

1 Economic plan – creating jobs and prosperity in a growing Queensland

Features

- The Palaszczuk Government's commitment to improve the quality of life and living standards enjoyed by Queenslanders continues to be underpinned by its clear economic plan to drive economic growth, create more jobs and improve prosperity.
- The key initiatives outlined in the 2018-19 Budget, including the suite of election commitments, will continue to drive economic growth and create jobs by:
 - increasing the economic opportunities available to Queenslanders
 - enhancing the capacity of Queenslanders to access and capitalise on these opportunities
 - ensuring all Queenslanders share in the prosperity and improved quality of life these opportunities deliver.
- To create the economic growth and job opportunities needed to support Queensland's growing population, the Government's economic plan includes a \$45.8 billion investment in productivity-enhancing capital works over the four years to 2021-22.
- In addition to flagship projects such as the Cross River Rail, Cairns Convention Centre, upgrades to the M1 motorway and Townsville Stadium, a range of other essential regional projects will be fast-tracked through the Growth Area and Regional Infrastructure Investment Fund while building key social infrastructure to support improved health and education outcomes.
- Ongoing and increased funding for key employment and training programs will help provide Queensland jobseekers, including the State's youth, with the skills and capabilities to access additional job opportunities.
- Meanwhile, significant funding for initiatives to further protect the Great Barrier Reef and the environment will ensure current and future generations of Queenslanders continue to enjoy the increased prosperity and quality of life that has attracted almost two million migrants to the State over the past three decades.
- The \$11.6 billion capital works program in 2018-19 outlined in this Budget is estimated to directly support more than 38,000 jobs in 2018-19, as well as support significant ongoing private sector investment and employment over the short, medium and long term.

1.1 Key elements of the economic plan

The Queensland Government remains committed to creating increased opportunities and prosperity for all Queenslanders. As outlined in each of the Government's previous budgets since 2015-16, this commitment is underpinned by a clear and comprehensive economic plan to drive economic growth, create more jobs and enhance living standards.

In line with the key objectives of the Government's economic plan, Queensland has recorded significantly improved economic outcomes in recent years, with economic growth expected to strengthen to 2¼% in 2017-18 and strengthen further to 3% in 2018-19. This growth has also directly resulted in increased employment opportunities across the State, with more than 83,500 new jobs created in Queensland over the 12 months to April 2018.

Despite these achievements, an ongoing focus on building the productive capacity and resilience of the State's traditional, emerging and new industries is critical to maintain this economic momentum and support the ongoing prosperity of Queensland families, communities and regions.

As a modern, open trading economy, Queensland continues to be susceptible in the short to medium term to changes in international economic conditions.

Some key areas of regional Queensland continue to successfully transition to the post mining and LNG investment boom economy, while some regions and industries are still recovering from the impacts of natural disasters and continue to be impacted by drought.

With the State's population growing over recent decades to more than five million, ongoing delivery and facilitation of key economic and social infrastructure, as well as essential social services, will remain a key element of the Government's plan to drive ongoing improvements in the quality of life enjoyed by families and communities across the State. Further, longer term global trends, such as climate change, the rapid pace of technological advancements and demographic change, will continue to present both risks and opportunities.

A continued focus on building a strong, resilient and flexible economy and labour force is critical to ensure Queensland businesses, industries and regions are capable of responding to any challenges and capitalising on any opportunities as they arise now and in the future.

The 2018-19 Budget continues to reinforce the Government's commitment to driving sustainable economic growth and improving employment outcomes.

