

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Rockhampton Regional Council would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians within our Region, the Darumbal People, the Gaangalu Nation People and the Barada Kabalbara Yetimarala People, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We also acknowledge the Torres Strait Islander people whose land is in the Torres Strait but who live and work on Aboriginal land.





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This Document

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2023-2028**



ROCKHAMPTON RECION
ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN
2023-2028

Feeds into

## ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN 2023-2028

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONSULTANCY

Rockhampton Regional Council greatly appreciates the time, effort, analysis and engagement provided by economic consultants AEC in the development of the Rockhampton Region Economic Development Strategy 2023-28

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MAYOR TONY
WILLIAMS
Mayor
Rockhampton Regional Council

## SINCE COUNCIL'S DECISION IN 2015 TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARM, ADVANCE ROCKHAMPTON, THE LOCAL AND GLOBAL LANDSCAPE HAS CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY.

The challenges of COVID-19, global supply chain shortages, domestic political changes, talent shortages with constrained housing supply across the nation have changed how we think about future economic growth.

Rockhampton Regional Council is committed to building one great region to live, visit and invest. To do this, we need an economic strategy and plan that continues to build resilience into our local economy, which includes strategic planning for growth, understanding community needs, industry development, investment attraction, building critical infrastructure and doing this as a fiscally responsible council.

We have seen several major infrastructure projects commence in our region over the past few years creating jobs and stimulating the local economy. And while we will continue to advocate for investment, our future must also be built on the development of our existing businesses, capturing new opportunities and creating sustainable job and population growth.

Our tourism and events offering has grown over the past few years and Council's Advance Rockhampton team has been working hard engaging with residents, businesses, visitors, and investors so that we can set the strategic economic direction for our Region. In 2021, upon being elected as Mayor, I also assumed the role of Chair of the Advance Rockhampton Economic Development portfolio. Since this time, I have worked closely with the Council team to drive economic growth opportunities and to develop the Rockhampton Region Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan.

This strategy is the result of comprehensive stakeholder engagement through industry and community surveys, industry engagement sessions, one-on-one industry meetings and community consultation.

The strategy also took into account existing Council, Regional, State and Federal economic strategies, plans and papers including but not limited to the Advance Rockhampton Resources Masterplan, the Central Queensland Regional Plan, the Fitzroy Regional Transport Plan and the Our North, Our Future paper.

I wish to personally thank all those who took the time to be involved in this process and contribute to our Region's future. It cannot be done alone.

This Strategy and Action Plan will help consolidate current industry development, create the opportunities to build a great region into the future, and will continue to put 'Rocky on the Radar'.

Council will continue to work collaboratively with community, industry, state and federal governments and associated agencies to deliver on this strategy and action plan for a prosperous future in Rockhampton Region.

## AN INTRODUCTION FROM OUR MAYOR



**GREG BOWDEN**Executive Manager
Advance Rockhampton

# AN INTRODUCTION FROM ADVANCE ROCKHAMPTON

COUNCIL AGREED IN 2015 THAT ROCKHAMPTON REGIONAL COUNCIL NEEDED TO TAKE DIRECT ACTION TOWARDS DEVELOPING ECONOMIC STRATEGY FOR ROCKHAMPTON REGION.
ADVANCE ROCKHAMPTON WAS ESTABLISHED AND A PLEDGE WAS MADE BY COUNCIL TOWARDS WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY TO DRIVE FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH IN OUR REGION.

As the economic development unit of Rockhampton Regional Council, Advance Rockhampton works to build the liveability, visitability and investability of the Region. Other key pillars include facilitating and advocating for increased industry innovation, strategic partnerships and industry collaboration.

Rockhampton Region is currently home to over 82,000 residents with a \$5.5 billion economy and supports 36,000 FTE jobs.

Historically and as the economic hub for Central Queensland, our Region has many strengths in agriculture, mining services, energy, construction, education and health services. Our strategic location as a logistics hub well serviced by road, rail, air and sea positions us positively for future opportunities as Northern, Central and Southern Australia continue to grow.

In 2021, we commenced the process of comprehensive engagement with industry and community, and subsequently engaged an external consultant to assist in preparation of this strategy and action plan.

#### THE KEY FOCUS AREAS IDENTIFIED WITHIN THIS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN INCLUDE:

- + Talent retention and attraction
- + Infrastructure for future growth
- + Future jobs and investment attraction
- + Regional promotion and major events
- + Regional collaboration and partnerships

#### OUR REGIONAL INDUSTRY SECTOR ADVANTAGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE INCLUDE:

- + Energy and resources
- + Beef production and agriculture
- + Water security
- + Defence
- + Construction
- + Transport and logistics
- + Professional services
- + Education, health and aged care
- + Visitor economy and event attraction

By committing to these focus areas, consolidating our regional advantages and actively pursuing opportunities, the Rockhampton economy has the potential to become a \$12.9 billion economy by 2041 with a population of 148,000 creating the jobs of the future.

This will continue the commitment towards economic development made in 2015 and will 'Put Rocky on the Radar' across the country and internationally.



## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

## ROCKHAMPTON REGION PRECINCT ACTIVATION 435 SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

March to April 2021 consultation period. This survey focused on Rockhampton Region's business community.

#### MAIN MESSAGES FROM THE SURVEY

- + Commodities, construction and manufacturing sectors are leading regional confidence.
- + Industry requires more skilled staff urgently.
- + Positive perception of Rockhampton business sector views the Region as being affordable, a good provider of education and having quality events but our city centre needs further work.
- + Work is required in the retail and hospitality sector to improve customer service.
- + Work is required to improve business to business engagement.
- + Major events bring economic benefits to the Region and more music focused events are a priority.

#### ADVANCE ROCKHAMPTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 1,120 SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

July to September 2021 consultation period.

This survey focused on residents and the broader Rockhampton Region community.

#### MAIN MESSAGES FROM THE SURVEY

- + Rockhampton rates highly in terms of key social facilities with a clean and tidy feel.
- + Rockhampton neighbourhoods are seen as functional, friendly, clean, and affordable.
- Rockhampton neighbourhoods rate below average for public transport, quality investment opportunities and having quality local events.
- Priorities to enhance prosperity include: increase capital infrastructure, investment attraction, and improve the CBD and its liveability.
- Types of events people want to see: music festivals, sports and motor sports events, and family-friendly events.

#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK WORKSHOPS 150 WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

March 2022 consultation period.

These workshops focused on the Region's business community, residents, and significant stakeholders.

