

# Building a better future for Wide Bay

- Mayor of Bundaberg Region
- Former State MP & Minister
- LGAQ Policy Executive
- ALGA Board Director

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# Local Government is big business

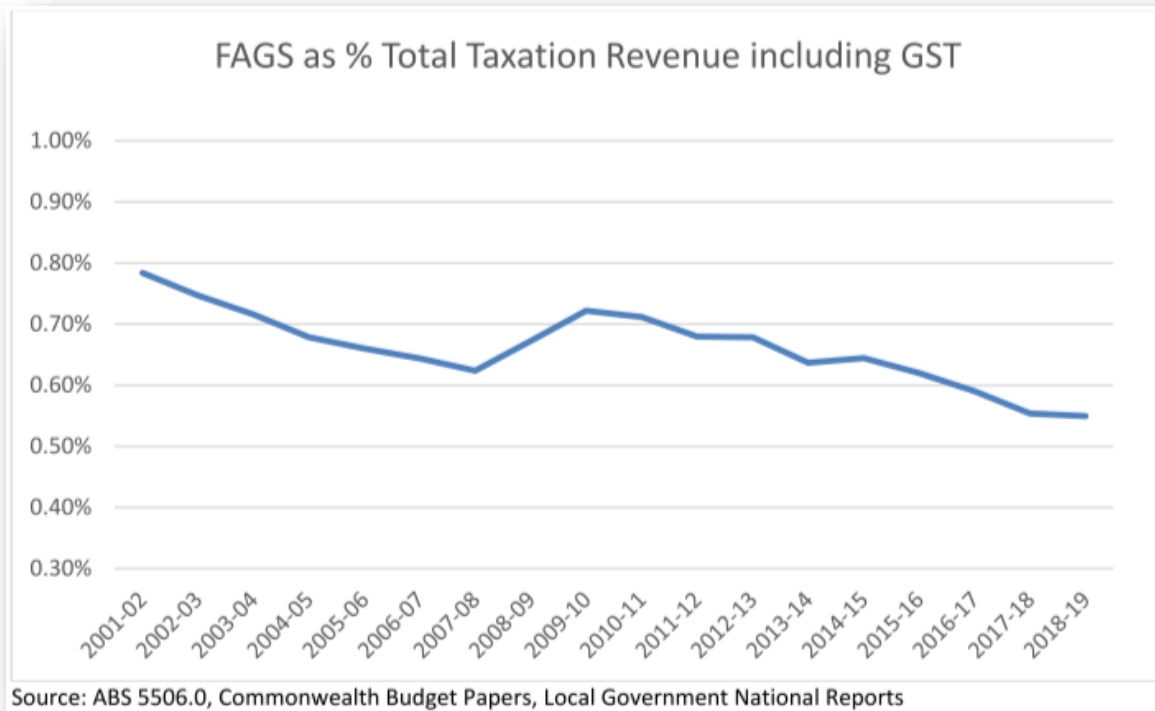
- The Queensland local government sector
  - Employs 42,000 people
  - Maintains \$150 billion in assets
  - Delivers \$12 billion in services
  - For 5.1 million Queenslanders
- If Qld Councils were listed on the ASX, they'd be as big as Aurizon, Bank of Queensland & Suncorp combined.



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# Financing Local Government