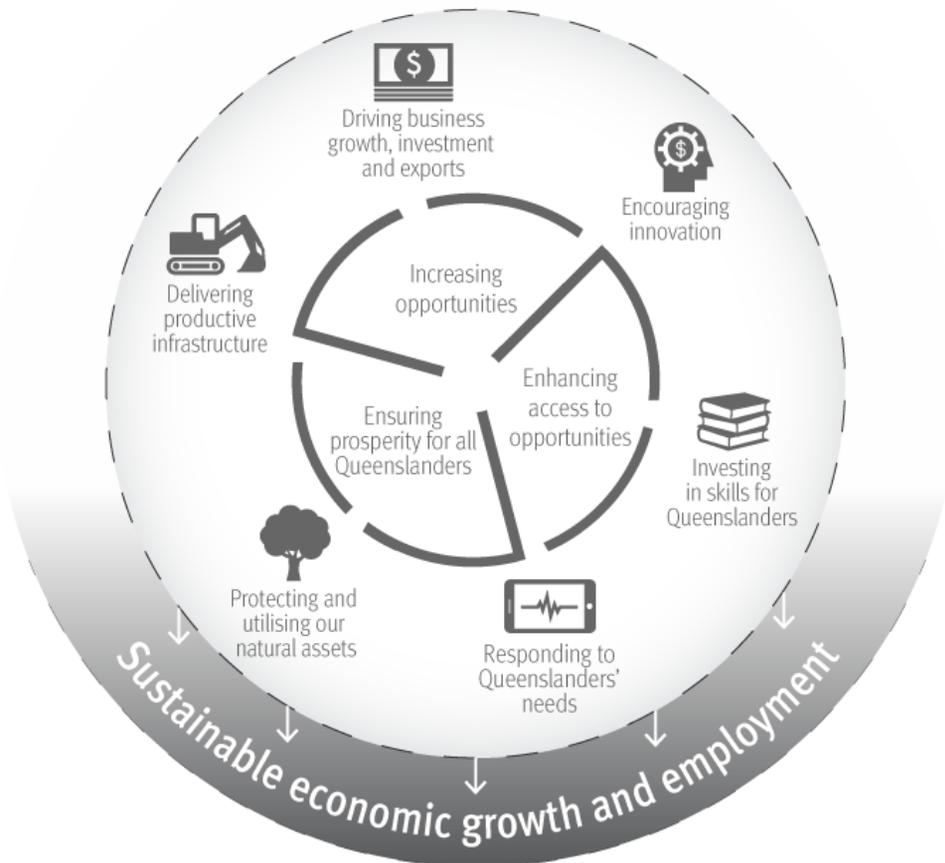
The \$11.6 billion capital works program in 2018-19 outlined in this Budget is estimated to directly support more than 38,000 jobs in 2018-19, as well as support significant ongoing private sector investment and employment over the short, medium and long term. Key elements of the Budget will also help facilitate growth of private sector business investment and the increased participation of Queensland's youth in employment, education and training.

Given the recent strong jobs growth and increased labour force participation in Queensland, the Government's economic plan will not only continue to support overall income growth but should also help support wages growth in the medium to longer term, as the demand for labour intensifies and any spare capacity in the labour market is utilised.

Building on the economic plan outlined in the previous three State budgets, the remainder of this chapter outlines how key initiatives, including new policies and programs outlined in the 2018-19 Budget will contribute to achievement of three key elements of the Government's economic plan:

- increasing the economic opportunities available to Queenslanders
- enhancing the capacity of Queenslanders to access and capitalise on these opportunities
- ensuring all Queenslanders share in the prosperity and improved quality of life these opportunities deliver.

Figure 1.1 Driving jobs and prosperity through the economic plan



1.2 Increasing the economic opportunities available to Queenslanders

The prosperity and well-being of Queenslanders is closely linked to the economic and employment opportunities that are available to them. The creation of increased opportunities also helps provide the means for individuals and families to fully realise their economic potential through the application of their capabilities, skills and talents.

Given the private sector supports almost five out of every six jobs in Queensland, an essential element of the Government's economic plan is to drive private sector investment and business growth, thereby supporting and creating new job opportunities.

In particular, the economic plan includes a strong focus on enhancing the employment, education and training opportunities available to Queensland's youth, ensuring they can take advantage of current job opportunities as well as being better equipped to pursue the jobs of the future.

1.2.1 Delivering productive infrastructure

The Government plays a key role in creating job opportunities by investing, facilitating, and delivering productive infrastructure, particularly in the context of the State's growing population.

Infrastructure investment directly generates significant employment across the State during the construction phase. However, even more importantly, it creates future jobs and investment prospects by expanding the long-term productive capacity of the economy and helping make Queensland businesses more productive, efficient and competitive.

