

**COVID-19: CAIRNS ECONOMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY SUBCOMMITTEE (ERRSC)  
PRELIMINARY REPORT TO LOCAL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE (LLC) – STIMULUS INITIATIVES**

**21 APRIL 2020**

In accordance with disaster management principles and protocols, the Economic Response and Recovery Sub-Committee (ERRSC) has been established. The purpose of the ERRSC is to support and help coordinate the economic recovery of the Cairns region in response to the impacts of COVID-19. The ERRSC reports to a Local Leadership Committee (LLC) comprised of Mayor Bob Manning, the Hon Warren Entsch (Federal Member for Leichhardt) and Michael Healy (State Member for Cairns) and also to the Chair of the Local Disaster Management Group – Cairns Region (LDMG-CR). The impacts of COVID-19 on the Cairns economy have been significant and will be ongoing with wide spread reports of business closures and mass employee stand-downs.

On 27 March 2020, the ERRSC presented its report to the LLC on recommended Business Survival Initiatives (see [here](#)). That report sets out the 10 key initiatives the ERRSC recommended be considered by the various levels of Government as an immediate response to the impacts of COVID-19 on Cairns businesses and the Cairns economy. A number of these recommendations have since been implemented and the ERRSC continue to monitor and engage with Government on the Business Survival Initiatives that remain outstanding. The focus of these initiatives was on business survival – ensuring, to the maximum extent possible, businesses were able to survive the COVID-19 crisis and be in a position to re-establish/re-escalate operations once the crisis had passed.

This report focuses on potential Stimulus Initiatives i.e. those initiatives that would support job creation and economic recovery for the Cairns region in the short to medium term. In addition, short term initiatives that would support medium to longer term economic recovery were also considered.

The ERRSC met on 31 March 2020, 7 April 2020 and 21 April 2020 to develop the suite of recommended Stimulus Initiatives contained in this report. The ERRSC considered:

- Ideas and initiatives put forward by the Industry and Business Reference Group (IBRG). The IBRG is comprised of approximately 40 local business and industry representatives drawn from a range of sectors;
- Relevant initiatives included within the existing advocacy priorities of Cairns Regional Council ([State](#) and [Federal](#)), Advance Cairns ([State](#) and [Federal](#)) and others;
- Ideas and initiatives put forward by members of the ERRSC;
- Relevant feedback provided by local businesses and individuals directly to Cairns Regional Council through various channels (including direct to Council’s Economic Development team and via Council’s Local COVID-19 Hotline); and
- Feedback received from the LLC.

Recommended Stimulus Initiatives have been split into three categories:

- **Projects:** Individual projects that would contribute to economic recovery and job creation.
- **Programs:** Government funding programs that would contribute to economic recovery and job creation.
- **Policy:** Recommended policy changes that would support economic recovery and job creation.

The initiatives are summarised on the next page with further details included in the accompanying appendices.

**The recommended initiatives should be considered preliminary and are subject to further update and refinement over the coming months as the duration and economic impact of COVID-19 becomes clearer.**

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<p align="center"><b>PROJECTS</b> <b>(REFER <u>APPENDIX 1</u> FOR FURTHER DETAIL)</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>PROGRAMS*</b> <b>(REFER <u>APPENDIX 2</u> FOR FURTHER DETAIL)</b> <b>Relevant Level of Government in Brackets</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>POLICY</b> <b>(REFER <u>APPENDIX 3</u> FOR FURTHER DETAIL)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CQUniversity New City Centre Campus</li> <li>- Cairns University Hospital</li> <li>- Cairns Gallery Precinct</li> <li>- Stage 2 CQUniversity Asia Pacific Aviation Hub</li> <li>- Wangetti Trail</li> <li>- HMAS Cairns Upgrade</li> <li>- Cairns Marine Maintenance Precinct</li> <li>- Cairns Esplanade Dining Precinct</li> <li>- Northern Beaches Leisure Trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Building Better Regions Fund – Coronavirus Recovery Round (Federal)</li> <li>- Works For Queensland – Coronavirus Recovery Round (State)</li> <li>- Attracting Tourism Fund – Coronavirus Recovery Round (State)</li> <li>- Jobs and Regional Growth Fund – Coronavirus Recovery Round (State)</li> <li>- Program Adaptation – Coronavirus Recovery Support (Various)</li> <li>- Events Funding (Various)</li> <li>- Tourism Funding – Cairns/TNQ (Various)</li> <li>- Business Case Funding Program – Coronavirus Recovery Projects (Various)#</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Domestic Aviation Connectivity and Capacity</li> <li>- Pacific Patrol Boat/Guardian Patrol Boat Training</li> <li>- Export Market Development Grant (EMDG) Reset and Reimbursement</li> <li>- Commonwealth and International Supported Places (James Cook University Medical School)</li> <li>- Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund – Reset for Recovery</li> </ul>

