



FEDERAL ELECTION **ADVOCACY PRIORITIES** **2021/2022**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Rockhampton Regional Council would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians within our Region, the Darumbal People, the Gaangulu 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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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Tony Williams
Mayor



The bustle of our country's capital can feel a world away from us here in Rockhampton, but I promise you it isn't.

Ours is still a country that is built on the backbone of its regions, and we are proudly one of those regions.

There are two federal seats that fall within the borders of our local government area and the people our region elects to these seats are not just leaders in our community, they are our voice in Canberra and they are there to fight for us. It's right there in the job titles: 'Member for Capricornia', 'Member for Flynn'.

The priorities in this document need strong voices. These are projects that will meet the critical needs of our community and ensure that we can grow.

There is work in our region that needs to happen. We have a town that has run out of water and essential, catalyst infrastructure that needs to be delivered. We have a theatre precinct ready to raise our cultural profile if we can first raise the funding for a business case and design. And we can support our Central Queensland farmers with projects that are, at the end of the day, shade and a bridge.

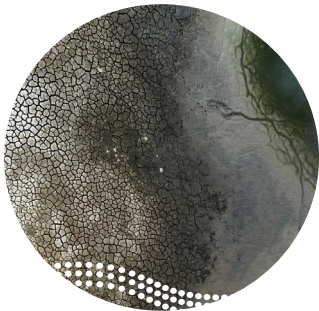
We need voices who will continue to fight for jobs and growth. Leaders who will help unlock tens of thousands of hectares of agricultural land through raising Eden Bann Weir. Advocates who will see the opportunities that a new apron at the Airport can bring not just to us, but to the whole of Central Queensland.

What we are interested in is working together to enhance our community, to deliver social infrastructure so that our children see the region as a place to stay because they have the opportunities and they have the lifestyle, whether that is in an aquatic centre for Mount Morgan or the redevelopment of our botanic gardens and zoo.

In this booklet are the projects we are asking candidates to commit to. They are the projects that our community needs, and that will help us grow and reach our full potential.

PRIORITIES 2021/22

Rockhampton Regional Council's full list of endorsed federal election priorities include:



Mount Morgan
Water Security



Rockhampton Airport
Bay 7 and Freight Hub



Glenroy Road Corridor
Upgrades



Eden Bann Weir Raising



Botanic Gardens and
Zoo Redevelopment



Performing Arts and
Convention Centre



Gracemere Saleyards
Upgrades



North Rockhampton
Sewage Treatment Plan



Mount Morgan Aquatic
Centre



Sporting Precinct



Showgrounds
Redevelopment

OUR REGION at a glance



INDUSTRY

\$4.83 billion
Gross Regional Product



Beef Capital
2.6 million head of cattle
in the Fitzroy Region



ROCKHAMPTON REGIONAL COUNCIL



Owens and operates

- **Rockhampton Airport**
- **Rockhampton Zoo and Botanic Gardens**
- **Pilbeam Theatre and Rockhampton Museum of Art**

EVENTS

- **30+ annual events** organised or supported by Council
- Over \$6 million boost to local economy in 2019 through five major events



82,790

POPULATION

(ABS ERP 2019)
Average age: 36

By Population Centre

- Rockhampton Southside 16,886
- Rockhampton Northside 43,887
- Gracemere 12,379
- Mount Morgan 2,931
- Rural Suburbs 6,707

EMPLOYMENT

- 13.8% Healthcare & social assistance
- 11.1% Retail
- 8.6% Education and training
- 8.2% Manufacturing
- 6.6% Public administration & safety
- 4.1% Mining

