

# Building future skills

A tafe infrastructure plan for Outback Queensland



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# Minister's message



A key strength of Queensland's vocational education and training system is its commitment to giving students practical, hands-on skills developed in part, in purpose-built training facilities that mirror real world workplaces.

Investing in the delivery of high-quality training supported by a network of fit-for-purpose training infrastructure is essential to ensure Queenslanders have the skills they need to secure a job and progress their careers in our state's growing industries.

For our students, having access to state-of-the-art training facilities and equipment will ensure they are job ready. For our teachers and trainers, it will provide them with contemporary training spaces to ensure training delivery meets industry needs.

Across Queensland there are currently 77 sites owned or leased by the State Government and the public training providers for the delivery of vocational education and training.

This includes the network of TAFE Queensland and Central Queensland University campuses as well as sites utilised by the state's other public providers of training.

The Queensland Government has released the *Skills for Queensland - Great training for quality jobs* plan to secure our future prosperity through a skilled and adaptive workforce. More innovative and flexible training opportunities will give Queenslanders better access to skilling, reskilling and upskilling pathways to remain agile as jobs evolve.

The Government will invest more than \$105 million during 2019-20, in projects across Queensland as part of the long-term plan to revitalise the state's training portfolio. To complement this program, over the next few years we have significant investments planned for the modernisation of Pimlico, Cairns, Mount Gravatt, Toowoomba, Alexandra Hills and the Ashmore and Southport sites at the Gold Coast.

As we deliver on this investment, we also need to plan for the training needs of all Queensland communities to ensure our investment in training facilities is going where it is needed and we are ready to support training delivery into the future.

This has led to the development of 14 regional plans that outline the Queensland Government's proposed investment in training infrastructure as well as strategies to provide access to relevant training spaces to meet local industry and community needs.

For Outback Queensland, this plan outlines the future for four TAFE sites in Normanton, Mt Isa, Cloncurry and Charleville. The Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges offers training via its Longreach campus.

Central to this planning, is ensuring our training infrastructure can readily adapt to changing technology and industry advancements and complement a range of delivery options such as online learning and workplace-based training.

This plan outlines how we intend to provide Outback Queensland with the training infrastructure it needs to skill its workforce for the future

## **The Honourable Shannon Fentiman MP**

Minister for Employment and Small Business  
Minister for Training and Skills Development

# Advancing Queensland's training infrastructure

## Our current training footprint

Across the state, training is currently delivered from a range of training spaces including:

- state-owned training infrastructure
- leased, purpose-built training facilities workplaces
- trade training centres and other facilities shared with state and non-state secondary schools
- shared facilities with universities (such as QUT Caboolture or University of the Sunshine Coast)
- shared facilities with industry (such as Queensland Rail's training facility at Acacia Ridge).

TAFE Queensland and Central Queensland University are the primary users of the state's training infrastructure alongside Queensland's other public training providers Aviation Australia, the Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts and the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges.

Within the 77 training sites owned or leased by the Queensland Government, there are four types of training facilities:

- a full campus: may offer trade and/or non-trade training and provides a full range of services including a customer services centre, library and canteen.
- training centre: may offer trade and/or non-trade training as well some services such as a customer service centre.
- specialised training centre: offers training for a specific industry or skill area (i.e. trades) from a full campus or training centre.
- learning hubs: a small training space generally co-located with other services (i.e. high school) or on leased premises.

## Planning for the future

In 2019-20, the Government is committed to investing over \$105 million in infrastructure projects across Queensland as part of the long-term plan to revitalise the state's training portfolio.

From 2018 to 2021, significant investments will be made to modernise the Pimlico, Cairns, Mount Gravatt and Toowoomba training sites, and training infrastructure within the regions of the Gold Coast and Redlands.

While there have been periods of significant investment in the state's training infrastructure over the years, the majority of the state-owned facilities are decades old and were designed to meet the training needs at the time of construction. For some facilities, their age, location and changes in industry skills needs, have meant that they are no longer fit-for-purpose.