#### MAIN MESSAGES FROM THE WORKSHOPS

- + Participants had a positive view of the Rockhampton economy.
- + Vision for Rockhampton: Key responses included *liveability, family-friendly, attractive to live, vibrant,* and *sustainable.*
- + How do participants see Rockhampton? Responses included a focus on *opportunity* and *diversity* that is *friendly* with a *community feel* and a range of liveability responses, including *comfortable*, *relaxed*, *affordable*, and *beautiful*.
- + Most significant external risk: the potential impact of the future of the coal industry, and the risk of a general downturn in the mining industry.
- Most significant internal risks: old thinking, complacency, unwillingness to change, and small town mindset.
- + Key industry areas expected to grow quickly: renewable energy, residential construction, irrigated agriculture, aged care, and defence.

#### **POPULATION**

Population 82,904

2011 to 2021 population growth

5%

(16.5% in Queensland)

2041 Current projected population

99,664

2041 successful future projected population

148,343

#### **PROPERTY MARKET**

Residential building approvals, FY 2021/2022 \$117.3 M

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Non-residential building approvals, FY 2021/2022

\$99.9 M

Rental vacancy rate **0.4**%

#### **REGIONAL IMPORTS**

Total imports

\$3.7 B

#### **TOP 3 IMPORTS**

Manufacturing \$1.4 B

Financial and insurance services \$532.8 M

Professional, scientific and technical services \$395.7 M

#### **EMPLOYMENT**

Labour force 2021 **43,039** 

Unemployed 2021 **2,500** 

Unemployment rate 5.8%

(5.5% in Queensland)

Full-time employees **35,891** 

2041 successful future projected FTEs 71,589

#### **ECONOMY**

Gross regional product (GRP) \$5.56 B

2011 to 2021 GRP Growth **13.6**%

(24.2% in Queensland)

2041 successful future projected GRP \$12.9 B

#### **COURISM**

DOMESTIC OVERNIGHT VISITORS IN 2021 (SOURCE: NATIONAL VISITOR SURVEY)

Total 424,000

Holiday **24.33**%

Visiting family and friends 30.86%

Business 29.40%

#### **REGIONAL EXPORTS**

Total exports \$3.8 B

**TOP 3 EXPORTS** 

Electricity, gas, water and waste services \$796.4 M

Manufacturing \$698.2 M

Mining **\$666.9** M

#### **KEY EMPLOYERS**

Healthcare and social services 5,761

Construction 3,793

Education and training 3,411

Current statistics provided by Profileld using figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, forecast figures provided by AEC. Statistics are for the year of 2021 unless otherwise stated.





Output/total sales \$721.6M

Value add **\$408.39** 

Full-time employees 1,093

Growth (2011 to 2021) **20.9**%



#### **TOURISM**

Output/total sales \$329.4M

Value add **\$184.3M** 

Full-time employees **3,164** 

Growth (2011 to 2021) **3.37**%



#### **HEALTHCARE**

Output/total sales \$935.6M

Value add **\$631.2M** 

Full-time employees 5,761

Growth (2011 to 2021) **6.3**%



Output/total sales \$550.9M

Value add **\$372.3M** 

Full-time employees 3,441

Growth (2011 to 2021) **13.8**%



## AGRICULTURE & FOOD MANUFACTURING

Output/total sales \$1B

Value add **\$372.4M** 

Full-time employees 3,005

Growth (2011 to 2021) **79.8**%



## ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Output/total sales

\$1.25B

Value add **\$482.4M** 

Full-time employees 998

Growth (2011 to 2021) **-6.4**%



#### **DEFENCE INFRASTRUCTURE**

Leveraging its proximity to the Shoalwater Bay Training Area, Rockhampton Airport, Port Alma, and the Bajool Magazine, Rockhampton Region is uniquely placed to support a permanent Australian Defence Force (ADF) presence. With experienced large equipment maintenance providers, Rockhampton provides future defence industry capability.

#### FITZROY RIVER

Fitzroy River has the largest river catchment system that exits on the eastern seaboard of Australia and is the primary water source for Rockhampton Region. It provides water for the city's population, growing agricultural and industrial sectors, and neighbouring population centres. Fitzroy River Barrage, Eden Bann Weir and Rookwood Weir are all reliant on the water in the Fitzroy River and its surrounding catchment areas.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES

Rockhampton Region is home to considerable renewable energy resources, with a competitive advantage in wind and solar generation. Rockhampton also has a developing pipeline of large scale renewable energy projects, which could enable local manufacturing of renewable energy components. Following the Queensland Government announcement of 70% renewable energy by 2032, and the \$62 billion Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, the Rockhampton Region has a significant opportunity to continue as an energy powerhouse.

#### REGION'S LARGEST AIRPORT AND PROXIMITY TO BEACH AND BUSH (TOURISM)

Rockhampton Airport (ROK) provides flights to major cities including, Brisbane, Townsville, Cairns and Mackay and has a total throughput of 580,000 passengers every year. Rockhampton Airport is the largest airport in Central Queensland and is the and is the gateway for tourists to the Southern Great Barrier Reef and Australia's eastern Outback. The airport also provides essential connections for defence and other industries to Central and Western Queensland, including the Bowen and Galilee Basins.

#### **NON-COAL RESOURCES**

Rockhampton Region has a number of significant non-coal mineral deposits with high-demand minerals, such as gold, nickel and cobalt. There are also other deposits in neighbouring areas throughout Central Queensland. Former mines in the Region such as Mount Morgan and Mount Chalmers are also looking to return to production through mining of previously uneconomical resources and the processing of tailings.

#### **TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS**

Rockhampton is the regional logistics and transport hub for central and western Queensland and is an important freight hub. As the gateway to Northern Australia, the Region is well connected and serviced by superior road, rail, air and sea infrastructure.

## REGIONAL HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

Rockhampton is also a regional health hub with the Rockhampton Hospital being the largest health care facility in Central Queensland. The hospital is a regional centre of clinical excellence for cardiovascular, cancer care, women's and children's services, and surgery and trauma as well as general health care services for local residents.

#### **CQUNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA**

CQUniversity Australia in Rockhampton provides local students, as well as those from the wider Central Queensland region, with an opportunity to continue their studies locally, helping to retain and build the future workforce in the Region.

## REGIONAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES HUB

Rockhampton is the regional professional service hub for central and western Queensland with \$190.5 million in professional, scientific and technical services exported annually (2019-20 estimates).

what we need to overcome for our Region to not only grow, but thrive

# 

Pabrication works at SMW, Parkhurst

## ROCKHAMPTON CITY'S TROPICAL HEAT

The city of Rockhampton experiences urban heat island effect – an effect where high-density paving and lack of ground cover cause the absorption and retention of heat. Urban design and planning elements can be introduced to mitigate heat in Rockhampton's urban spaces.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT DOES NOT MEET COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS

An integrated public transport system would improve the liveability and visitability of both Rockhampton and the wider region, particularly for central business district workers and visitors.

## THE REGION HAS UNREALISED POTENTIAL, BUT IS SLOW TO PROGRESS

A focused economic development strategy can set the regional development vision and give confidence to investors and the community at large about the Region's future.

#### **WORKER SHORTAGE**

Encouraging workers for in-demand industries to move to Rockhampton will help alleviate this problem and will remove a key barrier to unlock growth for these key industries in Rockhampton Region.

#### **DISLOCATED SUPPLY CHAINS**

Rockhampton needs to identify and invest in its local manufacturing capabilities for its major industries to capture value-adding possibilities for the Region, encouraging both business investment and employment growth.

## LARGE IMPORTS OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO THE REGION

Supporting the development of a professional services industry, through encouraging head office relocation to Rockhampton – coupled with local procurement initiatives within government agencies and large businesses – will build demand for renewal and growth in the Rockhampton CBD.

## AGEING MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Updating the Rockhampton Regional Council Local Government Infrastructure Plan (LGIP) and revenue policy will enable council to invest in upgrading and delivering new infrastructure to support long-term growth without an impact on Council's long-term financial sustainability.

## DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT CONSTRAINED BY FLOOD RISKS

Implementing previously considered flood mitigation options will not only improve the flood immunity of the city, but also remove a perceived risk with investing in the Region.

## PERCEIVED TO BE UNCULTURED AND LACKING CULTURAL FACILITIES

Continuing to invest in new cultural facilities, new events and supporting the development of the local arts industry will increase the range of cultural appreciation opportunities in the Region.

#### **HOUSING SHORTAGE**

Supporting an increase in the supply of housing in the region is critical – with a focus on the inclusion of diverse range of housing options – will remove a key barrier to unlock growth in the Region.









#### **DEFENCE**

Key opportunities for growth include a new army barracks (for the relocation of Army's 7th Brigade and a US Marine rotation), a new RAAF base for No 92 Wing (Maritime Surveillance – South Pacific), land and air platform deep maintenance and munitions manufacturing and stockpiling. Opportunities also exist for the ADF and international forces to store and maintain large equipment in the region along with working to build our defence industry capabilities.

#### **IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE**

By leveraging the water resource opportunity of the Fitzroy River, Rockhampton Region has the potential to expand from its current 2,700 ha of irrigated agriculture up to 40,600 ha (the total area of good quality soils). The expansion of irrigated agriculture may also support growth in the local processing sector. Crop opportunities include macadamias, mangoes, lychees, mandarins and high-value irrigated cropping.

#### INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

As the home of CQUniversity Australia, Rockhampton has an opportunity to become an international education hub. Before COVID-19 Central Queensland supported approximately only 130 international students, whereas other regional centres – who also have an industrial heritage – were attracting significantly larger numbers, such as Ballarat 830, Townsville 940, Darwin 1,620, Toowoomba 1,750, Geelong 3,350, Newcastle 3,750, and Wollongong 6,300. Developing the international education market and attracting international students to Rockhampton can support considerable economic opportunity for the city, especially in the CBD.

#### **NON-COAL RESOURCES**

Leveraging the Region's mining expertise to develop noncoal resources can provide a considerable economic benefit for Rockhampton Region. Non-coal resources include gold, copper, pyrite. There are also large deposits of magnesium and salt across the Region.

#### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Rockhampton's largest import is professional services (estimated at over \$350 million per year), principally driven by a lack of major regional offices for large companies with their operations in the wider Central Queensland region. Importantly, most of these companies are government-owned corporations (such as Stanwell, Powerlink and Energy Queensland). Bringing professional services jobs back to Rockhampton would provide a considerable economic boost, especially for the Rockhampton CBD.







#### **VISITOR ECONOMY**

Visitation in Rockhampton Region is dominated by business travel and Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR). Leisure travel (for holiday purposes) makes up a smaller proportion of Rockhampton Region's visitor nights (24%, compared to 39% in Queensland generally), despite having a number of high-quality tourism assets and being the gateway to the wider Central Queensland region. Increasing Rockhampton's leisure visitation (currently estimated at 257,000 in 2018) to rates of peer regions like Livingstone – 398,000 nights, Gladstone – 751,000 nights, Newcastle – 875,300 nights or Townsville – 973,100 nights, would drive additional economic activity in the local economy.

#### **AGED CARE**

Like many regions in Australia, Rockhampton Region has an ageing population. By 2040, over 20% of the Rockhampton population is expected to be aged over 65, placing additional stress on aged care services already struggling to meet demand. Supporting the development of new aged care services in the Region would not only generate new employment in high-paying healthcare roles but would also support population retention in the Region.

#### **COAL MINING**

The Central Queensland region is one of Australia's largest coal producing regions, for both thermal and metallurgical coal. Geopolitical tension and continued strong demand for energy commodities across the world are supporting sustained prices, leading to the prospective development of new coal mines within the Bowen and Galilee Basins. The development of new mines in the wider Central Queensland region is expected to generate increased economic activity in Rockhampton, boosting its role as a key service centre for the mining industry.







#### **RENEWABLE ENERGY**

As Australia diversifies its energy options, our Region is well positioned to play an important role in the next generation of renewable energy technologies. Rockhampton is already a logistics hub for traditional energy sources and can build this capability through hydrogen manufacturing facilities for transport and industry. Transitioning to the new generation of renewable technologies, and supporting Rockhampton's goal to have its own green hydrogen manufacturing facilities, will transition the region to a offering more diverse energy options in the future.

#### **TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS**

With the growth of key industries such as agriculture, food manufacturing, facilitated product manufacturing, non-coal resources and coal mining, Rockhampton has significant growth opportunities in transport logistics. Key opportunities to improve local supply chains include intermodal transport hubs and funding for beef corridors.

#### **RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION**

The flow-on effects of increased economic activity, population and employment will require significant development of the housing market in the Region by construction of new residential dwellings throughout Parkhurst, Gracemere, and Rockhampton's CBD to accommodate the future workforce and population.

## DEMELOPMENT SIRIEGY

## THE MISSION

THE ECONOMIC MISSION IS TO SUPPORT ROCKHAMPTON TO ENSURE WE CONTINUE TO GROW AS THE CAPITAL OF CENTRAL QUEENSLAND AND THE REGION BECOMES A MORE VIBRANT, DIVERSE AND PROGRESSIVE PLACE TO LIVE, VISIT AND INVEST.