Source: ABS 2016 Census

SERVICES



Hospitals:
1 public | 2 private
500+ beds



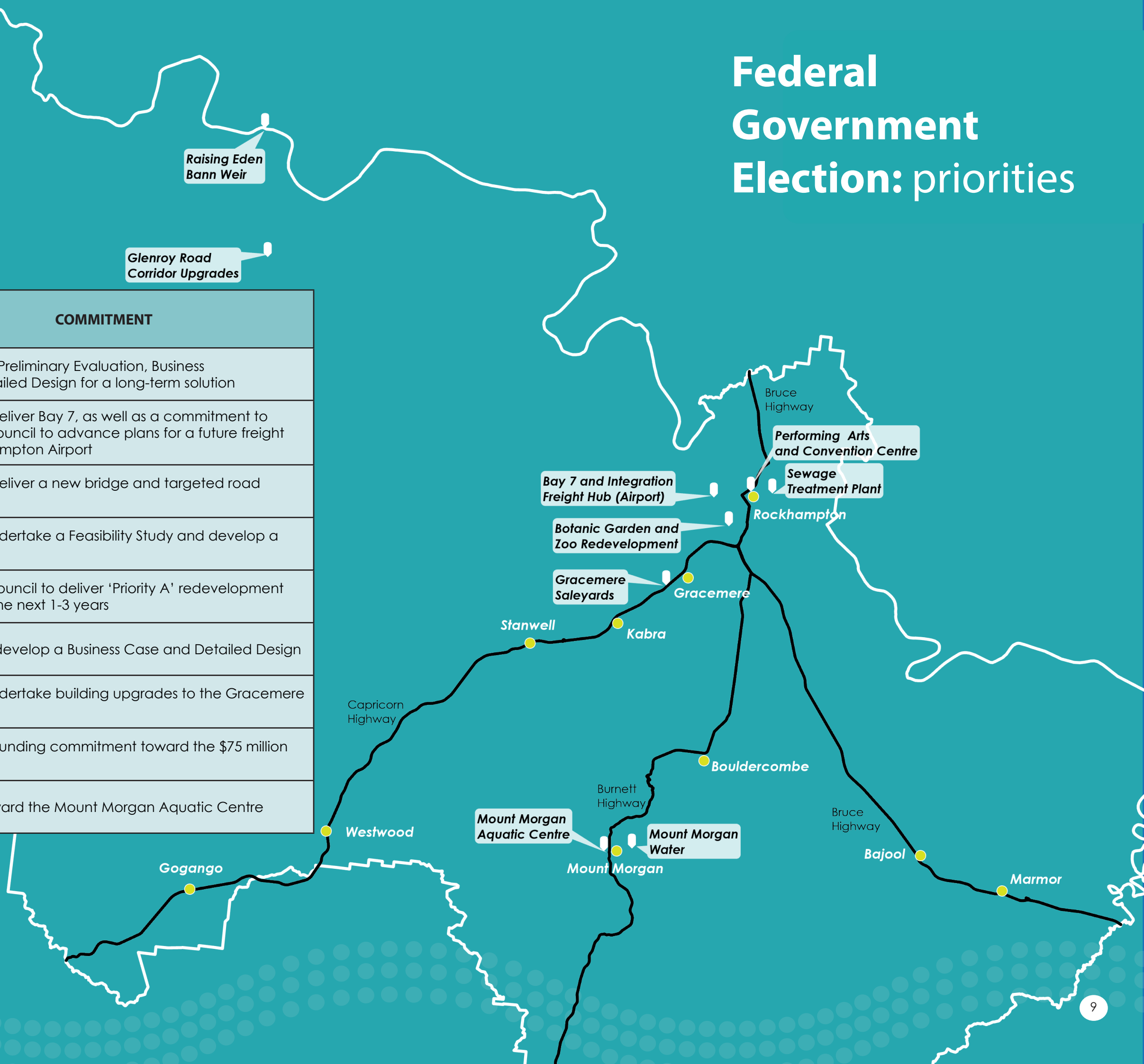
Retail outlets:
1300+

Primary schools:
22 public | 11 private
Secondary schools:
4 public | 7 private

Central Queensland University:
Two campuses
300+ education options

Federal Government Election: priorities

PROJECT	COMMITMENT
Mount Morgan Water Security	\$3.5 million for Preliminary Evaluation, Business Case and Detailed Design for a long-term solution
Rockhampton Airport - Bay 7 and Freight Hub	\$10 million to deliver Bay 7, as well as a commitment to partner with Council to advance plans for a future freight hub at Rockhampton Airport
Glenroy Road Corridor Upgrades	\$24 million to deliver a new bridge and targeted road improvements
Eden Bann Weir Raising	\$5 million to undertake a Feasibility Study and develop a Business Case
Botanic Gardens and Zoo Redevelopment	To work with Council to deliver 'Priority A' redevelopment projects over the next 1-3 years
Rockhampton Performing Arts and Convention Centre	\$3.5 million to develop a Business Case and Detailed Design
Gracemere Saleyards	\$5 million to undertake building upgrades to the Gracemere Saleyards
North Rockhampton Sewage Treatment Plant	\$25 million co-funding commitment toward the \$75 million project
Mount Morgan Aquatic Centre	\$5.5 million toward the Mount Morgan Aquatic Centre



MOUNT MORGAN WATER SECURITY

Photo from No 7 Dam Mount Morgan



Providing water security for a community in drought.

In April 2021 Mount Morgan's town water supply ran dry.

Since then Council has been sending 30 to 40 trucks of water to the town each day. This comes at a cost of up to \$11,000 a day, adding up to more than \$2.5 million in just six months. At the moment Council is shouldering the entire cost.

The already waterwise community has been living on Level 6 restrictions - the highest level - since March. While residents are doing their part to make water last, trucking it in and hoping for rain just isn't a sustainable solution.

Mount Morgan has been drought declared for years. This is not the first time we have faced major water security concerns for the town, and without a solution it won't be the last. Council first committed to delivering water security nearly 7 years ago, but we can't do it alone.

Council has engaged global infrastructure firm AECOM to deliver the Business Case for a long term solution, and we are seeking government support in order to take the best option through to Detailed Design.

Mount Morgan needs a permanent, safe, and secure water supply. We need help from other levels of government to deliver this.

ELECTION COMMITMENT

\$3.5 million

For Preliminary Evaluation, Business Case and Detailed Design for a long-term solution.

ROCKHAMPTON AIRPORT BAY 7 AND FREIGHT HUB

Enhancing one of our biggest strengths.

Rockhampton Airport is the hub of Central Queensland's future and each spoke is another area for us to grow.

It is where soldiers from around the world put boots to tarmac and where opportunity awaits for world-class produce to fly from paddock to plate. It's a lifeline for rural communities in the heart of Queensland which brings them into reach of better healthcare and better jobs. It bridges the outback to the ocean and stands as the gateway to both the Galilee Basin and the Southern Great Barrier Reef. And, perhaps most importantly, it is where our emergency services will gather themselves and ready their aircraft the next time our region stares down a bushfire season.

