

My Central Queensland

Actions for a stronger region

Building stronger regions

The Queensland Government has released the *Queensland Regionalisation Strategy (QRS)* to ensure population growth is well managed and its benefits are shared across the state.

The QRS aims to encourage economic development across Queensland's regions and strengthen and diversify local economies. To do this, it identifies a range of actions which will be implemented across the state.

The statewide actions are supported by a set of actions for each region. The actions contained in this document are a snapshot of projects that will support and encourage economic growth in the Central Queensland region and sustain its enviable lifestyle.

Together, the QRS, these regional actions, the *Central West Regional Plan* and the *Central Queensland Regional Growth Management Framework* will maximise future opportunities for the region, setting strong foundations for regional growth and development.

Central Queensland region

The Central Queensland region has one of the fastest-growing economies in Australia. It is positioned across the three expanding economic zones of agriculture, mining and tourism. Agriculture has been the foundation of the region for more than a century, while a strong mining sector is focused around the Central Highlands and Banana districts. Tourism remains a strong industry for Central Queensland, with a variety of visitor attractions and events from Birdsville,

Bedourie and Longreach in the outback, to Rockhampton and Gladstone on the coast.

Opportunities to mix work, leisure and family life in Central Queensland makes the region attractive to new residents.

Population growth is forecast to continue at a rate of 2 per cent each year to 2031, compared with the state average of 1.8 per cent. Higher rates of growth are forecast in communities with resource-related industries.

Long-term priorities to promote the growth of the Central Queensland region include:

- supporting growth and innovation across the economic zones of agriculture, tourism, mining and energy
- capitalising on these strengths through value-adding and building expertise
- balancing growth with liveability
- providing opportunities for skills and training to strengthen the region's knowledge base
- supporting industry and business growth through innovation including the transition to the digital economy

- increasing road safety

- working with industry and local councils to provide more and varied housing at a range of prices.

Capitalising on the region's natural advantages is the key to success:

- Adding further value to the region's agricultural produce and increasing the industry's productivity will capitalise on the world's growing demand for high-quality food.

- Leading innovation in the mining and manufacturing sector will be essential to increase global competitiveness.

- Investment in new and renewed tourism products and experiences is critical to drawing new visitors to the region and enhancing its liveability.

- There are also opportunities for increased prosperity through the emerging liquefied natural gas (LNG) and coal seam gas (CSG) corridor. Opportunities also exist in the clean energy sector, with the region a leader in the developing geothermal industry through the plant at Birdsville.


A strong and growing skills base is fundamental to realising these opportunities. CQ University Australia and the TAFE sector are finding innovative solutions to address skills shortages and upskill the workforce.

Maintaining the liveability of urban centres and ease of access throughout the region is an essential part of development. Finding new solutions to housing, timing the upgrade and expansion of roads, rail and air infrastructure and developing community amenity are all priorities for the long-term growth of Central Queensland.

Prosperous economies and communities rely on strong infrastructure. New opportunities in the Galilee and Bowen Basins, as well as forecast growth in food production, will place further importance on west-east connections as goods travel to global markets. The region is well placed to grow as a transport and logistics hub which places further importance on strong infrastructure.

Key actions that are included in this document support priorities for the Central Queensland region.