WE WILL APPROACH OUR MISSION THROUGH THESE FIVE PILLARS

P1

FUTURE JOBS
& INVESTMENT
ATTRACTION

P2
INFRASTRUCTURE
FOR FUTURE
GROWTH

P3

REGIONAL

PROMOTION &

MAJOR EVENTS

P4

REGIONAL

COLLABORATION &

PARTNERSHIPS

P5
TALENT
RETENTION &
ATTRACTION



#### **GOAL**

#### INCREASE RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

#### OUTCOME

P1. A Strong regional property development including housing (both detached estates and multi-storey residential) and industrial land development.

#### KPI

- P1.A.1 Increased value add (\$M) for construction sector
- P1.A.2 Increased jobs for the construction sector
- P1.A.3 Develop an investment attraction strategy

#### **GOAL**

#### INCREASE MINING DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES

#### **OUTCOME**

P1.B Robust resources sector including metal ore mining (gold, copper, cobalt, nickel, silver etc) and exploration and mining support services for new coal mines.

#### KPI

- P1.B.1 Increased value add (\$M) for mining and support services
- P1.B.2 Increased jobs for mining and support services sector

#### GOAL

#### INCREASE LOCAL ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

#### OUTCOME

P1.0 Advanced manufacturing sector including metal smelting and refining, food, transport, and defence related industries.

#### KPI

- P1.0.1 Increased value add (\$M) for the advanced manufacturing sector
- P1.C.2 Increased jobs for the advanced manufacturing sector

#### GOAL

#### INCREASE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

#### OUTCOME

P1.D Sustainable agricultural sector including irrigated agricultural opportunities, aquaculture, broadacre cropping, dryland cropping, grass raised beef, grain assist livestocking and local feed lotting.

#### KPI

- P1.D.1 Increased value add (\$M) for agriculture
- P1.D.2 Increased jobs for agricultural sector

#### **GOAL**

#### INCREASE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES IN ROCKHAMPTON

#### **OUTCOME**

P1.E Development of further professional services, namely corporate office relocation and local procurement.

#### KPI

- P1.E.1 Increased professional service businesses in Rockhampton
- P1.E.2 Increased jobs in the professional services sector

#### GOAL

#### INCREASE REGIONAL ENERGY DIVERSIFICATION

#### OUTCOME

P1.F Renewable energy development including wind, solar, battery storage, pumped hydro and hydrogen electrolysis.

#### KPI

P1.F.1 Increased development of renewable energy assets in Rockhampton Region

#### GOAL

#### INCREASE VISITOR LENGTH OF STAY AND SPEND

#### OUTCOME

P1.6 Active visitor economy, through tourism, hotels and resorts, glamping and farm stays, tour operators and major events.

#### KPI

- P1.6.1 Increased visitor length of stay in Rockhampton Region
- P1.G.2 Increased spend from visitors who stay in Rockhampton Region
- P1.6.3 Encourage external investment for new hotels and short term accommodation

#### GOAL

#### CIRCULARISE THE REGION'S ECONOMY

#### OUTCOME

P1.H Innovative circular economy activities that create resilience and opportunities in Rockhampton Region.

#### KPI

P1.H.1 Creation and Implementation of the Rockhampton Regional Council Circular Economy Pathway

## P2 INFRASTRUCTURE FOR FUTURE GROWTH

ROCKHAMPTON'S CENTRAL LOCATION ALONG MAJOR NORTH, SOUTH AND WEST TRANSPORT FREIGHT INFRASTRUCTURE ROUTES, ITS PROXIMITY TO MAJOR MINING AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, COMBINED WITH ITS LARGE CUSTOMER BASE AND LABOUR FORCE CONSISTENTLY DRIVE GROWTH AND PROSPERITY TO THE REGION.

#### SUPPORT POPULATION AND INDUSTRIAL

#### GROWTH OUTCOME

**GOAL** 

P2. A Municipal water and sewerage infrastructure that supports continued residential, commercial and industrial growth.

#### KPI

P2.A.1 Resident and business satisfaction with water and sewerage infrastructure

#### GOAL

#### SUPPORT AGRICULTURAL GROWTH

#### **OUTCOME**

P2.B Water and water infrastructure to support intensive agriculture and food manufacturing.

#### KPI

P2.B.1 Construction commitment for the raising of Eden Bann Weir and raising of the Fitzroy Barrage

#### **GOAL**

#### ESTABLISH A GREATER DEFENCE PRESENCE IN ROCKHAMPTON

#### OUTCOME

P2.C A Defence estate that enables the relocation of the Army's 7th Brigade and RAAF No 92 Wing to Rockhampton.

#### KPI

- P2.C.1 Establishment of the defence estate
- P2.C.2 Create defence storage, maintenance and industry capabilities in the region

#### GOAL

#### IMPROVE AIR, ROAD, RAIL AND SEA TRANSPORTATION

#### OUTCOME

P2.D Transport and freight infrastructure that supports efficient movement of goods to market and urban renewal and public transport.

#### KPI

- P2.D.1 Sustained State and Federal Government expenditure into regional transportation infrastructure
- P2.D.2 Development of an intermodal terminal either in Gracemere or Parkhurst

#### GOAL

#### INCREASE REGIONAL TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES

#### **OUTCOME**

P2.E Tourism infrastructure that unlocks the Region's natural wonders and enables increased visitation to the Region.

#### **KPI**

P2.E.1 New and improved tourism infrastructure across the Region

#### **GOAL**

#### ATTRACT AND RETAIN RESIDENTS TO LIVE IN ROCKHAMPTON

#### OUTCOME

P2.F Community infrastructure that supports a vibrant social environment that enables a positive perception of the Region.

#### KPI

- P2.F.1 Increased annual migration to Rockhampton Region
- P2.F.2 Resident satisfaction with community infrastructure

#### GOAL

#### ENABLE LOCAL RENEWABLE ENERGY TO THE NATIONAL ENERGY MARKET

#### OUTCOME

P2.6 Electricity network infrastructure that supports renewable energy projects to connect to the National Energy Market (NEM).

#### KPI

P2.6.1 Local renewable energy projects connected to the NFM

#### GOAL

#### IMPROVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACROSS THE REGION

#### OUTCOME

P2.H Telecommunications infrastructure that overcomes localised mobile black spots and enables connectivity that drives business innovation.