This regional infrastructure planning process is working to prepare the state's training facilities for future training needs, particularly in areas of projected population or employment growth and to respond to changing skills needs of industry. This includes ensuring infrastructure upgrades incorporate projected climate change data and take into account the skills and training needs as a result of global trends such as digital innovation, shifting markets, and the transition to a low carbon economy, which will significantly impact Queensland industries and employment.

TAFE Queensland currently occupy forty of the forty-seven State-owned sites. A number of these are earmarked to undergo master planning in the next few years to determine investment opportunities.

# Outback Queensland regional overview

The Outback Queensland region covers a large portion of the state and has a high proportion of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander residents. The region consists of 22 local government areas<sup>1</sup>.

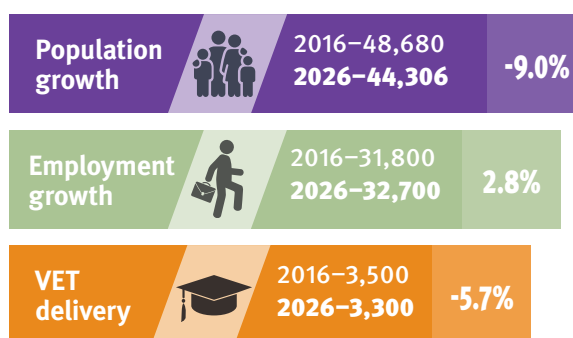
The main economic and civic hub within the region is Mount Isa. Along with Cloncurry, these are significant mining towns in Queensland. Mount Isa is the most populated centre in the region and provides key services to the remote communities in this part of Queensland.

Between 2016 and 2026, population in the Outback Queensland region is projected to decrease<sup>2</sup>, and employment growth overall is forecast to remain low over the same period<sup>3,4</sup>.

The Jobs Queensland Anticipating Future Skills project<sup>5</sup> forecasts that the largest employment changes to occur in the Outback Queensland region by the year 2022 will be in the following industries:

- public administration and safety
- agriculture, forestry and fishing
- professional, scientific and technical services
- transport, postal and warehousing
- administrative and support services.

The impact of digital technologies and involvement in global value chains are driving changes in workforce composition and skills throughout Queensland, triggering a transition to a knowledge and services based economy. While mining remains one of the biggest economic contributors in the state in terms of output, service industries such as construction, health care and social assistance now contribute almost as much, and the workforce of the future will require higher levels of skills and different skill sets.<sup>6</sup>



Sources: QGSO population projections 2018 edition (medium series); Queensland Treasury employment projections 2016 (medium series) place of work - data sets adjusted to align with this region; State Training Agency Clearinghouse (STAC) Database 2017

Despite being the largest region in terms of land mass, Outback Queensland has the smallest workforce of all the regions. Employment in the region is greatest in the industries of public administration and safety; mining; accommodation and food services; and agriculture, forestry and fishing.<sup>7</sup>

Significant projects<sup>8</sup> likely to affect the region's short to medium term economic outlook and job opportunities are:

- Blackall Hospital redevelopment – \$17.9 million
- upgraded fire and emergency facilities – \$5.9 million
- Clermont-Alpha Road upgrades – \$8.7 million
- Flinders Highway culvert upgrades – \$14.4 million
- Kennedy Developmental Road upgrades – \$13 million
- Landsborough Highway widening – \$25 million.

1 Reporting within this document for the Outback Queensland region is based on the following Statistical Area 3 (SA3) regions: Outback-North and Outback-South. This incorporates 22 Local Government Areas - Barcardine, Barcoo, Blackall-Tambo, Boulia, Bulloo, Burke, Carpentaria, Cloncurry, Croydon, Diamantina, Doomadgee, Etheridge, Flinders, Longreach, McKinley, Mornington, Mount Isa, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie, Richmond and Winton.

2 QGSO population projections 2018 (medium series).

3 Queensland Treasury employment projections 2016 (medium series) place of work - data sets adjusted to align with this region

4 Employment projections are based on the 2015 edition; the data set has been adjusted to 2016.

5 This project was based on the Queensland-Outback SA4 region, which has a slightly greater population than the Outback Queensland region defined in this report.

