** Pending Business Case completion and awaiting Capital Works funding;
- › **Magnetic Island Trails:** Funding required; and
- › **Palm Island Trails:** Requires feasibility and business case.

<p><b>65</b></p> <p>CONSTRUCTION JOBS</p>	<p><b>115</b></p> <p>PERMANENT ONGOING JOBS</p>	<p><b>201</b></p> <p>INDIRECT JOBS</p>
<p><i>Combined jobs from Paluma to Wallaman and Magnetic Island Trails</i></p>		

**\$24.2 MILLION**

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY ANNUALLY \*

\*Based only on Paluma to Wallaman Falls Trail medium utilisation

WHAT WE NEED	Relevant Level	
	State	Federal
› Fast-track the completion of the Paluma to Wallaman Falls Trail Business Case and commit funding to the capital works	●	
› \$5.9M towards the urgent upgrades of trails on Magnetic Island	●	●
› Improve access and ease for commercial operators in National Parks	●	
› Funding commitment to Feasibility Study and Business Case of Palm Island Trails	●	

“

**“Hiking and mountain biking trails are proven tourism experiences that drive visitation, which will be more important than ever following COVID-19. Our region has some of the most spectacular, untapped opportunities in this space. New and improved trails will boost tourism, attract events and support an active local community.”**

*– Sam Stedman,  
Outer Limits Adventure*

”



**DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT**

# Drivelt NQ Education and Motorsport Precinct

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

Drivelt NQ Limited comprises organisations, clubs and individuals dedicated to establishing a permanent driver education and motorsport precinct in Townsville. The project has broken ground and Stage One has commenced.

North Queensland having a dedicated precinct for Driver Education and Motorsport Precinct will enable North Queensland to cement its positioning as an events and adventure destination and become a leading motorsports hub.

Townsville North Queensland has been largely without a dedicated motorsport facility since the closure of the Townsville Dragway in 2012 and the closure of the Townsville Speedway in 2007. The Drivelt NQ Precinct will address this need to support driver education and motorsport in Townsville, generating significant economic and community benefits. The closest multi-purpose Motor Sports precinct is 1,407km away in Ipswich.

Currently \$17M has jointly been received from Federal Government and Council Contribution. Once operational the precinct will return an estimate of \$32M in economic outcomes annually to Townsville.

**Status:**

- > Lease agreement in place at Calcium with Townsville City Council with full DA approval;
- > \$12M in grant funding from the Federal Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities has been received and construction has commenced;
- > \$5M State Government funding to upgrade surrounding road infrastructure; and
- > State Government funds will allow full realisation of project including completion of works to ensure full delivery of site access, driver education, drag strip, 3.5km circuit, and speedway.

## WHAT WE NEED

*Relevant Level*

State    Federal

> \$12M State Government commitment is required to complete the precinct



**56**

CONSTRUCTION JOBS

**142**

PERMANENT ONGOING JOBS

**134**

INDIRECT JOBS



**\$32.2 MILLION**  
ANNUAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY



**DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT**

# Great Barrier Reef Marine Access – Dungeness

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

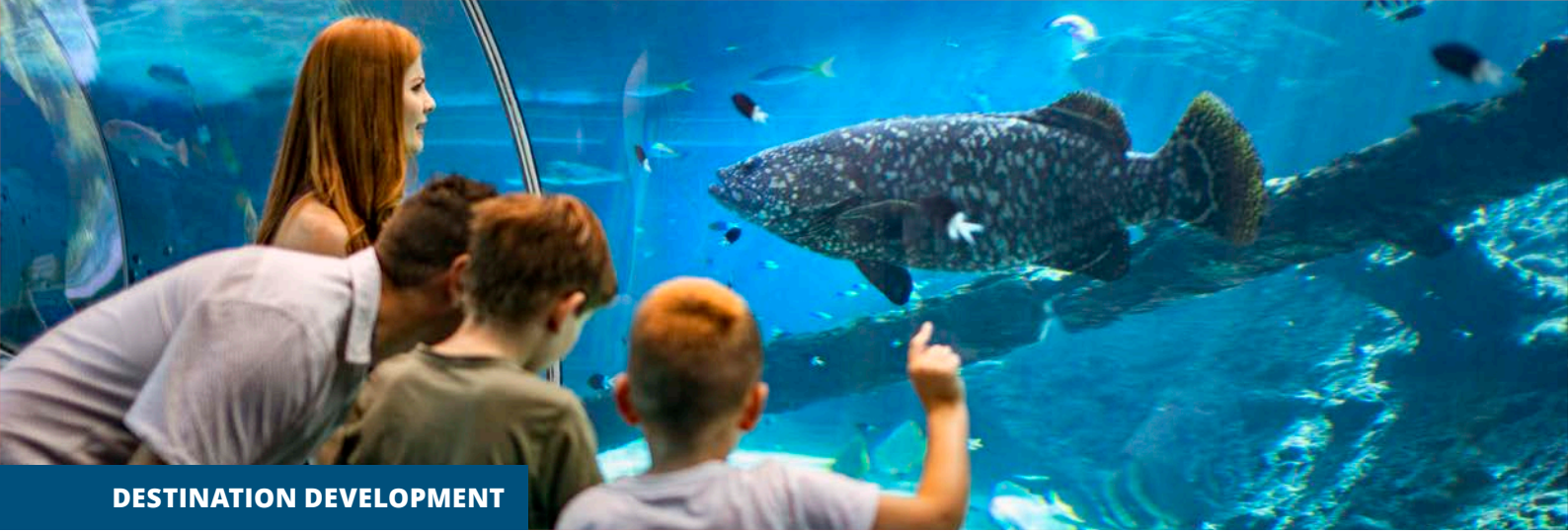
The Great Barrier Reef (GBR) is renowned as Australia’s greatest natural attraction. The Townsville North Queensland region is regarded as the headquarters of the Great Barrier Reef – being home to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Reef HQ Aquarium, the Australian Institute of Marine Science and James Cook University. The region features some of the world’s most spectacular reef sites and stunning islands including Hinchinbrook Island, Magnetic Island and the Palm Island Group. Investment into improving infrastructure for marine access to the Great Barrier Reef will not only provide an enhanced visitor experience but will enable growth in the marine tourism sector. Enabling infrastructure such as the dredging of Dungeness will be a catalyst to support further product development into the region’s Great Barrier Reef tourism experiences.

The region’s closest access point to the Great Barrier Reef is the Dungeness Enterprise Channel located in Lucinda, North Queensland. From Dungeness it is a short 20 minute boat transfer to Hinchinbrook island or a 90 minute transfer to outer Great Barrier Reef (approximately 30 minutes less than Townsville). Currently, Dungeness’ access is dependent on tides and the limited infrastructure poses significant limitations and safety concerns.