#### KPI

P2.H.1 Resident satisfaction with telecommunications across the Region

#### **GOAL**

#### SUPPORT THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF QUALITY HEALTH AND EDUCATION FACILITIES

#### OUTCOME

P2.I Health and education facilities that are planned for and delivered ensuring Rockhampton continues to be known as an education and health centre.

#### KPI

P2.I.1 Finalised precinct master plans that supports the community's growing health and education needs



#### BUILD THE EXPLORE ROCKHAMPTON BRAND OFFERING

#### OUTCOME

**GOAL** 

P3.A Increased awareness of the Region's various tourism experiences and more bookable products.

#### KPI

- P3.A.1 Increased awareness of the Explore Rockhampton brand
- P3.A.2 Increased amount of exposure across digital platforms for operators
- P3.A.3 An increase in the number of tourism products that are incorporated into tourism trade programs
- P3.A.4 Increased alignment with state tourism framework

#### **GOAL**

#### IMPROVE INCLUSIVITY FOR TOURISM AND EVENTS

#### OUTCOME

P3.B Increase in the number of accessible, inclusive and diverse event and tourism offerings.

#### KPI

P3.B.1 Event and tourism planning includes and articulates accessibility / inclusive approach

#### **GOAL**

#### INCREASE REGION'S VISITOR ECONOMY

#### OUTCOME

P3.0 Increase in the worth and economic impact of the tourism sector for the region.

#### **KPI**

- P3.C.1 Increased visitation numbers
- P3.C.2 Increased average length of stay
- P3.C.3 Increased visitor spend
- P3.C.4 Increased Rockhampton Airport passengers

#### GOAL

#### INCREASE OVERSEAS VISITATION IN ROCKHAMPTON

#### OUTCOME

P3.D Renewed international partnerships with inbound tourism markets that were impacted by COVID-19.

#### KPI

P3.D.1 Increased number of overnight stays of visitors from overseas

#### **GOAL**

#### **BUILD INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCES**

#### **OUTCOME**

P3.E Identify, develop and promote indigenous experiences.

#### KPI

P3.E.1 Increased number of indigenous experiences and products

#### **GOAL**

#### GROW ROCKHAMPTON'S EVENT REPUTATION

#### OUTCOME

P3.F City-shaping events that are unique, high-quality offerings that increase visitation.

#### KPI

- P3.F.1 Resident and visitor satisfaction with Advance Rockhampton led events
- P3.F.2 Increased and more diverse range in our major event offering

#### GOAL

#### ROCKHAMPTON IS KNOWN AS A NATIONAL EVENT PROVIDER

#### OUTCOME

P3.6 Rockhampton hosts, develops and supports nationally recognised events.

#### KPI

P3.G.1 Increased number of nationally recognised events

#### GOAL

#### ROCKHAMPTON RECOGNISED AS A SPORTING DESTINATION

#### OUTCOME

P3.H Attraction and retention a variety of sporting events as well as successful capitalisation on event and tourism opportunities from the 2032 Brisbane Olympics and Paralympics.

#### KPI

- P3.H.1 Increased number of international, national, local and regional sporting events
- P3.H.2 Increased visitor economy and sporting economy initiatives planned for 2032

#### GOAL

#### IMPROVED AIRLINE CONNECTIVITY

#### **OUTCOME**

P3. I New airline attraction and direct flights to major Australian cities.

#### KPI

P3.I.1 Increased number of flights, flight legs and destinations



#### **INCREASE REGIONAL COLLABORATION**

#### OUTCOME

P4. A Regional economic opportunities are achieved through collaborative efforts undertaken by the Central Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (CQROC) and other key organisations.

#### KPI

- P4.A.1 CQROC advocates for funding and policy changes that provides outcomes for Rockhampton Region
- P4.A.2 Strategically align with industry and government organisations who will contribute to growth in key industry sectors

#### GOAL

#### **INCREASE BUSINESS INNOVATION**

#### OUTCOME

P4.B A regional business culture that strives for innovation and engages with regional and national innovation ecosystems.

#### KPI

P4.B.1 Increase the number of local businesses that engage and adopt innovation

#### **GOAL**

#### **INCREASE BUSINESS ACTIVITY**

#### **OUTCOME**

P4.0 Connect local businesses with state, federal agencies, major projects and economic opportunities.

#### **KPI**

P4.C.1 Local businesses obtain 80% or higher local content into major projects

#### **GOAL**

#### **IMPROVE BUSINESS READINESS**

#### OUTCOME

P4.D Local businesses are prepared to realise major opportunities.

#### KPI

- P4.D.1 Local businesses engage with capacity building opportunities to improve business readiness
- P4.D.2 Increased number of local businesses including social enterprise and not-for-profit organisations

#### GOAL

#### INCREASE LOCAL EDUCATION EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES

#### OUTCOME

P4.E Support CQUniversity Australia to grow the education sector as a key regional export.

#### KPI

P4.E.1 CQUniversity Australia increases domestic and international student participation in Rockhampton

#### **GOAL**

#### INCREASE COLLABORATIVE NETWORKING

#### OUTCOME

P4.F Local businesses are engaged with B2B networking opportunities and collaboratively drive regional priority industry areas.

#### **KPI**

P4.F.1 Deliver stakeholder and network events that businesses engage with

#### GOAL

#### **INCREASE INDUSTRY COLLABORATION**

#### OUTCOME

P4.6 Work with industry to realise Rockhampton Region's economic potential.

#### KPI

P4.6.1 Realise the Rockhampton Region Key Industry Growth Areas milestones with industry participation – 2031 and 2041



#### UNDERSTAND THE REGION'S WORKFORCE CAPABILITY

#### OUTCOME

**GOAL** 

P5.A Work with industry and stakeholders to understand current and future needs of the local workforce.

#### KPI

P5.A.1 Develop and Implement a Jobs Pipeline Study

#### GOAL

#### INCREASE THE REGION'S WORKFORCE CAPABILITY

#### OUTCOME

P5.B Work with industry and stakeholders to implement actions to improve the Region's workforce capability.

#### KPI

P5.B.1 Reduced unemployment rate

#### **GOAL**

#### IMPROVE INDUSTRY AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

#### OUTCOME

P5.0 Increase student work awareness and experience opportunities through industry engagement initiatives.

#### **KPI**

P5.C.1 Number of High Schools and Tertiary providers that engage with industry facing opportunities

#### GOAL

#### ATTRACT AND RETAIN RESIDENTS VIA LIFESTYLE OPPORTUNITIES

#### OUTCOME

P5.D New and improved lifestyle and recreational opportunities.

