

# 1 Approach and highlights

## Features

- The Queensland Government is continuing to deliver the economic and social infrastructure needed to support a growing Queensland through a record 4-year capital program. The Big Build will underpin the long-term, sustainable development of our cities and regions, supporting good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle for Queenslanders.
- With total capital commitments of \$88.729 billion over 4 years, the 2023–24 Queensland Budget again delivers on the Queensland Government’s \$50 billion Infrastructure Guarantee. This investment will create generational change, cement Queensland’s role on the world’s stage and provide first-class facilities for Queensland. Over the 12 years to 2026–27, the government will have supported over \$184.970 billion in infrastructure works.
- In 2023–24, the government will invest \$20.321 billion in capital, directly supporting around 58,000 jobs. A record \$13.308 billion, or 65.5 per cent (up from 63.3 per cent in 2022–23) of this capital program will be invested outside of the Greater Brisbane region, supporting around 38,500 jobs.
- Capital expenditure on health infrastructure in 2023–24 will total \$1.638 billion with a focus on increasing bed capacity across the state. Work is continuing on the government’s \$9.785 billion Capacity Expansion Program to deliver around 2,200 additional beds. Seven Satellite Hospitals are also due to open in 2023–24 at Caboolture, Kallangur, Ripley, Eight Mile Plains, Tugun, Bribie Island and Redlands.
- Capital expenditure by the transport portfolio is budgeted to total \$6.946 billion in 2023–24, this includes \$829.2 million to continue construction work on Cross River Rail, \$420.0 million towards construction on Coomera Connector (Stage 1) and \$259.4 million to continue Gold Coast Light Rail (Stage 3). There is also substantial ongoing investment to fund major upgrades to the Bruce Highway, the M1 Pacific Motorway and the rail network through the Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail project and the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program to build 65 new trains in Maryborough.
- In 2023–24, the government will invest over \$1.5 billion to ensure that facilities in Queensland’s state schools are world-class and continue to meet demand and support contemporary learning requirements. Investment in new schools is being facilitated through the \$3 billion Building Future Schools Program. This Budget also includes a \$968 million investment over the next decade in a strategic land acquisition fund to secure the land needed for new and expanded schools into the future.
- The 2023–24 Queensland Budget includes a landmark capital investment of around \$19 billion over the forward estimates to deliver on the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. The government’s publicly owned energy businesses are leading Queensland’s energy transformation, investing in new wind, solar, storage and transmission.

- Significant investments through the government's energy businesses in 2023–24 include \$594.0 million for CopperString 2032, \$212.6 million for CleanCo renewables projects in Central Queensland and the Swanbank Battery, \$673.0 million for Stanwell to develop the Wambo and Tarong West Wind Farms and large-scale batteries, \$312.1 million for CS Energy to invest in Central Queensland wind farms and large-scale batteries, and \$183.7 million for Queensland Hydro to progress the Borumba Pumped Hydro Energy Storage project.
- Through state-owned water businesses, the Queensland Government is delivering additional water supply where it is needed, fortifying the flood resilience of water infrastructure and ensuring the ongoing safety and reliability of dams. Major investments in 2023–24 include \$548.5 million for the Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline, \$156.7 million to complete construction of Rookwood Weir, \$24.3 million for the Mount Crosby Flood Resilience Program, \$13.4 million to deliver the Toowoomba to Warwick Pipeline, and \$24.4 million to complete the South West Pipeline.
- During 2023–24, Sunwater, Seqwater and Gladstone Area Water Board will also invest \$155.8 million for planning and early works on improvements to Paradise, Burdekin Falls, Somerset, Wivenhoe, North Pine, Lake Macdonald and Awoonga Dams. As part of reinvesting in the regions, \$440 million, on top of an existing \$100 million commitment, is allocated toward improving and raising Burdekin Falls Dam by 2 metres.
- The 2023–24 Queensland Budget is providing an additional \$1.1 billion for the delivery and supply of social housing across Queensland through the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021–2025, including to meet higher construction costs and to boost the QuickStarts Queensland program target by 500 homes, bringing it to 3,265 social housing commencements by 30 June 2025.
- The government will continue to progress work on 2 new youth detention centres for Queensland. The first of these will be built at the Woodford Correctional Precinct, north west of Brisbane, with the expenditure subject to commercial negotiation with potential providers. The second youth detention centre is proposed to be built in Cairns.
- A key element of the government's capital program is providing grants to local governments and non-government organisations to support their work within communities across Queensland. In total, the government will provide \$3.915 billion in capital grants in 2023–24, including \$2.487 billion outside of the Greater Brisbane region. This includes more than \$1.265 billion to support the Queensland Government program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster-affected communities.