A new apron (Bay 7) and integrated freight hub will unlock growth for all of Central Queensland. It will mean more access, more capacity, and more opportunities for agriculture. These projects will:

- Accommodate current and future FIFO operations and commercial charters;
- Accommodate future agricultural growth leveraging Federal Government investment in Rookwood Weir;
- Connect Rockhampton to agriculture and export supply chains;
- Allow more, and bigger, defence aircraft to land during exercises without disrupting passenger services;
- Supplement access to the Alliance MRO facility, ensuring unconstrained operations;
- Enable efficient emergency and disaster responses by providing basing, refuelling and provisioning of response teams; and
- Align with the Developing Northern Australia Agenda

Detailed design and tender documentation has been completed for Bay 7 and the project is shovel ready.

The benefits Bay 7 will deliver include:



\$13.95 million
annual local
economic impact



Support 39
local jobs and
81 nationally



Add \$5.04 million
direct value locally
and \$10.31 million
nationally

The benefits the integrated freight hub will deliver include:



\$15.91 million
annual local
economic impact



Support 48
local jobs and
90 nationally

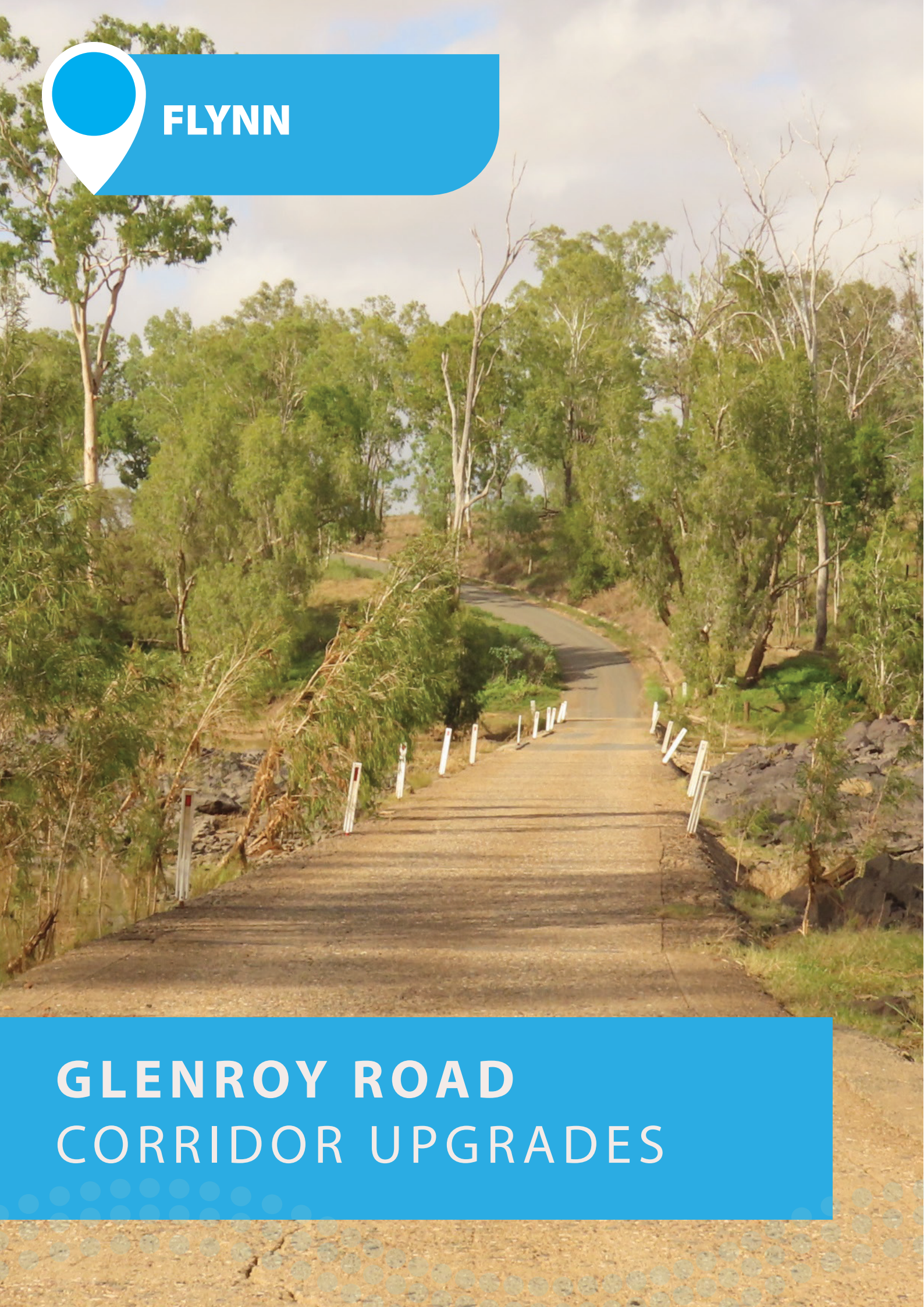


\$3.08 million direct
value added locally
and \$9.25 million
nationally

ELECTION COMMITMENT

\$10 million

To deliver Bay 7, as well as a commitment to partner with Council to advance plans for a future freight hub at Rockhampton Airport.



GLENROY ROAD CORRIDOR UPGRADES

Unlocking more opportunities for agriculture.

A new bridge at Glenroy Crossing and the upgrading of Glenroy Road will improve safety and resilience, boost productivity, enhance accessibility and promote investment in agricultural development.

Land on the western side of the Fitzroy River is ideally suited to access irrigation allocations made possible through the construction of Rookwood Weir, a project which attracted \$183.6 million in federal funding. This land is currently accessed through a low-level crossing of the Fitzroy River, which is closed for an average of 12 days per annum due to flooding, and can be closed for prolonged periods of up to six weeks.

