

Queensland TODAY and TOMORROW

Inside this issue

	The people behind the number
	What's your plan for storm season?
	South East Queensland in world-first mosquito trial
	Anzac Centenary community grants
	World Science Festival 2017
	Respect our staff, respect our school campaign

Queensland's economy is growing

Queensland's economy is continuing to strengthen, leading the nation with forecasted economic growth of four per cent in 2016–17.

Increased investment in housing construction and a surge in exports are both contributing to the strength of the economy and creating more jobs for Queenslanders.

Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics also shows that domestic spending continues to increase, following the completion of construction of the LNG projects.

Importantly, regional areas are getting the boost they need to tap into growth opportunities. The government's two-year, \$100 million Back to Work regional employment package provides up to \$15,000 to businesses that employ eligible job seekers in regions outside South East Queensland.

More information about the regional employment package is available at qld.gov.au/backtowork or by calling 13 QGOV (13 74 68).



Did you know?

More homes are being built in Queensland. Dwelling investment increased by 14.3 per cent in 2015–16 compared to the previous year.

Message from the Premier



Building a modern economy that generates jobs is this government's top priority and there's plenty of good news on the employment front in this edition of Queensland Today and Tomorrow.

Read about the initiatives we are taking across the state including the \$100 million Back to Work regional employment package, the \$375 million Building our Regions program and the \$240 million Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative.

In recognition of the activity underway in North Queensland, with our Accelerated Works Program investing \$144 million in 21 projects and planning underway on the showpiece North Queensland Stadium, State Cabinet met in Townsville and the Whitsunday region in October. In Mackay, Queensland's leading tourism forum, DestinationQ, brought industry and government together to discuss the sector's future growth.

The 2018 Commonwealth Games is getting ever-closer and Gold Coast communities are already making the most of the new facilities including the \$40 million Coomera Indoor Sports Centre. It's just one of many events that will showcase Queensland to the world, including the hugely popular World Science Festival, which returns to Brisbane in March.

Speaking of the Games, find out how you can play your part in artist Maryann Talia Pau's One Million Stars project that will weave a massive installation to raise awareness of domestic violence when the national and international spotlight is on our state.

Finally, with summer just around the corner, get some tips on how to help your pets beat the heat and how you can join the fight against fire ants.



To find out more on the development of the stadium, visit www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/nqs

North Queensland Stadium kick-starts jobs and growth for Townsville

Planning for Townsville's \$250 million North Queensland Stadium is underway.

The centrally-located, state-of-the-art, 25,000 seat stadium will kick-start the revitalisation of the city's central business district, attract further investment into the region and generate growth.

It's also expected to generate up to 750 jobs throughout the design and construction stages. Longer term, the project is anticipated to boost regional

growth in the construction, tourism, retail, commercial and hospitality industries.

Construction is expected to start late next year and completed in time for the 2020 NRL season.

The Queensland Government has been running a series of dedicated information sessions that will expand opportunities for local companies to win and conduct work on this and other North Queensland projects.



GOMA turns 10

The Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA) turns 10 this December and all Queenslanders are invited to join the party.

The GOMA Turns 10 opening weekend celebrations will run from 3–4 December 2016 and are set to deliver a jam-packed program of free activities, artist talks, panel discussions, vibrant performances, hands-on workshops and gallery tours.

The Gallery's birthday will also be celebrated with the unveiling of a major, new public artwork by Queensland Indigenous artist Judy Watson along with free exhibitions including *Lucent*, *A World View: The Tim Fairfax Gift* and *Sugar Spin: you, me, art and everything*. A major highlight of *A World View* will be *Crossing 2016*, an immersive new light installation by renowned British-born, New York-based artist Anthony McCall, while *Sugar Spin* will feature more than 250 artworks from QAGOMA's collection including many visitor favourites.

For more information visit www.qagoma.qld.gov.au



Domestic Violence Summit

On 27 and 28 October, Queensland hosted the COAG national summit on reducing violence against women and their children.

The summit, held in Brisbane, investigated key themes such as tech-facilitated abuse, Indigenous-specific violence issues, the impact of domestic violence on children and family violence and the court system.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk opened the summit, with representatives from all Australian states and territories given the opportunity to present on the actions being undertaken by their state to tackle domestic violence.

The Third Action Plan of the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022* was also launched at the event, providing a framework to engage more sectors, groups and communities in the work to reduce domestic and family violence and sexual assault.

For more information on the outcomes of the summit visit coagvawsummit.pmc.gov.au

Anastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier of Queensland
and Minister for the Arts



Queensland
Government



“My road toll is one.”