## 1.1 Introduction

The Capital Statement presents an overview of the Queensland Government’s infrastructure delivery program and proposed capital outlays for 2023–24.

The 2023–24 capital program is a record investment in infrastructure across the state that will sustain and enhance the Queensland lifestyle as the population continues to grow. This includes investment in new and ongoing projects in health, transport, energy, education, water and social and affordable housing.

The government’s Big Build takes a long-term view, with the capital program to deliver an expansion to the health system, decarbonise the State’s energy system, improve water security and prepare for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympics Games.

The \$20.321 billion of investment outlined in the 2023–24 Capital Statement is estimated to directly support around 58,000 jobs, with 38,500 of these jobs located outside of the Greater Brisbane region.

## 1.2 Queensland's infrastructure frameworks

The Queensland Government's infrastructure frameworks focus on achieving robust capital planning, quality investment decisions and regional economic development.

In 2023–24, the capital program is to be delivered in the midst of a building boom, with heightened competition for materials and labour. The government has made the deliberate decision to meet these higher costs, as well as increase infrastructure investment, to support a growing Queensland.

The government's infrastructure frameworks and planning processes are critical to prioritise the continued delivery of this infrastructure program, incorporating the latest population projections from the Queensland Government's Statistician's Office.

### **State Infrastructure Strategy**

The State Infrastructure Strategy (SIS) sets the statewide priorities for infrastructure, providing a framework for how the Queensland Government will plan and invest in infrastructure over the 20-year period to 2042. These statewide priorities underpin portfolio and regional infrastructure planning. Developed with infrastructure providers and informed by industry and the community, this strategy aligns priorities across agencies while also seeking partnerships with other levels of government and the private sector.

State-significant priorities are profiled across 10 infrastructure classes, such as transport, energy and health, and a cross-government class that features cross-sectorial priorities. These priorities focus on realising infrastructure opportunities and addressing challenges that Queensland will face into the future.

### **Regional Infrastructure Plans**

Queensland is a diverse state and its regions have different priorities. Supporting the SIS, the introduction of 7 Regional Infrastructure Plans (RIPs) recognises the significant role infrastructure plays in catalysing regional economic resilience and recovery, growth and liveability. Drawing on the SIS's priorities, and complementing statutory regional plans, these plans are being developed in consultation with regional stakeholders (industry, peak bodies and local government) through a place-based approach to help prioritise regionally significant infrastructure needs.

Further details on the SIS and RIPs are available at [www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au](http://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au) by searching for State Infrastructure Strategy 2022–2042.

### **The Queensland Government Infrastructure Pipeline**

The Queensland Government Infrastructure Pipeline (QGIP) provides industry with visibility of the government's infrastructure pipeline, creating confidence and enabling workforce planning. QGIP complements the SIS and RIPs and demonstrates the government's commitment to delivering Queensland's infrastructure needs.

### **Infrastructure Proposal Development Policy**

The Infrastructure Proposal Development Policy (IPDP) sets the government's objectives for planning and assessing major infrastructure, including:

- aligning agency infrastructure programs with whole-of-government objectives to maximise outcomes for the state
- supporting agencies to mature their infrastructure planning and assessment capabilities
- providing targeted assistance and assurance advice to agencies on major infrastructure proposal development
- ensuring frameworks and systems are in place and applied to give government confidence in infrastructure investment decisions.

Further details on the IPDP are available at [www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au](http://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au) by searching for Infrastructure Proposal Development Policy.

### **Project Assessment Framework**

The Project Assessment Framework (PAF) is used across the Queensland Government to ensure a common and rigorous approach to assessing projects at critical stages in their development lifecycle.

The PAF is administered by Queensland Treasury and applied by government departments to evaluate proposals for infrastructure projects and proposals for the procurement of goods and services. The PAF may also be used by other government entities when developing and implementing project assessment methodologies.

Further details on the PAF are available at [www.treasury.qld.gov.au](http://www.treasury.qld.gov.au) by searching for Project Assessment Framework.

### **Business Case Development Framework**

The Business Case Development Framework (BCDF) supports the implementation of the PAF by providing agencies with detailed guidance and tools to complete assessment and assurance of infrastructure proposals. The BCDF informs the development of proposals from early assessment stages through to detailed business case stage; it is scalable and can be applied to all infrastructure proposals.

The BCDF ensures that major infrastructure proposals are thoroughly assessed to provide a firm basis for government investment decisions. The BCDF guidance materials and templates are published and maintained by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning.