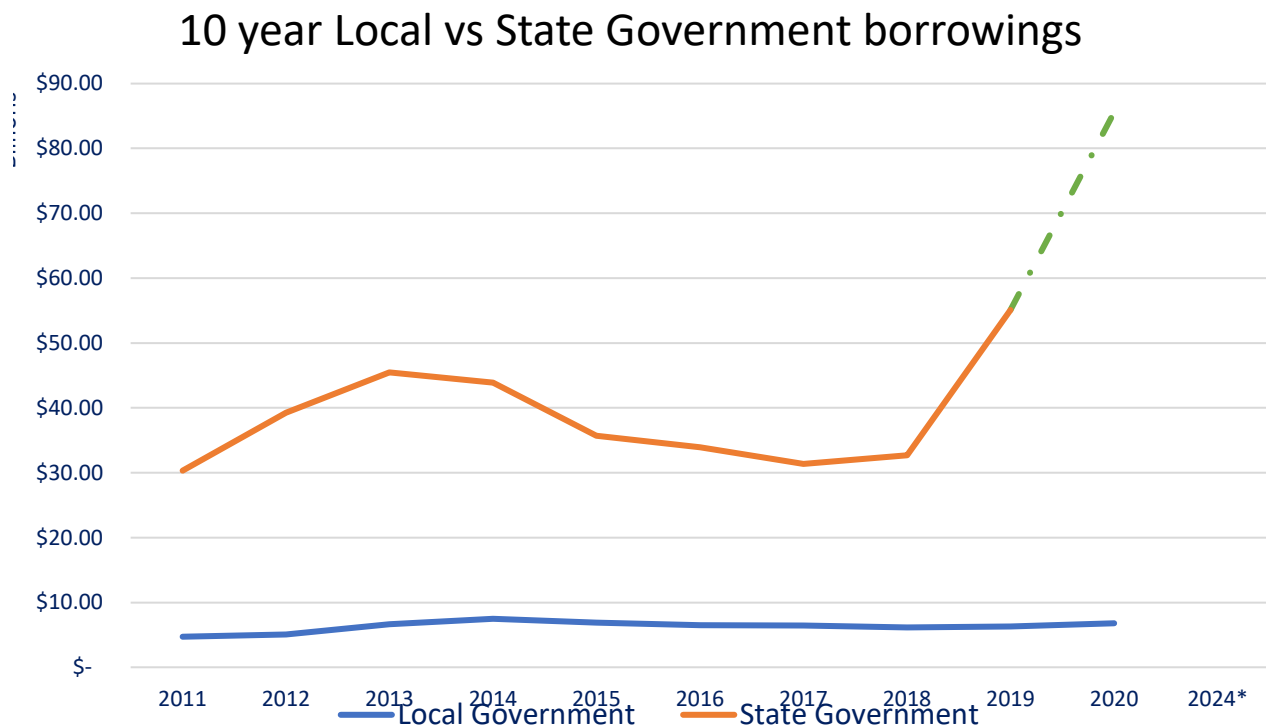
## Federal Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs)



- FAGs to Councils have declined over three decades, from 1% of tax revenue to 0.55% today.
- Of your tax
  - 80% goes to Feds
  - 17% goes to State
  - 3% goes to Council
- Yet Councils maintains 33% of all public assets.

# Financing Local Government

## State vs Local Government debt



- State borrowings set to hit \$65 B, from \$55 B last financial year.
- Financial sustainability of many Queensland Councils is becoming a challenge.