The proposed project will construct a new bridge with flood immunity of two years Average Recurrence Interval, and make improvements to Glenroy Road.

The upgrades will improve flood immunity, increase road safety and reduce travel time for existing and future heavy vehicle movements, as well as support agricultural development within the Rockhampton Region and deliver economic benefits and jobs at a Local, State and Federal level.

The Glenroy Road Corridor Upgrades will build upon the prior investments by the Federal Government and Council in this corridor and support the significant Federal Government investments in Rookwood Weir and the Rockhampton Ring Road.

An improved Glenroy Crossing will:

- Facilitate intensive agricultural development and economic growth associated with Rookwood Weir;
- Connect an existing and developing agricultural area to the State Highways, the Rockhampton Airport, Gladstone Ports and transport hubs within the Gracemere and Parkhurst Industrial Areas;
- Accommodate future raising of Eden Bann Weir if and when that were to occur;
- Improve access during natural disasters and emergencies;
- Reduce maintenance and repair costs following regular and extended flooding of the existing low level crossing;
- Deliver substantial social and economic benefits including opportunities for greater regional employment and business growth; and
- Improve the standard and safety of access to rural properties north and west of the river.



\$25 million
annual local
economic impact



Support 50
local jobs and
202 nationally

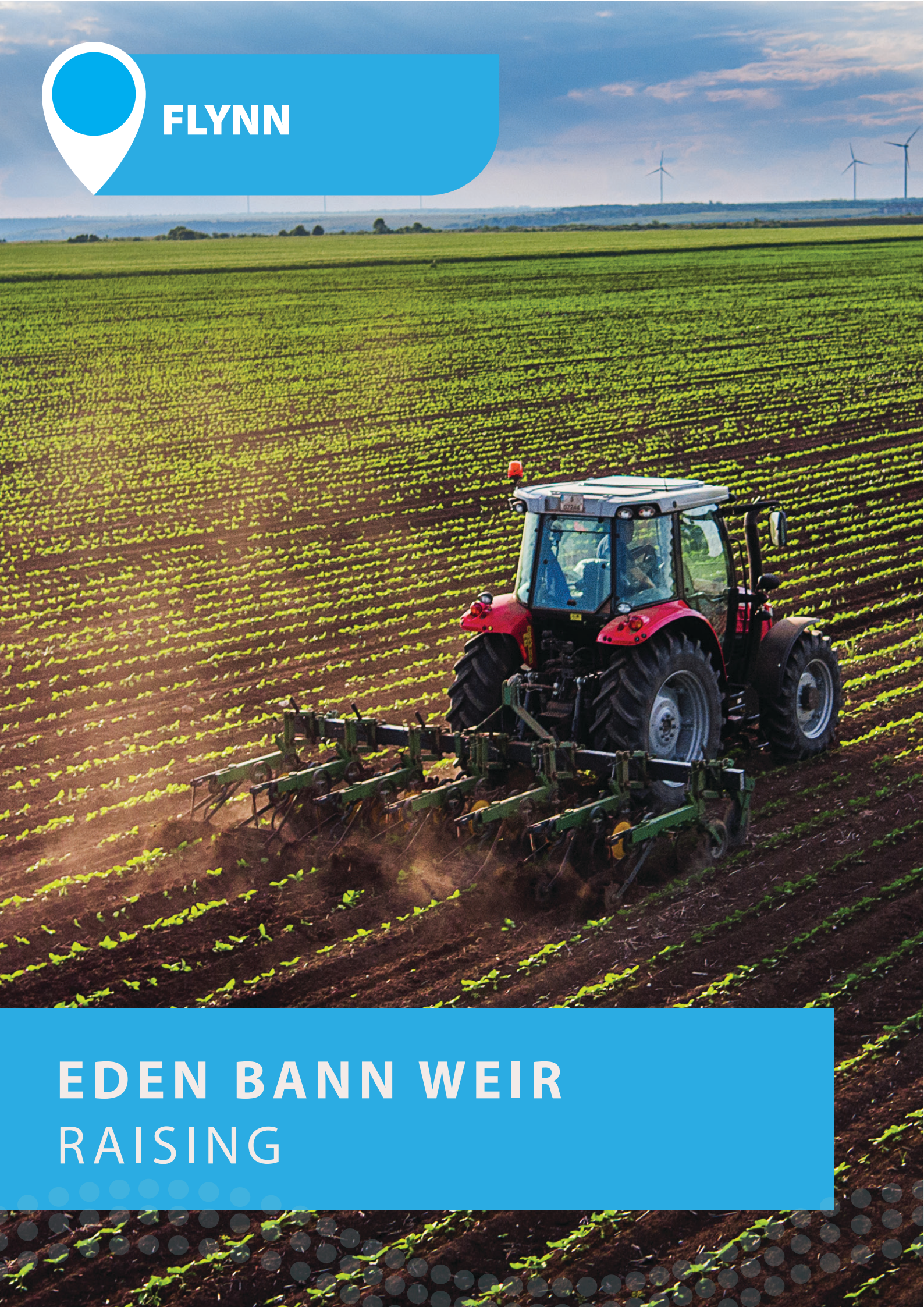


\$12.6 million
annual local
economic impact

ELECTION COMMITMENT

\$24 million

To deliver a new bridge and targeted road improvements.



EDEN BANN WEIR RAISING

Meeting proven agricultural demand for water.