Further details on the BCDF are available at [www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au](http://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au) by searching for Business Case Development Framework.

## 1.3 Key capital projects and programs

### Queensland Health Capacity Expansion Program

As Queensland's population expands, so does the demand on the health system. In the 2022–23 Budget, the Queensland Government provided a significant capital boost of \$9.785 billion over 6 years to deliver around 2,200 additional overnight beds at 15 facilities across the Queensland health system:

- New Bundaberg Hospital
- New Coomera Hospital
- New Toowoomba Hospital
- New Queensland Cancer Centre
- Cairns Hospital expansion
- Hervey Bay Hospital expansion
- Ipswich Hospital expansion
- Logan Hospital expansion
- Mackay Hospital expansion
- Princess Alexandra Hospital expansion
- QEII Hospital expansion
- Redcliffe Hospital expansion
- Robina Hospital expansion
- The Prince Charles Hospital expansion
- Townsville University Hospital expansion.

In 2023–24, Queensland Health will continue the delivery of this ambitious program which has now awarded contracts valued at more than \$3 billion to deliver hospital expansions in Brisbane, Ipswich, Mackay, Logan, Townsville and Cairns.

### Accelerated Infrastructure Delivery Program

Queensland Health is delivering \$269.2 million over 2 years to immediately increase bed capacity across Queensland. The Accelerated Infrastructure Delivery Program will commission 289 overnight beds across 7 projects to be delivered over the next 2 years.

Through a lease arrangement, 45 additional sub-acute beds have already been delivered in Cairns under this Program.

Construction contracts have been awarded for 5 of the 6 remaining projects, with works currently underway on these sites, with the final contract to be awarded in the second half of 2023.

### **Satellite Hospitals: Better Care, Closer to Home**

The government is providing \$376.9 million in funding to deliver Satellite Hospitals at Bribie Island, Caboolture, Eight Mile Plains, Kallangur, Tugun, Ripley and Redlands. Five of the facilities are on track to open in 2023 and the remaining 2 in the first half of 2024.

The Satellite Hospitals Program will assist acute hospitals in South East Queensland to manage demand and free up capacity while continuing to safely manage patients via alternative models of care.

The facilities will provide non-urgent health care services that are more appropriately delivered in the community, closer to home and in a more convenient setting.

Each Satellite Hospital will include a Minor Injury and Illness Clinic that will be open 7 days a week from 8:00 am and will accept patients until 10:00 pm. These clinics will provide walk-in urgent care for common injuries and illnesses, including strains and sprains, broken bones, minor head injuries, infections and rashes, minor eye issues, minor cuts and burns, tooth ache and earache, and fever.

The Satellite Hospitals will also include a range of other services depending on the location, such as renal dialysis, chemotherapy, ante-natal and post-natal services, and day medical treatments, as well as consult and treatment rooms.

### **Regional, Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure**

To ensure Queenslanders receive world-class health care no matter where they live, Queensland Health continues to invest in health infrastructure, capital works and projects across regional, rural and remote Queensland. In 2023–24, Queensland Health will continue to deliver the \$943.5 million Building Rural and Remote Health Program to replace ageing infrastructure and to ensure new ways of working and models of care can be delivered right across Queensland over the next 6 years.

A number of projects to replace ageing infrastructure in regional and remote Queensland will commence construction in 2023–24, including:

- Blackwater Multipurpose Health Centre
- St George Primary and Allied Health Centre
- Charleville Primary and Allied Health Centre
- Morven Community Clinic
- Moranbah Hospital
- Pormpuraaw Primary Health Care Centre
- Camooweal Primary Health Care Centre
- Cow Bay Primary Health Care Centre
- Tara Hospital
- Millmerran Hospital.

### **Cross River Rail**

Cross River Rail is the largest transport project in South East Queensland. It is funded via a capital contribution of \$6.349 billion along with financing of \$1.499 billion secured through a public private partnership.

This transformative transport project involves a new 10.2 kilometre rail line from Dutton Park to Bowen Hills, 5.9 kilometres of twin tunnels under the Brisbane River and CBD and 4 new high capacity underground stations (at Boggo Road, Woolloongabba, Albert Street and Roma Street).

The Cross River Rail project is being delivered in partnership with the private sector through 2 major infrastructure packages of work: Tunnel, Stations and Development (TSD) with Pulse Consortium through a public private partnership; and Rail, Integration and Systems (RIS) through an alliance model with Unity Alliance.

The project will also support the introduction of a new world-class signalling system, the European Train Control System (ETCS), which will allow trains to run more frequently, efficiently and with improved safety.

