

Battleplan for Queensland Local Communities

LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19



A MESSAGE TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT FROM LGAQ PRESIDENT, MAYOR MARK JAMIESON

Queensland councils are acutely aware of the impact COVID-19 is having on our local communities.

We are already on the frontline leading the local disaster response and providing relief to vulnerable households and businesses where we can.

We are sustaining our 40,000-strong local workforces.

We continue to deliver essential public health services such as water, sewerage and rubbish collection to keep our communities safe while also delaying or reducing rates, fees and charges.

Councils, big or small, coastal or rural, are not immune to the impacts of COVID-19.

Larger councils, less reliant on funding from other levels of governments, are absorbing significant revenue drops.

Smaller councils, less able to provide direct financial relief, are ensuring services continue while supporting local economies still recovering from drought and floods.

Local governments stand ready to do the heavy lifting with the State Government in the fight against COVID-19.

We want to keep our local communities safe and strong.

To do this, we need help from the State and Federal governments. With access to only three percent of total government taxes and charges, councils do not have an unending capacity to reduce revenue while also keeping our workforce in jobs and our local economies turning.

This is a \$608 million battleplan that is ready to go. It will deliver 14,000 new jobs across Queensland and, with State Government support, we can get started.

Councils are not looking for a handout. We want to partner with the State Government and lead our communities in recovery.

We can make a big difference to sustaining local economic activity and jobs, minimising the impact of the shutdown and building back better if we are funded to do so.

KEY INITIATIVES

- 8000 Jobs Recovery Package
- 3000-strong Green Army
- 770 job-creating community infrastructure projects
- Fast-tracked delivery of water security infrastructure
- Accelerated upgrades to critical transport infrastructure
- Localised mental and community health programs



Why Local Government?

Queensland is Australia's most decentralised State. One size does not fit all. Stimulus needs to be widespread and scalable. Evidence shows direct funding allocations to councils achieves rapid and direct economic stimulus relevant to the unique needs of local communities and their economic circumstances.

Leading consultants EY's 2020 Review of the Federal Government's *Drought Communities Programme* - Extension confirmed, **"program impact increased by providing councils with the means to create economic stimulus relevant to the unique requirements of their community"**.

The Palaszczuk Government has lead the way and seen the value of partnering with local councils when responding to unemployment. The successful Works for Queensland program has delivered more than 21,000 jobs over the last three years and proves how direct council funding increases the speed of economic stimulus to local communities with widespread and scalable effect.

Councils are already on the frontline with shovel-ready projects and established project management and governance mechanisms. They can mobilise quickly and provide local solutions for their communities.



'No other level of government or non-government sector can offer state-wide, scalable delivery of local economic stimulus as quickly as councils.'

MAYOR MATT BURNETT,
Gladstone Regional Council



Protect Local Communities

- **\$17 million**
- **120 jobs**
- **10,000 retrained workers**

"We understand our communities and where they are being hit hardest. We can focus support where it's needed most and get our local businesses and economies moving again."

MAYOR JOHN WHARTON,
Richmond Shire Council

The role of local government extends far beyond 'roads, rates and rubbish' with councils often stepping in to fill local community service gaps. When our community hurts, so do we.

COVID-19 has hit our communities in so many complex ways. Councils are well placed to identify need and direct resources in a local context to keep our communities safe and strong.

We can do this by providing:

- **Localised mental health initiatives** targeting discrete at-risk groups often difficult to identify and reach
- **Support for virtual active communities to develop and thrive**, keeping people connected in these tough times
- **Digital upskilling program** to train and upskill workers, boosting capacity of local workforces in a COVID-19 impacted world
- **Small Business Friendly Council** initiative assisting small business with job matching recruitment, local project opportunities and support

These community resilience-building, workforce- skilling, business- matching and economic uplift initiatives will ensure local communities have the skills, systems and capabilities to sustain and grow our local communities.



Sustain Local Jobs

- **\$281 million**
- **8200 new jobs**
- **800 new apprenticeships**

Councils are a significant local employer, employing 40,000 staff across Queensland. They are also a major contractor of locally sourced goods and services, supporting a multitude of indirect jobs.

Councils have boots on the ground. They have experience and local service contracts in place able to be leveraged to ensure new jobs and funding stays local. By sustaining council's workforce and boosting local job-creating programs we can make a big difference in combating the impact of COVID-19 on local economies.