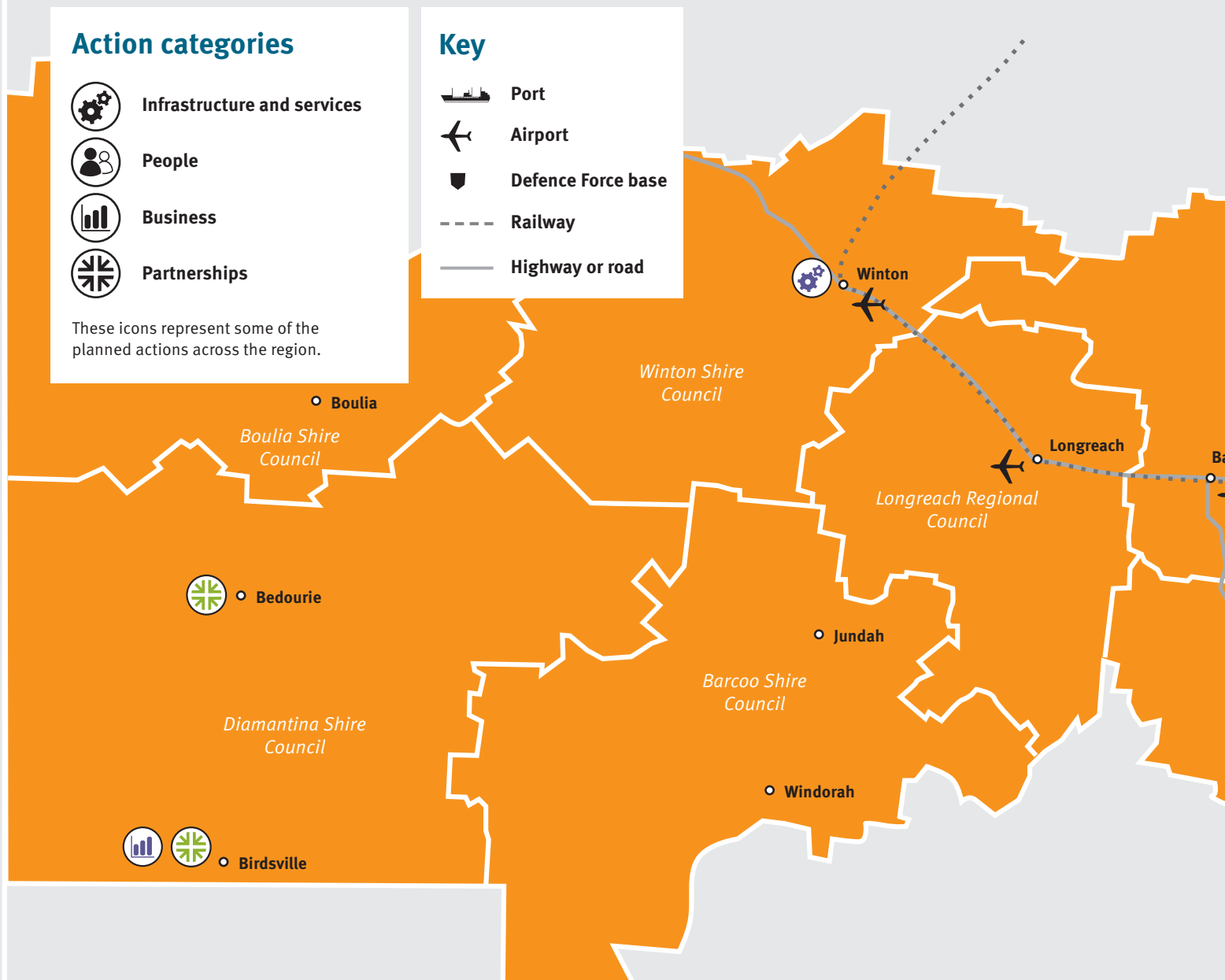
Action categories

-  Infrastructure and services
-  People
-  Business
-  Partnerships

These icons represent some of the planned actions across the region.