“My daughter Tanya.”

The people behind the number

When we talk about road safety, we tend to talk in numbers. Sadly, it's all too easy to lose sight of the fact that road toll numbers refer to real people.

Last year, 243 lives were lost on Queensland roads. This road toll shouldn't be the price we pay for being a mobile society. Each one of those 243 people was a person, a family member, a work colleague and community member.

My Road Toll is a Queensland Government road safety campaign that humanises the road toll, translating a number into stories of eight Queenslanders who lost their lives to road trauma.

The personal account shared by their friends and families is a powerful reminder to stay safe on our roads, especially in the lead up to Christmas.

Don't let the silly season translate to the road. Take time to share these stories and talk to your loved ones about staying safe on our roads.

JOIN THE DRIVE TO SAVE LIVES

To view these important stories visit www.jointhedrive.qld.gov.au

Changes to Queensland's smoke alarm legislation

New smoke alarm legislation will make Queensland households the safest in Australia in relation to fire safety.

The new legislation specifies that all Queensland dwellings will be required to have interconnected photoelectric smoke alarms in all bedrooms, in hallways that connect bedrooms with the rest of the dwelling and on every level.

A 10-year phased rollout of interconnected photoelectric smoke alarms in Queensland will happen over three specific periods starting from 1 January 2017.

What does this mean for your home?

To comply with legislation, interconnected photoelectric smoke alarms are required:

- **From 1 January 2017:** in all new dwellings and substantially renovated dwellings (this applies to building applications submitted from 1 January 2017).
- **From 1 January 2022:** in all domestic dwellings leased and sold.
- **From 1 January 2027:** in all other domestic dwellings.

For more information on these changes visit the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services' website at www.qfes.qld.gov.au/smokealarms

Skilling Queenslanders for work

Thousands of job seekers are benefitting from the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative.

This valuable program provides funding to community organisations and local councils to run training and employment projects, helping job seekers develop vital skills and improving their chances of finding work.

A range of Queenslanders, including young people, women re-entering the workforce, people from culturally or linguistically

diverse backgrounds, people with a disability, Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people, and mature-age job seekers can get assistance to overcome the barriers they face when looking for jobs.

Many employers are also reaping rewards from the initiative. Queensland businesses that hire someone who has completed a Skilling Queenslanders for Work project in an apprenticeship or traineeship may be eligible for a Work Start incentive payment.

To find out more visit www.training.qld.gov.au

Simply ask yourself...

What's your plan?

Getting ready for storm season isn't as scary as it sounds. It's as simple as making a basic plan in case the worst happens. A plan if your **pets** are home alone. A plan to check on your **neighbours**. A plan if you're separated from your **family**. Don't leave it too late to ask “**what's your plan this storm season?**”.

Find out more at qld.gov.au/getready



Building our Regions kick-starts regional infrastructure

The Queensland Government is continuing to boost economic opportunities for regional communities through the \$375 million Building our Regions program.

In 2016–17, two rounds are making \$75.5 million available to local governments to help build critical infrastructure, support jobs and increase liveability in regional Queensland. A further \$70 million will be made available for a third round in 2017–18.

The first round of funding was highly successful, with \$70.8 million allocated across 42 projects, supporting almost 700 jobs and providing new economic

opportunities for Queensland regions. By the end of this year five projects will be complete and all others underway.

Round two of the Building our Regions program is currently underway with 60 applications from 38 councils being assessed for funding.

Successful projects will be announced in late 2016.

For further information visit www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/buildingourregions

Growing jobs in tourism

Queensland's leading tourism forum, *DestinationQ*, was held in Mackay on 25 October, bringing industry and government together to grow tourism and create jobs.

Attendees had the opportunity to network, consider ways to keep the positive tourism momentum going, and discuss hot topics in the tourism economy such as transport and connectivity, digital experiences and tourism infrastructure.

The forum theme aligned with the Queensland Government's new plan *Advancing Tourism 2016–20: Growing Queensland jobs*, which was released on the day.

The plan targets key areas, as identified by industry, to boost tourism jobs and increase market share, especially from Asia. We want to ensure we deliver the greatest return on our investment to expand Queensland's tourism opportunities.

Visit www.destq.com.au

Did you know?

- Tourism is one of Queensland's most important sectors, contributing \$23 billion to the economy and supporting almost 220,000 jobs—that's one in 11 jobs.
- China is currently Queensland's largest international visitor market attracting 468,000 visitors, an increase of 30.5 per cent on the year ending

June 2016. They spent \$1.1 billion, an increase of 25.6 per cent on the previous year.

