

# About us

## Our vision

Queensland's economy is Australia's strongest.

## Our purpose

To be the lead agency driving Queensland's economic prosperity and championing the interests of business and industry for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

## Our strategic objectives

- **Driving business development, economic growth and job creation**  
We are focused on driving the expansion of Queensland's economic growth as benchmarked against the global economy and comparable jurisdictions.
- **Major project assessment, approval, facilitation and delivery**  
We are focused on the timely planning and delivery of major projects that drive economic growth and provide job creation opportunities.

## Our department

Formed in March 2015, under new administrative arrangements following the Queensland state election, the Department of State Development exists to drive Queensland's economic development.

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 to grow the economy and advocate for the interests of industry for the benefit of communities across Queensland.

The department will continue to work with industry to support a strong Queensland economy by capitalising on economic growth opportunities, facilitating major projects and driving regional economic development in partnership with the community to help realise our full economic potential and support jobs growth.

Our principal place of business is 61 Mary Street, Brisbane, Queensland. Our regional office locations are provided at Appendix 2.

## Operating environment

There are positive signs for the Queensland economy and its regions in terms of business confidence, investment pipeline, exports, employment and our overall economic outlook.

The state's trend unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage points since February 2015 and as at July 2015 stood at 6.3 per cent. This was alongside a concurrent increase in Queensland's trend employment of 20,400 persons.

Queensland merchandise exports in 2014-15 amounted to almost \$47 billion<sup>1</sup>. In the June quarter alone, the value of Queensland's exports hit \$12.9 billion<sup>1</sup>, up 17.9 per cent compared to the same period last year.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Exports of Queensland goods overseas, June 2015, Queensland treasury Government Statistician's Office

This was largely driven by meat, minerals and LNG exports, the bulk of which are produced in regional Queensland.

Future opportunities for the Queensland economy are considered to be in the areas of tourism, agribusiness, biofutures, defence, international education and niche opportunities in advanced manufacturing as well as mining and engineering services.

There are also growth opportunities in residential construction, professional and business-related services, retail trade, aged care and community services.

As part of the effort across government to drive economic growth and job creation, the department will be harnessing these areas of opportunity to maximise the economic growth and job creation benefits for Queensland.

The outlook for 2015–16 is positive, with Queensland's economic growth forecast to be the strongest of all states.

Growth in 2015–16 is forecast to be 4½ per cent, which is well above the 2¾ per cent forecast for the nation.

Queensland is currently second only to Western Australia in terms of the total investment pipeline in the nation based on the Deloitte Access Economics Investment Monitor for the June quarter.

Specifically, there was \$211 billion<sup>2</sup> worth of definite and planned projects in Queensland in June—more than New South Wales and Victoria combined.

The Westpac Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland Survey of Business Conditions for the June quarter shows that businesses are more optimistic about our economic growth prospects.

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<sup>2</sup> Source: Deloitte Access Economics Investment Monitor June 2015

This bodes well for the state's future economic development. Some economic challenges do remain, with the Queensland economy currently in a period of transition as the construction of liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects nears completion.

Whilst the state's economy is forecast to grow, the economy faces challenges given the subdued domestic demand, reduced engineering activity, and the fall in oil prices coupled with earlier declines in commodity prices.

We categorise the significant challenges in delivering economic prosperity into areas of strategic risk, which include:

- competitive economic environment—in the current environment there is a subdued global economy and Queensland cannot rely solely on population increase and labour market participation to drive growth in the future
- private sector role and participation—government can influence the operating environment of the private sector to a limited extent with enabling policy and funding offerings, however collaboration with the private sector is required to deliver innovation and leverage key skills
- working differently with customers and stakeholders—our service delivery model needs to be flexible and adaptable to the needs of our customers and stakeholders so that we can efficiently deliver effective strategic and tactical services and implement systemic reform
- project delivery and co-ordination—there is an increasing demand for delivery of complex capital investment projects to drive the state's economic development
- complexity and red tape—government must balance appropriate oversight and governance with removal of unnecessary constraints to growth and job creation to improve certainty for the private sector through policy settings, forward planning and streamlining government approvals.