Key

-  Port
-  Airport
-  Defence Force base
-  Railway
-  Highway or road



Regional actions for Central Queensland

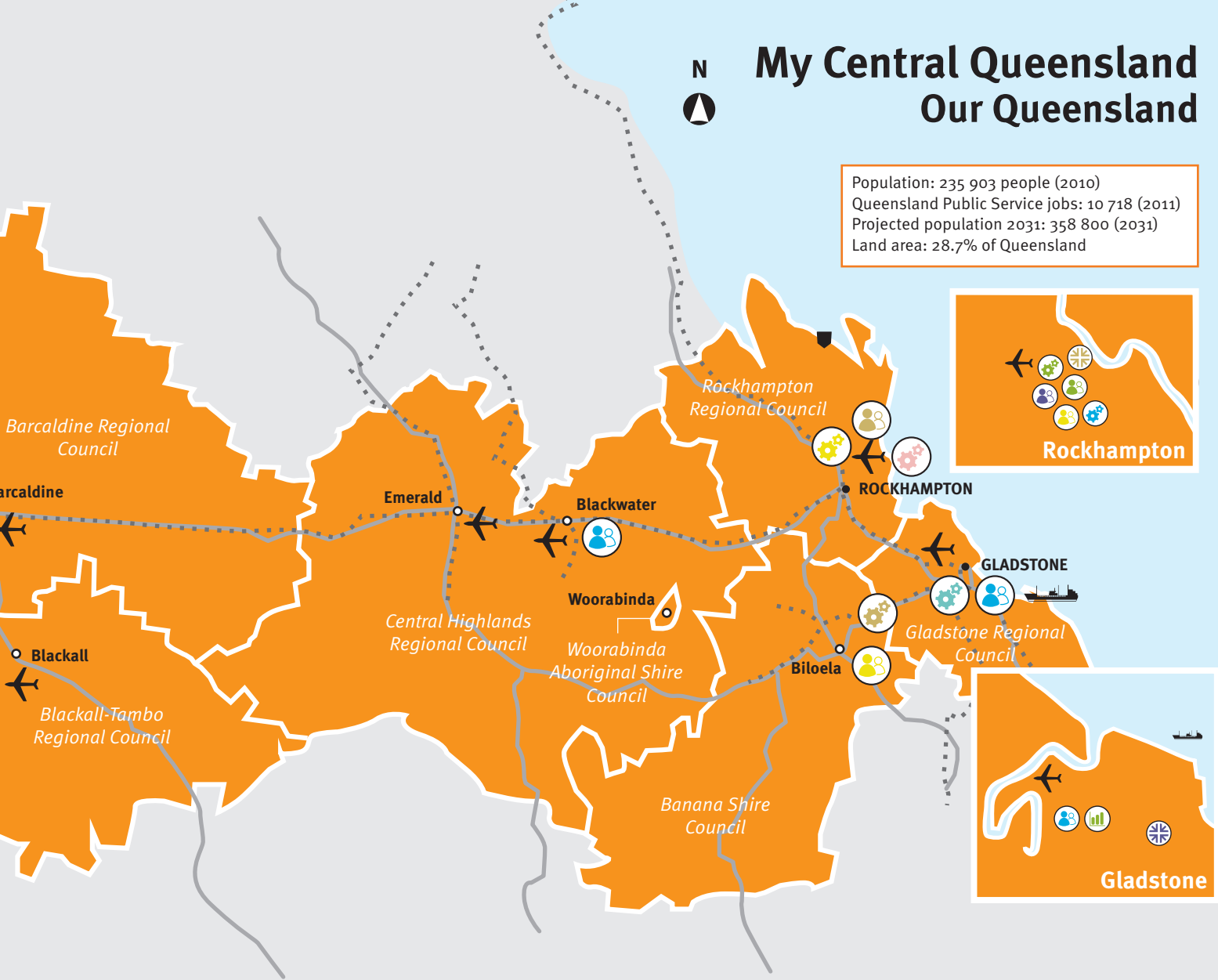
The Queensland Government, in partnership with business, industry and other levels of government will deliver on the actions in this plan. **These are just some of the actions planned or underway in the region in the short, medium and long term.** To find out what other projects are happening in your region visit www.waytogrow.qld.gov.au

Action	What	Why	When	
	Infrastructure and services: Ensuring regional Queensland emerges more resilient from natural disasters and anticipates future growth to improve productive capacity and sustain long-term growth.			
	Winton Neighbourhood Centre	Replace the Winton Neighbourhood Centre with a new structure and new facilities.	Improve facilities and services for the local community.	1–4 years
	Rockhampton Hospital expansion	Undertake major redevelopment of the hospital including the emergency department and in-patient wards and the establishment of a regional cancer centre.	Improve access to quality health services such as cancer care for Rockhampton residents.	1–4 years
	Bruce Highway Yeppen Lagoon (Capricorn Highway intersection) upgrade	Duplicate the Capricorn Highway intersection roundabout and construct a new two-lane bridge crossing the Yeppen Lagoon.	Improve road safety and reduce congestion and travel times.	1–4 years
	Dawson Highway (Gladstone—Biloela) Calliope Range deviation	Construct a deviation to a sealed standard at Calliope Range, Dawson Highway.	Improve road safety and freight efficiency.	1–4 years
	Bruce Highway Calliope crossroads upgrade	Grade-separate the existing intersection with the Dawson Highway and realign approaches (2 km east of Calliope).	Improve road safety and freight access to port and industrial facilities.	1–4 years