Each of Cross River Rail's high-capacity stations will generate unique opportunities for urban renewal, economic development, inner-city precinct revitalisation and new employment.

Cross River Rail is into its fourth year of major construction, with work underway at 17 worksites across South East Queensland.

Cross River Rail is estimated to support up to 7,700 full-time equivalent jobs and 450 new apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities during construction.

### **Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program**

The Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP) is a four-year program released annually outlining current and planned investments in transport infrastructure. QTRIP spans road, rail, bus, cycling and marine infrastructure on freight, commuter and recreational networks. QTRIP includes works for the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland Rail and the Gold Coast Waterways Authority.

The program of works detailed in QTRIP 2023–24 to 2026–27 represents a \$32.1 billion<sup>1</sup> investment over the 4 years. QTRIP is developed in accordance with funding allocations identified by the Queensland and Australian Governments in their annual budgets, which align to both governments' policy objectives and agendas. The Australian Government has commenced an independent review of its Infrastructure Investment Program to refocus on nationally significant land transport projects. This may result in changes to funding allocations within QTRIP.

The strategic intent of QTRIP is shaped by state infrastructure planning processes and specific transport strategies and plans developed in accordance with state legislation.

Further details on QTRIP are available at [www.tmr.qld.gov.au](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au) and by searching for QTRIP.

### **M1 Pacific Motorway Upgrades and Coomera Connector**

A safe, efficient and reliable M1 Pacific Motorway plays an important role in driving productivity and competitiveness across South East Queensland. The program of works, jointly funded by the

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<sup>1</sup> Total QTRIP investment is inclusive of both non-capital and capital components.

Queensland and Australian Governments, is delivering major projects, such as the Varsity Lakes (Exit 85) to Tugun (Exit 95) upgrade, Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill upgrade, and the Exit 49 interchange upgrade at Pimpama. The Queensland and Australian Governments have also committed \$1 billion towards upgrades between Daisy Hill and the Logan Motorway.

The M1 program of works is complemented by the Australian Government and Queensland Government commitment of \$2.163 billion (on a 50:50 basis) to plan and construct Coomera Connector (Stage 1) between Coomera and Nerang. Coomera Connector (Stage 1) will provide an alternative route for the growing communities and commercial hubs of Helensvale and Coomera.

### **Bruce Highway Upgrades**

The Bruce Highway is Queensland's major north-south freight and commuter corridor, connecting coastal population centres from Brisbane to Cairns over almost 1,700 kilometres. The Queensland Government will continue to work with the Australian Government to deliver the Bruce Highway Upgrade Program, aimed at improving safety, flood resilience and capacity along the length of the highway.

The 2023–24 capital program includes investment towards several key projects on the Bruce Highway, improving safety and access and supporting jobs across the regions, including the following example investments (noting the total budgets):

- \$1.0 billion to construct Cooroy to Curra (Section D)
- \$662.5 million to upgrade the Bruce Highway between Caboolture – Bribie Island Road and Steve Irwin Way
- \$336.0 million towards a bypass of Tiaro, to increase the flood immunity, safety and efficiency of the Bruce Highway.

### **Gold Coast Light Rail (Stage 3)**

The Australian Government (\$395.6 million contribution), Queensland Government (\$713.3 million contribution) and City of Gold Coast (\$110.1 million contribution) are co-funding the project, with a total project cost of \$1.219 billion.

Stage 3 of Gold Coast Light Rail will connect to the existing Gold Coast Light Rail network (from Helensvale to Broadbeach South), delivering a 6.7-kilometre extension from Broadbeach South to Burleigh Heads and providing 8 additional stations.

### **Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail (Kuraby to Beenleigh) Upgrade**

The Australian Government and Queensland Government have committed a total of \$2.598 billion (on a 50:50 basis) towards the Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail (Kuraby to Beenleigh) upgrade.

To support growing population and rail patronage demand between Brisbane, Logan and the Gold Coast, the number of Beenleigh and Gold Coast train services needs to be doubled over the next 20 years. The rail line between Kuraby and Beenleigh is a capacity bottleneck on the rail corridor.

The Queensland Government, together with the Australian Government, is planning to increase the number of tracks between Kuraby and Beenleigh from 2 to 4 tracks, with modernised rail systems, station accessibility upgrades and level crossing removals along this 20 kilometre corridor.

By connecting the 2 largest centres in South East Queensland, the Gold Coast rail line will also play a significant role in servicing the travel needs of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

### **Queensland Train Manufacturing Program**

The Queensland Government's Queensland Train Manufacturing Program (QTMP) was established to meet the increasing demand for rail transport in South East Queensland over the next 10 years.

