



## Keeping shipping moving in Queensland

By the Hon MARK BAILEY MP,  
Minister for Transport and Main Roads

2020 saw COVID-19 impact economies around the world, including both in Australia and Queensland.

But, a strong health response from Queenslanders meant the shipping industry could continue to operate and that the Palaszczuk Government could get on with the job of investing in our 16 trade ports, as part of the State's plan for economic recovery.

The efforts of industry, maritime authorities and Government saw shipping inject more than \$114.4 billion into Queensland's economy, with 11,388 vessels able to enter Queensland waters from January to mid-November – getting vital exports to markets across the globe, and crucial goods into the State.

Our publicly owned ports in places like Townsville, Gladstone and the Far North collectively, facilitated more than 242 million tonnes of throughput, supporting thousands of jobs across various industries.

Those figures alone show just how important shipping is to Queensland's economic recovery and why the Palaszczuk Government is committed to growing our ports, tourism and trade.

Earlier this year we completed the \$127 million Cairns Shipping Development – a project that supported up to 800

jobs during construction and will now see Cairns reap up to 2,700 direct and indirect jobs by 2031.

The biggest upgrade in the history of Northern Queensland's largest port – the port of Townsville – also notched plenty of runs on the board, including significant progress on the rockwall, with 750,000 tonnes of rock supplied by seven local suppliers.

With the Townsville port expecting three-fold trade growth over the next 30 years, upgrading its capabilities now, alongside a half-a-billion commitment to upgrade the rail line between Mt Isa and Townsville, will ensure the port has the capacity to keep pace and support 120 jobs in construction in the process.

Because we know, when Townsville's port is strong, close to 800,000 Queenslanders reap the benefits.

In Bundaberg, we've seen an unprecedented level of interest from businesses like Knauff and Pacific Tug, because of ongoing investment in the port.

And the State has now signed the agreement with the Australian Government for the Common User Infrastructure Project, which will see \$10 million locked in for new trade opportunities at the Bundaberg Port by utilising the existing Bulk Sugar Terminal Wharf and ship-loading facilities to export and import new products.

As we look forward to 2021, a re-elected Palaszczuk Government will ensure our ports remain in public hands and secure maritime jobs in a revitalised Queensland coastal shipping industry.

Last year, the Palaszczuk Labor Government established a Maritime Jobs Taskforce to investigate opportunities to grow the State's maritime industry.

Now, we will implement the recommendations of the Taskforce Report, estimated at approximately \$21 million, including an expression of interest to establish a new shipping service between Townsville and Brisbane, with local crews.

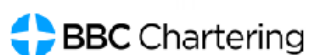
Through maritime cadetships and training, we will grow skills, with approximately \$1 million to support additional training for Queenslanders to enter the industry or to upskill.

We will also continue to work with Queensland port authorities to ensure landside infrastructure is fit for purpose.

Those initiatives alone will create another 40 ongoing and secure jobs and support Australia's shipping industry.

Queensland has a proud and remarkable maritime history, and Queenslanders know we are at our strongest when we work together. ▲

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