6 Jobs Queensland: The Future of Work in Queensland to 2030 Discussion Paper -2019

7 Jobs Queensland: Anticipating Future Skills: Jobs growth and alternative futures for Queensland to 2022

8 Sourced from Regional Action Plans (Queensland Budget 2018-19) and State Infrastructure Plan (Part B: Program – 2018 update)

# Training infrastructure in Outback Queensland

Within the Outback Queensland region, there are four TAFE Queensland sites at Normanton, Mount Isa, Cloncurry and Charleville where training is predominantly nontrade.

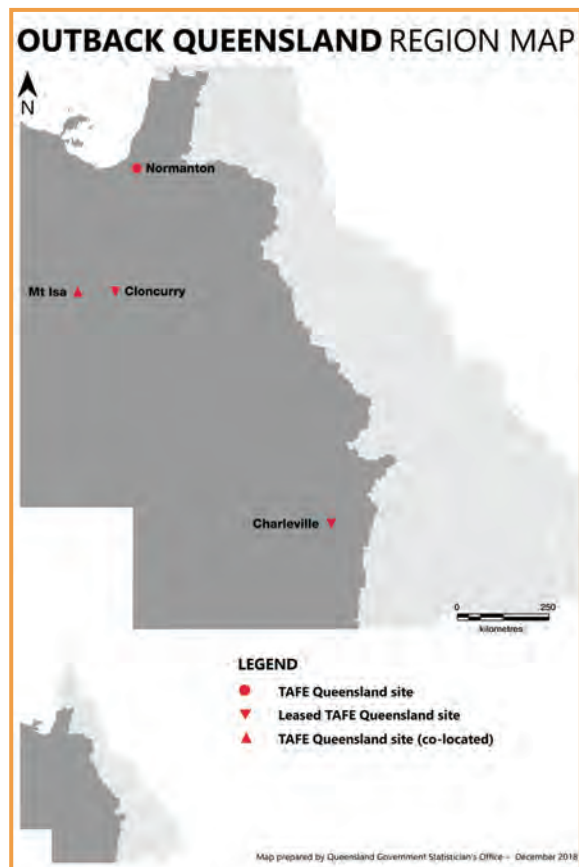
**Normanton** campus delivers training in early childhood education and care, first aid, CPR, resources and infrastructure.

**Mount Isa** is a full campus and the largest in the region. It provides a blend of training options that support a wide range of skill requirements for the region. It includes a range of purpose-built trade training facilities delivering aged care, automotive, building and construction, childcare, electrotechnology, engineering, English language studies, health, horticulture, hospitality, and skills for work and vocational pathways.

**Cloncurry** is a leased facility offering courses that meet the needs of the local community including early childhood education and care, first aid, and skills for work and vocational pathways.

**Charleville** is a leased facility offering training in disability support and health care services.

The Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges (QATC) is another public training provider in this region, and owns and operates the Longreach QATC site, specialising in intensive and arid zone livestock, horse breeding, and shearing and wool



*This map is intended for general reference use only*

handling. This site will cease to provide training during 2019.

The region's training delivery demand has seen general education and training remain high over the period from 2015–16 to 2017–18 with an increase in community services and engineering enrolments over the same period.



## Normanton

Normanton is the administrative centre of the Carpentaria Shire Council area. The Normanton TAFE learning hub is used by TAFE Queensland to provide training predominantly in community services and health.

TAFE Queensland course offerings have been tailored to the Normanton community which has a large percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Approximately \$30,000 per annum is invested for maintenance programs at this site.



### Future outlook

While the area is not expected to be a significant area of growth, the site will continue to deliver training to provide core employability skills for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students and meet the region's training requirements.

Future consideration of alternative uses for underutilised areas at this campus include council and community uses.

### Infrastructure plan: Normanton

- Approximately \$30,000 per annum is invested for maintenance programs at this site.

## Mount Isa

Mount Isa is the administrative, commercial and industrial centre for the state's north-west region and is expected to be a specific growth area for the region. The Mount Isa TAFE campus is used by TAFE Queensland to deliver training mainly in the areas of general education and training, engineering, community services, automotive, health and construction.

