



Australian Government



Clock Tower Bundaberg, Queensland, Australia



Urangan Pier, Hervey Bay, Queensland, Australia

Hinkler Regional Deal Statement

between

**The Commonwealth of Australia, The Bundaberg Regional Council and
The Fraser Coast Regional Council**

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This Statement outlines the intention of the Commonwealth and Bundaberg and Fraser Coast Regional Councils to work together to progress a Hinkler Regional Deal for the Bundaberg and Hervey Bay area. Using a place based approach Regional Deals will improve the lives of people through increased economic growth and more job opportunities.

Working in collaboration with the Queensland Government and in consultation with the local business sector and community, the parties to this Statement intend to progress a Hinkler Regional Deal with the objectives and initiatives identified below.

Regional Deal Objective

The proposed Regional Deal will provide more local jobs and a stronger regional economy. This locally developed framework will support the cities of Bundaberg and Hervey Bay and surrounds to harness opportunities, competitive advantages, and overcome challenges to become more prosperous, economically resilient and successful. The Regional Deal will outline place-based opportunities to grow local employment, including support for economic development, liveability, investment attraction and skills.

Regional Deal Vision

The Bundaberg and Hervey Bay areas will grow more vibrant and liveable with strong employment opportunities, facilitated through innovative and progressive thinking from the business sector and community to enhance the region's lifestyle advantages.

Coordinating government, community and private sector investment for strategic economic priorities through a regional deal will deliver attractive destinations for people to live, work, visit and invest.





Collaborative investment and planning will support growth and diversification of the local economy and build upon existing economic advantages in agribusiness, manufacturing, tourism, health care, education, and innovation. New economic opportunities relating to trade and export, transport logistics, aviation, innovative industries and defence will be explored and fostered.

The health and resilience of the region's communities will be improved through the creation of new opportunities in employment, education and training that influence and support changes in the demographic and socio-economic profile of Bundaberg and Hervey Bay and surrounds.

A proactive approach to natural disaster management and environmental resilience will be driven by best practice management of natural landscapes and built environments to reduce the impacts and effects of floods and bushfires and other major weather events of a variable climate in the Australian landscape.

The region's pristine natural environments will be protected and sustainably managed to be enjoyed by future generations. Ideally located in proximity to the Southern Great Barrier Reef and iconic World Heritage listed Fraser Island within the protected waters of the Great Sandy Marine Park, these natural treasures will be intrinsically linked to the region's identity, and celebrated by both residents and visitors.

Hinkler Regional Deal - Priority Areas

The Hinkler Regional Deal is based around the major centres of Bundaberg and Hervey Bay and their surrounds. Investments under the Deal will focus on supporting opportunities which progress the Regional Deal Objective and Vision.

Tailored to reflect the specific needs and growth opportunities of this community, the focus of the Regional Deal will be on collaborative actions that will build on the area's strengths to provide economic growth and long-term employment. The priority areas agreed for this Regional Deal are:

Economic Development

- Investing in job creation, promoting business growth and developing a skilled workforce.

Resilience

- Enhancing the resilience of the community and the environment.

Liveability and Community

- Building strong and cohesive local communities and ensuring the area is a destination of choice for generations to come.

To support the vision, objectives, and priority areas, it is agreed to work collaboratively and cooperatively to progress a Hinkler Regional Deal to:

- Leverage the area's existing economic assets, including land, sea and air infrastructure across the region to grow the key industries and investigate new industries to diversify the economy, foster investment, drive future jobs, and attract and retain a skilled workforce.
- Investigate local education and training opportunities to improve employment pathways, particularly for young people and the long-term unemployed.
- Explore opportunities to enable high quality urban design, public space enhancements and improved access to open spaces, and coastal and river edges.
- Examine options to enhance the region's natural disaster resilience and strengthen key environmental assets.
- Other initiatives or opportunities that are consistent with the vision and focus areas may be agreed during the development of the Regional Deal.



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Agreement

Through this Statement, the Commonwealth and Bundaberg and Fraser Coast Regional Councils agree to work in collaboration to progress the development of a Regional Deal for the Bundaberg and Hervey Bay region.

We look forward to the support of the State to progress this deal.

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by:

Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie
Minister for Regional Services
Minister for Sport
Minister for Local Government
and Decentralisation

Signed for and on behalf of the Bundaberg Regional Council by:

Cr Jack Dempsey
Mayor
Bundaberg Regional Council

Signed for and on behalf of the Fraser Coast Regional Council by:

Cr George Seymour
Mayor
Fraser Coast Regional Council

on Tuesday 26 March 2019