Raising Eden Bann Weir will help unlock the full potential of Central Queensland’s agricultural sector and support long-term water supply for the industrial and urban water needs of the region, and there are already approvals in place for the project.

The market demand for bulk agricultural water supply was shown when demand outstripped supply for the first stage of water sales from Rookwood Weir.

Raising the Eden Bann Weir would provide an additional yield of around 35,000 megaliters per annum.

This would:

- Supplement the urban water security;
- Increase agricultural water supply;
- Assist meeting industrial needs of the Region;
- Support population growth;
- Meet the immediate and future demands for water;
- Underpin future development of the wider region and Northern Australia;
- Provide further jobs on farm and downstream in food manufacturing; and
- Enable agricultural production for export (noting that approx. 80% of local production is exported).

The benefits of raising Eden Bann Weir could include:



Total impact on
local economy
up to \$266 million



Up to 400 local
jobs during
construction



Increase in national
employment by up
to 1514 jobs

Ongoing benefits could include:

- Increase in local direct agricultural impact by up to \$105M pa;
- Increase in local indirect industrial output economic output by up to \$25M pa;
- Increase in local indirect consumption impact by up to \$16M pa;
- Increase in local direct employment by up to 1,120 jobs pa;
- Increase in local indirect industrial employment by up to 172 jobs pa;
- Increase in national value-add of between by up to \$125M pa; and
- Increase in national employment (direct & indirect) of between by up to 1,970 jobs pa.

ELECTION COMMITMENT

\$5 million

To undertake a Feasibility Study and develop a Business Case.



BOTANIC GARDENS & ZOO REDEVELOPMENT

Enhancing a beloved tourism attraction.

The redevelopment of the Rockhampton Botanic Gardens & Zoo will culminate in a memorable destination of regional prominence by providing new, exciting and unique experiences in the heart of Central Queensland.

Rockhampton Regional Council is seeking funding for the Rockhampton Botanic Gardens & Zoo to support a multi-million dollar program of redevelopments throughout the next 10 years.

This project will transform the Botanic Gardens into a botanical collection of regional and national significance, with playground areas, new pavilion structures, a new fernery, reinvigorated food and retail offering, and will unlock unexplored areas of the Gardens through strategic botanic curation.

The Zoo will shine as a leader in animal exhibitions, conservation and welfare, and provide exceptional visitor experiences and new animal attractions for the community and non-local visitors to enjoy.

To support the long-term viability of the Rockhampton Botanic Gardens & Zoo, a redevelopment is required that will:

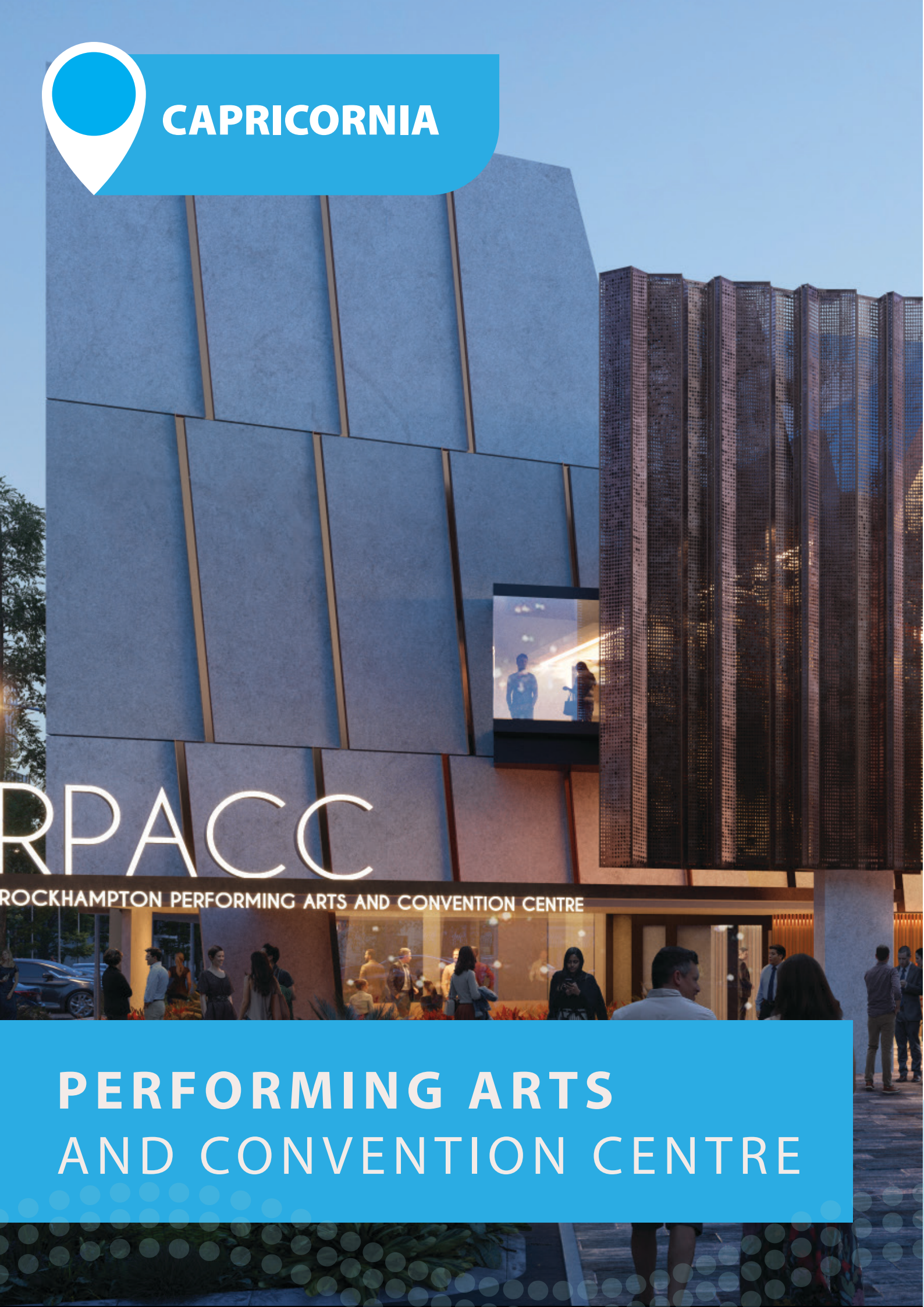
- Develop a consolidated vision for the site;
- Support long-term operations with refurbishment of key infrastructure assets;
- Increase visitation and support an increased length of stay in the region;
- Respect the heritage of the Gardens and ensure continued education for future generations; and
- Increase visitor experience with a focus on interaction.

