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Director-General's foreword

I am pleased to present the *Department of State Development 2014–2015 Annual Report*. Under the new administrative arrangements following the Queensland state election in January 2015, the department brings together the functions of the Coordinator-General, economic and regional development, major project delivery and government land management into a strong, influential economic development agency.

The department has moved quickly to focus its efforts on implementing the incoming government's vision and commitments.

Driving economic prosperity for the benefit of all Queenslanders is our continuing priority.

This annual report outlines the progress the department has already made in addressing the government's objectives for the community, which are:

- creating jobs and a diverse economy
- delivering quality frontline services
- protecting the environment
- building safe, caring and connected communities.

It also recognises our ongoing work in securing new investment and jobs across the state and delivering services for business and community.

Over the 2014–15 financial year the department was involved in major projects that are generating jobs for Queensland—the \$88.8 million of funding provided to support these projects was forecast by Queensland Treasury to have created 276 jobs.

Government spend and intervention support private sector investment. Looking to the year ahead, the expected consolidated spend on these major projects between the private sector and government in 2015–16 is estimated to be \$1.974 billion, creating 5538 jobs over the life of the projects.

We acknowledge that our role as the administrators of government policy is to create the operating environment for our industry and business partners to grow and provide job and economic opportunities for Queenslanders. We are doing this by finding creative, innovative and sustainable solutions to drive growth and development across the state including in the regions.

Queen's Wharf Brisbane, one of our department's flagship projects, underwent the assessment process in 2014–15 with Destination Brisbane Consortium announced as the preferred proponent in July 2015.

This integrated resort development will transform Brisbane into an internationally distinguished city. As a world-class tourism, leisure and entertainment precinct, it will provide significant benefit to the state with improved facilities for everyday use and public events, showcasing Brisbane to locals, interstate and international visitors.

Substantial progress was also made on the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games™ venues program in 2014–15. This will deliver three new world-class competition venues and major upgrades to a further eight venues, providing important sport and community facilities for South East Queensland.

Delivering projects that drive regional economies and growth is one of our key areas of focus. In 2014–15 \$62 million in regional funding was committed towards 27 community infrastructure, transport and flood mitigation projects, illustrating how the productive potential of our regions can be strengthened through careful government investment.

Recognising that strategic investment in Queensland's mining industry is needed to maximise the sector's potential, we are working with proponents and other state agencies to streamline facilitation of new resource projects and developments.

The department has also continued its efforts to support Queensland businesses with workshops, mentoring and benchmarking sessions delivered by a range of experts to guide participants through development opportunities to equip them with skills to grow their business, in turn creating job opportunities across the state.

In addition, we are leading an initiative to support the development of community hubs and partnerships, providing opportunities for all levels of government, private and community sectors to collaborate and plan the delivery of integrated and/or co-located community services and facilities, supporting economic activity, jobs and liveability across Queensland.

Our key priority is to deliver on the government's commitments to Queenslanders by driving the economic prosperity of the state. I am pleased that the department has already delivered six of the 29 commitments we have carriage of.

In addition, we are making good progress on our priorities for the future, including:

- promoting competitiveness and growth
- unlocking regional development potential
- increasing private capital expenditure
- minimising risk to investment
- increasing economic development opportunities on government land
- enabling sustainable development of Queensland's key trading ports.

The department has demonstrated its ability to remain focused during a period of change and I would like to thank and commend all staff for their continuing hard work and professionalism.

In particular, I extend my thanks to David Edwards, who led the department as Director-General from 2012 to July 2015, when he took up his role as Project Chief Executive, Integrated Resort Developments.

I look forward to continuing to work with my department, my colleagues in other agencies and our many stakeholders to ensure that we are leading and delivering on economic development opportunities for Queensland's future.

Michael Schaumburg

**Director-General
Department of State Development**