



Regional  
Development  
*Australia*  
CENTRAL AND WESTERN QUEENSLAND

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# REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA

STRATEGIC REGIONAL PLAN





# Who/What is Regional Development Australia?

- National network of 52 federally-funded but independent associations made up of local leaders who work with all levels of government, business and community groups to support the economic development of their regions.
- *Central Queensland RDA called RDA Central and Western Queensland*

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## Primary Objectives

- 1 FACILITATE REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES, INVESTMENT, LOCAL PROCUREMENT, AND JOBS**
- 2 PROMOTE GREATER REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT WITH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT POLICIES, GRANT PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH**
- 3 IMPROVE REGIONAL POLICY MAKING BY PROVIDING INTELLIGENCE AND EVIDENCE-BASED ADVICE TO GOVERNMENT ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES**
- 4 THIS STRATEGIC REGIONAL PLAN ENABLES RDACWQ TO WORK WITH OTHER RDA COMMITTEES, ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO REALISE THE FULL ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF CENTRAL AND WESTERN QUEENSLAND.**



- 453,355 km<sup>2</sup> (26% of QLD). 3 Federal, 7 State, 12 local government areas.
- 236,134 residents (226,090 CQ, 10,044 WQ)
- GRP ~ \$26B (7.2% of QLD's GDP, 4.6% of QLD population)

# Process

- “Red Dust to Reef” success
  - Engaged AEC Group
  - Comprehensive stakeholder meetings (over 50)
- 

# Output

- One document with six region-specific strategic plans:-
- Rocky
- Gladstone
- Livingstone
- Banana
- Central Highlands & Woorabinda
- Western QLD (RAPAD)





# Output

- One document with six region-specific strategic plans focusing on:-
  - An overview of each regions key economic indicators
  - the specialist industries and key growth opportunities in each sub-region





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  - the macro-economic trends shaping the regional economies future

## MAJOR ECONOMIC INFLUENCES

This section explores the primary macro-economic influences that are likely to impact on the economic performance of Central and Western Queensland. Included in each section is an overview of how the Central and Western Queensland region can position itself to maximise the opportunity presented in the global change.

### KEY MACRO-ECONOMIC TRENDS IMPACTING ON THE REGIONAL ECONOMY:



**GLOBAL DECARBONISATION**



**RECOVERING FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**



**DEVELOPING NORTHERN AUSTRALIA**



**DEFENCE AND REGIONAL SECURITY**



**TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE**



**AGEING OF THE REGION'S POPULATION**



**2032 BRISBANE OLYMPICS**

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## HYDROGEN INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

Central Queensland has all the key ingredients for a successful hydrogen industry: large local industrial demand, an established deep water port and nearby high quality renewable energy resources (both wind and solar).

The development of a local hydrogen industry won't just produce hydrogen for exports, but also encourage reinvestment for industrial use in existing metal manufacturing processes, decarbonising local industry.

The region's success in attracting hydrogen component manufacturing also sets the region up for long-term manufacturing jobs.



## NEW ECONOMY MINERALS AND METALS

As demand for new renewable energy technology increases, so too will demand for source minerals and metals.

The Central and Western Queensland regions have considerable deposits of new-economy minerals and metals (such as cobalt, copper, gold, nickel, rare earths and vanadium) that are currently not developed.

If the resources are mined locally, there are also opportunities for local mineral processing and manufacturing.



## SUPPORTING GLOBAL EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS WITH CQ COAL

Australian coal is considered 'best in class' and produces more Specific Energy per kg of coal burnt than thermal coal from other major exporting countries Indonesia, Russia, South Africa and Colombia.

As the world's major emitters move to reduce their emissions profiles over the next 30 years, supplying more of Central Queensland's high quality thermal and metallurgical coal and displacing low quality coal from can deliver a step-change in global emissions.

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  - investment opportunities & Fed and State policy change required for growth

## REQUIREMENTS FOR GROWTH – INFRASTRUCTURE

### FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS INFRASTRUCTURE

- Bruce Highway upgrades:
  - Dual lane from Rocklands to Mount Larcom
  - Dual lane from Benaraby to Miriam Vale
  - Dual lane from Parkhurst to St Lawrence
  - Parkhurst Rail Overpass
- Capricorn Highway upgrades:
  - Dual lane from Gracemere to Gogango
  - Gogango Range Crossing Safety Upgrade
  - Dual lane from Gogango to Emerald
  - Vince Lester Bridge Upgrade
- Inland beef roads – Priority 1:
  - Barcaldine – Aramac – Torrains Creek Road
  - Eyre Development Road (Birdsville to Bedourie)
  - Blackall to Jericho Road
  - Dawson Development Road (Tambo to Springsure)
  - Alpha – Tambo Road
- Inland beef roads – Priority 2:
  - Birdsville Development Road (Birdsville to Windorah)
  - Diamantina Development Road (Bedourie to Windorah)
  - Jundah-Qullpie Road
  - Windorah – Yarka – Emmet – Blackall Road
  - Thompson Development Road (Jundah to Longreach)
  - Fitzroy Development Road (Taroom to Quaringa)
  - Leichardt and Burnett Highways (Biloela to Gogango)
  - Birdsville Track (Birdsville to Marree)