- The sector is booming, with a record 2.48 million international visitors travelling to Queensland in the last financial year, and spending \$5.1 billion statewide.

Join the fun before they turn one

Play Stars is here! Queensland families with a child under the age of one can now join Playgroup Queensland for 12 months for free.

Joining a playgroup is a great way to help your child learn, grow and have fun with other children.

Playgroups are relaxed environments where you can connect with other families and share experiences. The Play Stars offer is part of a five-year partnership between the Queensland Government and Playgroup Queensland.



To find a local playgroup and join visit www.playgroupqld.com.au

ShapingSEQ

Planning for the future



South East Queensland's population is expected to grow by approximately two million people to 5.3 million by 2041—creating a need for, on average, more than 30,000 new dwellings each year between now and then.

The Queensland Government is currently reviewing the *South East Queensland Regional Plan* and has given locals the chance to have their say and be part of the conversation on how to shape their community.

After consulting with approximately 1400 residents earlier this year, more than 1300 ideas were submitted about the future of SEQ.

The conversations focused around ideas such as accommodating growth with the right infrastructure, fostering the future of rural communities, embracing nature with open and green spaces, protecting our heritage buildings and preserving iconic spaces.

The draft regional plan has been released for public consultation and community members can have their say until early March 2017.

To find out more and have your say visit www.qld.gov.au/shapingseq

What's your relationship with alcohol?

The Queensland Government has launched phase two of the *What's your relationship with alcohol* campaign.

The campaign is designed to achieve cultural change around drinking behaviour, promote responsible drinking practices, and ensure a safer environment in and around Queensland's licensed venues.

The aim is to encourage people to stop, think and even talk about the impact alcohol might have on their lives.

For more information and to better understand your relationship with alcohol visit mydrinkingchoices.qld.gov.au



Check to see if your car is

E10 OK

Search E10 OK



E10 fuel is different now, and more car engines are built to run on it.

Filling up your tank with it is a great way to advance Queensland.

ADVANCE QUEENSLAND



State of the Environment website

Queenslanders can now explore, share and learn more about our environment and the pressures facing our natural assets with the new State of the Environment website.

Focusing on four key themes of biodiversity, heritage, pollution and climate, the website offers a user-friendly format and plenty of great content including videos and key findings.

Visitors to the site can also explore statewide and regional environmental information using Google maps technology, and tap into environmental performance data via social media.

Interested in getting a greater understanding of the state of our environment, and how this can create better outcomes for communities across the state? Visit www.ehp.qld.gov.au/state-of-the-environment

Ageing in Place pilot project

Seniors in Cloncurry, Ravenshoe and Barcardine will be the first in regional communities to benefit from the Queensland Government's innovative Ageing in Place initiative.

The project is about caring for people as they enter their senior years by providing suitable housing options to enable them to stay in their towns and close to family and friends.

With the support of regional councils, the \$2.4 million pilot project will deliver three, two-bedroom homes

for seniors in each town as part of the state's vision to create safe, caring and connected communities.

The low-set homes will feature wide hallways and doorways to accommodate wheelchairs, kitchen benches set at different heights, personal safety switches for emergency care and reinforced bathrooms with handrails.

New technology, such as solar panels and storage batteries, will also be included to make the homes more energy and water efficient. Construction is expected to commence in late 2016, with the homes scheduled for completion by mid-2017.

To find out more visit www.dilgp.qld.gov.au/aip



Progress on Accelerated Works Program

Twenty-one job-creating infrastructure projects in northern Queensland, worth \$144.6 million, have been accelerated as part of the Department of Transport and Main Roads' contribution to the Queensland Government's \$443 million Accelerated Works Program (AWP).

The program supports local economies to sustain and maintain employment opportunities in regional areas that are experiencing subdued economic conditions.

The bulk of these jobs are in the Townsville, Mackay and Cairns regions. In the greater Townsville region, 14 infrastructure projects valued at \$86.4 million have been brought forward. This will have a flow-on benefit of 269 jobs, including 87 in Mackay and seven in Cairns. These jobs provide significant opportunities that would have otherwise not been available.

In addition to the economic and employment support provided to regional towns, the AWP is also delivering much needed safety improvements to the road network. This includes road upgrades, overtaking lanes, intersection upgrades, road widening and strengthening, wide centre-line treatments and construction of a heavy vehicle decoupling facility.



SEQ in world-first mosquito trial

Residents in the Metro South Hospital and Health Service area will soon be invited to become Zika mosquito seekers in a new world-first research trial.