#### KPI

P5.D.1 New and improved lifestyle and recreational assets

#### **GOAL**

#### IMPROVE CITY LIFESTYLE AMENITIES AND EXPERIENCES

#### OUTCOME

P5.E Deliver a more vibrant and activated Rockhampton CBD.

#### KPI

P5.E.1 Increased number of lifestyle focused businesses in the City that are accessible for a working population

#### **GOAL**

#### **IMPROVE REGIONAL EDUCATION LEVELS**

#### OUTCOME

P5.F Deliver quality education programs for early childhood cohorts through to tertiary and adult cohorts that enables higher achievements in qualifications attained.

#### KPI

P5.F.1 Increased qualifications attained across vocational, advanced diploma, diploma, bachelor or higher degree

## **50 FEDERAL AND STATE POLICY IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED** TO ACHIEVE ROCKHAMPTON REGION'S ECONOMIC MISSION

TO HELP ROCKHAMPTON REGION REACH ITS FULL POTENTIAL. AND TO REACH OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS, WE REQUIRE AND IN MOST CASES ADVOCATE FOR THE FOLLOWING POLICY CHANGES FROM STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS.

#### **AUSTRALIAN COVERNMENT POLICY**

AP.1 Relocate Army's 7th Brigade to Rockhampton

DEPARTMENT **DEFENCE** 

AP. 2 Relocate RAAF's no.92 WG to Rockhampton

DEPARTMENT **DEFENCE** 

AP.3 Relocate Army's School of Armour to SWBTA

> DEPARTMENT **DEFENCE**

AP.4 Concentrate armoured vehicles in SWBTA

DEPARTMENT **DEFENCE**  AP.5 Support sovereign aircraft maintenance in Rockhampton

**DEFENCE** 

AP.6 Northern Australia FBT exemption

> DEPARTMENT **TREASURY**

AP.7 Remote Tax Allowance increase

> DEPARTMENT **TREASURY**

AP.8 Expansion of the reinsurance pool to cover all types of buildings and infrastructure in northern Australia

> DEPARTMENT **TREASURY**

AP.9 Remove Commonwealth supported place caps at northern Australia-based universities (both domestic and international)

DEPARTMENT

**EDUCATION** 

AP.10 Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) for Rockhampton

DEPARTMENT

**HOME AFFAIRS** 

AP.11 Skills and training to ensure the local workforce is qualified to deliver current and future skill needs of the Region's key industry sectors

> DEPARTMENT **SKILLS & TRAINING**

AP.12 Expansion of Great Barrier Reef investments to incorporate upgrading the environmental performance of municipal sewerage systems to reduce nutrient discharge loads

> DEPARTMENT **ENVIRONMENT**

AP.13 Introduce an energy capacity market to enable wholesale electricity markets to be available to meet peak electricity demand

DEPARTMENT

**CLIMATE CHANGE & ENERGY** 

AP.14 Commonwealth investment into catalytic local infrastructure to support growth

DEPARTMENT

**INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT** 

#### QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT POLICY

QP.1 Relocation of corporate head offices of key government owned corporations operating in Central Queensland into new CBD offices

DEPARTMENT

TREASURY (AS SHAREHOLDING MINISTER)

QP.2 Concentration of existing state services in Rockhampton Region into new CBD offices

DEPARTMENT

ENERGY, PUBLIC WORKS & PROCUREMENT

QP.3 Identification of Rockhampton as a designated defence industry hub

DEPARTMENT

STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PLANNING

QP.4 Establish master plans for improved access to the Region's national parks

ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

QP.5 Removal of barriers to entry for more private ecotourism operators in national parks

DEPARTMENT

ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

QP.6 Upgrading the environmental performance of municipal sewerage systems to reduce nutrient discharge loads

DEPARTMENT

ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

QP.7 Retail electricity price competition, time-of-use metering

DEPARTMENT

ENERGY, PUBLIC WORKS & PROCUREMENT

QP.8 Rapid and reliable public transport in Rockhampton

DEPARTMENT

**TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS** 

Use of existing rail infrastructure for regional passenger services

DEPARTMENT

**TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS** 

QP.10 Regulated east-west flights to Rockhampton

DEPARTMENT

**TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS** 

QP.11 Skilling and training funding to support local skilling of in-demand trades and professions

DEPARTMENT

EMPLOYMENT, SMALL BUSINESS & TRAINING

QP.12 Expand the availability of a diverse range of housing and accommodation

DEPARTMENT

**COMMUNITIES AND HOUSING** 

QP.13 Expand first-home owner grants for the purchase of existing dwellings in the regions

> DEPARTMENT TREASURY

QP.14 Support car hire companies to implement an "open jaw" policy

DEPARTMENT

**TOURISM, INNOVATION & SPORT** 

QP.15 Classify Rockynats as a "major event"

DEPARTMENT

**TOURISM, INNOVATION & SPORT** 

QP.16 Water resources policy to update the Fitzroy Catchment Water Plan

DEPARTMENT

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER

QP.17 Introduction of catchmentwide water trading and contestability

DEPARTMENT

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER

QP.18 State investment to acquire industrial land in the Rockhampton Region

DEPARTMENT

STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PLANNING

QP.19 Invest in future energy solutions at Stanwell

DEPARTMENT

ENERGY, PUBLIC WORKS & PROCUREMENT

QP.20 Invest in waste to energy solutions

DEPARTMENT

ENERGY, PUBLIC WORKS & PROCUREMENT

# ECONOMIC FORECASTING

ACCOUNTING FOR THE POTENTIAL FOR STEP-CHANGE IN THE REGION'S GROWTH, ROCKHAMPTON HAS THE POTENTIAL TO GROW AT A CONSIDERABLY FASTER RATE THAN A BAU APPROACH TO GROWTH.