The site is co-located within an informal education precinct which includes the Spinifex State College Mount Isa Senior Campus, Mount Isa Special School and Mount Isa School of the Air.



Over the last two years, \$15,000 in capital works was spent, providing new flooring in D block. Over the next two years, \$570,000 is budgeted for investment in maintenance programs.



## Future outlook

There are significant opportunities at the Mt Isa TAFE site to continue to develop existing partnerships with external agencies and other government bodies, including local schools.

The campus will have targeted investment for maintenance and refurbishment. Further investigations will be carried out to determine how best to invest approximately \$430,000 in capital projects for facility upgrades.

### Infrastructure plan:

#### Mount Isa

- Over the next two years, \$570,000 is budgeted for investment in maintenance programs.
- Approximately \$430,000 is budgeted for capital upgrades to facilities at the site over the next two years.





## Cloncurry

The Cloncurry TAFE facility is a leased site used by TAFE Queensland to deliver general education and training as well as early childhood education and care, first aid, and skills for work and vocational pathways.

Indigenous health is promoted in this area by providing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with opportunities to become fully-qualified Enrolled Nurses through studies at the Cloncurry TAFE campus.

As the site is leased, there are no associated maintenance or capital costs, and continued investment will be for upgrading equipment and facilities.



### Future outlook

The campus has the capacity to manage training demand and is fit-for-purpose. The leased premises at Cloncurry will continue to offer courses that meet the needs of the local community.

#### Infrastructure plan: Cloncurry

- TAFE Queensland leases the site and investment in the modernisation of equipment and facilities is proposed.

## Charleville

The Charleville TAFE facility is used by TAFE Queensland to deliver general education and training and community services training.

TAFE Queensland course offerings have been tailored to the Charleville community which has a large percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

The site is leased by TAFE Queensland and there are no associated maintenance or capital costs. Continued investment will be for upgrading equipment and facilities.



### Future outlook

The campus has capacity to manage training demand. The premises will continue to offer courses that meet the needs of the local community including health care and disability services.

#### Infrastructure plan: Charleville

- TAFE Queensland leases the site and investment in the modernisation of equipment and facilities is proposed.

# Outback Queensland training infrastructure plan

With moderate increases projected for training demand over the next decade, the current regional infrastructure footprint is well placed with some opportunities to upgrade facilities and meet regional training needs.

As the key growth centre for the region, the Mount Isa TAFE campus is likely to undergo further analysis in coming years to ensure training delivery is contemporary and appropriate for the community.

Rural and remote communities will continue to be serviced by the Charleville and Cloncurry TAFE sites.

Despite decreasing population, all training centres continue to be important locations for TAFE Queensland.

Future consideration for the region will include an examination of options to enhance all sites to better meet the training needs of each of the unique communities throughout Outback Queensland.

The Queensland Government is committed to offering training to remote and regional communities. The government is investing over \$1 million in the region over the next two financial years (2019–20 and 2020–21) to upgrade and maintain facilities.

## Summary of planned actions

All TAFE campuses in this region will be maintained with their current training emphasis.

The Longreach QATC site will cease to provide training during 2019.

### Normanton

- The campus has the capacity to manage training demand and is fit-for-purpose. The site will continue to deliver training to provide core employability skills for indigenous and non-indigenous students.
- Approximately \$30,000 per annum is invested for maintenance at this site.

### Mount Isa

- The Mount Isa TAFE campus is used by TAFE Queensland to deliver the majority of training in the Outback Queensland region and further analysis will determine the targeted investment for maintenance and refurbishment.
- Over the next two years, approximately \$570,000 is required for maintenance, and a further \$430,000 in capital funding has been allocated for significant building upgrades.

### Cloncurry

- The leased site has the capacity to manage training demand and is fit-for-purpose. Training emphasis will continue on skills for work and vocational pathways and indigenous health.

### Charleville

- The leased site has the capacity to manage training demand and is fit-for-purpose. It will continue to support training in health care and disability services.



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