Hinchinbrook Shire Council (HSC) is proposing to undertake capital and maintenance dredging at the site to improve access to the Dungeness Enterprise Channel by increasing the main channel depth to allow vessels to safely navigate to and from the boat ramp and marina area during low tides. In addition, HSC proposes to construct a rock-armoured training wall at the Channel entrance, adjacent to the main channel and to utilise the dredged spoil to replenish the adjacent beach foreshore to protect the remaining spit from further erosion.

WHAT WE NEED	Relevant Level	
	State	Federal
> \$5M funding to conduct the required capital works, dredging, rock wall and beach replenishment	●	
> Title works approval for rock wall and dredging	●	

<p><b>80</b> CONSTRUCTION JOBS</p>	<p><b>100</b> PERMANENT ONGOING JOBS</p>
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**DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT**

# Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium Redevelopment

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

Opening in 1987 as a Bicentennial initiative, Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, the Australian Government’s National Education Centre for the Great Barrier Reef, is home to the world’s largest living coral reef exhibit, a natural resource that welcomes approximately 140,000 visitors annually to view and learn all about the Great Barrier Reef. Reef HQ delivers both in-house and outreach education as well as Educational Tourism (EduTourism) programs.

Since opening, advancements in technology and building material have made it possible to have bigger and better viewing spaces and exhibits using energy efficient and sustainable materials.

Unfortunately, Reef HQ Aquarium has been unable to keep pace with these improvements. The facility has not been able to create new experiences and product development that promotes ongoing experience renewal to maintain and increase membership and deliver important educational messages about the Great Barrier Reef.

**Status:**

As developments surrounding Reef HQ Aquarium progress, the facility’s appearance is outdated in contrast. To date, the development has secured \$30M of the \$80M required to upgrade and redevelop the facility to world-class standards.

<b>95</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>468</b>
CONSTRUCTION JOBS	PERMANENT ONGOING JOBS	INDIRECT JOBS

WHAT WE NEED	Relevant Level	
	State	Federal
> \$50M funding to complete construction requirements		●

“Reef HQ Aquarium is one of Townsville’s most prominent and popular tourist attractions. It is a critical part of Townsville’s tourism offering and helps to cement our regional brand as the headquarters of the Great Barrier Reef. Reef HQ plays an important role beyond just tourism, it provides marine reef education and awareness to locals and visitors from across the globe.”

– Paul Crocombe, Adrenalin Snorkel and Dive & Master Reef Guide



**DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT**

# Wongaloo Conservation Park

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

The Wongaloo Conservation Park - embracing the Cromarty-Clevedon Wetlands - is situated approximately mid way between Townsville and Ayr dissected by the Bruce Highway and Great Northern Rail line. These wetlands are famous for the diversity of flora and fauna with up to 250 species of birds, 51 species of reptiles and 44 species of mammals within a spectacular wilderness setting between mountain ranges and tidal creek and river systems. Many refer to the location as the Kakadu of Eastern Australia, but it is far more accessible.

To capitalise on the growing demand for nature based experiences, the wetlands management and visitor focus is centred on providing easy access for people of all ages at local, regional and international levels, and to provide opportunities to better understand and enjoy this North

Queensland prime example of the unique connection between mountain, woodlands, rainforest, landscape, and native wildlife just 30 minutes from northern Australia's largest city.

The managing Trustee proposes to facilitate a staged infrastructure development as demand grows and finances allow. All planning for a 3.2 km signed walking trail linking the spectacular viewing points is done, and a twenty seat 'people mover' for non walkers is available on site, making Stage 1 shovel ready.

However access to the Park is currently stalled because of the need to have a safe crossing of the rail line for pedestrians. The planned rail crossing site is just 1.5 km down a sealed road off the Bruce highway and directly adjacent to an already developed car and bus parking area.

WHAT WE NEED	Relevant Level	
	State	Federal
> \$50K for basic service supply (power, telephone and basic entry control)	●	
> Provision of a rail crossing for pedestrians at entrance to Park	●	



**DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT**

# Direct International Flights

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

For Townsville North Queensland aviation access is critical to the recovery of the region’s tourism and events industry as a result of the impacts of COVID-19. We need strong capacity and affordable flights to re-ignite a sector that has been on its knees for months on end.

For Townsville, this is our opportunity to look to new markets to assist in rebuilding the economy.

### New Zealand

We were encouraged by New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters’ comments on Wednesday 10 June 2020 announcing Queensland could be one of two Australian states first in line to establish a trans-Tasman travel agreement.

It is our understanding that for a seasonal route to be established an airline would be looking for an existing demand of between 30,000 – 50,000 inbound passengers per year. In the 2019 calendar year, Townsville Airport

welcomed 20,000 New Zealand passengers. Furthermore, the Whitsundays region (7-8 hours’ drive from the nearest airport with direct NZ flights) received 10,000 New Zealand visitors. This demand has been driven with little to no marketing spend and without a direct flight.

A direct flight into Townsville, also packaged with our neighbouring Whitsundays region (through an additional regional ‘milk run’ flight) would meet the demand requirement. Furthermore, NZ-Townsville/Whitsundays passenger traffic was up 14% from 2018 to 2019, demonstrating a strong and positive increase in demand for travel to this region.

### Singapore

Townsville North Queensland has several linkages and business connections with Singapore including the James Cook University Campus and Australia–Singapore Military Training Initiative.

A direct route from Singapore to Townsville would open up trade and tourism opportunities from across the globe and help to rebuild the aviation and tourism sector.

## WHAT WE NEED

*Relevant Level*

State Federal

	State	Federal
› Funding for market development	●	●
› Underwrite support for a seasonal direct flight between Auckland and Townsville commencing Q2 2021	●	●
› Support for a new ‘milk-run’ flight from Townsville – Whitsundays – Bundaberg – Brisbane return to ensure regional dispersal of inbound visitors	●	●
› Support for a Singapore to Townsville direct flight	●	●

“A direct flight from New Zealand to Townsville would open up a new international market for our region. North Queensland has the experiences and products that align to the kiwi market. This is a perfect opportunity to expediate the tourism industry’s recovery at a time when global travel is not possible.”