- Inland Rail connection to Gladstone, including:

- The Surat Basin Rail Project
- Upgrading to the Moura Rail System
- Multi-modal freight hubs in:
  - Yamala (Emerald)
  - Jericho
  - Longreach
  - Winton
- Development of air-freight infrastructure in Rockhampton and Emerald
- Gladstone Heavy Vehicle Transport Corridor (Port Access Road)
- North Coast Rail Realignment at Rockhampton (Western Rail Corridor)

### ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

- Electricity network upgrades to support additional renewable energy connection
- Electric Vehicle fast charging points along Bruce Highway and Capricorn Highways and in Capricorn Coast and Western Queensland communities

### DEFENCE INFRASTRUCTURE

- New operational ADF installations, including:
  - Construction of a new army base to home Army's 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade (relocated from Brisbane)
  - Relocation of Army's School of Armour to Shoal Water Bay Training Area
  - Construction of a Royal Australian Navy Fleet Base North
  - Development of the region's major airports as RAAF base bases
  - Robotics test and evaluation facilities
- Inland bulk fuel storage, increasing security and reducing transport costs
- Army Reserve and Cadets depots in:
  - Biloela
  - Emerald
  - Yeppoon
  - Woorabinda
  - Barcaldine





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**46** FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS | WESTERN AUSTRALIA REGIONAL PLAN

**47** FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS | WESTERN AUSTRALIA REGIONAL PLAN

### REQUIREMENTS FOR GROWTH – INVESTMENT

- RESOURCES**
  - EXPLORATION SERVICES
  - COAL MINING
  - NON-COAL MINERAL MINING
  - NAS INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH DOWNS AND GALLIE BASINS
- DEFENCE INDUSTRY**
  - DEFENCE SUPPLY CHAINS FOR ENHANCED SWIDA TRAINING TEMPO
  - SOVEREIGN MUNITIONS MANUFACTURING
  - ADF VEHICLE MAINTENANCE FACILITIES
- PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT**
  - RESIDENTIAL HOUSING
  - DENSE RESIDENTIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN YEPPON, ROCKHAMPTON AND GLADSTONE COCS
  - HIGH-QUALITY COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR "LIFESTYLE OFFICES" AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
- AGRICULTURE**
  - IRRIGATED HORTICULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN FITZROY CATCHMENT
  - ALTERNATIVE CATTLE BREEDS FOR BOUTIQUE BEEF PRODUCTION
  - RE-DEVELOPMENT OF THE QUEENSLAND SHEEP FLOCK
  - BEEF FEEDLOTING AND FINISHING
- MANUFACTURING**
  - MINERAL PROCESSING
  - WOOL WASHING & PROCESSING
  - COTTON FIBRE MANUFACTURING
  - FOOD PRODUCT MANUFACTURING
  - REGIONAL HEAVY MAINTENANCE (DEFENCE, AVIATION AND MINING)
- RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**
  - COMMERCIAL HYDROGEN PRODUCTION
  - GREEN METALS MANUFACTURING
  - ROBOTICS AND AUTOMATION TECHNOLOGY
  - SIMULATION TECHNOLOGY (DEFENCE, EMERGENCY SERVICES AND MINING)
- RENEWABLE ECONOMY**
  - WIND ENERGY GENERATION
  - SOLAR ENERGY GENERATION
  - HYDROGEN PRODUCTION
  - GREEN METAL MANUFACTURING
- TOURISM**
  - 4- STARS HOTEL DEVELOPMENT
  - BOUTIQUE ACCOMMODATION (INCL FARM STAYS AND GLAMPING)
  - ISLAND RESORTS (INCL REVITALISATION OF GREAT KEPPEL ISLAND)
  - AIRLINE ROUTE DEVELOPMENT
  - TRADITIONAL- OWNER LED INDIGENOUS TOURISM OPERATIONS
  - NATIONAL PARK-BASED TOUR OPERATIONS
  - SURF LAKES CAPRICORN COAST WAVE POOL RESORT

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