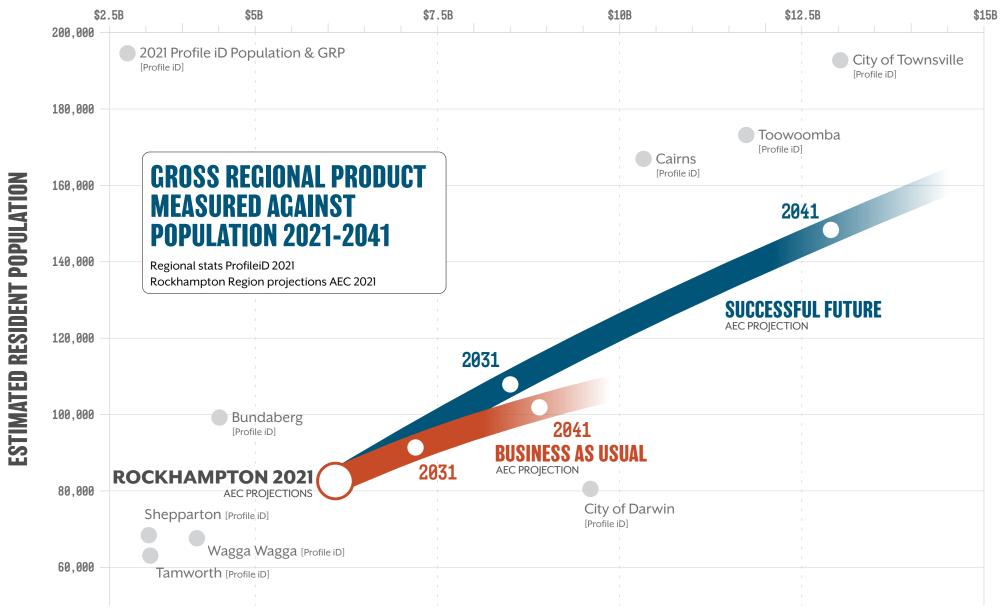
The key economic forecasts provide the following information:

#### **BUSINESS AS USUAL (BAU)**

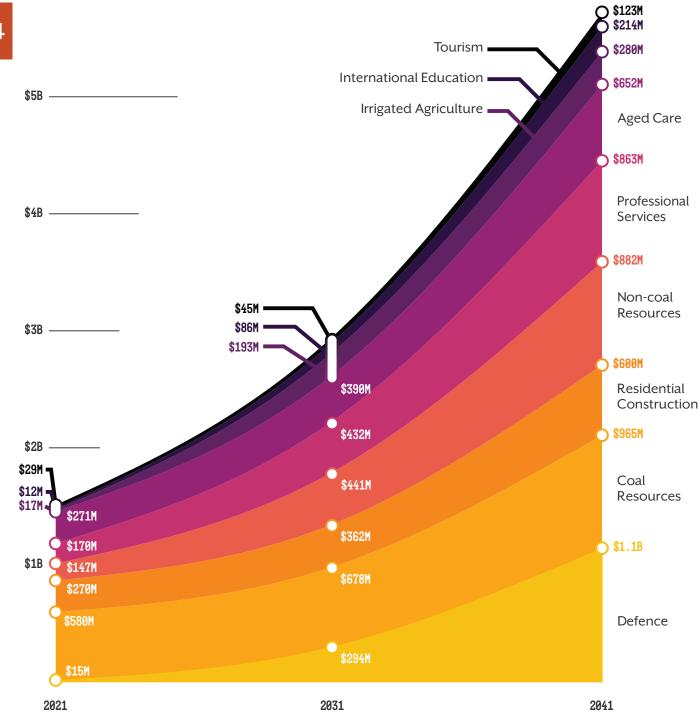
Where the economy will continue to grow by historic trends, in accordance with the Queensland Government projections.

#### **SUCCESSFUL FUTURE**

Where a series of step-changes in economic growth are realised, through catalytic infrastructure investment, internal industry growth and attraction of new major industries to the Region.



**GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT (\$B)** 

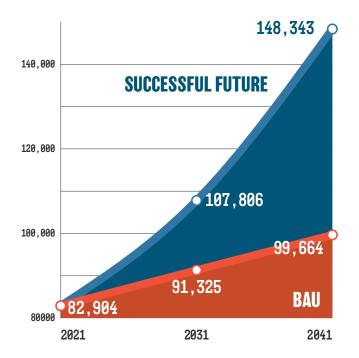


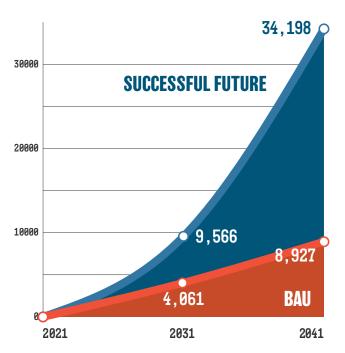
#### ROCKHAMPTON REGION KEY INDUSTRY GROWTH AREAS BY GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT 2021-2041

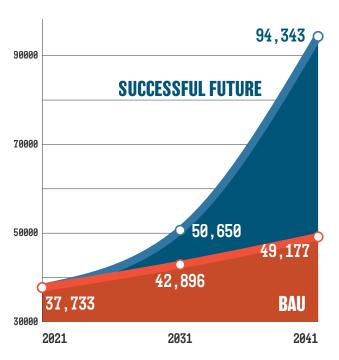
**AEC Projection** 

## GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT

By 2041 the successful future projected GRP of Rockhampton is \$12.9 billion if the Region's opportunities are realised – this is a \$4.2 billion increase above business usual.







## POPULATION GROWTH

The estimated residential population (ERP) of Rockhampton is 82,596, growing at a rate of 1.8% below the state population growth rate of 2.1%.

Realising the opportunities will enable annual population growth of 2.8% to 2051, higher than the BAU projection of 1.1%. By 2041, Rockhampton is expected to house 80% more people in a successful future scenario than 2021.

## ADDITIONAL DWELLINGS

To house the Region's growing workforce, significant investment in residential dwellings is required.

With a successful future, the full development potential of Gracemere and Parkhurst will be realised, driving demand for a variety of housing options throughout the Region.

The growth of residential population in the city centre will support a transformation of business opportunity in the Rockhampton CBD.

#### LABOUR FORCE

With the investment into key opportunities within the Region, the labour force in the Region is expected to grow over the next 20 years.

Rockhampton's labour force is projected to grow at a rate of 2.9% in a successful future where opportunities presented are capitalised. This is more than double than the labour force growth rate at BAU of 1.2%.

## ENUSIONING THE FUTURE OF ROCKHAMPTON

## HIGH IMPACT AREAS

THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, FITZROY FOOD BOWL, GRACEMERE & GRACEMERE INDUSTRIAL AREA (GIA), AND PARKHURST WERE IDENTIFIED THROUGH ANALYSING INFORMATION FROM THE ROCKHAMPTON PRECINCT ACTIVATION SURVEY, THE ADVANCE ROCKHAMPTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SURVEY AND THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK WORKSHOPS. COUPLED WITH INDUSTRY GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES.

To grow the Region's economy, we will place extra focus on the following areas because there are significant opportunities to grow industries aligned with defence, agriculture, manufacturing, aged care, residential and commercial development.

