

STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT OBJECTIVES FOR THE COMMUNITY

The Townsville Hospital and Health Service (HHS) has contributed, and is continuing to contribute, to the Queensland Government's objectives for the community, built around Unite and Recover – Queensland's Economic Recovery Plan.

The Townsville Hospital and Health Service has contributed to the following objectives:

- **Safeguarding our health:** Safeguard people's health and jobs by keeping Queensland pandemic-ready
- **Supporting jobs:** Support increased jobs in more industries to diversify the Queensland economy and build on existing strengths in agriculture, resources, and tourism
- **Building Queensland:** Drive investment in the infrastructure that supports our recovery, resilience, and future prosperity
- **Growing our regions:** Help Queensland's regions grow by attracting people, talent, and investment, and driving sustainable economic prosperity
- **Investing in skills:** Ensure Queenslanders have the skills they need to find meaningful jobs and set up pathways for the future.
- **Backing our frontline services:** Deliver world-class frontline services in key areas such as health, education, and community safety.

The HHS has played a pivotal role in keeping Queensland pandemic-ready. The HHS stood up its Health Emergency Operations Centre, supported by ongoing incident management meetings throughout the financial year, to ensure the health service was well prepared to respond to any positive cases in our communities. The HHS also developed and implemented robust processes for testing and vaccinating our population. A dedicated COVID-19 ward was established at Townsville University Hospital (TUH) and COVID-19 protocols and check-in apps were deployed at all facilities. The local COVID-19 response included drive-through testing centres, pop-up clinics, and the creation of

a staff and community vaccination centre. Testing was also provided to Magnetic Island and the homeless community when several public places in Townsville were declared exposure sites after a positive case travelled to the city while infectious.

Communication and messaging played crucial roles in ensuring our communities understood the steps they needed to take to stay safe, including being vaccinated as the best defence against this disease. The Townsville Hospital and Health Service utilised its social media platforms including Facebook and Instagram to support messaging about testing and vaccination. Our frontline workforce was COVID-19 prepared and played a seminal role in the pandemic response. The Townsville Public Health Unit was at the frontline of contact tracing, isolation and quarantine support, and public education. Nurses, pharmacists, infection-control clinicians, and administration and bookings staff were critical to the frontline response at the vaccination hub and testing clinics.

Outside the COVID-19 response, our 4,000-strong clinical workforce – medical, nursing, and allied health – delivered world-class frontline healthcare across the catchment. We continued to grow our talent by promoting the Townsville Hospital and Health Service as an attractive option for clinicians seeking work, lifestyle, and training opportunities. In 2020-2021, the HHS launched a major recruitment campaign targeted at junior doctors, both within Australia and internationally, promoting world-class medical training and unique career opportunities at a tertiary health service situated in the tropics.

Capital investment in the HHS through local infrastructure projects continued to build Queensland and drive economic prosperity. In 2020-2021, the HHS delivered \$14.7 million in capital works with \$10 million in capital works projects under construction. A local benefits test ensured that local contractors were incentivised to bid for projects driving sustainable economic prosperity in the region.

The TUH Master Plan and the Townsville Hospital and Health Service Rural Sites Master Plan are living documents that outline an ambitious infrastructure and development plan that will define our growth over the next 10 to 20 years. The three-phase, \$2.1 billion redevelopment of TUH will feature clinical core upgrades, new day-procedure facility, and a significant increase to overnight bed capacity to meet the demands of our growing and ageing population. TropiQ, Townsville's Tropical Intelligence and Health Precinct, is advancing with a marked focus on tropical intelligence, health, and marine sciences. TropiQ will leverage a partnership between James Cook University, Townsville Hospital and Health Service, and Townsville City Council to attract domestic and international investment from companies and commercial operators and is expected to contribute an extra \$1 billion a year to the North Queensland economy by 2035.