My Central Queensland Our Queensland

Population: 235 903 people (2010)
 Queensland Public Service jobs: 10 718 (2011)
 Projected population 2031: 358 800 (2031)
 Land area: 28.7% of Queensland



Action	What	Why	When
Bruce Highway Rockhampton northern access upgrade (stages 1 & 2)	Construct a section of dual carriageway between Yeppoon Road and Terra Nova Drive.	Improve road safety and reduce congestion and travel times on the northern approach to Rockhampton.	5–20 years
Ergon Energy—reinforce supply to Capricorn Coast	Reinforce supply to Capricorn Coast.	Improve reliability of electricity supply to meet the demands of growing industries and population.	1–4 years
People: Promoting regional communities as centres offering residents the full range of opportunities in life through career and education, as well as the amenities that contribute to liveability.			
Rockhampton Hospital student accommodation and teaching facilities	Build a new teaching and learning building adjacent to the existing facility.	Provide affordable student accommodation and high-quality teaching facilities to attract, retain and support students and teaching staff in regional Queensland.	1–4 years
Rockhampton adult mental health and community care unit	Construct a 20-bed community care unit in Rockhampton which will focus on a new community based model of mental health care.	Provide local access to quality health care and reduce the isolation and stress on patients and their families who would otherwise have to access services outside the region.	1–4 years
Cyclone shelter—Yeppoon	Construct a multipurpose community building with Category 5 cyclone protection.	Improve access to safe and easily identified emergency shelters in the event of extreme weather conditions with community uses available at other times.	1–4 years
Central Queensland Nation Building Social Housing Initiative	Construction of dwellings in Biloela and Rockhampton under the Nation Building Social Housing Initiative.	Increase supply of social housing across Central Queensland and generate additional employment in the construction industry.	1–4 years