WE WILL ACHIEVE THE HIGHEST IMPACT THROUGH FOUR AREAS

A1
CENTRAL
BUSINESS
DISTRICT

A2
FITZROY
RIVER FOOD
BOWL

A3

CRACEMERE AND THE CIA

PARKHURST NORTHERN CORRIDOR





## CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

THE ROCKHAMPTON CBD HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME A MAJOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES HUB FOR CENTRAL QUEENSLAND. THIS GROWTH WILL BE SUPPORTED BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO AID IN THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE CBD, AS WELL AS ENCOURAGE FURTHER GROWTH WITHIN THE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY TO ENABLE A VIABLE DAY AND NIGHT TIME ECONOMY.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS**

- A1.01 Construction of Rocky Stadium and Browne Park Stadium
- A1.02 Redevelopment of the Rockhampton Showgrounds Complex
- A1.03 CQUniversity Tafe Centre of Excellence

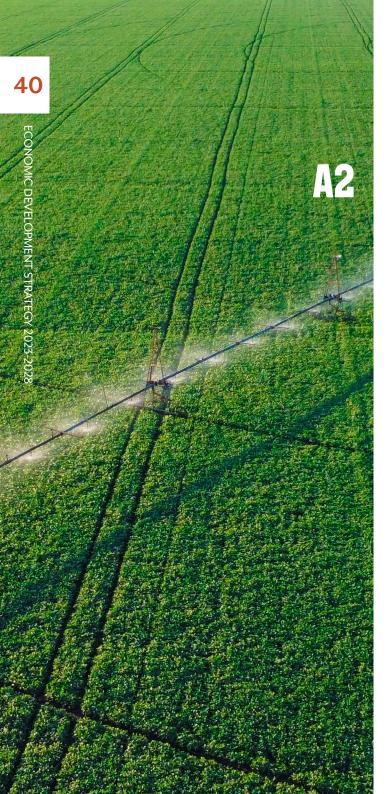
- A1.04 Multi-storey car parking
- A1.05 Rockhampton Performing Arts and Conference Centre
- A1.06 All abilities jetty on the south side of the river.
- A1.07 Green street beautification
- A1.08 Western rail alignment (and subsequent removal of the heavy rail in the CBD)
- A1.09 South Rockhampton flood levee
- A1.10 Agricultural Centre of Excellence

## **INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

- + Dense residential development
- Hotel and short-term accommodation

CBD office space

 Additional food and beverage retail services



## FITZROY RIVER FOOD BOWL

THE FITZROY FOOD BOWL CAN SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MORE DIVERSE REGIONAL ECONOMY. THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW WATER STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE LOWER FITZROY WILL ENABLE A STEP-CHANGE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN ROCKHAMPTON REGION. RELIABLE WATER WILL SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH-VALUE IRRIGATED HORTICULTURAL AND BROADACRE PRODUCTS, WHICH IN TURN UNLOCKS FOOD MANUFACTURING OPPORTUNITIES AND HIGHER VALUE SUPPLY CHAINS.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS**

- A2.01 Water distribution network
- A2.02 Increased water storage (Eden Bann Weir raising and offstream storage
- A2.03 Pumped hydro generation
- A2.04 Glenroy River crossing and road upgrades
- A2.05 CQLX upgrade

- A2.06 Rockhampton Ring Road
- A2.07 Parkhurst intermodal rail terminal
- A2.08 Telecommunications upgrade (lower Fitzroy region)

### **INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

- + Irrigation enterprises
- + Feed lotting enterprises

- Agricultural services and supplies
- Food processing and manufacturing
- + Freight and logistics services



## **GRACEMERE AND THE GIA**

GRACEMERE IS ROCKHAMPTON'S SOUTHERN GROWTH CORRIDOR. DEVELOPMENT IN GRACEMERE CAN SUPPORT A TOTAL RESIDENTIAL POPULATION OF UP TO 20,000 RESIDENTS AND ENABLE CONSIDERABLE GROWTH IN THE REGION'S INDUSTRIAL LAND SUPPLY. DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION'S AGRICULTURAL, DEFENCE AND MINING INDUSTRIES IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE DEMAND FOR INDUSTRIAL LAND, WHICH CAN BE ACCOMMODATED IN THE GRACEMERE INDUSTRIAL AREA (GIA). THE UPGRADE OF THE CAPRICORN HIGHWAY AND ROAD TRAIN ACCESS TO PORT ALMA AND GLADSTONE PORT WOULD PROVIDE AN IDEAL LOCATION FOR NEW FREIGHT LOGISTICS BUSINESSES.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS**

A3.01 Water and sewage trunk extensions

A3.02 CQLX upgrade

A3.03 Rail station for commuter connection to Rockhampton and Gladstone

A3.04 Gracemere high school

- A3.05 Green transport avenues
- A3.06 Stanwell intermodal rail terminal

## **INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

 Residential housing development

- + Commercial development
- + Industrial land development
- Large scale manufacturing and processing
- + Food product manufacturing
- Machinery and equipment manufacturing





## **PARKHURST**

PARKHURST IS ROCKHAMPTON'S NORTHERN GROWTH CORRIDOR. DEVELOPMENT IN PARKHURST CAN SUPPORT A TOTAL RESIDENTIAL POPULATION OF UP TO 14,000 RESIDENTS AND ENABLE CONSIDERABLE GROWTH IN THE REGION'S INDUSTRIAL LAND SUPPLY. DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION'S AGRICULTURAL, DEFENCE AND MINING INDUSTRIES IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE DEMAND FOR INDUSTRIAL LAND, WHICH CAN BE ACCOMMODATED IN THE PARKHURST INDUSTRIAL AREA. THE PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH AS A RESULT OF THE POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF AN ARMY BARRACKS CAN ALSO BE ACCOMMODATED WITH THE PARKHURST AREA. FURTHERMORE, THE INTERSECTION OF THE ROCKHAMPTON RING ROAD AND WESTERN RAIL ALIGNMENT PROVIDES A NEW HIGH QUALITY ACCESS POINT TO KEY TRANSPORT NETWORKS.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS**

A4.01 Water and sewer trunk extensions (including north-south water connection)

A4.02 Rockhampton Ring Road

A4.03 Western rail alignment

A4.04 Green transport avenues

A4.05 Community centre and library

A4.06 Parkhurst intermodal transport hub

### **INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

- + Residential housing development
- + Commercial development
- + Industrial land development
- Fabricated metal manufacturing
- + Non-metalic mineral product manufacturing

 Chemical product manufacturing



Economic Development, Tourism, Events and Marketing

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