

GREATER POSSIBILITIES

FOR GREATER WHITSUNDAY
AND QUEENSLAND



2024
QUEENSLAND
STATE ELECTION
PRIORITIES

As we approach the 2024 Queensland State Election, the Greater Whitsunday region is seeking important investment commitments to drive our ongoing contribution to Queensland's economic prosperity.

ROADS	HOUSING	SDA ACTIVATION
<p>Road closures and lack of investment is costing the Greater Whitsunday regional economy dearly.</p> <p>We need State Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deliver planned projects on time 2. Accelerate projects in planning to construction delivery 3. Cost and plan projects that require investment 	<p>To solve the Greater Whitsunday region's housing crisis, we need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incentives to activate existing development approvals - Boost funding in core trunk infrastructure and critical renewal and augmentation of water, sewerage, drainage and road assets. - Swift delivery of capital investment in social and affordable housing 	<p>Greater Whitsunday's two State Development Areas will drive new and emerging industries for the Queensland economy.</p> <p>We need long-term State Government investment commitment towards local government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Underpin core trunk infrastructure and critical renewal and; - Augmentation of water, sewerage, drainage and road assets.

ENABLE FUTURE GROWTH

Project Detail	Investment	Impact
Finch Hatton Mountain Bike Trail - Stage 2	\$45M Stage 2 State Government support for Stage 2 as a priority project	<p>Stage 2 of the Finch Hatton Mountain Bike project involves the construction of 82km of trails, including a 40km wilderness trail from Eungella to Finch Hatton.</p> <p>Stage 2 planning and investigation works underway, construction likely to commence mid-2026.</p>
Nebo Showgrounds - Stage 2	\$9.75M total project \$4.35M Stage 2A \$5.4M Stage 2B	<p>This critical piece of community infrastructure supports industry, rural sporting pursuits, community groups and major events. It has an estimated local economic return of \$1.2 million.</p> <p>Masterplan complete.</p>
Whitsunday Coast Airport Masterplan	\$8.25M Air Transport Operations (ATO) Apron Works \$22.65M Terminal Works	<p>Whitsunday Coast Airport is a critical enabler for the Whitsunday's tourism economy and resident liveability. The 2024 Master Plan provides a staged development approach to long-term growth and highlights priority development to address critical areas of concern.</p> <p>Master plan complete and Shovel Ready.</p>
Reef Education Facility Shute Harbour Stage 2 expansion	\$4.5M total project \$1.9M Stage 1	<p>Shute Harbour Stage 2 expansion to feature Reef Education Facility including Coral Gardening and Traditional Owner education.</p> <p>Shovel Ready.</p>
Resources Centre of Excellence - Stage 2	\$3M	<p>Complete and fit out third pod in the Future Industries Hub to incubate new and emerging industry</p> <p>Shovel Ready.</p>
Biomanufacturing Regional Feedstock analysis	\$350,000	<p>To maximise State Development Area activation, the Greater Whitsunday region is seeking investment for detailed analysis of all feedstocks (including industrial waste) for future biomanufacturing investment attraction and operations.</p>

The Greater Whitsunday region makes an oversized contribution to the Queensland economy.

TOTAL ECONOMIC OUTPUT \$74.4B

GRP PER CAPITA (2023)*



Greater Whitsunday
\$249,441



Queensland
\$97,622



Australia
\$100,745

INDUSTRY CONTRIBUTION



MINING & METS

\$44.7B economic output

- Mining and METS employs 19.4% of region's workforce
- Bowen Basin is home to Australia's largest coal reserves which is serviced by a large METS sector in Mackay



AGRICULTURE & AQUACULTURE

\$1.9B economic output

- Diverse agricultural commodities are significant industry contributors in Queensland and Australia
- 8.2% of Queensland's fresh produce, 27.2% of sugar, 10.6% of cattle
- Aquaculture output is \$116M - more than half the value of the whole Queensland sector (total \$225m)



TOURISM

\$1.7B economic output

- 6.2% of Queensland leisure tourism market
- 9,000 tourism jobs, employs 9.6% of region's workforce
- In 2022, 3.3M visitors to the Greater Whitsunday region

*Data — REMPLAN

ROADS

Road closures and lack of investment is costing the Greater Whitsunday regional economy dearly.

