1. The Cairns region includes the Local Government Areas of Cairns Regional Council, Cassowary Coast Regional Council, Douglas Shire Council, Mareeba Shire Council, Tablelands Regional Council and the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire. The region has relatively large agriculture, forestry and fishing industries and a smaller mining industry compared with Queensland as a whole. The health care and social assistance industry, the accommodation and food services, and retail trade industry are the top three largest employing industries in the Cairns region.
2. The Queensland Government is supporting the region through productivity-enhancing infrastructure and capital works. This includes duplicating a section of the Bruce Highway between Edmonton and Gordonvale project, safety upgrades of the Kennedy Highway between Kuranda and Mareeba, and master planning to improve safety, capacity and connectivity on the Captain Cook Highway between Cairns and Smithfield.
3. The government is investing $1.5 billion in 2022-23 for better health services in Far North Queensland, including the construction of a new mental health unit at Cairns Hospital and an expansion of its Emergency Department.
4. Through Quickstarts Queensland, planned investment of $102.1 million for 255 new social homes by mid-2025, including 23 new homes targeted to commence within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities including Wujal Wujal and Yarrabah.
5. Government support for the region has been allocated towards education infrastructure to maintain, improve and upgrade schools including Trinity Bay State High School, Woree State School and Redlynch State College.
6. The government is investing $176 million to expand and refurbish the Cairns Convention Centre, and $4 million towards lighting upgrades for Barlow Park in Cairns which will host preliminary football events as part of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
7. Cabinet noted the government achievements and investment in the Cairns Region.
8. *Attachments*:
* Nil.