The Queensland Government has partnered with Brisbane City Council to develop a new process for trapping, collecting and analysing mosquito eggs in a domestic environment. The new methodology means researchers can now rapidly detect DNA from one Zika virus-spreading mosquito egg in a sample of 5000—meaning eggs from many properties can be processed quickly in a single diagnostic test.

Residents participating in the study will be provided with a mosquito egg collection kit to collect domestic mosquitoes and return to Queensland Health for DNA analysis.

Getting the Queensland community involved will help to identify mosquitoes carrying the Zika virus more quickly and efficiently, and provide a better chance to control both the mosquito and the spread of the Zika virus.

For more information visit www.metrosouth.health.qld.gov.au

SCHOOLIES BE SAFE AND WATCH YOUR MATES

Working towards a safe 2016 Schoolies

Government, community and industry groups are working hard to create a safe haven for up to 30,000 students expected to attend Schoolies this year.

The Safer Schoolies initiative provides safety and support services at popular Schoolies destinations in Queensland.

Police, emergency services, security, volunteers and officials will maintain a highly visible presence, providing Year 12 school leavers with general support, as well as referral to extra support services if they need it.

Parents looking for up-to-date information across the Schoolies period should follow us on Facebook @SchooliesInfoForParents and encourage your teenager to follow @SchooliesGC.

To find out more visit www.schoolies.qld.gov.au

Love your pets. Keep them safe this summer.

Just like people, your pets will feel the heat this summer, so it's important you help them through those long hot days.

Make sure they always have access to plenty of fresh, clean water and a cool place to rest. Don't leave animals unattended inside cars and provide matting in the back of utes so they don't burn their feet.

Ensure that bird cages and fish tanks are kept in the shade with free air flow.

If you are going on holidays don't leave your pet unattended and keep your cat or dog's microchip details up-to-date so they can be returned to you if they become lost.



For more handy tips on keeping your pets safe this summer visit www.daf.qld.gov.au

New world-class sport venues now open

New venues for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (GC2018) are open for business more than 12 months ahead of the Games and plenty of local communities are taking advantage of the new facilities.

The \$40 million Coomera Indoor Sports Centre, which will host the GC2018 gymnastics competition and netball finals, opened in August this year.

The new \$59 million Anna Meares Velodrome, officially opened in November, boasts an international competition standard 250-metre timber cycling track that's designed to attract elite training squads and national and international cycling events to Queensland.

Beyond GC2018, Queenslanders will have a range of world-class facilities to undertake training, competition and recreational activities thanks to the government's investment in permanent sport and community infrastructure.



For more information on the Commonwealth Games visit www.gc2018.com

Make No.2 your No.1 priority

Fact: if you're over the age of 50 your risk of bowel cancer increases. The good news is, if bowel cancer is detected early, treatment has up to a 90 per cent success rate.

In an effort to promote awareness of bowel screening and drive greater participation in the screening program, the Queensland Government has recently launched its *Make No.2 your No.1* priority campaign.

The campaign features Australian comedian and actor Shane Jacobson shamelessly using humour to encourage everyone over the age of 50 to take the time to use the free bowel cancer screening kit.

So once you hit 50, look out for the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program's free bowel cancer screening kit in the mail and *Make No.2 your No.1* priority.



To find out more and check when you can expect your kit visit www.qld.gov.au/bowelscreen

Anzac Centenary community grants

Would you like to commemorate the centenary of the First World War in your community?

Funding is now available for not-for-profit organisations based in Queensland looking to develop a commemorative project. Up to \$20,000 is available through the Spirit of Service grants program.

From historical research projects to the preservation of artefacts, this is a great opportunity for Queenslanders to acknowledge the outstanding service of our servicemen and women throughout the last century.

To date, the Queensland Government has proudly supported more than 180 community projects and events with around \$4 million in funding.

For eligibility criteria and to apply for a Spirit of Service grant visit www.qld.gov.au/anzac100



Biosecurity Queensland is taking the sting out of summer

Biosecurity Queensland is conducting fire ant bait treatment in high-risk areas across South East Queensland, with key risk areas receiving two or three rounds of bait treatment between September 2016 and May 2017.

If you live or work in the treatment area you will receive—or will have already received—notification that the fire ant program may require access to your property to spread fire ant bait over lawns, garden beds and open areas. The bait used is targeted to fire ants and is harmless to people and pets.

By working together we have the best chance of eradicating this terrible invasive ant species.