\*a specific example of an ‘investment ready’ project that could be funded under one or other of these programs (or directly) and which would support economic growth and diversification as well as job creation is Skytek’s General Aviation Hangar project which would support expanded aircraft (general aviation) maintenance and repair operations. Refer Appendix 2 for further details.

#a specific example of a project that could be funded under this program is the completion of a business case for Cairns Airport’s proposed Cairns Aviation Excellence Precinct (CAEP). The CAEP project is one which has the potential to deliver significant long term economic and employment benefits to the region as well as contributing positively to the region’s economic diversification and resilience. Refer Appendix 2 for further details.

POTENTIAL STIMULUS MEASURES FOR CONSIDERATION

DM#6343287

Proponent	Project Name	Brief description	Estimated project value \$M	Support/funding sought	Deliverable in short term	Creates jobs - implementation/construction	Creates jobs - ongoing	Existing advocacy priority - Adv Cairns	Existing advocacy priority - CRC	Diversify industry base/support economic resilience	Comments
CQUniversity	Permanent New City Centre Campus	CQUniversity is seeking a permanent, purpose-built CBD campus capable of accommodating 2,500+ students to continue to be an educator of impact in Cairns. Community and industry engagement will be the defining philosophy of the new campus, with an 'open-door' campus model being employed. This will further help to engage local students from low socioeconomic and/or disadvantaged backgrounds – a student base of which CQUniversity outperforms every other Australian university in terms of enrolment proportion and student support. But most importantly, this permanent new campus would galvanise Cairns' identity as an agile, innovative two-university city with a highly skilled, professionalised workforce. This permanent new campus will give CQUniversity the security it needs to invest further in education in Cairns.	\$50M	\$50M contribution sought from government (predominantly federal)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Refer page 22 of Cairns Regional Council's (CRC's) Federal Government Priorities Document and page 14 of Advance Cairns' 2020 Federal Budget Submission document for further details (both hyperlinked to the left).
Cairns Hospital/James Cook University	Cairns University Hospital	The aim is for Cairns Hospital to become a university hospital within the medium term and for the hospital to continue to expand the higher level of services offered locally. For this objective to be realised, facilities need to be developed which support clinical research and education. The establishment of the proposed Cairns Health and Innovation Precinct (CHIP) supports this initiative and aligns with James Cook University's Cairns Tropical Enterprise Centre (CTEC) project. The CTEC project has already received a federal funding commitment of \$60 million. A \$100 million commitment is now required from the Queensland Government to support land acquisition and to enable the design and construction of the CHIP to progress. In addition, Cairns Hospital will need a further \$60 million in capital funding to refurbish areas that are vacated by facilities/services moved into the CHIP thereby creating an 70 additional beds to meet demand and expand clinical services until 2027.	\$100M	Immediate funding is required to support land acquisition to enable this project to progress in the short to medium term.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Refer page 18 of CRC's Queensland Government Priorities Document and page 6 of Advance Cairns' 2020 State Budget Submission document for further details (both hyperlinked to the left).
Cairns Regional Council	Cairns Gallery Precinct Project	The project will transform and connect three heritage listed buildings in the Cairns City Centre (the Cairns Art Gallery, 'Old' Court House and former Mulgrave Shire Council offices) and establish a new world class gallery building to create a dynamic and unique gallery precinct with benefits for both the local community and domestic and international visitors. In addition to the significant economic impact and employment created during construction, once operational, the project will add \$20.7 million per annum to the regional economy (Gross Regional Product) and support 177 ongoing full time jobs through its direct operation and induced tourism expenditure. An independent and comprehensive business case for the project has been completed utilising funding provided by the Queensland Government. The business case supports the case for project investment with the preferred project option having a Benefits to Cost Ratio (BCR) of 1.19 and a Net Present Value (NPV) of \$13.3 million.	\$39.8M	\$13.3M in funding is sought from each of the State and Federal Governments (CRC has committed \$13.3M to the project subject to the State and Federal funding being secured).	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Refer page 16 of CRC's Queensland Government Priorities Document and page 18 of Advance Cairns' 2020 State Budget Submission document for further details (both hyperlinked to the left). The project is also included in both CRC's and Advance Cairns' Federal Advocacy documents.
