OUR REGIONAL PRIORITY PROJECTS

16 YEARS IN REVIEW

1st July 2026 marked the 16th Anniversary of Capricorn Tourism and Economic Development Ltd (trading as Capricorn Enterprise).

When Capricorn Enterprise was formed on 1st July 2010, a collaborative list of Regional Priority Projects was agreed upon with the then amalgamated Rockhampton Regional Council (RRC), CQUniversity and major industry and business partners. As major public and private sector developments were achieved over time and the Livingstone Shire (Capricorn Coast) Council separated from RRC in January 2014, the Regional Priority Projects list was updated to reflect specific needs of the two LGA areas, while retaining our strong regional focus.

On behalf of our business and industry partners, Capricorn Enterprise has consistently and collaboratively advocated for these Regional Priority Projects alongside our elected Local, State and Federal representatives over the past 16 years.

MAJOR PRIVATE SECTOR ACCOMMODATION INVESTMENT

Capricorn Enterprise has actively championed major private sector accommodation developments to meet the region's growing demand for 4.5-star and Island accommodation, as identified in successive Capricorn Destination Tourism Plans. Notably, Oshen Yeppoon's approval was delayed by a year due to former State government "Iconic Places Legislation" — a policy successfully repealed in Queensland in June 2011 following joint advocacy by Capricorn Enterprise and Local Government.

- Quest Rockhampton – opened September 2013
- Oshen Yeppoon – opened April 2014
- Great Keppel Island Hideaway – since July 2014
- Empire Apartment Hotel, Rockhampton – opened January 2015
- Kortes Resort, Rockhampton (now Quality Resort Parkhurst)– opened 2015
- Salt Yeppoon – opened February 2016

TO MEET CURRENT AND FUTURE DEMAND by 2032, our region requires 1,219 additional short stay accommodation rooms and 8,228 additional monthly airline seats. Additional information is outlined in our *Capricorn Destination Tourism Strategy 2024 – 2032.*

2011

- **Capricorn Enterprise joint CQUniversity submission** entitled "Assessing the regional economic impacts of flood interruption to transport corridors in Rockhampton" – August 2011

2012

- Australian/Qld govts 10 Yr Bruce Hwy Action Plan legislated including **Yeppen South Project - 2012**
- **CQUniversity & CQTAFE merger** – Fed govt. December 2012, approved State govt. May 2013

2013

- **Great Keppel Island Revitalisation** Resort Plan (Tower Holdings) - approval March 2013 *(Tower Holdings leases subsequently revoked by State government in April 2023)*
- **Gracemere Overpass** – funding announced 2011, opened May 2013

2014

- **Central Queensland's inclusion in the Northern Australia Plan** – achieved 2014
- **CQUniversity – Qld's first Dual Sector University** – official merger July 2014

2015

- **Bruce Hwy Yeppen South Project** incl. 1.6km bridge crossing (south Rockhampton) – completed 2015
- **Australia-Singapore Military Training Initiative** (ASMTI) - $1 Billion investment at Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area (SWBMTA) - announced 2015
- Supporting Major Regional Events (**BEEF AUSTRALIA** federal funding $2.4M under threat - secured 2015) *Beef Australia 2027 has federal funding commitment of $12 Million.*
- **CQUniversity Allied Health Stage 2** Rockhampton campus – opened July 2015
- **Gracemere Industry Park "The BIG G"** stage 1 opened August 2015
- **Upgrade Rockhampton Regional Airport** – 2015 and ongoing

2016

2017

- **Panorama Drive (Northern Strategic Link Road) –** completed 2017
- **Great Keppel Island -** $25 Million announced for undersea water/power – announced 2017 *(eventually amended to provide "on island" common user infrastructure – delivered in 2025)*

2018

- **Rockhampton Riverfront Redevelopment –** completed March 2018
- **Yeppoon Foreshore Redevelopment** incl. Yeppoon Lagoon – completed May 2018
- **Rockhampton Ring Road** - $1 Billion committed November 2018
- **Surf Lakes Yeppoon prototype** – commenced October 2018

2019

2020

- **Homemaker Centre Stage 1, Yeppoon** (developed by Gibb Group) – opened February 2020
- **Implementation of Capricorn Destination Tourism Plan 2014-2020**

2021

2022

- **Surf Lakes Yeppoon Development Application** - approved January 2022

2023

- **Rockhampton Ring Road –** construction commenced November 2023
- **Rookwood Weir –** completed November 2023

2024

- **•Keppel Bay Conference Centre and Sporting Hub** – completed November 2024
- **ASMTI at Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area** - officially opened November 2024
- **CQUniversity – Qld's first Dual Sector University** – 10 year Anniversary July 2024
- **Implementation of Capricorn Destination Tourism Plan 2021 – 2024**
- **Great Keppel Island (Wop-pa) Master Plan –** completed April 2024

2025

- **Stage two TAFE Centre of Excellence** at CQUniversity northside campus – State govt. funding announced 2025
- **New Health Sciences Academy** (students Yrs 10-12) Rockhampton - funding confirmed March (Federal govt.) and June (State govt.) 2025

2026

- **Great Keppel Island** - Livingstone Shire Council on behalf of State Gov delivered $25M infrastructure (Wastewater Treatment Plant, Wayfinding signage and Arrivals Plaza)
- **East West Connector -** Livingstone Shire Council commenced delivery of Stage 1