The QTMP will build 65 new 6-car passenger trains at a purpose-built manufacturing facility at Torbanlea, in the Maryborough region. As part of the program, a new rail facility will also be constructed at Ormeau, in the Gold Coast region.

The QTMP will support South East Queensland's population and economic growth, as well as Cross River Rail and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Construction of the facilities, trains, and maintenance of the fleet will support Queensland jobs now and into the future. The program brings with it a pipeline of training and development opportunities to Queensland.

The Queensland Government has committed \$4.869 billion for the manufacturing phase of the QTMP.

### **Social and Affordable Housing**

The 2023–24 Queensland Budget is providing increased funding of \$1.1 billion for the delivery and supply of social housing across Queensland through the *Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021–2025*, including to meet higher construction costs and to boost the QuickStarts Queensland program target by 500 homes, bringing it to 3,265 social housing commencements by 30 June 2025.

Since July 2021, the QuickStarts Queensland program has commenced over 1,500 dwellings.

The 2023–24 total capital program is 67 per cent greater than the 2022–23 housing capital program budget, including capital grants.

At the Queensland Housing Summit in October 2022, the Queensland Government also boosted the Housing Investment Fund (HIF) to \$2 billion. Under the expanded HIF, \$130 million per annum is available to support an increased target of 5,600 new social and affordable home commencements by 30 June 2027.

To date, over 1,500 homes have been approved for support under the HIF. This includes support for the purchase of up to 335 properties existing under the Federal Government's soon-to-be closed National Rental Affordability Scheme in Townsville and South-East Queensland by the National Affordable Housing Consortium.

It also includes support for the delivery of a pipeline of up to 1,200 new social and affordable homes through a commercial partnership between community housing provider Brisbane Housing Company and the Queensland Investment Corporation Limited.

### **Government Employee Housing**

In 2023–24, the Queensland Government will invest \$118.2 million to deliver secure and fit-for-purpose government employee housing in remote and regional communities, as part of its

commitment to attract and retain key frontline staff. This program will include new accommodation for staff delivering critical services, replacement or refurbishment of residences at the end of their useful life to modern design standards, and the upgrade of residences to ensure they remain of an appropriate amenity for government workers in locations across Queensland.

### **New School Infrastructure**

Through the \$3 billion Building Future Schools Program, the government is delivering new state schools in high-growth areas across Queensland.

The government has delivered 25 new schools since 2015, and a further 2 new schools will open in 2024.

The Department of Education is planning for the delivery of more new schools and additional classrooms to meet expected enrolment growth into the future. To better support the planning and delivery process, this year's Budget includes \$968 million over 10 years to establish a strategic land acquisition fund, to help secure the land needed for new and expanded schools into the future.

### **Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan**

Over the next 10 to 15 years, Queensland's energy system will be transformed through the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan (the Plan) to deliver clean, reliable, and affordable power, create a platform for strong economic growth and continued investment, and support the achievement of the state's renewable energy and emissions reduction objectives.

Through the energy government owned corporations, the 2023–24 capital program is delivering on the Plan with investments across a range of renewable energy, storage and network projects that will support the decarbonisation of the State's energy system, including:

- \$221.2 million for Stanwell to develop the 252-megawatt Wambo Wind Farm near Dalby, in partnership with global renewables developer, Cubico
- \$208.0 million for CS Energy to invest in Central Queensland wind farms
- \$200.0 million for Stanwell to develop the 500-megawatt Tarong West Wind Farm near Kingaroy – Australia's largest state-owned wind farm
- \$171.1 million for CleanCo to develop up to 2.3 gigawatts of wind and solar projects in Central Queensland
- \$183.7 million for Queensland Hydro to commence delivery of the 2 gigawatt, 24-hour Borumba Pumped Hydro Energy Storage project
- \$183.2 million for Stanwell for the 150-megawatt Southern Renewable Energy Zone battery near the Tarong Power Station
- \$85.5 million for CS Energy to develop a 200-megawatt battery with 2-hour storage at Powerlink's Greenbank substation, south of Brisbane
- \$41.5 million for CleanCo to build, own and operate Queensland's largest grid-scale battery at the Swanbank Power Station – a 250-megawatt battery with 2-hour storage.