Without action, road closures and stagnant investment will cost the Greater Whitsunday Region \$1.4B in Gross Regional Product; \$126.1 million in household wages and 2,146 FTE jobs over the next 10 years* (2022).

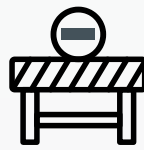
Roads in our region are too often closed in response to an incident. Across the region there have been an average 71.8 road closures for 140.6 days annually, including on average:



Whitsunday

18 closures

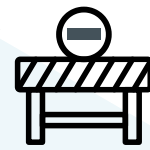
for an average of 1 day



Mackay

16.5 closures

for an average of 4.2 days



Isaac

37.3 closures

for an average of 1.4 days

WE ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO ROAD CLOSURES



Cyclones

In the last 55 years, 18 recorded tropical cyclones passed within 100km of the MIW region, with five since 2010. Prolonged closures after cyclones due to poor road infrastructure hampers a community's recovery.



Major Rain Events

Average January rainfall in Mackay is up to 3x higher than South East Queensland. In January 2023, there was a significant flooding event that closed 56 roads within the Whitsunday LGA for between three to four days.



Road Crashes

The Greater Whitsunday region had 12 fatal crashes by August in 2023, 6.7 times more frequent than Greater Brisbane. (Per 100,000 people)

Road closures impact every part of the economy and community in many different ways.

IMPACT TO OUR INDUSTRIES

Our economy is losing \$287 M in revenue and 215 full-time jobs annually.



Mining
\$216M



Accommodation &
food services
\$12M



Transport, postal
and warehousing
\$9M



Agriculture,
forestry & fishing
\$6M



Construction
\$6M

IMPACT TO OUR COMMUNITIES

The road closures cause disruptions to the everyday happenings of residents located within the Greater Whitsunday region and this creates inconvenience and frustration for residents. This negative impact has been valued as a disutility to households at \$66M annually (\$499M over 10 years in present value terms).*

We need the Queensland Government to:

- 1. Deliver planned projects on time**
- 2. Accelerate projects in planning to construction delivery**
- 3. Cost and plan projects that require investment**

*'Costing Queensland Dearly — Economic impact of road closures to the Greater Whitsunday region' report. For additional detail refer to the AEC (2023) report GW3 Road Closure Economic Analysis. The report provides an in-depth analysis of these direct and lagging impacts, mapping the unique challenges faced by various sectors within the Greater Whitsunday region.

1. DELIVER PLANNED PROJECTS ON TIME

20+ road improvement projects with more than \$700M investment are committed or being constructed across the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday LGAs. On-time delivery of these planned projects is critical to promote and support prosperity and to improve safety across our region's road network.

2. ACCELERATE PROJECTS IN PLANNING TO CONSTRUCTION DELIVERY

Mackay LGA	
Bruce Highway, Mackay to Proserpine	Jumper Creek upgrade flood immunity
Mackay — Bucasia Road, Bucasia to Rural View roundabout	Improve efficiency, planning
Mackay — Eungella Road, Pleystowe Connection Road and Pleystowe School Road intersections	Improve intersections
Maraju — Yakapari Road, Bald Hill Road to Bruce Highway	Improve safety
Isaac LGA	
Marlborough — Sarina Road, Clarke Creek to Bruce Highway	Improve safety
Whitsunday LGA	
Proserpine — Shute Harbour Road, Hamilton Plains	Flood immunity
Bruce Highway, Goorganga Plains	Plan and preserve

3. COST AND PLAN PROJECTS THAT REQUIRE INVESTMENT

Mackay LGA	
Sarina — Homebush Road (Rock Creek Bridge)	Replace bridge
Mackay — Eungella Road (Eungella Range)	Flood immunity
Marian — Eton Road (Sandy Creek — North)	Drainage/lighting systems
Isaac LGA	
Marlborough — Sarina Road, Clarke Creek to Bruce Highway	Flood immunity
Blue Mountain Road (Prospect Creek Bridge)	Flood immunity
Clermont Alpha Road — Clermont	Flood immunity
Gregory Highway	Flood immunity
Fitzroy Developmental Road	Flood immunity and safety
Peak Downs Highway	Flood immunity
Whitsunday LGA	
Bruce Highway at Lethebrook	Flood immunity
Bruce Highway at Merinda	Flood immunity



HOUSING

The Greater Whitsunday Region
has a housing crisis.