As Queensland transitions to a more innovative, diverse and productive economy, it is vital that infrastructure investments maximise opportunities and provide long-term sustainable benefits to Queenslanders.

The Palaszczuk Government is investing \$45.8 billion through the capital works program over the four years to 2021-22. The program includes much needed additional investments in roads, rail, water, energy, hospitals, schools and digital infrastructure projects that will meet the demands of our fast-growing state.

The capital works program includes ongoing Government investment in a number of significant projects including Cross River Rail, upgrades to the M1 motorway and the Bruce Highway and the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing project.

Significant funding related to several of these projects has also been committed beyond the forward estimates period to complete delivery of this transformative infrastructure.

The \$11.6 billion capital works program in 2018-19 is estimated to directly support more than 38,000 jobs.

The 2018-19 capital program includes a \$4.9 billion investment in roads and transport infrastructure, significant capital purchases related to health (\$985.5 million) and education (\$674.3 million) and significant capital investment in energy and water of \$2.2 billion and \$277 million respectively.

Some key highlights of the 2018-19 capital works program include:

- \$733 million to continue to progress the planning, procurement and delivery of the Cross River Rail project
- \$200 million to widen the Bruce Highway from four to six lanes between Caloundra Road and the Sunshine Motorway
- \$534.3 million to continue the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing project
- \$115 million to construct the Mackay Ring Road (Stage 1)
- \$89.2 million towards a new public transport ticketing system
- \$125.2 million for new classrooms and other infrastructure in state secondary schools to accommodate six full cohorts in 2020
- \$94.5 million to further address enrolment growth pressures in state schools as part of the Building Future Schools fund
- \$339.1 million towards the construction and upgrade of the social housing stock.

Across the State, the Government's investment in public infrastructure will drive transformative change, encourage private investment and make our communities better places to live.

Around \$5.6 billion of the capital works program in 2018-19 will help deliver key economic and social infrastructure in regional Queensland, estimated to directly support more than 19,000 jobs across Queensland's important regional economies in 2018-19.

The 2018-19 Budget provides for a \$176 million State contribution towards the construction of the Rookwood Weir near Rockhampton. This is in addition to other regionally significant economic infrastructure projects previously announced by the Government.

This Budget also allocates \$40 million over 2 years towards the newly established Growth Area and Regional Infrastructure Investment Fund to help fast-track essential regional infrastructure.

Importantly, the Government's capital works program and the productivity benefits it delivers are not limited to projects historically classified as 'economic' infrastructure. Investment in key social infrastructure, such as hospitals and schools, benefits individuals and families by improving health and educational outcomes, thereby increasing the capacity of Queenslanders to participate in the economy and to capitalise on the knowledge-based, high value added jobs of the future.

This Budget features a number of key social infrastructure investments, including a \$985.5 million capital program for the health portfolio in 2018-19 to accommodate growing demand for health services, increase service quality and to facilitate innovative and new service delivery models. The Budget allocates an additional \$308 million towards Building Future Schools, taking total funding to \$808 million. The Government is also allocating \$966.3 million over the forward estimates towards the \$1.8 billion *Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027*.

Additional funding of \$135 million has also been allocated to provide infrastructure grants to non-state schools to meet the needs of Queensland's growing population.

The Budget also delivers \$125 million towards the construction of a \$150 million 1,500 to 1,700 seat performing arts venue at the South Bank Cultural Precinct. This project will help attract new visitors and support the development of Queenslanders engaged in the performing arts industry.

Box 1.1 Population growth – a key driver of economic growth and jobs

Population growth has been a key driver of economic growth and job creation in Queensland over recent decades. From a population of only two million in May 1974, Queensland's population has grown to reach five million in May 2018, according to recent population estimates released by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office.

This represents average annual population growth of 2.1% over that period, compared with only 1.2% growth in the rest of Australia.