The first stage of the redevelopment includes four ‘Priority A’ projects to be delivered over the next 1-3 years. These include a new visitor hub and improved playground as well as zoo upgrades.

‘Priority A’ stages of redevelopment	Funding required
Visitor Hub (Stage 1) Partly funded through BBRF (\$1.5M) and Council (\$1.5M)	\$1.9 million remaining
Zoo Operations and Administration Upgrade	\$4.0 million
Zoo Enclosure Program	\$2.9 million
Botanic Gardens Playground Refurbishment Partly funded through Works for Queensland (\$1.4M)	\$1.6 million remaining

ELECTION COMMITMENT

To work with Council to deliver ‘Priority A’ redevelopment projects over the next 1-3 years.



PERFORMING ARTS AND CONVENTION CENTRE

The next chapter in our story.

For more than 40 years, audiences have sat in the red rows of the Pilbeam Theatre and held their breath as the curtains opened. They have watched Peter Allen dance on the theatre's Steinway Grand Piano, attended the Rocky Horror Picture Show in record breaking numbers, and been witness to history when Baz Luhrmann directed a community musical at the age of 23. It has been one of the first stages for young actors and dancers who went on to Hollywood or to theatres across the world - like Alex Russell and Leanne Benjamin. It's where kids find their voice for school eisteddfod and where residents rediscover old passions.


The Pilbeam Theatre is important to our community. It's the place we go to hear music and tell stories - stories about the world and stories about ourselves. But, it's beginning to show its age.

Our vision for the Pilbeam Theatre redevelopment is to provide a modern, accessible performing arts centre for Central Queensland. It will offer exposure to new, challenging and thought provoking experiences as well as celebrate and acknowledge the enduring cultural history of performing arts in Central Queensland.

The redeveloped Performing Arts and Convention Centre will provide a state of the art facility with a series of indoor and outdoor spaces that will accomodate everything from touring shows and conventions to informal meetings, as well as a rehearsal space and a 1050 seat theatre.

Our vision is underpinned by three key principles:

1. Focus on regional Queensland development:
Providing Central Queensland with a modern contemporary performing arts centre to keep pace with growth across the region, whilst enhancing and promoting the liveability of Central Queensland communities.
2. Focus on supporting performing arts, cultural development and history:
Cultivating Central Queensland's burgeoning arts and cultural life through the catalytic redevelopment of Central Queensland's premier performing arts venue.
3. Focus on redevelopment of aged community and social infrastructure:
Ensuring the continued success of Rockhampton and Central Queensland's rich performing arts community through the redevelopment of the Pilbeam Theatre that meets current and future needs and expectations.