To meet conservative growth forecasts, as a region, we must build over 700 dwellings each year. Currently 458 dwellings are being approved annually. This shortfall in construction activity is hurting our region's economy and communities.

To solve this crisis, the Greater Whitsunday region needs:

- Incentives to activate existing development approvals already issued by Greater Whitsunday Councils.
- Boost funding in core trunk infrastructure and critical renewal and augmentation of water, sewerage, drainage and road assets across Greater Whitsunday.
- Quarantine \$70M in funding for the Greater Whitsunday region for the swift delivery of capital investment in social and affordable housing from the Queensland Government's Housing Investment Fund and the proposed LNP policy Unlocking Homes for Queensland's Future.

Greater Whitsunday Region remains 'tight' rental market for foreseeable future

With a Queensland Vacancy Rate: 0.9%, in regional centres: **Mackay (0.6%) remained one of the tightest rental markets to break into**, followed closely by Rockhampton (0.7%), Toowoomba (0.8%) and Bundaberg (0.9). Gladstone (1.2%) and Townsville (1.0%) offered renters ever-so-slightly more options.

<https://www.reiq.com/resources/media-releases/dangerously-low-vacancy-rates-persist-in-queensland>



SDA ACTIVATION

Activation of SDA precincts is critical to the long-term sustainability of the Greater Whitsunday region in a changing global economy.

The Greater Whitsunday region is home to two State Development Areas. These SDA's are strategically located to drive new and emerging industries for the Queensland economy.

ABBOT POINT

Total size: 16,885-hectares

- Located approximately 20 kilometres north-west of Bowen, in North Queensland
- Easy access to rail and roads, including the Bruce Highway
- Considerable distance from urban areas
- Suitable for large scale green energy projects; biomanufacturing; aerospace facilities and hydrogen industry development
- Other large scale heavy industrial projects requiring separation from sensitive receptors

RACECOURSE & ROSELLA

Total size: 907 hectares

- **Racecourse 137ha**
- **Rosella 770ha**
- Both sites located within 10 kilometres of Mackay city
- Convenient access to employment catchments, reliable and efficient transport networks and proximity to global markets through the multi-commodity Port of Mackay and Port of Hay Point
- Racecourse: suitable for short to medium-term opportunities for pilot commercial-scale projects
- Rosella: medium to longer term development opportunities for large footprint, heavy and emerging industries

Strong investment signals from the Queensland Government is welcomed - but more certainty for local government is required.

Greater Whitsunday welcomes the recent announcement of two key Regional Economic Futures Fund (REFF) projects that will support Queensland Government activities to further activate the Abbot Point and Mackay SDAs.

Mackay and Whitsunday Regional Councils require long-term State Government investment commitment towards local councils to underpin core trunk infrastructure and critical renewal and augmentation of water, sewerage, drainage and road assets.



ENABLE FUTURE GROWTH

Greater Whitsunday is poised to adapt, evolve and diversify. We're ready to unlock even Greater Possibilities.



Finch Hatton Mountain Bike Trail — Stage 2

Stage 2 of the project involves the construction of 82km of trails, including a 40km wilderness trail from Eungella to Finch Hatton.

Stage 1 of the Trail opened in April 2024, with thousands of local, national and international visitors enjoying the world-class destination.

This project is of state and national significance. Council is asking the Queensland Government to list it as a priority project.

Location

Pioneer Valley, west of Mackay

Investment

\$45M Stage 2

Regional Impact

Conservative analysis indicates that there is potential to attract 31,000 visitors annually to the region for mountain biking generating an additional \$18 million annual economic benefit and 110 FTE jobs in the Mackay region.

Project Status

Stage 2 planning and investigation works underway, construction likely to commence mid-2026.

Whitsunday Coast Airport Masterplan

The 2024 Master Plan provides a staged development approach to long-term growth and highlights priority development to address critical areas of concern.