Notably, overseas and interstate migration were both major drivers of the State's stronger growth over recent decades. Net migration of nearly 1.9 million people to Queensland has accounted for around 60% of the State's population growth since 1974 as shown in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 Components of Queensland population growth

Date	Queensland Population	Components of change			Total population growth ¹
		Natural increase	Net overseas migration	Net interstate migration	
May 1974	2,000,000				
Feb 1992	3,000,000	387,000	183,000	406,000	1,000,000
May 2006	4,000,000	367,000	249,000	431,000	1,000,000
May 2018	5,000,000	410,000	440,000	150,000	1,000,000
Total increase		1,164,000	872,000	987,000	3,000,000
Note:					
1. Includes intercensal discrepancy					
Source ABS 3101.0, 3105.0.65.001 and Queensland Treasury					

Migration is a key driver of economic growth in Queensland:

- migration increases the demand for goods and services, supporting the growth of local businesses and industries, flowing through to increased investment and increased demand for government services
- it increases the number of people available to work
- it helps support increased productivity through the increased productivity-enhancing infrastructure required to support the population growth.

While net interstate migration contributed only 150,000 (15%) to Queensland's total population growth from 2006 to 2018, the direct result of interstate migration is significant over the period:

- The size of Queensland's economy (i.e. gross state product) in 2017-18 is around \$8.8 billion greater than it otherwise would have been, consisting of:
 - \$5.1 billion in additional household consumption

- \$2.3 billion in additional public and private sector investment
- \$1.6 billion in additional government consumption
- \$2.5 billion in additional exports, offset by \$2.8 billion in additional imports.
- The total number of jobs in Queensland in 2017-18 is estimated to be 72,000 greater than it would have been in the absence of interstate migration over this period.
- The economic benefits of interstate migration were shared across all Queensland industries. However, trade-exposed industries such as mining and manufacturing, and labour-intensive industries such as accommodation and food services, health and retail trade, have tended to benefit more than other industries, reflecting the additional supply of labour available.
- The additional labour supply and increased workforce participation means, in the short-term, a reduction in the unemployment rate can be limited.

While population growth has historically been a key factor underpinning economic growth in Queensland, it will also continue to be an important contributor to growth in the future. In particular, as outlined in Chapter 2, the State's population growth is forecast to strengthen to 1¾% in 2018-19 and 2019-20, supported by a strengthening in net interstate migration.

Continued investment in productive infrastructure is important to ensure ongoing provision of essential services to manage the pressures related to a growing population and to ensure Queenslanders continue to benefit from the increased growth and opportunities resulting from the State's ongoing population growth.

1.2.2 Driving business growth, investment and exports

Queensland faces ongoing and increasing competition for investment, as capital increasingly becomes more mobile and the global economy becomes more interconnected. Therefore, it is critical that Queensland maintains a competitive business environment which continues to attract and support private investment.

Driving and facilitating private sector investment is crucial, given the private sector accounts for more than 70% of total investment in the economy, in addition to supporting 83% of Queensland jobs.

The Palaszczuk Government is delivering a range of industry attraction and facilitation services to assist industry to establish or expand their operations in Queensland. In the 2018-19 Budget an additional \$40 million is provided for the Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund and \$20 million for the Jobs and Regional Growth Fund, bringing the total funding committed to these programs to \$105 million and \$150 million, respectively.

A range of initiatives in the 2018-19 Budget will also directly support the growth of key Queensland export sectors, including an additional \$94.6 million to support growth of the tourism sector under the Growing Tourism Jobs initiative.

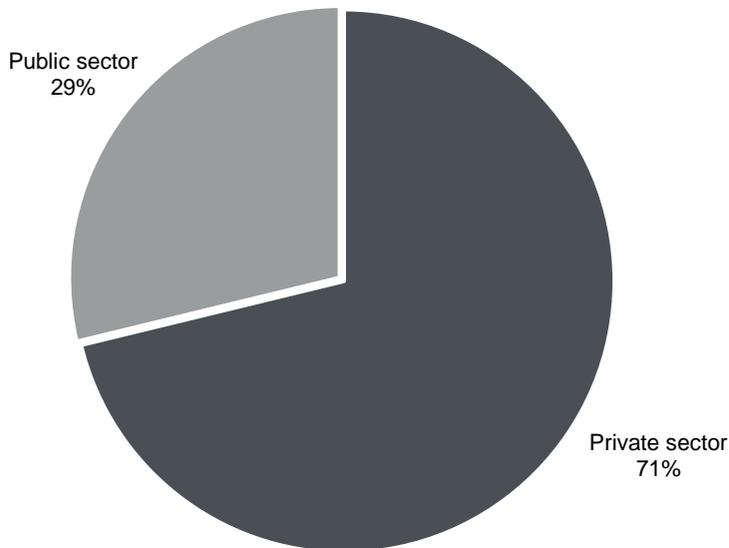
Importantly, ongoing regulatory reform is a key component of the Government's economic plan, with red tape reduction increasing business productivity and competitiveness, incentivising

greater private sector investment, thereby, ultimately providing an overall boost to employment and economic growth.