 Total impact on the local economy of \$24.2 million

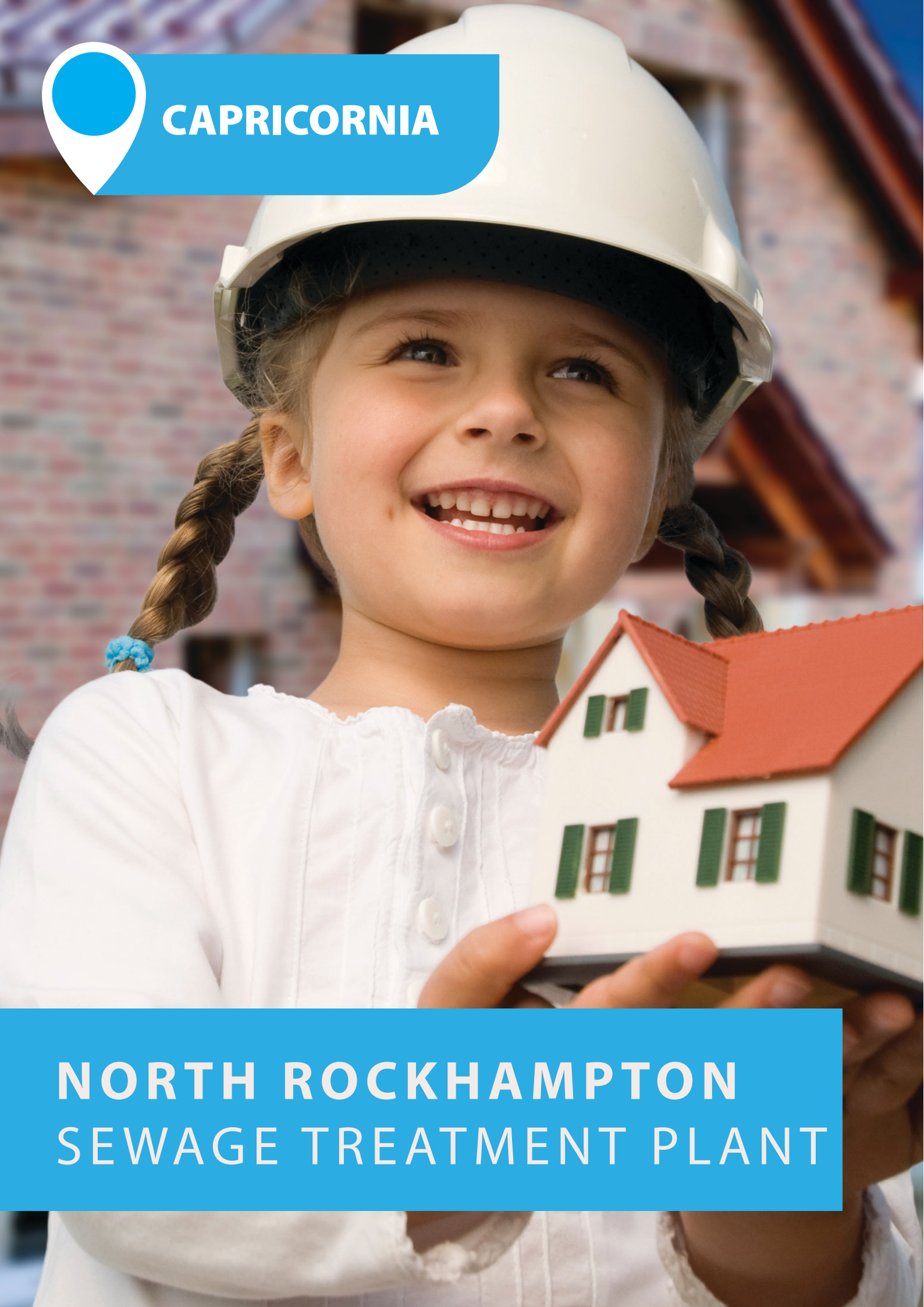
 120 direct and 250 indirect construction jobs

 Increased community access to the arts

ELECTION COMMITMENT

\$3.5 million

To develop a Business Case and Detailed Design



NORTH ROCKHAMPTON
SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

Essential for growth.

The North Rockhampton Sewage Treatment Plant (NRSTP) provides an essential service to 65% of our region’s connected population each day – that’s around 50,000 people.

However, the plant is nearly at capacity, which means our potential for growth is nearly at capacity.

Over the next 15 years our population is expected to grow by 31,000 people - mostly in North Rockhampton.

Without augmenting the NRSTP, we won’t have the essential services to cater for this.

The NRSTP Augmentation will increase the plant’s capacity by 50%, allowing it to service roughly 4,600 new households. The current infrastructure is also in need of extensive upgrades to continue to service current demands and meet environmental obligations.

The construction work on the augmentation alone will create 80 full time jobs, and contribute about \$63 million directly to the local economy.

But, the impact is far greater than that. More capacity means more investment, more development, and more jobs. That growth is expected to create 456 direct jobs within our region, and contribute \$121 million toward the local economy annually.

The upgrades that are planned as part of this project will also mean that we’re more efficient at treating waste, and that we can do it better.

It’s good for the region, good for the environment, and good for jobs.

Benefits of the augmentation alone include:



Meet demand now and in the future



Support 456 ongoing jobs



\$121 million annual local economic impact



Needed to allow for growth



Service 4,600 new residential lots



Better environmental outcomes

ELECTION COMMITMENT

\$25 million

Co-funding commitment toward the \$75 million project.

MOUNT MORGAN AQUATIC CENTRE

Renewing an essential community asset.

The Mount Morgan Pool serves a critical role, providing a range of health, social and community benefits. It's the only community pool within a 25km radius, serving not just Mount Morgan but also surrounding communities. It's where four schools hold their carnivals, where residents attend water aerobics, and where kids learn to swim.

However, the pool is considered beyond end of life. It has had many leaks over the years, losing large amounts of water each day. It has cracking tiles, non-compliant disabled access, non-compliant steps, and failing equipment.

Our vision is to provide the Mount Morgan community and the wider region with a contemporary aquatic centre that meets the needs of the community now and in the years to come.

The new Mount Morgan Aquatic Centre will include:

- A new 25 metre, eight-lane pool;
- The old pool will be filled in and converted to a shelter;
- A new entry building with a kiosk and accessible amenities;
- The current toddler splash pool will remain;
- Installation of water tanks and irrigation;
- A new pump house to service the whole centre; and
- Installation of sheltered seating and barbecues.