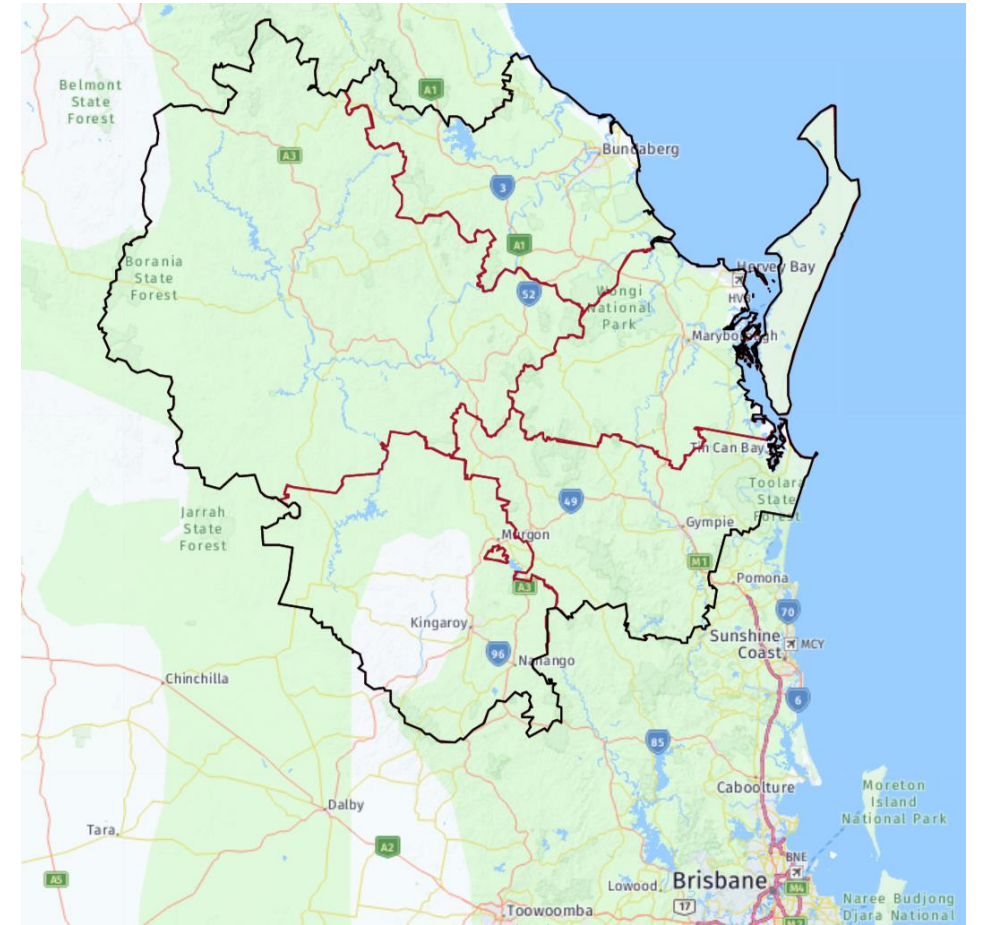
# Beginning of roadshow in Wide Bay

- Wide Bay critically important for me as your ALGA and LGAQ rep
- Making sure our region is heard in Canberra and Brisbane
- We have a positive and unified voice about the opportunities our region offers
- How we get investment and jobs going in Hervey Bay and the region



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# Our economy at a glance



Wide Bay region – 49,000 sq km

# Social profile

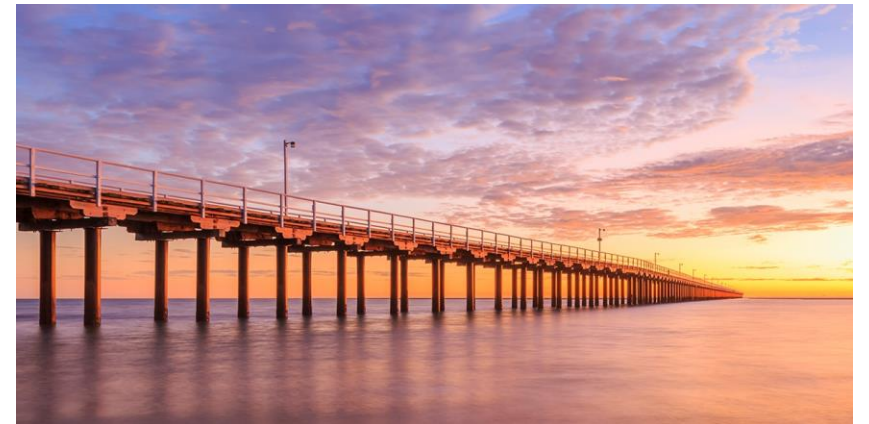
- State of the Regions Report ranks Wide Bay as having Australia's worst unemployment, 19/20 past years.
- All Wide Bay Councils ranked in the bottom third of Queensland Councils in terms of social disadvantage.
- More residents on pensions, with a disability, and lower incomes than state average.



# Social profile

- Best place in Australia to live, but
  - 38% households on less than \$745pw (28% regional QLD)
  - 8.7% with a disability (5.5% regional QLD)
  - 11.6% on Job Seeker (7.6 regional QLD)
  - 40% Fraser Coast on pension (20% regional QLD)