In particular, the Government remains committed to cutting costs for the State's more than 437,000 small to medium sized businesses (as at 2016-17), which employ around two thirds of all Queensland workers. The Budget provides increased funding of \$3.9 million to continue delivering the ecoBiz program that helps small to medium sized businesses identify and achieve financial savings and eco-efficiency across energy, water and waste.

Building on the Government's regulatory reform efforts focused on small business, including establishment of the Better Regulation Taskforce, the Government is progressing development of a Business Impact Statement tool, as well as the election commitment to establish small business consultation panels. These initiatives will help ensure greater consideration of, and consultation with, small business stakeholders when developing policy and regulation.

Chart 1.1 Queensland business investment, private and public sector shares, 2016-17



Source: ABS 5206.0 and 8752.0

Box 1.2 Waste Strategy - driving business investment, innovation and jobs

On 20 March 2018, the Queensland Government announced the development of a comprehensive waste management strategy underpinned by a waste disposal levy.

The waste disposal levy will be instrumental in changing waste management practices in Queensland. By discouraging the disposal of waste to landfill, it will significantly boost certainty for investment in job-creating reuse, recycling, bioproducts and waste-to-energy industries.

By bringing Queensland into line with other States, the levy will also remove a key incentive for cross-border transport of waste to local landfills.

The waste strategy and levy are being introduced in a period of changing international policies relating to acceptance of recycling material, including China's decision to tighten quality standards for imported recyclable material.

Key elements of the Queensland Waste Strategy

The levy will commence in the first quarter of 2019 and will apply to 38 local government areas, covering more than 80% of the State's population. The waste disposal levy will apply to all general waste streams.

The levy will be set at \$70 per tonne for general waste, increasing by \$5 per annum. Proceeds from the levy will be used for waste programs, environmental priorities and community purposes.

There will be \$100 million allocated over three years to support Queensland's resource recovery and recycling industry through the Resource Recovery Industry Development Program. The program will facilitate private sector and local government projects delivering innovative solutions to the problem of waste going to landfill and create jobs in emerging industries.

The Government will provide an annual advance on levy charges to those local governments that dispose of municipal waste in the levy zone. In 2018-19, \$32 million has been provided for this purpose. This will avoid direct costs to households from introduction of the waste levy.

Between 2018-19 and 2021-22 it is expected that over 70% of revenue generated through the waste levy will be allocated to advance payments to councils, scheme start-up and operational costs, industry programs and other environmental priorities. Surplus revenue from the levy will benefit the entire Queensland community by providing funding for schools, hospitals, transport infrastructure and frontline services.

Economic and employment impacts

There are significant employment and economic impacts resulting from an effective waste strategy, including a waste levy on landfill disposal.

A recent independent study highlighted the relationship between the introduction of a waste levy and other key elements of a waste strategy with increasing waste diversion rates,

business investment, innovation and jobs in the recycling sector.

Based on experience in other jurisdictions, both nationally and internationally, there is potential for Queensland to achieve higher recovery rates and derive the associated business investment, innovation and employment benefits.

In particular, the report indicated that the introduction of a waste strategy and waste levy in Queensland should play an important role in enabling these benefits to Queenslanders from higher-order resource recovery opportunities in the future.

The study also found that introduction of a waste levy will promote a reduction in waste generation and increase the diversion of waste to higher-value waste recovery and recycling industries.

The introduction of a levy in Queensland at \$70 per tonne, combined with other key elements of the waste strategy, will support new jobs in the waste industry over the long-term.

The report also indicated that the introduction of a waste levy should result in a significant reduction of interstate waste being transported to Queensland.