### **Borumba Pumped Hydro Energy Storage**

In 2023–24, the Queensland Government will proceed with the 2 gigawatt, 24-hour Borumba Pumped Hydro Energy Storage project located southwest of Gympie, subject to final approvals by

the Queensland and Australian Governments. This project, to be delivered by the Queensland Government-owned Queensland Hydro, is a cornerstone investment of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. It plays a fundamental role in transitioning the Queensland energy sector towards renewables to meet the Queensland Government's renewable energy targets and net zero emissions by 2050.

The total cost to deliver the Borumba Pumped Hydro Energy Storage project is estimated to be \$14.159 billion. The 2023–24 Queensland Budget approved up to \$6 billion in equity funding over the project's construction phase.

In addition to supporting the transition of Queensland's electricity grid towards renewables, the project will provide benefits to the local economy. During construction, project personnel will peak at over 2,000. Exploratory works are expected to start later in 2023, with main works targeted to commence in 2025.

### **CopperString 2032**

The Queensland Government is investing \$5 billion in Copperstring 2032, a 1,100-kilometre transmission line from Townsville to Mount Isa that will connect Queensland's North West Minerals Province to the national electricity grid. In 2023–24, Powerlink is investing \$594.0 million on initial construction works for the project.

This project, to be delivered by Queensland Government-owned Powerlink, will unlock one of Australia's largest renewable energy zones and potentially more than \$500 billion in new critical minerals in North Queensland. It will connect vast renewable wind and solar resources with critical minerals mining and processing that can be used to make batteries and renewables.

Copperstring 2032 has the potential to support around 800 direct jobs over its 6-year construction (to 2029), and thousands more in critical minerals mining and renewable energy industries. Early works are expected to start later in 2023, with construction commencing in 2024.

This project will support the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan and the transition of Queensland to clean, reliable and affordable power.

### **Building our Regions**

The Building our Regions program continues to support local government infrastructure projects in regional and remote Queensland communities. These projects, spanning the breadth and width of the state, provide much needed infrastructure that creates flow-on economic development opportunities, improved liveability and jobs for Queenslanders.

Since December 2015, the program has approved over \$417.4 million towards 370 projects across 68 local governments and one town authority, supporting an estimated 3,179 jobs during construction. This has leveraged further financial co-contributions of over \$609.2 million from local governments, the Australian Government, and other organisations, with a total capital expenditure value of over \$1 billion.

Of this, \$348.2 million was approved towards 271 projects under Building our Regions Rounds 1-5. These projects were approved and being delivered by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning.

In 2021–22, a further \$70 million was made available under Building our Regions Round 6. This round focuses on improving water supply and sewerage systems in local communities and is being delivered by the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water. To date,

\$69.2 million in funding has been approved towards 99 projects, including over \$59.4 million towards 55 water and sewerage infrastructure projects and over \$9.8 million towards 35 water and sewerage planning projects. These investments leverage almost \$70 million in co-contributions resulting in an expected total capital expenditure of over \$139 million for the round.

### **Works for Queensland**

The \$1 billion Works for Queensland program will continue to support local governments outside South East Queensland by funding job-creating maintenance and minor infrastructure projects relating to assets owned or controlled by local governments.

In 2023–24, \$42.8 million will be delivered towards Works for Queensland projects. As at 31 March 2023, local governments estimated more than 22,200 jobs have been supported by the first 4 rounds of the program.

### **Disaster Resilience Program**

As one of the most disaster impacted states in Australia, it is imperative to help local Queensland communities better prepare for future natural disasters. Increasing the resilience of infrastructure and investing in innovative programs to lessen the impacts of natural disasters means that communities can recover more quickly after a natural disaster strikes.

The Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund, jointly funded with the Australian Government as part of the National Partnership Agreement, will allocate \$65.5 million over 5 years to improve safety and disaster resilience across the state. The fund is administered by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, with \$13.1 million to be delivered in 2023–24 to support disaster mitigation projects and build resilience to natural disasters.

The \$10.0 million North Queensland Natural Disaster Mitigation Program will allocate \$5.0 million in 2023–24 to help local governments in North and Far North Queensland reduce their disaster risk and assist in reducing the growth of insurance costs for residents, businesses and the community.

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority will also continue to administer targeted measures aimed at promoting disaster recovery and resilience including a suite of programs funded through the Australian Government's Emergency Response Fund, which includes the National Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Program (Round 1 \$9.9 million and Round 2 \$0.9 million) and \$75 million allocated for flood recovery and resilience after the 2022 South East Queensland floods. The Australian Government's recovery and resilience grants from the 2019 Monsoon Trough Floods and the 2022 South East Queensland floods will also be administered.