– Clare Ley,  
Pilgrim Sailing and  
Beach Club Magnetic Island





**DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT**

# North Queensland Country Club and Equestrian Centre


**GROWTH OPPORTUNITY**

The North Queensland Country Club Resort and Equestrian Centre will be a world-class country club resort and equestrian centre that exemplifies North Queensland’s character and the region’s natural landscapes and experiences. The resort will be located on over 440ha of coastal lands in Townsville’s Northern Beaches near the residential village of Toolakea. The resort ethos is built on the idea of creating and nurturing a long-term, global community based on shared passions and will include:

- › Accommodation at 5, 6 and 7-star level of approximately 2,800 units;
- › Multi-operator resort ownership diverse offerings and experiences;
- › World-class equestrian centre, bush walking, horse riding, bird watching facilities;

- › Concierge supported linkages to regional services and activities through partnership with local operators and a digital platform (including payments portal) enabling resort guests to navigate and transact with regional businesses; and
- › A range of ancillary services such as business centres and on-site restaurants.

The project proponent is Landmark Projects Pty Ltd (Landmark Projects), who have owned the site for over 25 years and are part of the of Rimbunan Hijau Group (the RH Group). The RH Group is a family-run conglomerate founded by the Tiong family, now predominantly based in Malaysia and Hong Kong. The RH Group’s activities span eight countries, with projects and businesses in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, China and North America, including tourism, hospitality, hotel and media interests.

<b>300</b> CONSTRUCTION JOBS	<b>3,750</b> PERMANENT ONGOING JOBS	<b>3,986</b> INDIRECT JOBS	 <b>\$1 BILLION</b> PRIVATE INVESTMENT
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WHAT WE NEED	Relevant Level	
	State	Federal
<p>Streamline the EIS process to allow for a rolling regulatory approval rather than the current Terms of Reference which require EIS assessment for life of the project (25 years). This allows a level of certainty for the project to progress and recognises that due to the long lifespan of the project that any findings of studies conducted today would in any case need to be revisited in the future.</p>	●	●

“The North Queensland Country Club and Equestrian Centre will bring a world-class facility to the region that provides a new eco-experience unlike anything we’ve seen before. This is a project that will drive real jobs, bring new events and take our region’s tourism offering to the next level.”

– Michael Jones, CEO, The Ville Resort Casino



**DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT**

# North Australia Cultural Precinct

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

The ability for every member of the community to access cultural enrichment through sport, art, live performances or music is fundamental to personal development and social cohesion. Recognising a long-term gap in modern facilities for the arts, the North Australia Cultural Precinct (NACP) will be an essential hub to access concerts and visual arts for the region. Establishment of a bid fund to draw world class events and attractions is essential to achieving lifestyle and cultural growth for the community.

The lack of suitably scaled venues and limited calendar availability at existing venues is restricting the growth of audiences and nurturing of local talent.

Townsville is overlooked by major national and international performances due to the lack of facilities. At present, the cultural and arts offering for the region is limited compared to other equivalent regional cities.

This creates a cultural vacuum and favours those who can afford to travel to access broader cultural and arts experiences in capital cities.

While Townsville is the home to the North Australian Festival of Arts and Australian Festival of Chamber Music, we are unable to grow and expand due to a lack of suitable facilities.

The socio-economic benefits include increased visitor numbers generating economic activity, increased resident economic activity, improved social connectivity, recreation, volunteering opportunities and improving the viability of local community groups and events.

Construction of NACP will address the critical lack of high-class performance venues currently impeding Townsville's access to cultural events and the related tourism expenditure.

## WHAT WE NEED

### Relevant Level

State Federal

\$292M over 5 years (\$40M in 2020/21)  
 > jointly funded by the State and Federal Government



**934**

CONSTRUCTION JOBS

**51**

PERMANENT ONGOING JOBS

**2,242**

INDIRECT JOBS





**DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT**

## Billabong Sanctuary: Coast to Canopy Exhibition

### GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

Billabong Sanctuary is planning two exciting new exhibits which will inspire visitors to explore the natural wonders of North Queensland.

First is the Crocodile Boardwalk along the shores of the attraction’s own billabong. With interpretive displays featuring estuarine crocodiles and local wetlands, it will have a strong focus on safety in ‘crocodile country’.

The second is an enclosure to house Lumholtz’s tree-kangaroos, a multifaceted display which will illustrate the importance of these species in maintaining the health of tropical rainforests.

**Proposed Start Date:** Immediate Start

**Proposed Completion Date:** June 2021

### WHAT WE NEED

*Relevant Level*

State	Federal
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› \$600K from the Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund to create the new exhibitions



## Bush Oasis: Eco Tourism, Glamping and Sustainable Habitats

### GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

The Bush Oasis Eco Tourism, Glamping and Sustainable Habitats Project will support Eco Tourism and Wildlife Habitats in the Townsville North Queensland region in a sustainable manner catering to High Value Travellers and the Edutourism market.

**Status:**

› Construction of Wetland has commenced as owner funded proponent with proposed completion date of December 2020

### WHAT WE NEED

*Relevant Level*

State	Federal
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› \$500K from the Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund to complete project (\$1M of private funding already committed)



<b>17</b> CONSTRUCTION JOBS	<b>8</b> PERMANENT ONGOING JOBS
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**DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT**

# Pelorus Island Retreat

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

The development of Pelorus Island Retreat was delayed due to the COVID. With support from the Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund, Pelorus Island Retreat will be a unique high-end tourism offering on the Great Barrier Reef as a single-family lodge comprising four

suites to be booked as a whole for the ultimate secluded luxury getaway with the reef on guests' doorstep. The Retreat is expected to attract 300 extra guests each year, with a five night minimum expected stay in the region, generating \$2.5M of revenue annually.

**Proposed Start date:** Immediate Start

**Proposed completion date:** December 2021

WHAT WE NEED	Relevant Level	
	State	Federal
\$5M from the Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund to begin construction (project total cost is \$10M)	●	●

<b>30</b> CONSTRUCTION JOBS	<b>5</b> PERMANENT ONGOING JOBS
--------------------------------	------------------------------------

# The Hive

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

The Hive is a catalytic project with a completed value in excess of \$350M which will deliver tourism infrastructure and a scientific and educational showcase for environmental protection and circular economy initiatives. The facility will include:

- > An upscale hotel 4.5 to 5 star;
- > Restoration of The Queens Hotel – an iconic state heritage listed building;
- > An auditorium suitable for performance and conference events;

- > A shared traffic zone connecting The Strand to Flinders Street opposite Ross Creek;
- > Military museum;
- > Live reptile display to complement the adjacent Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium;
- > Indigenous art and cultural displays;
- > Science Cultural and Educational Precinct;
- > Retail; and
- > Car parking.



**DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT**

## Palm Island Retail and Commercial Precinct

### GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

The project involves construction of Stages 2 and 3 of a Retail and Commercial Precinct on the underutilised waterfront land on Palm Island. The precinct will provide a vibrant mix of retail and specialty shops and is designed

to bring mainland shopping and service opportunities to the Island, increase employment, community capacity and pride and stem the leakage of vital expenditure from the Island. It will provide a safe and inviting environment to support Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council’s Tourism and Events Strategy.