1.2.3 Encouraging innovation – Advance Queensland

Innovation is one of the key drivers of growth and job creation by facilitating economic transformation and boosting business competitiveness.

Through its flagship Advance Queensland initiative totalling \$650 million, the Queensland Government maintains a strong focus on fostering innovation and entrepreneurship to enable Queensland businesses to adapt rapidly to the ever-changing global business environment. The 2018-19 Budget provides increased funding of \$50 million over five years for key Advance Queensland programs, including the *Ignite Ideas Fund* and Industry Research Fellowships. The funding also includes an extension to 'The Precinct', Queensland's flagship hub for start-ups, the Clem Jones Centre for Ageing and Dementia Research and a range of programs to drive and scale innovation in Queensland.

The 2018-19 Budget also provides increased funding of \$40 million over 2 years to the Business Development Fund to support emerging and high growth innovative Queensland businesses to commercialise their ideas by co-investing with experienced venture capital firms and investors.

The Palaszczuk Government's continued focus on encouraging innovation is yielding tangible benefits. Advance Queensland programs are backing over 3,000 innovators, whose projects will drive over 11,000 jobs. Engagement and involvement across the State has been high, with over 60,000 attendees at Advance Queensland events, 57% of which were held in regional Queensland.

Significant achievements to date include:

- providing over 200 small and medium sized businesses with opportunities to commercialise market ready innovative ideas under the *Ignite Ideas Fund*, helping them grow and compete in a global market
- attracting over 35 international start-ups to Queensland through the *Hot DesQ* program
- developing roadmaps and action plans for a range of industry sectors, including Biofutures and Biomedical and Life Sciences, to promote knowledge-based jobs and the economy of the future
- establishing the *Queensland Genomics Health Alliance* to address the challenge of translating genomics data into meaningful clinical care to improve the health of our community.

1.2.4 Protecting and utilising our natural assets

Queensland's natural resource endowments provide significant economic opportunities to Queenslanders and a key plank of the Government's economic plan has been to ensure appropriate protection and sustainable use of these valuable assets.

Around 80% of Queensland's land area is utilised for agricultural purposes, and the State's mineral producers exported coal, LNG and other minerals worth more than \$56 billion in the year to March 2018. Meanwhile, Queensland's comparative strengths in solar, wind and biofuels have also seen significant growth in the renewable energy sector in recent years.

Queensland's beaches, national parks and Great Barrier Reef continue to attract visitors from across Australia and around the world, who spent 140 million visitor nights in the State in 2017, up 25% since 2011.

Clearly, one of Queensland's most significant natural resources and tourist attractions is the world renowned Great Barrier Reef. To protect this vital natural asset, the Queensland Government has committed substantial resources to improving water quality in the catchment to improve long-term sustainability. The *Queensland Reef Water Quality Program* provides a total of \$330 million over a five-year investment plan to address all land-based sources of water pollution.

In addition to this prior commitment, the 2018-19 Budget provides \$26 million in 2018-19 over the next four years for the Great Barrier Reef Joint Field Management Program, and a total of \$13.8 million to help agricultural producers transition to new minimum standards designed to protect the reef.

In line with the Government's 'Saving Habitat, Protecting Wildlife and Restoring Land' commitment, the Government has committed to establishing its flagship Land Restoration Fund (LRF).

The LRF will aim to support and develop Queensland's emerging carbon farming industry by investing in projects that will deliver not only carbon reduction outcomes, but also other environmental, economic, and social co-benefits for Queenslanders. The Government will act as a cornerstone investor by providing seed capital of \$500 million and the LRF will seek to leverage other sources of investment including from private and philanthropic sources.

The Fund complements a range of other initiatives being delivered, such as the \$50 million Solar Thermal Plant Capital Contribution, to reduce Queensland’s contribution to climate change.