### **Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct (Stage 2)**

Construction of the new 1,500 bed facility commenced in early 2021, with construction of the main buildings currently underway. Construction of the prisoner accommodation and administration buildings will continue during 2023–24.

The project will provide significant economic flow on benefits to the Lockyer Valley region, including approximately 450 short-term construction-based employment opportunities, ongoing support of both existing and new industry jobs in the operational phase and potential ongoing supply chain opportunities for local businesses.

This new facility will implement a health and rehabilitation operating model, which will help to address complex prisoner needs such as mental health and substance abuse. It will also ease overcrowding across Queensland's correctional services system and deliver a safer environment for staff, prisoners and the community.

### **Domestic and Family Violence Courthouse Improvements**

As part of the continued response to the Queensland Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, *Hear her voice – Report one – Addressing coercive control and domestic and family violence in Queensland*, the Queensland Government is committed to a range of domestic and family violence (DFV) courthouse capital upgrades to support enhanced delivery of DFV services at selected locations. These capital improvements to existing courthouse infrastructure will make facilities functional, client-centred and trauma-informed, and support the safety of victims of domestic and family violence attending court.

This includes \$49.1 million over 4 years from 2022–23 to complete DFV capital upgrades to Mackay, Ipswich, Cairns, Caboolture, Maroochydore, Toowoomba, Rockhampton and Brisbane courthouses, including new DFV courtrooms and safe rooms, reconfigured registry counters, public waiting areas and interview rooms, improved stakeholder facilities, public amenities and security infrastructure, to maximise victim safety.

Construction is on track to commence at 4 of the 8 sites (Toowoomba, Ipswich, Cairns and Caboolture) in 2023–24, and at the remaining 4 sites by late 2024.

### **Port of Townsville Channel Capacity Upgrade**

Delivery of the Townsville Channel Capacity Upgrade (TCCU), which commenced in early 2019, is ongoing with the dredging of the Platypus channel beginning on 15 March 2022. The TCCU, the largest infrastructure project in the port's history, will widen the shipping channel to allow access for larger vessels and facilitate future trade growth in the region.

The TCCU project is jointly funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments and the Port of Townsville Limited (POTL), and forms part of the Townsville City Deal signed in December 2016. The total project cost of the TCCU project is \$251.2 million with the Queensland Government contributing \$105 million, the Australian Government committing \$75 million and POTL funding the remainder.

The TCCU project will continue to support the local economy and jobs, with more than 1,800 people having worked on the project to date.

### **Cairns Marine Precinct**

Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited is progressing the \$32 million Cairns Marine Precinct early works, for infrastructure upgrades including the delivery of 2 new wharves at the Port of Cairns.

Further to this investment, the Queensland Government has committed \$180 million, subject to approvals, to deliver an expansion of the Cairns Marine Precinct with the development of a Common User Facility. The proposed Common User Facility will include a 5,000 tonne shiplift, 3 hardstand areas, 2 blast and paint sheds and a wet berth to cater for vessels up to 120 metres in length. The Queensland Government is working with the Australian Government, which has committed to a co-contribution of \$180 million, bringing total funding to \$360 million to progress the project.

In addition to the above, the Queensland Government recently announced \$27 million for the provision of direct access to the Cairns Marine Precinct – Common User Facility for shipyard operators.

These investments will help diversify the Cairns economy and take advantage of emerging commercial and defence-related opportunities for the precinct as an Australian Navy Regional Maintenance Centre. It will ensure that the Port of Cairns continues to be the leading maintenance, repair and overhaul facility in Northern Australia.

### **Rookwood Weir**

Construction of the \$568.9 million Rookwood Weir on the Fitzroy River is nearing completion, with the first water from the weir to be available in early 2024, weather permitting. The project will add up to 86,000 megalitres of medium priority equivalent water supply to Central Queensland.

The Queensland and Australian Governments have each funded a total of \$183.6 million (\$367.2 million), with the remainder funded by Sunwater including \$156.7 million in 2023–24. The weir will provide for significant agricultural growth along the Fitzroy River near Rockhampton and enhance the security of urban and industrial water supplies for Gladstone and Capricorn Coast communities.

### **Burdekin Falls Dam Improvement and Raising Project**

As part of reinvesting in the regions, which utilises royalty revenues to fund productivity-enhancing investment, the 2023–24 Queensland Budget allocates \$440.0 million toward improving and raising Burdekin Falls Dam by 2 metres. This is on top of the Queensland Government's existing \$100.0 million commitment to this important project. Raising the dam by 2 metres will create an additional 150,000 megalitres of water supply and support long-term economic development in North Queensland. Planning and preconstruction activities will continue during 2023–24 while the Environmental Impact Statement process, which will inform a final investment decision, is underway.