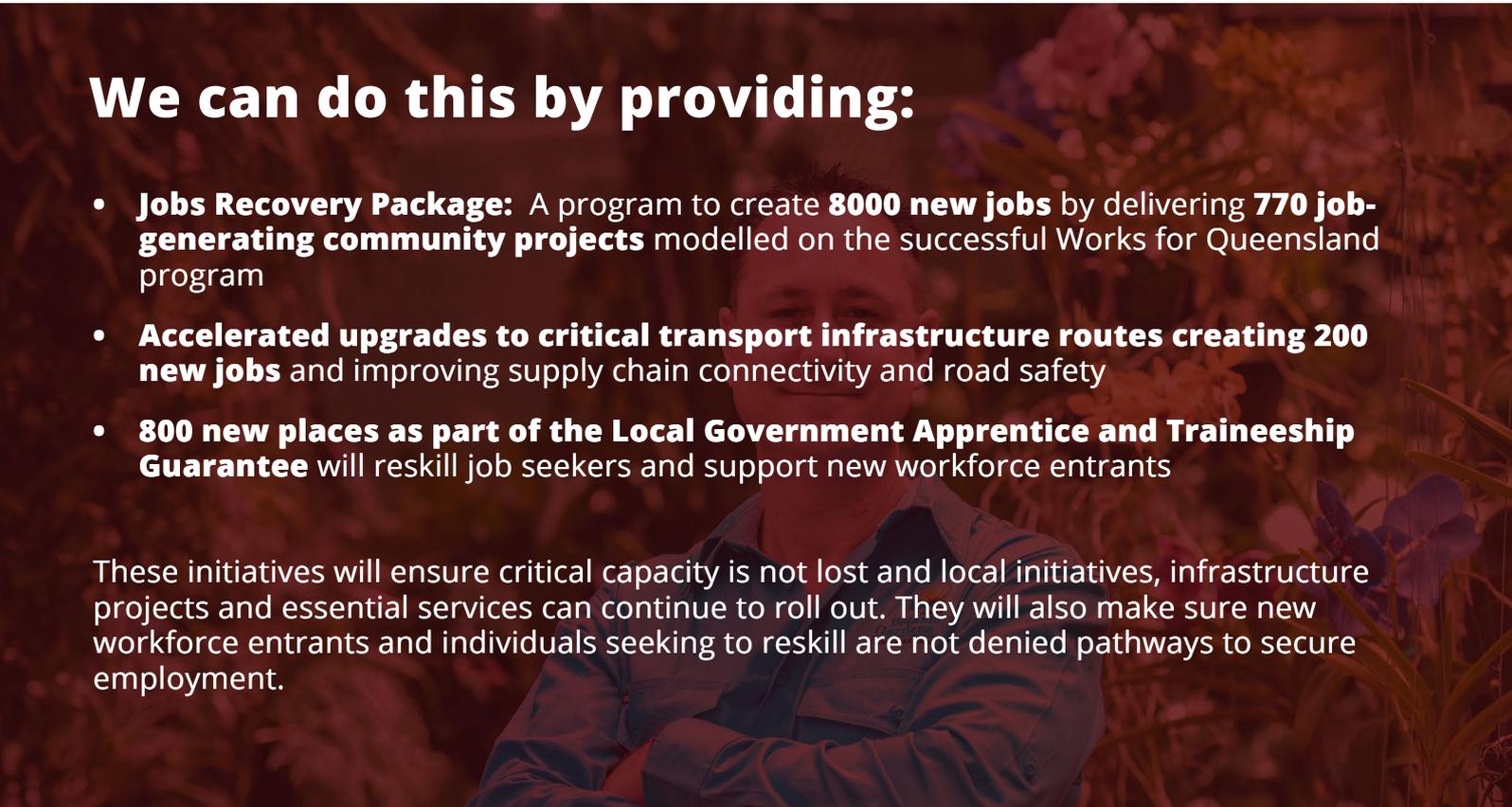
"Like every council, our priority is to deliver essential services for residents and keep our more than 8000 staff employed and productive while we confront this crisis. This is critical not only to sustain our local economy, but it also means we are ready to mobilise our workforce, once our pipeline of works is ready to go."

LORD MAYOR, ADRIAN SCHRINNER,
Brisbane City Council

We can do this by providing:

- **Jobs Recovery Package:** A program to create **8000 new jobs** by delivering **770 job-generating community projects** modelled on the successful Works for Queensland program
- **Accelerated upgrades to critical transport infrastructure routes creating 200 new jobs** and improving supply chain connectivity and road safety
- **800 new places as part of the Local Government Apprentice and Traineeship Guarantee** will reskill job seekers and support new workforce entrants

These initiatives will ensure critical capacity is not lost and local initiatives, infrastructure projects and essential services can continue to roll out. They will also make sure new workforce entrants and individuals seeking to reskill are not denied pathways to secure employment.





Stimulate Local Economies

- **\$310 million**
- **5200 new jobs**

Councils know what their communities need and understand the opportunities to strengthen and build resilience within their local economies – for today and tomorrow.

Investment to fast-track enabling infrastructure projects and economic restoration programs targeting natural resource management, water security, betterment and disaster resilience can build back better, for generations to come.

“We have the opportunity to come out of this stronger, to build a more resilient future driven by solutions that put community first.”

MAYOR LYN McLAUGHLIN,
Burdekin Shire Council

We can if supported:

- Create a **3000-strong Green Army** to support beautification and environmental restoration from country to coast, protect agricultural productivity and mitigate wildfire risk
- **Create 1200 new jobs through fast-tracked construction of critical water security infrastructure** providing safe and reliable water supply desperately needed by drought impacted communities
- **Recharge the successful Building our Regions program** to create 600 new jobs and rebuild, diversify and strengthen local economies through legacy infrastructure, projects and programs
- **Accelerate the delivery of disaster resilience projects** to better equip communities manage the impact of changing weather patterns and reduce future reconstruction costs
- **Rapidly enhance the quality of local tourism infrastructure** so when people can travel again, they stay longer and spend more

These regional economic recovery initiatives provide legacy infrastructure and create a broad-based economic foundation to make Queensland economies and communities even stronger in the future.

Dear Premier

The Mayors of Queensland stand with you in the fight against COVID-19. We are ready to do the heavy lifting to help our local communities, businesses and households recover.

With your support we can deliver more than 14,000 new jobs for Queenslanders, while caring for our communities, sustaining our local workforces, building legacy infrastructure and delivering projects to make Queensland even stronger for the future.




MAYOR MARK JAMIESON
Sunshine Coast Council




MAYOR JENNY HILL
Townsville City Council




MAYOR ANNE BAKER
Isaac Regional Council




MAYOR BOB MANNING
Cairns Regional Council




MAYOR MATT BURNETT
Gladstone Regional Council




MAYOR TANYA MILLIGAN
Lockyer Valley Regional Council




CR MIKE CHARLTON
Moreton Bay Regional Council




CR CAMERON O'NEIL
Maranoa Regional Council




MAYOR JACK DEMPSEY
Bundaberg Regional Council




MAYOR KAREN WILLIAMS
Redland City Council

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