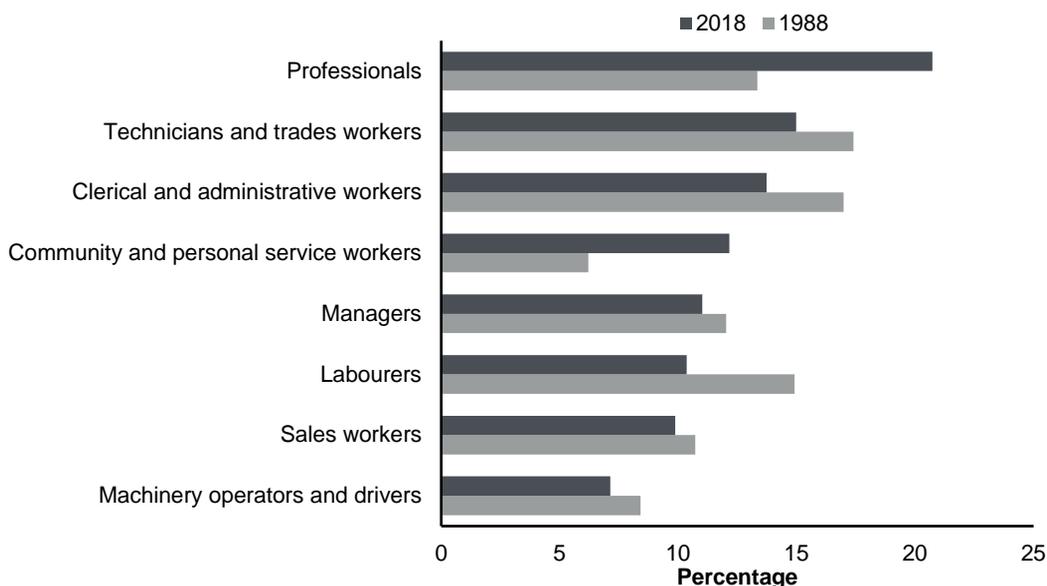
The Government is also implementing a range of policies to ensure our valuable mineral resources are managed sustainably and that their extraction brings economic and employment benefits to Queenslanders. Delivering on its election commitment, the Government has released more than 6,000 square kilometres of land for gas exploration for domestic use only to deliver more gas for domestic consumers to ease pressure on gas-dependent manufacturing industries.

1.3 Enhancing the capacity of Queenslanders to access and capitalise on opportunities

Ongoing changes in the State’s industry structure, as it continues to transition to a more knowledge intensive and services based economy, combined with technological change and other factors, have seen a significant shift over recent decades in the types of jobs and the skills needed to drive economic activity.

Most notably, strong growth in community and personal service workers has seen that sector’s proportion of total employment double between 1988 and 2018, while professionals now account for around one in every five jobs in Queensland.

Chart 1.2 Queensland employment share by occupation



Source: ABS 6291.0.55.003

1.3.1 Investing in skills for Queenslanders

The flexibility and adaptability that the State's workforce has displayed over many decades will need to continue for Queensland to stay along a path of strong and sustainable growth that delivers higher living standards for all Queenslanders.

In recognition of this challenge, the Government's economic plan has a strong focus on investing in training opportunities for Queensland workers and jobseekers to gain skills to seamlessly transition into new roles, engage in new types of work and continue contributing to the economy.

This includes training and employment programs targeted at improving short to medium term outcomes, but also extends to broader education focused policies aimed at maximising Queensland's human capital in the long-run.

The 2018-19 Budget builds on the success of the Back to Work program, which has successfully given Queensland employers the confidence to take on new employees and grow their businesses, through increased funding of \$20.5 million to give employers in targeted areas of South East Queensland access to employer support payments with applications open to 30 June 2020.

The Payroll Tax Apprentice and Trainee Rebate is a key initiative which supports the ongoing development of Queenslanders' skills, particularly for the State's youth. The rebate assists employers grow their businesses while also helping to build the stock of qualified and skilled Queenslanders.

The 2018-19 Budget includes a commitment of \$26 million to extend the higher 50% payroll tax rebate for a further 12 months to June 2019, which is expected to support the hiring of up to 26,000 apprentices and trainees throughout the year.

The State's disadvantaged jobseekers are another key focus of the Government's employment and training policy agenda, with the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative providing opportunities for tens of thousands of jobseekers in cohorts who have historically faced substantial labour market challenges.