### **Dam Improvement Program**

To ensure state-owned dams continue to operate safely during extreme weather events, Sunwater, Seqwater and Gladstone Area Water Board are delivering significant dam safety investment through their respective Dam Improvement Programs in 2023–24.

The 2023–24 Queensland Budget allocates investments of \$155.8 million for dam improvement projects, with work this year focusing on planning activities for Paradise Dam, Burdekin Falls Dam, Somerset Dam, Wivenhoe Dam, Lake Macdonald Dam, North Pine Dam and Awoonga Dam.

This year's Budget supports the Queensland Government's continuing commitment to rebuild and improve Paradise Dam, with \$116.4 million allocated to planning and pre-construction activities in 2023–24.

The Paradise Dam Improvement project will deliver \$1.2 billion of dam safety investment to keep downstream communities safe and support economic growth by increasing water supply by 130,000 megalitres. The project is jointly funded by matching \$600.0 million funding contributions from the Queensland and Australian Governments and will support 250 jobs during construction.

### **South West Pipeline**

The \$95.2 million South West Pipeline project is nearing completion and will be the largest addition to the South East Queensland Water Grid since completion of the Northern Pipeline Interconnector in 2012.

The project involves the construction of a 24-kilometre pipeline connecting Beaudesert to the South East Queensland Water Grid to improve regional water security as well as supporting the Bromelton State Development Area.

Up to 100 jobs have been supported during construction, which is on track to be completed in early 2024, with \$24.4 million allocated to the project in 2023–24.

### **Toowoomba to Warwick Pipeline (formerly the Southern Downs Drought Resilience Package)**

The Queensland Government has committed \$273.1 million for construction of the Toowoomba to Warwick Pipeline, part of a more than \$300 million investment into water security in the Toowoomba and Southern Downs regions. The project will provide a permanent water supply to 3,400 residents in the Toowoomba region and drought contingency supply to 24,000 residents in the Southern Downs region.

Seqwater is delivering the pipeline and is undertaking further site investigations, final design, land acquisitions and approvals, with procurement and construction commencing in 2024–25. The project will support 420 jobs during construction and the targeted 2026–27 completion date will ensure a contingent supply is in place for Warwick before local supplies are put at risk by potential future droughts.

### **Mount Crosby Flood Resilience Program**

The 2023–24 Queensland Budget provides \$24.3 million of investment for multiple projects under Seqwater's Mount Crosby Flood Resilience Program.

This program will deliver a range of major works to improve the flood resilience of critical infrastructure located at Mount Crosby, including the replacement and relocation of the existing East Bank substation, construction of a new 2-lane road bridge adjacent to the Mount Crosby Weir, and electrical upgrades to the East Bank Pump Station.

Enabling works for the new substation were completed in December 2022 and construction on the new \$29.5 million road bridge commenced in mid-2022. The East Bank Pump Station upgrade project will commence in 2023–24.

### **Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline**

The Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline is a 117 kilometre raw water pipeline with capacity to transfer 30 gigalitres of water per annum from the Lower Fitzroy River to Gladstone. The pipeline will provide long term water security to Gladstone's large industrial base and its urban areas. The pipeline is also expected to meet some early stage water demands of the region's emerging clean energy industry, including hydrogen.

The Queensland Government has committed \$983.0 million towards the project which will also support an estimated 400 jobs during construction. To date, \$166.4 million has been expended and budgeted expenditure in 2023–24 is \$548.5 million. Gladstone Area Water Board will deliver and operate the pipeline. The pipeline is expected to be completed in early 2026.

### **Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games**

The 2023–24 Queensland Budget has provisions for total capital expenditure for Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Brisbane 2032) venues infrastructure of \$7.1 billion over 10 years. The venues infrastructure program is jointly funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments to support the hosting of Brisbane 2032. The allocation of funding for specific venues projects will be subject to government investment decisions following completion of project assessment activities.

The venues infrastructure program comprises the Brisbane Arena (\$2.5 billion), the Gabba Redevelopment (\$2.7 billion) and 16 new or upgraded venues under the Minor Venues Program (\$1.9 billion).

This year's Budget also includes \$44 million as the Queensland Government's contribution to the University of Queensland's proposed Paralympic Centre of Excellence as part of the Brisbane 2032 Legacy Plan. A further \$154.7 million is provided over 4 years from 2024–25 for Economic Development Queensland to bring forward delivery of public infrastructure to facilitate the development of services and land for the Brisbane Athlete Village.