The regional tourism sector is in a phase of prolonged growth and tourism visitation is up 8.7% over three years and expenditure has increased by 17.8% over the same period. A modern airport is vital to the continuing development of the Whitsundays tourism brand.

Location

Whitsunday

Investment

\$8.25M Air Transport Operations (ATO)
Apron Works

\$22.65M Terminal Works

Project Status

Masterplan complete and shovel ready





Nebo Showgrounds — Stage 2

This critical piece of community infrastructure supports industry, rural sporting pursuits, community groups and major events.

Nebo Showgrounds is home to Australia's biggest one-day rodeo attracting 5,000 people from across regional Australia.

Stage 2 will deliver upgraded camping facilities, undercover and outdoor arena development, a new multi-purpose pavilion and interpretative story telling and walking trail.

Location

Isaac

Investment

\$9.75M total project
\$4.35M Stage 2A; \$5.4M Stage 2B

Regional Impact

The Nebo Showgrounds Master Plan is about ensuring a critical piece of community and industry infrastructure is futureproofed.

It has an estimated local economic return of \$1.2 million.

Project Status

Masterplan complete and shovel ready

Resources Centre of Excellence — Stage 2

Stage 2 will complete and fit out the third pod in the Future Industries Hub to incubate new and emerging industry including biomanufacturing; critical minerals and more.

The Future Industries Hub is modelled on the highly successful Resources Centre of Excellence and will provide a common user facility to support proponents to research, test and innovate in region, and act as a launching platform for commercial scale development.

Location

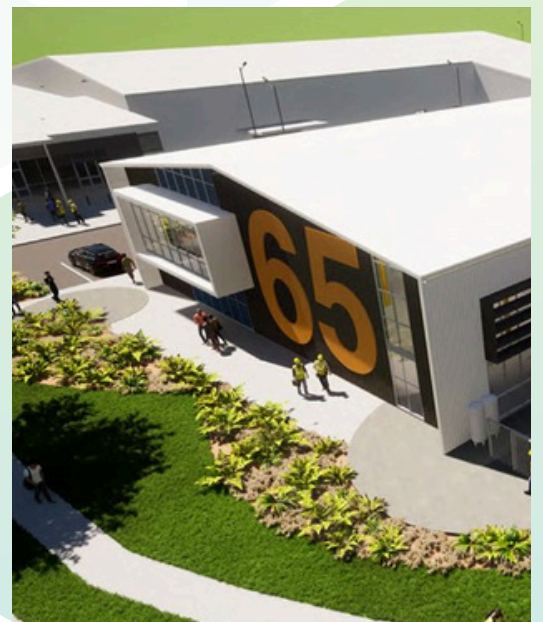
Mackay

Investment

\$3M

Project Status

Shovel ready





**Reef Education Facility —
Shute Harbour Stage 2
expansion**

Shute Harbour Marine Terminal is an important tourism gateway and a Masterplan has been completed to expand tourism and marine services.

Stage 2 expansion will feature a Reef Education Facility including Coral Gardening and Traditional Owner education.

Location

Whitsunday

Investment

\$4.5M total project
\$1.9M Stage 1

Regional Impact

The full Shute Harbour Stage 2 Masterplan will deliver new land based tourism attraction, increased cruise ship capacity, reef education and restoration, cultural education and increased recreational fishing access and liveability.

Project Status

Shovel ready

**Biomanufacturing Regional
Feedstock Analysis**

To maximise State Development activation, the Greater Whitsunday region is seeking investment for detailed analysis of all feedstocks (including industrial waste) for future biomanufacturing investment attraction and operations.

The Greater Whitsunday’s abundant feedstocks, favourable tropical climate, efficient mature and modern agricultural industry, strong manufacturing base, world-class expertise in research and development, proximity to employment catchments, reliable and efficient transport networks and proximity to global markets through the multi-commodity Port of Mackay and Port of Hay Point makes it the ideal home to the emerging biomanufacturing industry. Detailed feedstock analysis is required to support the growth of this ambition.

Location

Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday

Investment

\$350k

Regional Impact

Fast track investment to diversity the regional economy and ultimately, create jobs and supply chain opportunities.



GREATER WHITSUNDAY ALLIANCE
MACKAY ► ISAAC ► WHITSUNDAY

www.gw3.com.au