### WHAT WE NEED

*Relevant Level*

State Federal

➤ \$30M to support construction of Stages 2 and 3 of a Retail and Commercial Precinct on Palm Island



## Great Barrier Reef House

### GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

Great Barrier Reef House is a \$30 million proposed private investment by Reef House Investment Group (RHIG) to deliver a signature precinct including commercial offices, a marine science hub, waterfront dining, tourism and community facilities on the Ross Creek waterfront. Great Barrier Reef House is a custom designed, purpose built complex that would activate the broader precinct with inviting community spaces. In addition to promoting Townsville as a leading centre for marine science and tourism, the precinct will provide an active and engaging visitor experience through linkages to the adjoining Museum of Tropical Queensland (MTQ) and Reef HQ Aquarium.

The architecturally designed, iconic Great Barrier Reef House will provide a truly unique waterfront destination

and will be provide a signature gateway and catalyst for increased activation of Reef HQ Aquarium, Australia’s land-based showcase of this remarkable natural wonder of the world. The Marine Science Hub within the precinct will showcase the collaborative, world-leading tropical marine science and research of organisations such as GBRMPA, the Australian Institute of Marine Science and James Cook University, adding to the social, educational and economic fabric of North Queensland.

The GBRH precinct will be a major driver for the reinvigoration and activation of Townsville’s CBD and the Tourism and Education Precinct of the Townsville Waterfront Priority Development Area. The precinct will be designed and constructed from the key guiding pillars of community, sustainability and innovation.

RHIG has submitted a formal Offer for Lease to GBRMPA which is currently under evaluation.

# DEFENCE

**Townsville North Queensland is one of Australia’s prime strategic Defence regions. Situated on the north-eastern coast of Queensland, Townsville is uniquely well positioned for mounting operations into South East Asia and the Pacific. It is home to one of the largest defence bases in the Country which is strategically positioned between two of the Australian Defence Force’s (ADF) prime training areas – Shoalwater Bay Training Area and Townsville Field Training Area. Additionally, a ready workforce of veterans with security clearances and understanding of Defence requirements also reside in the region.**

Geography is but one of Townsville’s key enablers as the launchpad of choice for Pacific operations. The Australia–Singapore military training initiative will deliver not one, but two networked, all-weather, all-season training ranges. Supported by the Army Combat Training Centre with world’s best simulation-enabled training, there’s no better location to hone military skills. Equally important is the ability to project and sustain the force.

The Port of Townsville is currently undertaking a \$1.6 billion upgrade to deepen and widen the approach channel. A 62-hectare land-reclamation

project is delivering additional capacity to berth large Australian and coalition naval vessels. Upgrading and lengthening the runway at RAAF Base Townsville will enable operations of any fully loaded, wide-bodied aircraft.

Townsville North Queensland is competitively placed to become a leading location for global armed forces training, Defence training and simulation, joint amphibious force capability, and an aviation ‘super-base’ for the ADF. These opportunities identified have proven to be robust and remain aligned with the recently announced Strategic Update and Force Structure Plan 2020. In addition to this, the region has a well-structured strategy to guide logical and meaningful engagement around defence investment in North Queensland.

## POTENTIAL JOBS FROM COMBINED PROJECTS

**24,548**

CONSTRUCTION  
JOBS

**903**

PERMANENT  
ONGOING JOBS

**58,915**

INDIRECT  
JOBS

PROJECT JOB SUMMARY	Construction	Permanent Ongoing	Indirect
> Simulation and Soldier Systems Centre of Excellence	279	153	670
> Joint Amphibious Force Capability	24,269	750	58,245
> Army Aviation Super Base	TBA	TBA	TBA



**DEFENCE**

# Simulation and Soldier Systems Centre of Excellence

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

The Federal Government will be investing more than \$280 billion in new and existing Defence equipment and systems, infrastructure and training facilities across Australia in the next decade to deliver Defence capabilities. This investment will enable Defence to realise the Government’s vision of a modern, capable, force enabled by investment in new and improved capabilities. This also presents an exciting opportunity for North Queensland industry given the Government’s intent to maximise Australian industry participation.

Townsville is at the forefront of large-scale simulation training and the employment and development of cutting-edge technology. A proposed integrated simulation hub will be the catalyst to bring together world leading defence industry and health and knowledge institutions to create a simulation training and human performance research precinct. The simulation park will be positioned on a common boundary between Lavarack Barracks, the Townsville University Hospital and James Cook University and close by two world class, instrumented, military training areas: a location unrivalled in Australia.

**279**

CONSTRUCTION JOBS

**153**

PERMANENT ONGOING JOBS

**670**

INDIRECT JOBS

## WHAT WE NEED

### Relevant Level

State Federal

➤ Prioritise Townsville North Queensland as the training and simulation centre, directing investment and ensuring key decisions support this.



➤ Total project value is \$70M (\$35M – private sector and \$35M – State Government).



**“The investment into a performance technology centre in North Queensland enables world class simulation and training capability to fast track collaboration between emerging Defence industry, clinical training, academic research and emergency services readiness.**

**Townsville’s proximity to Training Ranges and regional location mean the opportunity to capitalise on that collaboration is unique and worthy of stimulus.”**

*– Mark Horn, Strategic Development Australia, New Zealand and South East Asia, Cubic Defence Australia*





**DEFENCE**

## Joint Amphibious Force Capability

### GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

Strategically located on Australia’s north east coast, Townsville is ideally suited as a Forward Mounting Base and Defence Centre of Excellence for Joint Amphibious Force Capability. Well positioned for mounting operations into South East Asia and the Pacific, and home to the majority of the Australian Defence Force’s specialist amphibious Land and Aviation force elements, Townsville is a logical choice for an increased presence of the Amphibious Fleet for limited first line maintenance, locating a small ship support base, fuelling, provisioning, loading and unloading, arming and joint training.

**24,269**

CONSTRUCTION  
JOBS

**750**

PERMANENT  
ONGOING JOBS

**58,245**

INDIRECT  
JOBS

Townsville is ideally located and has all the right attributes required to be the preferred choice for the new Army watercraft base in Northern Australia.