CQUniversity	Stage 2 CQUniversity Asia Pacific Aviation Hub	CQUniversity has already launched Stage 1 of its Asia Pacific Aviation Hub from premises located at the Cairns Airport. Stage 2 would build upon this initial investment and includes new laboratory facilities to provide specialist space for human factors research, new flight simulators, and the roll-out of new aviation courses including Bachelor of Accident Forensics, Bachelor of Airline and Airport Management, Bachelor of Airworthiness, and Aviation Masters and Research Programs. Whilst not included in this Potential Stimulus report, a third stage incorporating further expansion of both facilities and course offerings is also planned in the medium to longer term.	\$10M	\$10M federal government funding for stage 2.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Refer page 24 of CRC's Federal Government Priorities Document and page 14 of Advance Cairns' 2020 Federal Budget Submission document for further details (both hyperlinked to the left).
Queensland Government	Wangetti Trail	The Wangetti Trail is a proposed 76km dual use (mountain biking and hiking) trail stretching along the coastal plains and mountain hinterland between Palm Cove and Port Douglas. The trail will be one of Australia's leading adventure based ecotourism experiences, attracting both domestic and international visitors. The trail will provide walkers and mountain-bike riders with a wilderness bushland and ocean experience, showcasing the beauty of the Wet Tropics Rainforest, national parks and the Great Barrier Reef.	\$41M	State funded project that has already commenced (\$2.9M in 19/20 State Budget).	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Refer page 43 of CRC's Queensland Government Priorities Document (hyperlinked to the left).
Federal Government	HMAS Cairns Upgrade	Navy Capability Infrastructure Subprogram – as part of this program, a series of wharf and landside upgrades are planned for the HMAS Cairns naval base in readiness for the base homeporting four of the new Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs). Works at the HMAS Cairns base are expected to commence in 2023 and run to 2025 with an anticipated project value of around \$170 million. The project is already planned but should be accelerated to support job creation in the short term.	\$170M	Federally funded (already planned proposal is a 'bring forward')	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Refer page 30 of CRC's Federal Government Priorities Document and page 10 of Advance Cairns' 2020 Federal Budget Submission document for further details (both hyperlinked to the left).
Various (State and Private)	Cairns Marine Maintenance Precinct	Cairns has an established track record in the delivery of marine maintenance and sustainment services with a skilled workforce and industry base operating within the Cairns Marine Maintenance Precinct. A Stage 1 funding package of \$24 million was announced in April 2019 supporting upgrades at three of the precinct's key facilities: BSE Cairns Slipway, Tropical Reef Shipyard and Norship Marine. Stage 1 works are underway. Further funding of \$125 million is being sought to support Stages 2 and 3 of the Cairns Marine Maintenance Precinct upgrade to complement the planned redevelopment and expansion works at HMAS Cairns as well as improving the sector's capacity and competitiveness more broadly.	\$125M	Combination of Government and private funding	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Refer page 31 of CRC's Federal Government Priorities Document and page 10 of Advance Cairns' 2020 Federal Budget Submission document for further details (both hyperlinked to the left).
Cairns Regional Council	Cairns Esplanade Dining Precinct	Throughout 2018 and early 2019, Cairns Regional Council invested extensive resources in developing the Cairns City Centre Master Plan 2019 including significant public input and consultation. Almost 2,500 people took the opportunity to give feedback and make suggestions on initial project ideas using innovative mediums including Council's interactive online ideas wall. Reflecting on the community's feedback and suggestions, Council developed a suite of opportunities and preliminary concept sketches. Council invited feedback on these project opportunities throughout July and August 2018, with more than 3,300 people engaging in the process. Council is progressing with concept design and consultation on the Esplanade Dining Precinct project included within the Master Plan. Elements of this project could be accelerated with some facets potentially even being undertaken whilst the City Centre is 'quiet' with current social distancing measures.	Scaleable	Government funding (incl Council)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Indirectly	Refer page 12 of CRC's Queensland Government Priorities Document (hyperlinked to the left). Also refer to the Cairns City Centre Master Plan document: <a href="https://www2.cairns.qld.gov.au/filestore/2019Masterplan_09042019b.pdf">https://www2.cairns.qld.gov.au/filestore/2019Masterplan_09042019b.pdf</a> . Note proceeding with elements of this project in the immediate term (whilst social distancing measures are in place) minimises disruption to businesses (e.g. restaurants and cafes) seeking to re-establish operations once social distancing measures are relaxed.
Cairns Regional Council	Northern Beaches Leisure Trail	The Northern Beaches Leisure Trail (NBLT) has been a long-term priority of Cairns Regional Council for some time. The ultimate aim of the project is to provide a shared-use (walking and cycling) link between Palm Cove and the Cairns City including, connecting all of the Northern Beaches suburbs located between those two destinations. Significant components of the NBLT are in progress/completed but further funding is required to deliver the remaining components (in particular bridge and other connections).	\$20M-\$30M	Government funding (incl Council)	Yes	Yes	Indirectly	No	Yes	Indirectly	Refer page 32 of CRC's Queensland Government Priorities Document (hyperlinked to the left). Elements of the project are shovel ready.