Sources: Profile ID Wide Bay Burnett, Federal Government

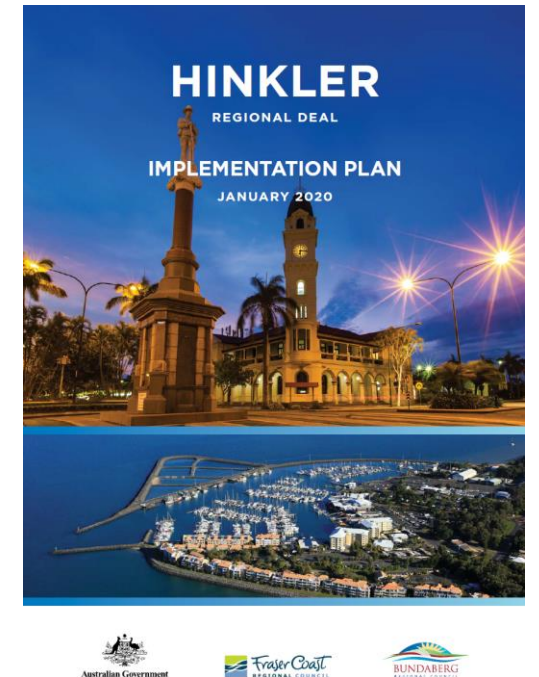




# Federal investment

## Following cashless debit card in 2018:

- Hinkler Regional Deal between both Councils and Federal Government in March 2019
- Only Deal in Australia without the state participating
- Federal promise of infrastructure to address social disadvantage, drive economic development and improve liveability & lifestyle
- Two-thirds of \$172M (over 5 yrs) promised before last Federal election went to state-federal road projects
- Most of the rest to projects such as Hervey Bay City Centre



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# Wide Bay Burnett projects of significance



- \$1.5B new Bundaberg Hospital (2026+)
- Hervey Bay Hospital upgrades needed



- \$1.2 B to repair Paradise Dam
- Urban water security needed for Hervey Bay

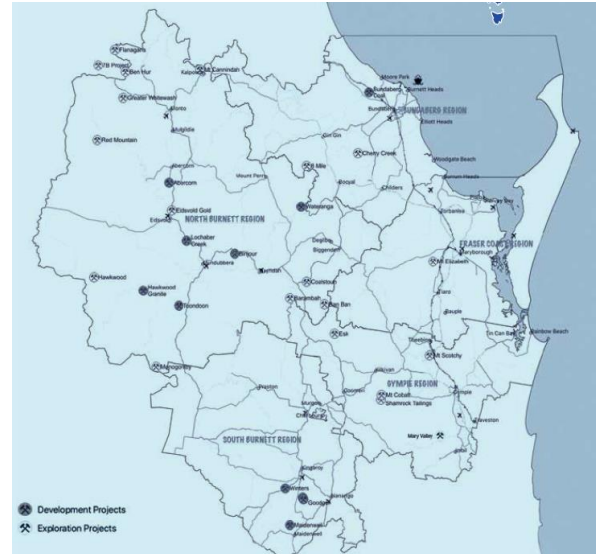


- De-merge Port of Bundaberg from Gladstone Ports Corporation

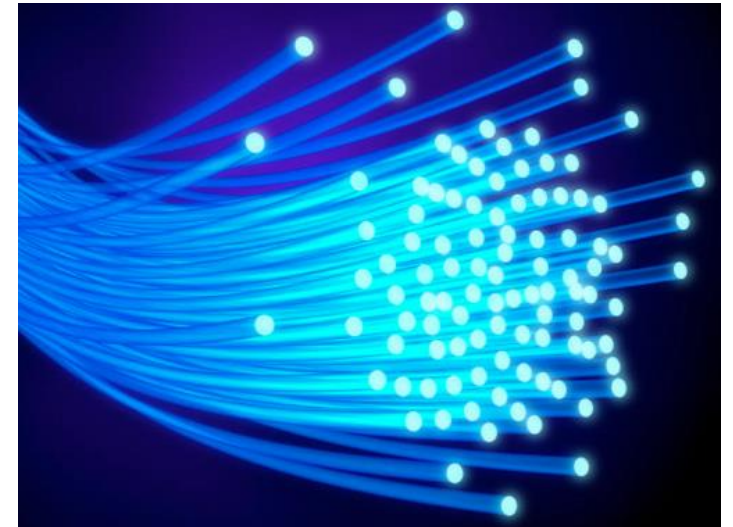
# Wide Bay Burnett projects of significance