## Army Aviation Super Base

### GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

Currently the Army’s Aviation assets are located in Darwin, Townsville and Oakey with a main headquarters located in Brisbane. Most of the deep level maintenance occurs at Brisbane Airport. This is not based upon any capability or operational need and such ‘penny packeting’ of the Army’s Aviation Units limits the opportunity for

economies of scale and the demonstrable associated advantages to Aircraft sustainment and basing. Townsville is optimally positioned to realise an increase in effectiveness and significant savings for the Army Aviation capability by co-locating the majority of 16 Aviation Brigade’s deployable units, training capability and its headquarters in close proximity to a strategic airfield, port and expansive live fire training ranges with weather conditions conducive for flying operations throughout the year.





# HEALTH, RESEARCH & SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Townsville North Queensland is home to James Cook University and Townsville University Hospital and a range of other health, education, research and innovation enterprises such as CSIRO, Tec-NQ, Australian Institute for Tropical Health and Medicine and ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies.

North Queensland is on the precipice of establishing itself as a global leader in tropical health and knowledge, a community dedicated to helping the world access, understand and benefit from breakthroughs and solutions in health and tropical science. Supported by world class digital connectivity, the region could have the ability to provide an excellence never seen before in health care to remote and equatorial neighbours. Building on its established health and knowledge precinct, remote services through robotic and innovative practices can enable patients to receive world class health care while remaining on country. Achieved through specialised ICT services, the mental and physical health of the entire regional community will be advanced contributing to a happier and healthier Queensland.

These projects identified are set to create benefits for the research and education sector with close collaboration with industry partners to:

- › Solve challenging problems, create new and innovative ways/methods for increased health care and develop practical outcomes to support and conserve the tropics;
- › Provide access to a knowledge intense environment with expert knowledge and skills. Create long-term strategic partnerships with connections to local, national and international networks; and
- › Ensure a growing region with changing demographics has access to world class sustainable health and medical services.

## POTENTIAL JOBS FROM COMBINED PROJECTS

**3,869**

CONSTRUCTION  
JOBS

**2,922**

PERMANENT  
ONGOING JOBS

**7,879**

INDIRECT  
JOBS

PROJECT JOB SUMMARY	Construction	Permanent Ongoing	Indirect
› THHS Priority Infrastructure	1,700	1,200	1,473
› TropiQ	605	396	667
› STEM Booster, ICT Centre of Excellence and Townsville Connect	49	911	2,224
› Charters Towers Hospital Upgrade	420	301	371
› Social Infrastructure	1,095	114	3,144



HEALTH, RESEARCH & SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

# Townsville Hospital and Health Service Priority Infrastructure

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

Townsville Hospital and Health Service (THHS) plays a pivotal role for the region in the delivery of highly complex tertiary services for people and communities across northern Queensland. Townsville University Hospital (TUH) is Queensland’s only tertiary specialist hospital North of the Sunshine Coast. By 2041 services provided from the hospital, supported by THHS’s 19 other regional, rural and community facilities, will service a catchment of approximately 1 million people. Changing demographics including an aging population and an increasing prevalence of chronic diseases are contributing to a steady increase in demand for overnight hospital beds over the coming decades. Townsville Hospital and Health Service faces significant risk to service sustainability if these demands are not accommodated within its infrastructure and facilities.

THHS has developed a program of infrastructure works that seeks to prioritise projects crucial to the sustainability of high-level tertiary health services that will keep North Queenslanders in North Queensland, receiving care as close to home as possible.

WHAT WE NEED	Relevant Level	
	State	Federal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$8M investment into the development of Preliminary and Detailed Business Cases for Phase 1 of the TUH Master Plan</li> </ul>	●	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$17.2M investment for the development of a Hybrid Theatre</li> </ul>	●	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$22M investment for the fit-out of a new 33-bed ward</li> </ul>	●	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$10.5M investment for the redevelopment of TUH Adult Acute Mental Health Inpatient Unit</li> </ul>	●	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$41.2M investment to deliver phase one of a new multi-story community health facility at Kirwan</li> </ul>	●	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$9.96M investment in emergency department, scanner and renal services upgrades at Ingham Hospital</li> </ul>	●	

### 1. Townsville University Hospital Master Plan – Phase One

Delivered over a five-year period, Phase One of the TUH Master Plan seeks to deliver:

- › A new 10-storey rehabilitation, day surgery and ward facility with a rooftop helipad;
- › Relocation of the current sub-acute care unit; and
- › Re-purposing of the existing 25-bed rehabilitation ward.

### 2. Townsville University Hospital – Hybrid Theatre

- › Expanding the range of theatre capability and self-sufficiency of TUH through the addition of a specialist hybrid theatre. The hybrid theatre will be equipped with advanced medical imaging technology that enables less invasive treatment of more complex diseases.

### 3. Townsville University Hospital – New Inpatient Ward

- › Fit out of a new 33-bed inpatient ward within existing shell space of the main acute building, which will provide much needed bed capacity to assist in managing service demand for the immediate term.

### 4. Townsville University Hospital – Acute Mental Health Redevelopment

- › The Adult Acute Mental Health Inpatient Unit at TUH will undergo redevelopment to deliver a purpose-built contemporary mental health inpatient facility inclusive of a High Dependency Unit.

### 5. Kirwan Health Campus Redevelopment – Phase One

- › Expansion of current services to deliver the first wing of a new multi-storey community health facility.

### 6. Ingham Hospital and Health Services Upgrades

- › Emergency department, scanner and renal services upgrades.

**1,700**

CONSTRUCTION JOBS

**1,200**

PERMANENT ONGOING JOBS

**1,473**

INDIRECT JOBS



# EXPLORING REAL-WORLD SOLUTIONS

Take your research into one of the world's most diverse ecosystems

## HEALTH, RESEARCH & SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

# TropiQ and a New Economy for Townsville

### GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

TropiQ is a \$5.9 billion development of a tropical intelligence and health precinct in North Australia's largest city – Townsville.

The precinct is home to two of Townsville's biggest powerhouses, James Cook University and Townsville University Hospital and a range of other health, education, research and innovation enterprises such as CSIRO, Tec-NQ, Australian Institute for Tropical Health and Medicine and ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies.

The co-location of these sizable institutions sees a significant advantage for Townsville in leveraging their cumulative offerings to attract new talent, new innovations and a new knowledge-based economy to Townsville.

TropiQ is a key deliverable of the Townsville City Deal under the Health and Knowledge Strategy and is also

recognised as an important economic driver within the North Queensland Regional Plan.

The institutions in the precinct already contribute heavily to the North Queensland economy with a combined \$3.5 billion in economic output and support nearly 16,000 jobs in Townsville.

TropiQ will attract additional investment in world-leading innovation, research and entrepreneurship.

By 2035, the precinct will generate an additional \$1 billion in economic output for Townsville and support an additional 5,500 FTE jobs – half of these in the TropiQ precinct and the other half throughout the city.

