1. Townsville is in the Townsville Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4), which covers a total land area of 80,036 km2, and includes the Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3) regions of Charters Towers – Ayr – Ingham and Townsville.
2. Townsville’s regional economy has relatively large public administration and safety and health care industries reflecting the region’s status as a major service centre for North Queensland. The Townsville region also has large agricultural and manufacturing industries which includes sugar milling, beef processing and metal ore refining respectively.
3. Over the last year, Queensland has been affected by the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which has created unprecedented challenges and uncertainty.
4. The Queensland Government is directly supporting the Townsville region through the 2020– 21 State Budget, including by providing:
* $1.1 billion for the Townsville Hospital and Health Service
* $739 million for productivity-enhancing infrastructure and capital works estimated to support around 2600 jobs in 2020–21
* $42.3 million to maintain, improve and upgrade schools in Townsville.
1. The Queensland Government is directly supporting jobs and infrastructure in Townsville through the Townsville Regional Economic Recovery Plan including by:
* supporting 249 jobs in the Townsville Local Government area through $37.7 million in COVID-19 Jobs Support Loans
* providing $10 million to boost exploration for new economy minerals and support mining technology innovators
* providing $10 million to deliver priority environmental projects and jobs in the State’s Great Barrier Reef catchments in partnership with local governments.
1. Cabinet noted an update on economic conditions and job-creating initiatives in the Townsville region.
2. *Attachments*
* Nil.