POTENTIAL STIMULUS MEASURES FOR CONSIDERATION

DM#6343287

Level of Government	Program Name	Brief description	Recommended Total Program Value \$M	Further Details on Previous Rounds of the Program	Deliverable in short term	Creates jobs - implementation/construction	Creates jobs - ongoing	Comments
Federal	Building Better Regions Fund - Coronavirus Recovery Round	The Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) supports the Australian Government's commitment to create jobs, drive economic growth and build stronger regional communities into the future. The fund invests in projects located in, or benefiting eligible areas outside the major capital cities of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, and Canberra. The most recent round of the program (Round 4) was targeted at drought affected regions. It is recommended that a 'Special Round' of this program be implemented with a focus on those regions (including Cairns) whose economies have been severely impacted by Coronavirus. It is also recommended that the eligibility criteria be broadened to include private sector applicants with relaxed co-contribution requirements and a fast tracked assessment process also considered.	\$400M	<a href="#">Click Here</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes	<a href="#">It is noted that the funding for this program could come from the \$1 billion allocation made by the Federal Government on 12 March 2020 to sectors, regions and communities severely impacted by Coronavirus.</a>
Queensland	Works for Queensland - Coronavirus Recovery Round	The Works for Queensland (W4Q) program supports regional Councils to undertake job-creating maintenance and minor infrastructure projects. The allocation is to be spent on job-creating maintenance and minor infrastructure projects relating to assets owned or controlled by Council. Eligible Councils should place emphasis on providing jobs for young people (15 to 24 years) in the 'not in employment, education or training' (NEET) category. It is recommended that a 'Special Round' of the Works for Queensland Program be confirmed in the 2020/21 year with a focus on those regions (including Cairns) whose economies have been severely impacted by Coronavirus. Councils would be able to spend proportionate allocations on the delivery of job creating projects over the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2022.	\$400M	<a href="#">Click Here</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Queensland	Attracting Tourism Fund - Coronavirus Recovery Round	The Attracting Tourism Fund (ATF) provides funding for products, experiences and infrastructure projects that are capable of significantly increasing international overnight visitation, expenditure and jobs for Queensland. Projects must also demonstrate long-term benefits to Queensland. It is recommended that a 'Special Round' of the ATF be implemented to support tourism product and experience development in those regions whose tourism sector has been severely impacted by Coronavirus.	\$100M	<a href="#">Click Here</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Queensland	Jobs and Regional Growth Fund - Coronavirus Recovery Round.	The Jobs and Regional Growth Fund (JRGF) aligns with the Queensland Government's Advancing Queensland Priorities, specifically to increase private sector investment and create jobs. JRGF aims to assist business to grow and expand throughout regional Queensland. JRGF facilitates projects which support regional business investment and improve ongoing employment outcomes with a predominant focus on regions outside SEQ. It is recommended that a 'Special Round' of this program be made available in regions whose economies have been particularly hard hit as a result of Coronavirus. Program criteria and assessment needs to be streamlined as much as possible to support project delivery in the short term.	\$100M	<a href="#">Click Here</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Federal/Queensland	Program Adaptation - Coronavirus Recovery Support	There are a number of existing/previous funding programs that support economic growth and employment generation that should be reviewed with a view to repurposing future rounds for Coronavirus Recovery Support. Examples include the Queensland Government's Building Our Regions and Made In Queensland grants programs and the Federal Government's Regional Jobs and Growth Fund and Regional Jobs and Investment Packages grant programs. New rounds of these programs should be considered along with streamlining of assessment criteria, fast tracked assessment processes and relaxed co-contribution requirements to enable investment in projects that support economic recovery from Coronavirus. Regions particularly hard hit from the economic impacts of Coronavirus should receive a priority allocation of funding.	