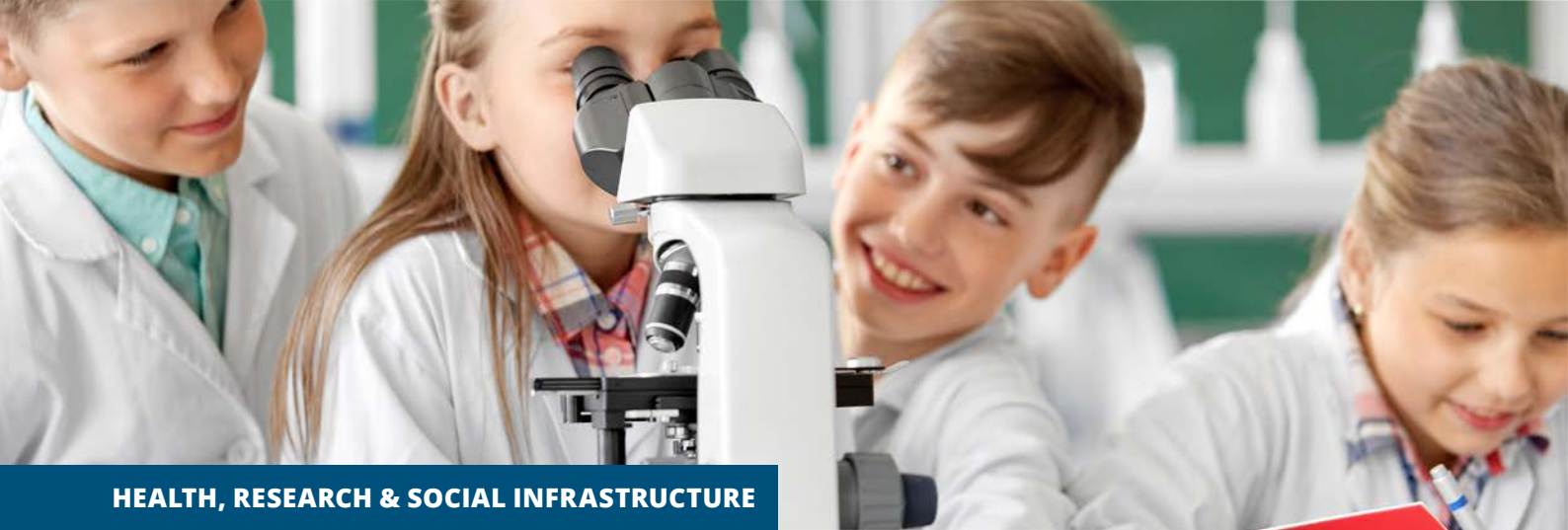
Construction activity in the precinct is expected to generate \$7.8 billion of activity for the local economy, paying \$1.8 billion in wages for more than 23,000 FTE jobs between 2020 and 2035.

<b>605</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>667</b>
CONSTRUCTION JOBS	PERMANENT ONGOING JOBS	INDIRECT JOBS

WHAT WE NEED	Relevant Level	
	State	Federal
Enabling infrastructure such as roads and underground services. > Initial investment Year One – \$10M (Remaining investment of \$281M over the next four years).	●	●
Commitment to an active partnership in the planning and investment of public infrastructure that supports the development of the precinct.	●	●

“TropiQ is focused on issues of the North, it is focused on issues of the tropical world... it is also focused on the issues of rural, remote and indigenous communities, serving the North as well”  
 – Prof. Sandra Harding AO

“The precinct will open a pipeline of investment for private enterprise and commercial operators to leverage the significant opportunities associated with being located between a major hospital and university”  
 – Tony Mooney AM



## STEM Skills, Technology and Jobs for the Future

### GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

In order to remain relevant in the future global economy and adjust to a shifting labour market, communities must equip the next generation with the necessary skills to leverage technology and maximise their regional economy. Students must be inspired and empowered to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and not be impeded by their inability to access quality STEM experiences and contemporary curriculum.

#### STEM Booster

Our region is seeing an increased demand for STEM skills in our major employment sectors including mining and minerals processing, agriculture/ cattle/ aquaculture, health and services as well as our emerging industries such as defence, aviation and digital services.

Our region, despite some pockets of strength, has poor education attainment levels compared to state and national averages, as well as high unemployment levels. The gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous education results is still large in our region, and it is likely that many schools in our region have limited or no access to new technologies and STEM opportunities. Our very high youth unemployment levels coupled with the already existing skills shortages means our lack of suitable workforce may drive current and new businesses and employers to other regions.

Without addressing this issue, our region will suffer from a lack of skilled workforce to drive the economy forward.

Now is the time to raise students' awareness of the career opportunities that will be part of our region's future economy and begin to move the workforce into those STEM roles to ensure we can make a difference to the North.

The program aims to make curriculum more interesting and workplace-relevant leading to a pool of job-ready, qualified and motivated workers. North and North West Queensland faces its own challenges with a high level of socio-economic disadvantage and declining population, therefore it is critical we generate economic diversity and

the technical skills and expertise required to secure our future.

The successful adoption and integration of STEMBooster across North and North West Queensland would prove a critical step forward in securing the skilled workforce needed to grow the economy.

We seek the Government's support for the implementation of the STEMBooster project by Regional Development Australia. STEMBooster is a major long-term economic development initiative to develop the pipeline of talent in North and North West QLD. There is opportunity for widespread collaboration with significant impact and for RDA to build on what is already happening in the region.

Expected outcomes include increased uptake of apprenticeships that will benefit businesses and employees. The project will deliver an effective collaboration between schools and industry which will provide a pipeline of new employees for businesses in the region. With improved access to equipment for teaching and increased confidence and capabilities of teachers in STEM subjects, the STEMBooster project will work to deliver an innovative workforce for the North and North West QLD region.

#### NQ ICT Centre of Excellence

The NQ ICT Centre of Excellence will grow the ICT workforce in North Queensland through partnerships between government and private providers to establish and expand the skills required to build a sustainable ICT workforce in the North Queensland region.

This in turn will develop the skills, capabilities and capacity to support the other projects listed in the region and transform the workforce into a sustainable ICT industry.

Replicating partnerships similar to other locations (e.g. the Digital Transformation Centre in Adelaide), the NQ ICT Centre of Excellence will build a critical mass of "like" resources in the region. This in turn will then attract other projects to the North Queensland Region and will create a highly skilled and sustainable workforce in the region.