## Key priorities for the future

### Driving industry development, economic growth and job creation

- rolling out the new \$200 million, two-year Building our Regions program
- administering an additional \$170.2 million in 2015–16 regional funding for 50 projects, supporting 510 jobs
- establishing an Industry and Manufacturing Advisory Group to ensure that industry policy and programs are responding to industry priorities and facilitating sectoral growth and job creation
- refocusing the department on industry areas with potential for transformation that delivers systematic change or a step-change in economic development
- creating community hubs and partnerships across sectors (state, local and private) to increase investment and job creation
- fostering economic development while protecting the Great Barrier Reef through implementing a number of the government's port-related commitments in the *Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan* with legislative reform through the Sustainable Ports Development Bill 2015, which will:
  - restrict new port development in and adjoining the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA) to within current port limits and outside Commonwealth and state marine parks
  - prohibit capital dredging for the development of new or expansion of existing port facilities in the GBRWHA outside the priority ports of Gladstone, Abbot Point, Townsville and Hay Point/Mackay
  - prohibit the sea-based disposal of port-related capital dredge spoil material within the GBRWHA
  - mandate that capital dredged material generated at the priority ports be beneficially reused or disposed of on land where it is environmentally safe to do so
  - mandate master plans at priority ports to optimise use of existing infrastructure and address operational, economic, environmental and community relationships, as well as supply chains and surrounding land uses.
- delivering strong and sustainable resource communities by maximising local industry participation in resource projects, reviewing fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) workforce arrangements and developing a policy framework to deliver optimal outcomes from workforce arrangements in the resource sector
- preparing industry and regional development strategies that enable economic growth and job creation, including focusing our resources on global supply chains to promote competitiveness and growth
- finalising the Mary Valley Economic Development strategy, revitalising the local economy and community through maximising economic development opportunities



An artist's impression of the Commonwealth Games Village

- delivering public benefit by adding value to surplus government land that generates economic activity, stimulates job creation and achieves positive social outcomes by minimising risk to investment through uplift opportunities
- facilitating private sector investment by case managing regionally significant private sector projects in key industry sectors and case management of coordinated projects following assessment by the Coordinator-General
- maximising opportunity for Queensland business participation in significant public and private sector projects and emerging opportunities in key sectors including defence
- leading the strategic economic transition of North Stradbroke Island away from sand mining.
- stimulating the construction and tourism sectors through integrated resort developments such as Queen's Wharf Brisbane, which is slated to begin site works in 2017
- by declaring 'coordinated projects', initiate and manage an environmental impact statement (EIS) evaluation process for public and private projects
- progressing land acquisition programs and licencing in State Development Areas (SDAs) including infrastructure corridors to facilitate the development of key resources areas and key projects and industries by negotiating agreements with proponents to deliver effective and fair land tenure solutions
- progressing delivery of an eight-court indoor netball centre at the Queensland Sports and Athletics Centre, this \$30 million project is being funded through Stadiums Queensland
- coordinating infrastructure planning within the Abbot Point SDA and the Galilee Basin SDA to facilitate multi-user rail corridors and other critical infrastructure, supporting coal exports from the Galilee Basin
- coordinating the Abbot Point Growth Gateway project, which if approved, will allow the construction of a second trestle at the Port of Abbot Point, enabling an increase in the port's capacity from 50 to 120 million tonnes per annum
- increasing private capital expenditure in Queensland through a central point of contact and whole-of-government case management to create jobs
- reviewing project assessments and condition-setting in the context of the future government's FIFO workforce policy.

## Assessing, approving, facilitating and delivering major projects

- in 2015–16, \$474 million will be provided for major projects creating 1365 jobs. Over the life of the projects, the total spend is estimated to be \$1.973 billion, with 5538 jobs created. This includes delivering economic, social and community benefits through the planning, design and construction of new and upgraded sporting venues and infrastructure for the Commonwealth Games Village for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games™