	Action	What	Why	When
	 Blackwater, Clinton and Tannum Sands Urban Development Areas (UDA)	Prepare a development scheme for Tannum Sands, administer the development schemes for Blackwater and Clinton and undertake the development of all or parts of these UDAs.	Provide a range of housing that will address pressures arising from rapid growth in the resource sector.	Ongoing
Region wide action	Employment and training for Indigenous people	Facilitate greater economic participation, employment and education opportunities for Indigenous communities, including maximising Indigenous opportunities through government procurement, employment processes and industry engagement.	Maximise employment opportunities for Indigenous people.	Ongoing
 Business: Supporting businesses to attract new investment to generate sustained employment opportunities and strengthen the economic base.				
	 Support development of the geothermal energy industry	Provide funding towards research and development into progressing large-scale electricity generation from subterranean hot rocks and hot sedimentary aquifers, including supporting the Birdsville Geothermal Power Station upgrade.	Increase the clean energy options available across Queensland and diversify local economies by establishing new industries.	1–2 years
	 Gladstone State Development Area	Continue to attract and facilitate projects in the Gladstone State Development Area to support growth.	Diversify and grow the regional economy.	Ongoing
Region wide action	Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) supply chain opportunities	Help local industry to meet the LNG industry's supply chain needs and provide businesses with the skills to win tenders and contracts.	Diversify and grow the regional economy to improve the resilience and liveability of the region.	Ongoing
Region wide action	High-speed broadband and the digital economy	Provide information to companies on new technologies and ways of doing business in a digital economy.	Improve the productivity and competitive advantage of local businesses.	Ongoing
Region wide action	Resource development assessment	Assess the likely timing, size, location and workforce requirements of resource development projects in the Bowen and Galilee Basins.	Support the liveability of regional areas by assessing and planning for growth in the resource sector.	Ongoing
Region wide action	Tourism opportunity plans	Support implementation of the <i>Central Queensland Tourism Opportunity Plan</i> and the <i>Outback and Western Downs Tourism Opportunity Plan</i> .	Assist the tourism industry to grow and remain competitive into the future.	Ongoing
Region wide action	Streamlined investor access to government	Provide investors with streamlined access to government to attract investment and facilitate business expansion in Central Queensland.	Diversify and grow the regional economy to improve the resilience of the region.	Ongoing
Region wide action	Marketing regional Queensland	Work with regional leaders to promote the benefits of living and working in Central Queensland.	Assist in attracting residents into the region to provide the labour needed by local industry.	Ongoing
Region wide action	Business innovation	Deliver tailored business innovation services to targeted regional firms aimed at improving business performance, resilience, productivity and supply chain integration with the focus on key areas of economic interest and opportunity.	Improve the productivity and competitive advantage of local businesses.	Ongoing
Region wide action	Central Queensland Intermodal Logistics Hub	Work with key stakeholders to determine the feasibility of an intermodal logistics hub in Central Queensland.	Strengthen the region's economy and support the resilience of Queensland's supply chains.	Ongoing
 Partnerships: Fostering partnerships at the local, state and national levels to promote coordination and drive local leadership.				
	 Airport upgrades	For Bedourie and Birdsville airports provide modern facilities for passengers and ensure 24-hour, all-weather access for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.	Meet the present and future needs of passengers and emergency services.	1–4 years
	 Rockhampton Riverbank redevelopment—new swimming facility	Build a 50-metre, 10-lane, Olympic competition-standard heated pool as part of the three-stage Rockhampton Riverbank redevelopment.	Build Queensland's second international swimming federation compliant swimming pool to benefit regional sports tourism and the local community.	1–4 years
	 <i>Gladstone Regional Social Infrastructure Strategic Plan</i>	Collaborate with partners to update the social facilities benchmarking results in the <i>Gladstone Regional Social Infrastructure Strategic Plan</i> focusing on higher or accelerated population growth scenarios in the Gladstone region.	Support the liveability of the Gladstone region.	Ongoing
Region wide action	<i>Central Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy</i>	Implement the <i>Central Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy</i> .	Continue the strong partnership approach to the long-term planning of Central Queensland's residential, commercial, rural and industrial water needs to achieve the best possible environmental, social and economic outcomes.	Ongoing
Region wide action	<i>Central West Regional Plan</i>	Continue to implement the <i>Central West Regional Plan</i> and governance arrangements including the regional planning committee.	Ensure regional growth is sustainably managed and continually monitored to ensure issues affecting growth are collaboratively addressed.	Ongoing

Community feedback

The QRS has been developed to share the benefits of growth across the state and support the economic growth and liveability of each region.

Public consultation was held from July to September 2011 to learn about the Central Queensland community's vision and ideas for the region. Key issues raised included: addressing the impacts of resource development workforces; supporting the liveability of the region through community infrastructure; maintaining regional identity; upskilling the workforce; finding solutions to the strain on infrastructure and services particularly roads, housing and hospitals.

This document has been developed to set the course for government investment into the future and to build a shared vision and plan of action with industry, other levels of government and regional leaders.

Building on solid foundations

It is vital that regions have the infrastructure, services and other support they need to realise the benefits of growth, while maintaining the unique characteristics and lifestyle that regional Queenslanders value about their local areas.

The Queensland Government has already undertaken a number of projects in the Central Queensland region to achieve the outcomes the community wants for the region. These include:

- the Rockhampton–Yeppoon water pipeline
- stage 1 of the Rockhampton Riverbank redevelopment
- a new 24-hour police station at Yeppoon
- the new Capricorn Coast Hospital and Health Service at Yeppoon and funding to council for redevelopment of the old site into a public space
- a new transport customer service centre at Gladstone
- stage 3 of the Gladstone Hospital expansion including Oral Health Clinic and Community and Mental Health buildings
- completion of the final stage of the Port of Gladstone's RG Tanna Coal Terminal
- opening a new multi-purpose health service facility at Winton.

These projects, some completed and others ongoing, reflect the positive work already underway to build liveable strong and vibrant communities in Queensland's regions. They provide a solid platform for the proposed regional actions which will build on this work to advance regional development.

Housing strategies for Gladstone

Rapid growth in the LNG industry has made local housing affordability a major issue. The Queensland Government has been working closely with LNG companies and the Gladstone Regional Council to get the right balance between growth in the industry and meeting social infrastructure needs.