To find out if your suburb is in the treatment program area, to report fire ants or for more information visit www.daf.qld.gov.au/fireants or call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

Reconciliation payments for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people

The Queensland Government's Stolen Wages Reparations Scheme is well underway, with \$6 million in reparations payments made to more than 3000 eligible Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people from Queensland who had their wages controlled by previous state governments.

Reparations payments are being made as part of a reconciliation effort to acknowledge the past injustices experienced by Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people whose wages and savings were controlled under the 'Protection Acts'. Indigenous Queenslanders who believe their wages were controlled under the Acts are urged to come forward, to determine if they are eligible for a reparations payment.

Applications close 16 December 2016. To make a claim call 1800 619 505 or visit www.qld.gov.au/reparations

To read this newsletter online, or for more information on any of the articles, visit www.qld.gov.au/newsletter

Authorised by the Queensland Government, George Street, Brisbane.

Masthead photograph: Ben Vos. Other images accredited to Shutterstock, Ben Vos Productions, Transport and Main Roads, Queensland Museum (World Science Festival Brisbane), GOMA, Department of Education and Training.

Creating safer school communities



Every year in Queensland, around 150 people—mostly parents—are excluded from school grounds for threatening behaviour towards school staff.

Teachers, school leaders and support staff have the esteemed role of educating and caring for students and should not need to deal with verbal or physical abuse as part of that job.

To stamp out abusive and violent behaviour towards school staff, the Queensland Government has launched the Respect our staff, respect our school campaign that aims to create safer school communities in Queensland.

We all have a role to play in making learning and working environments safe for all students and educators, and everyone deserves to be treated with respect.

For more information visit education.qld.gov.au/respectourstaff

Calling all star weavers

Queenslanders have a unique opportunity to be a part of Commonwealth Games history and join the international movement to end all forms of violence by participating in the One Million Stars to End Violence project.

Queensland artist Maryann Talia Pau created the One Million Stars project in response to her observation of the escalating occurrence of violence in Australia.

The Queensland Government has partnered with Maryann to raise awareness and connect communities across the Commonwealth through star weaving.

Each star is a symbol of light, courage and solidarity and is woven as a statement



For more information visit www.embracing2018.com.au

to end violence. The aim is to have one million stars woven by July 2017 to feature in a massive installation at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

You can become a star weaver today. Host a Star Weave Jam with friends, family, neighbours or colleagues and start weaving.

World Science Festival 2017

Thousands of curious minds will descend on Brisbane for the return of the hugely popular World Science Festival from 22–26 March 2017.

Hosted by the Queensland Museum, the 2017 World Science Festival Brisbane will draw scientific luminaries from across the globe to headline performances, debates and scientific demonstrations across a series of free and ticketed events. Innovators from across the scientific spectrum will share their knowledge during the four-day festival in a jam-packed program focusing on four central themes of physics and space, oceans, energy and robotics.

The inaugural Brisbane festival was a great success, attracting more than 120,360 attendees in March 2016 and injecting \$5.1 million into the Queensland economy. Be part of something big as science moves from the labs to the streets of South Bank in 2017.



Visit www.worldsciencefestival.com.au for a full program of events and to purchase tickets.



Building Queensland innovation—region by region

The Queensland Government is working with educators, business, industry and government across the state to help shape the way we ignite and grow innovation, build economies and support job development in rural and regional Queensland.

The Advancing Regional Innovation program, under the government's Advance Queensland initiative, will support innovation by connecting local people and organisations, leveraging off the unique strengths of each of our regions and helping innovative local businesses to grow.

Recently, the Queensland Government consulted with regional communities to help shape the design of the program, using local people to develop local and regionally-focused solutions.

Looking forward, the program aims to fund collaboration projects that will support and build thriving regional ecosystems, including small-to-medium enterprises and technology startups.

For more information visit advance.qld.gov.au/regionalinnovation

Queensland Mental Health Ambassador

Lisbeth 'Libby' Trickett has one of the most recognisable smiles in Australia, but at various times in her life it has masked unbearable pain; pain which has no visible scars.



Like so many Queenslanders, the former darling of Australian swimming has experienced mental health issues first-hand, suffering depression after she stepped away from the pool in 2010.

Today she's sharing her experiences and shedding light on the issue by becoming a Queensland Government ambassador for mental health in the workplace.

She joins other high profile sports stars Shane Webcke and Trevor Gillmeister promoting work health and safety to Queenslanders.

Trickett will share her own painful experience as she works with industry and the community to highlight the importance of mental health at work.

To read more about this important initiative visit www.worksafe.qld.gov.au