Examples of the types of projects that would be



supported by the NQ ICT COE include:

- Virtual contact centres – Deliver a scalable cloud-based solution that allows decentralisation/ work from anywhere for critical call centres. Removes reliance on centralised call centres and affords flexible working and ability to move workloads across QLD regions;
- Digital Government – enhance QLD Governments ability to Digitally Transform by modernising legacy workflows, business rules, services and products to the future of Government being responsiveness;
- Acute / Mental illness centre – Centre for research, co-ordination and management of Queenslanders with acute and mental illnesses. Includes trialling personal health monitoring devices / telehealth services and remote management. e.g. Diabetes;
- Social impact IT support centre – helps the community develop and run programs that benefit individuals and society. Initial areas of focus include neurodiversity, veterans, disability, indigenous people and climate change;
- Cyber Security Centre – security awareness, vulnerability assessment, detection and management of critical infrastructure supporting Smart City, Energy, Water, Agriculture, Environment and Defence initiatives. The Program will enable veterans exiting the forces to attain the appropriate industry security certification and skills to meet high demand for defence cleared ICT workforce;
- Application modernisation – can partner with JCU and TAFE to create a pipeline of Application Modernisation experts leveraging both University and private ICT providers capability; and
- Infrastructure managed services – Managed services, cloud migration and outsourced ICT services across Local and State Government. Implementing effective automation can reduce typical costs by 20-30% and

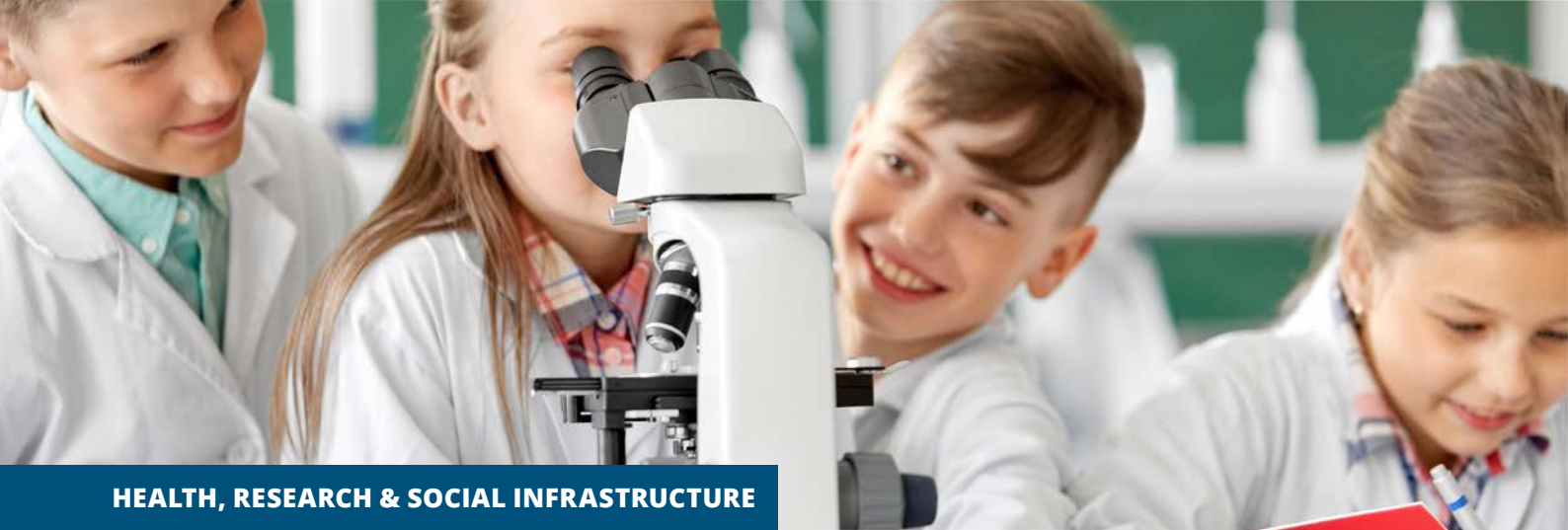
doing this onshore addresses Government risk.

The NQ ICT Centre of Excellence will work closely alongside local University and TAFE partners to develop the long-term skills required to deliver ICT projects within the region and help work towards being a global leader in tropical health and knowledge.

### Outcomes

There are many economic, social and health outcomes from the NQ ICT Centre of Excellence, including:

- The NQ ICT COE will deliver an economic boost to the region by creating new jobs and potentially luring South East Queensland workloads to North Queensland. External factor such as State and Federal Governments' push to decentralise their workforces will present ongoing opportunities for the region;
- Partnering with existing education providers in the region will provide real, ongoing opportunities for retraining and reskilling for people affect by COVID job losses;
- Socially, it improves the job prospects for the region, specifically higher paid knowledge working roles with career development opportunities going forward;
- By working closely with private ICT providers, it will share the risks and investments, identifying experienced partners will help speed up the process by using their existing experience in other regions to put the right people and plans in place; and
- The NQ ICT COE will also support the Health outcomes of a Healthy and Smart NQ by providing the ongoing skills and support required to become a global leader in tropical health and knowledge.



**HEALTH, RESEARCH & SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

## STEM Skills, Technology and Jobs for the Future (continued)

### GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

#### Townsville Connect

Access to high speed, affordable digital communications is a major enabler to attract potential new, retaining and connecting Townsville businesses to markets in Australia and around the world. Townsville Connect, in conjunction with Smart Precinct NQ will drive creation of new products, new technologies and new business in Townsville and the region.

Townsville Connect aims to deploy high speed, high capacity data network providing next generation broadband to a range of strategic priority precincts throughout Townsville including:

- > The Townsville CBD
- > The Strand
- > Smart Precinct NQ
- > Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct
- > Health and Knowledge Precinct including TropiQ
- > University and Education Sites
- > North Queensland Regional Data Centre (NQDRC).

Smart Precinct NQ has been established to provide an entity that drives creation of new products, new technologies and new business within Townsville and the broader region. Overall Smart Precinct NQ seeks to

provide support for businesses to establish, grow and remain in the region – as opposed to heading to a capital city to get the guidance and support needed. In a post COVID-19 environment this ability to establish globally competitive business in lower density areas becomes even more critical.

Establishing digital connectivity as a competitive advantage for Townsville will attract and retain both residents and business which in turn will generate economic activity in the region. Townsville Connect serves as a valuable enabler for Smart Precinct NQ to deliver tangible outcomes, that can leverage Council and the Queensland Government’s investment in Smart Precinct NQ. For businesses to grow and stay in Townsville creation of high-speed seamless connectivity becomes a fundamental requirement. Establishment of a 10G network between the region’s productive precincts becomes critical to evolution of business in the region. With the North Queensland Data Centre now fully operational, this next step will grow innovation and entrepreneurs in the region.