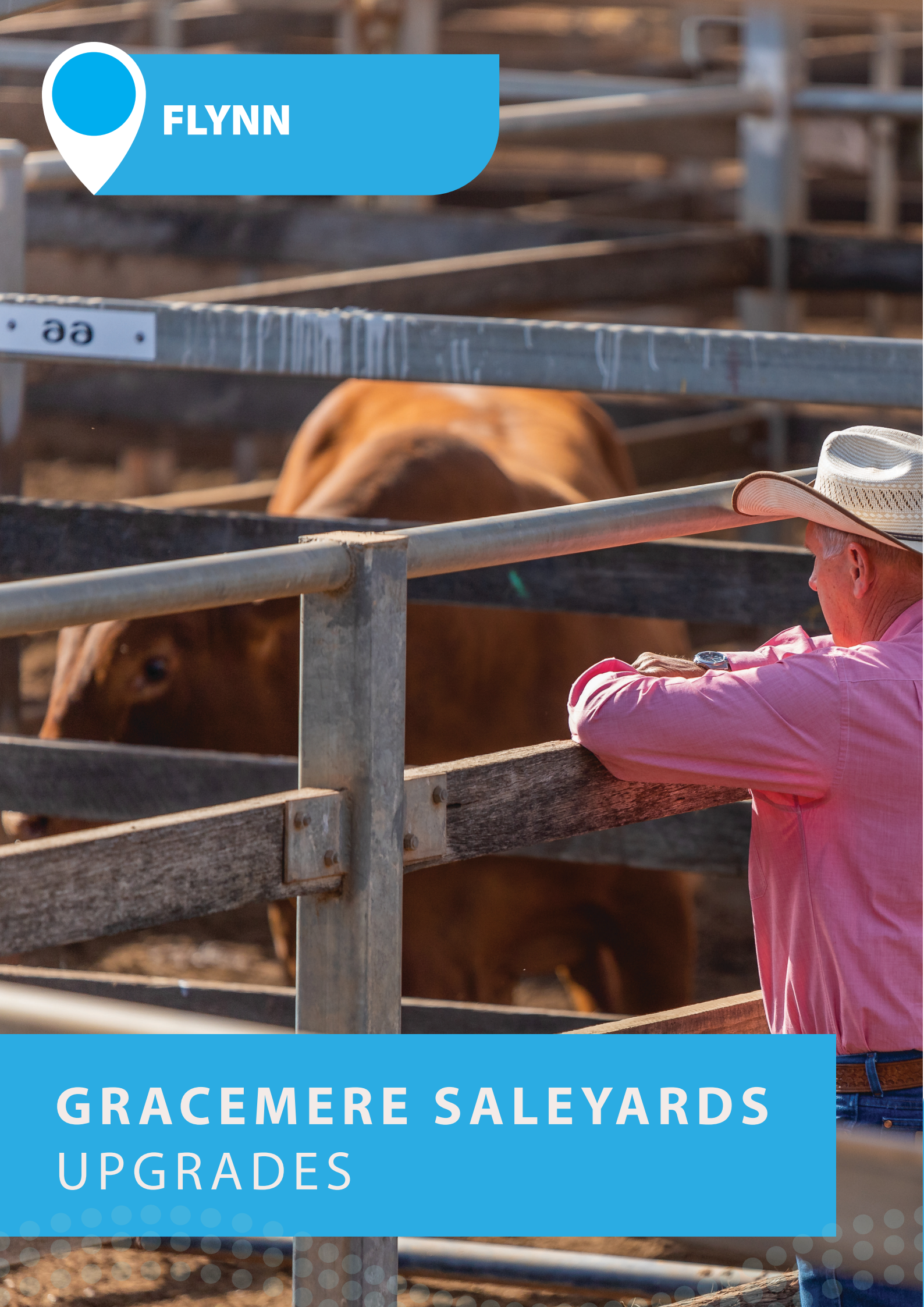
The redeveloped Aquatic Centre will be an integrated facility for health, sport and recreation and will:

- Allow seasonal community access and use of the facility for leisure, sport, health and fitness;
- Provide the facilities for competitive opportunities to allow athletes and coaches to realise their full potential;
- Create a modern and energy efficient swimming pool complex with flexible aquatic recreation spaces;
- Provide a high level of safety, comfort and ease of use for all people including people with disabilities and learn to swim beginners;
- Increase flexibility in providing aquatic and health programs to the community;
- Be energy efficient in both use of materials and environmental performance; and
- Make swimming an attractive and accessible sport in the region and provide health benefits through increase in physical aquatic activity and participation.

ELECTION COMMITMENT

\$5.5 million

Toward the Mount Morgan Aquatic Centre.



GRACEMERE SALEYARDS UPGRADES

Supporting cattle farmers in the Beef Capital.

The Gracemere Saleyards is one of the largest livestock exchange facilities in Queensland. It supports hundreds of cattle farmers, with 120,000 cattle sold here annually. It's regarded as one of the best centres for stud cattle sales in Australia.

There have been significant upgrades recently, with \$12 million in upgrades already taking place to enhance the reputation of this facility.

The next phase in the Gracemere Saleyards upgrade will cost approximately \$5 million, and will provide:

- A new selling area roof;
- Safety improvements;
- Animal welfare improvements; and
- An improved user experience.

Roofing the Saleyards is expected to improve efficiency and increase sales capacity to 130,000 cattle per year. Improvements will also mean better animal welfare, and may mean a higher price for sellers.

The upgrades included in this project will provide:

- Increased turnover for beef producers;
- Better infrastructure for hundreds of local cattle farmers;
- More opportunities for employment;
- Reduced shrinkage of cattle;
- Increase in site reputation;
- Capacity for more uses including equine sales;
- Better risk management for stud sales and rain events;
- Ability to harvest clean, reusable water;
- Ability to install large scale solar for clean energy production;
- Better fatigue and heat management; and
- Improved animal welfare.

The Gracemere Saleyards is owned by Rockhampton Regional Council and operated by Rural Livestock Exchanges through its CQLX subsidiary.

ELECTION COMMITMENT

\$5 million

To undertake roofing and animal welfare improvements to the Gracemere Saleyards.