Various	Various	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Queensland/Local/Private Sector	Events Funding	Establishment of a specific Bid Fund for Cairns and TNQ to support the attraction of major events in accordance with the region's Major Events Prioritisation Strategy.	\$10M	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	This bid fund will be particularly important in securing events for the newly refurbished and expanded Cairns Convention Centre (currently under construction)
Federal/Queensland	Tourism Funding - Cairns/TNQ	Prior to the devastating sector impacts of Coronavirus and despite TNQ's position of competitive advantage, the region had experienced a steady and concerning decline in tourism market share. TNQ has lost an estimated 17% of national market share in the three years to June 2019. From June 2016 to June 2019, TNQ grew at just 1.9% per annum, less than a quarter of the national average growth of 8.2%. To address this decline, TTNQ requires an additional \$10M pa in destination marketing funds delivered either through a specific State Government allocation or implementation of a 2.5% visitor levy.	\$10Mpa or visitor levy	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	
Federal/Queensland	Business Case Funding Program - Coronavirus Recovery Projects	Further development of and investment in, projects that support medium to long term economic recovery and job creation needs to remain a priority. The further development of such projects could be supported through the allocation of a specific funding pool/s that can be accessed to support strategic planning and business case development for these medium to longer term projects with an emphasis on regions whose economies have been particularly hard hit as a result of Coronavirus. The Queensland Government's Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline Program (MIPP) is an example of a previous program in this regard. Funding obtained under this program was utilised to complete the business case for the Cairns Gallery Precinct Project which is now an 'investment ready' project included at Appendix 1.	\$100M	<a href="#">Click Here</a>	Yes	No	Yes	A specific example of a project that could be funded under this program is the completion of a business case (estimated cost \$250K- \$500K) for Cairns Airport's proposed Cairns Aviation Excellence Precinct (CAEP). The CAEP project is one which has the potential to deliver significant long term economic and employment benefits to the region as well as contributing positively to the region's economic diversification and resilience. The CAEP project is estimated to deliver economic benefits in excess of \$2 billion in the decade to 2030 utilising a combination of public and private investment. Further details on the CAEP project are set out on page 8 of Cairns Regional Council's Federal Government Priorities document which can be accessed via the hyperlink below. <a href="#">Cairns Aviation Excellence Precinct Hyperlink</a>

Note: An example of an 'investment ready' project that could be supported through one or other of the funding programs outlined above (or directly) is Skytek's General Aviation Hangar expansion. Skytek provides specialist aviation-engineering services ranging from logistics and supply chain management of parts, consumables, aircraft ground service support, as well as heavy maintenance including aircraft modification capability for both fixed and rotary wing aircraft. The project provides for a fixed wing hangar (including associated ground and apron works) to be established in the Cairns Airport Aviation Precinct to accommodate larger aircraft for Maintenance Repair and Overhaul (MRO) services. The project is estimated to require 20 additional FTEs in first year of operation, building to 45 FTE by 2024/25. The project value is \$8.5 million (\$3.5 million for ground and apron works and \$5 million for the hangar) with \$6 million sought from an appropriate government funding source acknowledging that aviation has already been identified by the Queensland Government as a priority industry for the Cairns region.