The move to working from home arrangements en masse due to the COVID-19 restrictions, has provided an opportunity for organisations to re-evaluate how and where their workforces work, with many surveys now showing staff in favour of working from home/working remotely permanently. The IT sector has been ahead of the game in this area for many years. The creation of Townsville Connect and Smart Precinct NQ and the ICT Centre of Excellence would allow Townsville to capitalise on this new ‘work from wherever you like’ world and draw migration to the region.

WHAT WE NEED	Relevant Level	
	State	Federal
> STEM Booster Program – \$7.5M over four years (2020/21 – \$1.5M)	●	●
> NQ ICT Centre of Excellence – \$40M over five years (2020/21 – \$8M)	●	●
> Townsville Connect – \$6M for establishment of 10G network between Townsville’s productive precincts	●	●

<b>49</b> CONSTRUCTION JOBS	<b>911</b> PERMANENT ONGOING JOBS	<b>2,224</b> INDIRECT JOBS
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HEALTH, RESEARCH & SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

# Charters Towers Hospital Redevelopment

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

Charters Towers region residents are currently travelling frequently to Townsville to receive life-saving dialysis treatment; for birthing and to obtain x-rays and ultrasounds. There is a need to construct a new hospital alongside the Eventide Aged Care Facility. This will ensure that residents in the Charters Towers Region have access to sustainable health services.

Queensland Health and the Townsville Hospital and Health Service have completed preliminary planning for a redevelopment or replacement of the Charters Towers Hospital.

In addition, there is an initial requirement of \$8.13M for services upgrade to the Charters Towers Hospital.

## WHAT WE NEED

### Relevant Level

State Federal

<p>Support the recommendations of the Townsville Hospital and Health Service Business case which include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› construction of a new hospital on vacant land owned by Townsville Health and Hospital Service, adjacent to Eventide Aged Care Facility.</li> </ul>	●	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› \$8.13M investment in Eventide, scanner and renal upgrades at Charters Towers Hospital</li> </ul>	●	

**420**

CONSTRUCTION JOBS

**301**

PERMANENT ONGOING JOBS

**371**

INDIRECT JOBS



**HEALTH, RESEARCH & SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

# Royal Flying Doctors Service Townsville Support Hub

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Queensland has identified, through a new state-wide infrastructure plan, the need to significantly augment the Townsville base, which provides support across the North Queensland region. More than 2,000 patient transfers are facilitated through the current Townsville base, with patient transfer demand expected to grow at around 3% per year.

The current Townsville base facility has been in operation since 1996, and combines aircraft storage, aircraft maintenance, and patient transfer – all under one roof. The constraint on size and layout of the current facility now poses an increased risk to the safety of patients and staff. Challenges are presented around the efficient operation and maintenance of aircraft, as well as sub-optimal patient transfer and hand-over experience.

The Townsville Hub will be a boost for regional employment, with more than 100 full-time equivalent jobs created during construction and the creation of an additional 35 high-skilled, ongoing jobs for RFDS. The current Townsville facility already employs 32 staff, including nurses, pilots, engineers, dental clinicians and support staff. This number of employees will expand in line with the significant boost to services that would be provided with the investment into a Townsville Support Hub.

The RFDS’s emergency retrieval service operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, delivering the finest care to more than 290,000 Australians each year, that’s one person every two minutes.

**Status:**

Royal Flying Doctor Service has committed \$15M towards the Townsville Support Hub

## WHAT WE NEED

**Relevant Level**  
State Federal

➤ \$15M from both State and Federal Governments towards the initial capital investment of \$45M to establish the Royal Flying Doctor Service (Queensland) Townsville Support Hub (RFDS contributing \$15M).



**100 JOBS**  
DURING CONSTRUCTION



**35**  
HIGHLY SKILLED  
ONGOING JOBS





# Social Infrastructure

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

Townsville North Queensland aims to be a region of opportunity and great lifestyle which supports the health, wellbeing and quality of life of all people who live and work here. In the last 24 months the region has suffered from both unprecedented flooding and now the current health and economic crisis. Resultantly, the region is experiencing a surge in suicides and crime, as well as a concerning rise in domestic violence and in demand for mental health services. The region’s ability to attract skilled workers, retain local talent and to grow and prosper is intrinsically linked to being able to provide a home and place where the community feels safe and socially connected.

In order to create a community that thrives into the future, recovery from both the 2019 flooding and the health and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are critical. Government investment into social programs and community infrastructure which promote the health and wellbeing of individuals and support a sustainable and safe society are fundamental to the future prosperity of the region.

### POTENTIAL JOBS FROM COMBINED PROJECTS

**1,095**

CONSTRUCTION  
JOBS

**114**

PERMANENT  
ONGOING JOBS

**3,144**

INDIRECT  
JOBS

## WHAT WE NEED

	<i>Investment</i>
› Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Youth Case Management	\$1.75M
› Braking the Cycle	\$15M
› Children’s Response and Counselling	\$5M
› Domestic and Family Violence Co-responder	\$4.5M
› Establish a Multi-sport Coordination Cooperative	\$0.75M
› Establishment of an Events Townsville Bid Fund	\$5.6M
› Extend Mental Health Co-responder Model	\$5M
› Indigenous Sports and Recreation Program	\$1.6M
› Mentally Healthy City	\$3M
› Shedspace – Early Intervention Youth Program	\$2.25M
› Smartlink Transport Corridor	\$50.2M

# LOCALS BUILDING UP LOCALS

Following the COVID-19 response in April 2020, Townsville Enterprise put a call out to the local community to submit projects which could be considered by State or Federal Government. Further information is available from the proponents.

PROJECT	Description
> Burdekin Renewable Fuels Pty Ltd	Home Hill Pellet Plant
> Lower Burdekin Water	Warrens Gully System Capacity Upgrade Project
> Community ASA Inc	The Illich – Cultural Community, Sport & Recreation Centre
> QPLAS Pty Ltd	Manufacture of in-demand composite products from recycled plastic and hardwood waste
> Tec-NQ	Tec-NQ House Boarding Facility and General Learning Areas
> Arcadian Surf Life Saving Club	Alma Bay Clubhouse Upgrade
> Townsville Turf Club	Construction of Day Stalls as part of the Townsville Turf Club redevelopment
> Townsville Harness Racing	Resumption of Harness Racing in Townsville
> Selectibility	Suicide Prevention Safe Haven
> Townsville Aquatic Sports Hub	Purchase of land for the development of the Aquatic Sports Hub
> 3 Big Rivers Training Hub	Mutarnee Farm Training Hub, Tourism Social Enterprise Hub, Indigenous Economic Hub

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