Thanks to this partnership, the first quarterly housing report for Gladstone contains more than \$18 million in measures from LNG companies to boost Gladstone's housing stock, including:

- Gladstone LNG (GLNG) and Queensland Curtis LNG (QCLNG) to provide \$13 million to establish a not-for-profit housing company to provide affordable rental housing in the region
- GLNG and QCLNG to bring forward the construction of 90 new dwellings for their workforce over the next 18 months
- GLNG, QCLNG and Australia Pacific LNG (APLNG) to invest \$3.3 million to fast-track the Urban Land Development Authority's development of land in the Clinton Urban Development Area from five to three years
- GLNG and QCLNG to deliver \$2 million in housing assistance and support programs for Gladstone families experiencing housing demand and rental stress.

The Coordinator-General will continue to release quarterly reports that demonstrate how LNG companies are implementing their housing strategies.

Sebastian and Michael, Gladstone



Implementing the QRS and regional actions

The QRS statewide actions and regional actions represent existing and new actions which together will help meet the Queensland Government's commitment to building stronger, more resilient and prosperous regions. The benefits of regionalisation will be realised in the short, medium and long term.

While many actions will be led by the Queensland Government, local partnerships with business, industry and other levels of government will be critical to their success. The Queensland Government will work with these groups throughout implementation and as part of the review process to ensure actions best meet local

priorities and needs. The actions will be reviewed and adjusted as needed to take account of progress and to address any significant social or economic changes.

The Queensland Government will keep the community informed about progress in implementing both statewide and regional actions.

Fitzroy and Central West Regional Development Australia Committee

The Regional Development Australia committees (RDAs) are a joint Australian and Queensland Government initiative to enhance the growth and development of Queensland's regions. RDA committees

champion development activities to bring the greatest benefit to their region and provide critical advice to government on priorities for regional development.

The Fitzroy and Central West Regional Development Australia Committee provides a link between the three levels of government and builds partnerships with other regional development bodies, community and not-for-profit groups and the private sector. The committee identifies and progresses regional priorities. Areas of focus for the Queensland RDA network include economic recovery, regionalisation, developing regional workforces and capitalising on the National Broadband Network.

A coordinated approach to planning for the region

The QRS and the actions in this document are closely connected to other plans and activities being undertaken for the region. These include:

Central West Regional Plan and Central Queensland Regional Growth Management Framework

These documents guide land use and development in the region. The *Central West Regional Plan* is a statutory plan that provides a framework to help sustain the region's communities, strengthen its economy, inform the delivery of social services and infrastructure, and protect

its environment. It supports the QRS by providing the preferred pattern of land use and development within the region. Visit www.dlqp.qld.gov.au/regional-planning for more information.

Queensland Infrastructure Plan (QIP)

The QIP—one of the statewide actions of the QRS—guides planning, prioritisation and sequencing of infrastructure across the state. It outlines the infrastructure needed to support and further encourage growth across Queensland's major regional economic zones. It is therefore strongly connected to the QRS and

provides detail on the infrastructure which will help meet the outcomes for each region. Visit www.dlqp.qld.gov.au/qip for more information.

Bruce Highway Upgrade Strategy (BHUS)

The BHUS—one of the statewide actions of the QRS—is a 20-year masterplan of planned and proposed upgrades to the Bruce Highway to improve safety, increase capacity and transport efficiency and to boost flood immunity and reliability. Visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au/brucehighwayupgradestrategy for more information.

Turning wastewater into liquid gold

Rockhampton-based company Midellwater is tapping into the growing demand for green projects through its innovative system of cleaning wastewater.

Owner and PhD student, Ben Kele, has researched and commercialised a system using volcanic rocks and is finding ways to apply it to everything

from mine sites and special events to eco-villages and military training facilities. The system is simple, robust and environmentally friendly and uses different blends of rocks for treating different types of waste.

Midellwater's systems have been effectively introduced around the state, from the environmentally

friendly 'Sunrise at 1770' residential development in Central Queensland to the Woodford Folk Festival site.

Ben, who is based at Rockhampton's CQ University Australia, is currently exploring how his system can turn billions of litres of water produced by the coal seam gas industry into a useable product for agriculture.