POTENTIAL STIMULUS MEASURES FOR CONSIDERATION

DM#6343287

Level of Government	Policy area	Brief description	Deliverable in short term	Creates jobs - implementation/construction	Creates jobs - ongoing	Comments
Federal/State	Domestic Aviation Connectivity and Capacity	Aviation connectivity is of critical importance to the Cairns and Tropical North Queensland (TNQ) economy, in particular the region's tourism sector. This is underlined by the ratio of airport passenger movements to resident population. Prior to COVID-19, there were approximately 4.8 million in annual passenger movements through the Cairns Airport representing a ratio of 28.8 times the Cairns resident population - this compares with a ratio of 7.3 for Melbourne, 8.4 for Sydney and 9.6 for Brisbane (Source: Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics and ABS data). In the short to medium term recovery phase, domestic tourism will be a key focus for the Cairns and TNQ economies. Accordingly, it is critical that domestic aviation connectivity and capacity into Cairns be supported and restored to the maximum extent possible following the relaxation of social distancing and travel restrictions. The recently announced Federal Government \$165 million airline support package is welcomed, but targets the continuity of air services during the COVID-19 'shut down' period. Further policy needs to be investigated and implemented to ensure that when social distancing measures are eventually relaxed and domestic travel returns, aviation capacity into Cairns is restored.	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Federal (Dept of Defence)	Pacific Patrol Boat/Guardian Patrol Boat Training	The Pacific class is a class of 22 patrol boats built by Australia and donated to twelve South Pacific countries. They are operated by militaries, coast guards or police forces of 12 island nations. These boats are supported by the Pacific Patrol Boat (PPB) Program and used primarily for maritime surveillance and fisheries protection. The PPBs are now being progressively replaced by Guardian Patrol Boats which are gifted by the Commonwealth to each participating nation and are sovereign assets of that respective nation. The boats are not based in Cairns but return to Cairns to allow the Commonwealth to complete ongoing, deeper level maintenance tasks. The Australian Maritime College Search (AMCS) – the commercial arm of the Australian Maritime College in Launceston, Tasmania has been delivering training relating to Pacific Patrol Boats since 1992. The current contract expires in December 2020. Given the vessels already return to Cairns for maintenance it is recommended that consideration be given to having training services delivered by the Great Barrier Reef International Marine College operated by TAFE.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Whilst the current contract does not expire until December 2020, if the new contract was awarded to the Great Barrier Reef International Marine College in Cairns, a 'ramp up' in activity (employment) and investment (facilities) would be expected to occur in 2020 in readiness for training delivery.
Federal	Export Market Development Grant (EMDG) Reset and Reimbursement	The Export Market Development Grants (EMDG) scheme is a key Australian Government financial assistance program for aspiring and current exporters. Administered by Austrade, the scheme supports a wide range of industries. On 1 April 2020, the Federal Government announced an increase in funding for the Export Market Development Grants (EMDG) scheme. Funding for the scheme will increase by \$49.8 million in the 2019-20 financial year, allowing exporters and tourism businesses to get additional reimbursements for costs incurred in marketing their products and services around the world. Whilst this additional support is welcomed and will provide an additional positive impact to cash flow, it is recommended that further support be provided to assist with market re-entry and reestablishment following Coronavirus. Recommendations include: Resetting the eligibility criteria so that existing businesses who have 'exhausted' their EMDG entitlement can again reapply. Setting the reimbursement rate at 100% for the 2020/21 financial year.	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Federal	Commonwealth and International Supported Places (JCU Medical School)	The aim is for Cairns Hospital to become a university hospital within the medium term and for the hospital to continue to expand the higher level of services offered locally. For this objective to be realised, facilities need to be developed which support clinical research and education. The allocation of additional places within James Cook University's Medicine and Dentistry school will also be required to support the hospital achieving university status. Specifically, 80 additional places (50 Commonwealth Supported Places and 30 International Places) within James Cook University's Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery programs will be required.	Yes	Yes	Yes	This allocation is an existing advocacy priority for both Advance Cairns and Cairns Regional Council and supports/complements the Cairns University Hospital project outlined in Appendix 1.
Federal	Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund - Reset for Recovery	The Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) is a \$5 billion lending facility established to provide loans to infrastructure projects in northern Australia. The NAIF can play a critical role in supporting Northern Australia's recovery from COVID-19 by supporting projects and infrastructure that lead to job creation and economic growth. With this in mind, a comprehensive review of NAIF eligibility and project assessment criteria should be undertaken with a view to ensuring government and private sector proponents can access the funding necessary for economic recovery. Any such review should consider, amongst other things, a reduction/relaxation of lending thresholds and criteria as well as the fast-tracking of project assessment.	Yes	Yes	Yes	