Following increased investment of \$180 million in the 2017-18 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Review, the Government's six-year investment in Skilling Queenslanders for Work will now total \$420 million by 2020-21.

Given the changing nature of skills requirements in the 21st century global economy, it is essential that individuals are equipped with the entrepreneurial and digital skills needed by innovative businesses and emerging industries.

Recognising the importance of early childhood education, the 2018-19 Budget also provides \$20 million over four years and \$5 million ongoing per annum to continue the First 5 Forever (F5F) Family Literacy Program, providing direct support to parents to build strong early years literacy foundations for children aged five years and below.

1.4 Ensuring all Queenslanders share in the increased prosperity and quality of life

The Queensland Government also plays a number of significant roles in ensuring the benefits of economic growth and the new opportunities created are translated into enhanced wellbeing and prosperity for all Queenslanders.

The Queensland Government continues to react and respond to Queenslanders' preferences and is attuned to the community's concerns and needs.

This includes the Government continually striving to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its delivery of essential services by promoting new and innovative approaches to the procurement of those services.

As such, a range of essential Queensland Government services not only improve the health and safety of Queenslanders, their families and the community, but are also essential in underpinning economic outcomes, by enabling Queenslanders to be more productive and economically engaged through employment, education and training.

As part of the Government's commitment to reduce cost of living impacts on Queensland households and small businesses, the 2018-19 Budget provides \$5.6 billion to help manage household budgets. A number of concessions are focused on supporting pensioners, special needs and disadvantaged members of the community to help reduce the cost of life's essentials including electricity, water, transport, education and housing. The 2018-19 Budget also provisions around \$500 million for Queensland's participation in the National Redress Scheme for Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse.

The Government has also made substantial investments to deliver the frontline services that Queenslanders need to ensure the health, education, safety and wellbeing of Queensland communities over recent years.

A record education and training operating budget of \$14.1 billion in 2018-19 will continue to deliver quality education to our young Queenslanders and \$732 million transformative capital improvements to school and training facilities across the State.

The 2018-19 Budget also provides significant funding to continue to deliver first-class health services to Queenslanders. This includes a record \$17.3 billion in operating funding, as well as a \$985.5 million health portfolio capital program.

The Palaszczuk Government also remains committed to protecting Queenslanders and keeping the State's families and communities safe. This Budget delivers significant funding for a range of new and ongoing initiatives across the key public safety agencies, including an additional \$171.9 million over four years for 400 police officers in high priority areas and \$55.1 million over four years for 85 counter-terrorism officers and operational specialists and to establish a Security and Counter-Terrorism Command. This builds on the investment in the 2017-18 Budget for an additional 30 counter-terrorism police officers and 20 police officers, bringing total additional frontline police and operational specialists in priority areas across the State to 535.

The \$1.8 billion Queensland Housing Strategy, announced in the 2017-18 Budget, will continue to deliver more social and affordable housing, and transform the way housing services are delivered in Queensland. Meanwhile, Queensland families and communities will continue to benefit from the revitalisation of frontline service delivery in health, education and policing.

The 2018-19 Budget provides a total of \$17 million over three years to enact the Government's election commitment to implement a 'No Card, No Start' policy, which will prevent Blue Card applicants from commencing work until their application has been approved and their Blue Card issued.

The Government also recognises that a key element of being a responsive government is ensuring the services it provides are easy to use in the most effective and efficient way possible, and that it meets the standards of service demanded by Queenslanders. To this end, the 2018-19 Budget delivers additional funding of \$8.8 million in 2018-19 to continue digital technology and service delivery measures to improve customer service.

The Government's economic plan also recognises the importance of the interaction between different levels of government to help fund important community projects and programs, improving environmental outcomes and reducing the cost of living. As such, the Budget provides additional funding of \$32 million in 2018-19 for advance payments to councils to meet the cost of municipal household waste sent to landfill and to avoid any direct impact on households associated with the introduction of the Waste Disposal Levy in 2019.

The Budget also delivers on the Government's election commitment to implement more effective funding grants to Local Government by allocating a total of \$4.5 million over four years to progress the implementation of the *Review of Grants to Local Government: Current and Future State Assessments* report. Councils will receive a total of \$1.7 billion in grants in 2018-19.