- Inland Rail to connect to North Coast Line -24,000 more jobs in Wide Bay



- Mineral projects in North and South Burnett – export opportunities



- Telecommunications connectivity – reducing the ‘digital tax’

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# Industries of opportunity

- Tourism and aviation



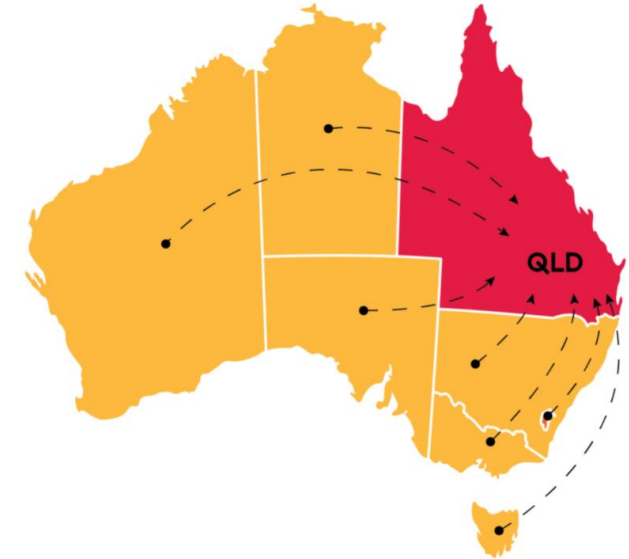
- Tourism and Hervey Bay marina infrastructure
- Route subsidies for regional airports

- Manufacturing



- Second largest number of manufacturing jobs outside SEQ

- What about professional and business services

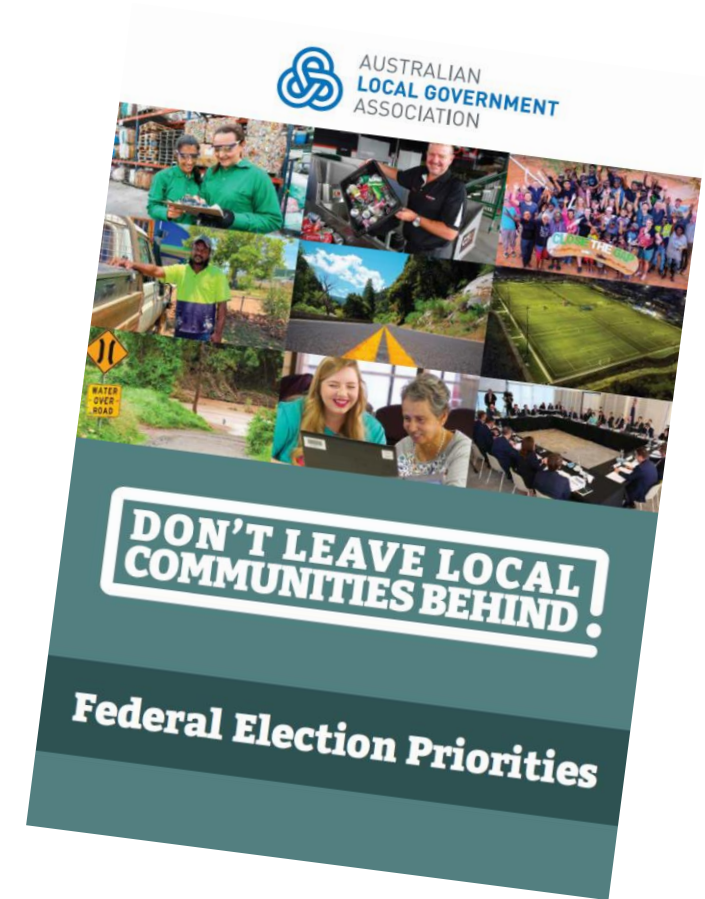


- Take advantage of COVID-19 talent exodus from NSW and VIC
- 15% people now work from home (Zoom rooms, a thing)

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# Advocacy opportunities

- Water security
- Infrastructure  
(roads, rail, port, other, social)
- Tourism and regional airports
- Hospital upgrades
- Telecommunications
- Education – TAFE and trades



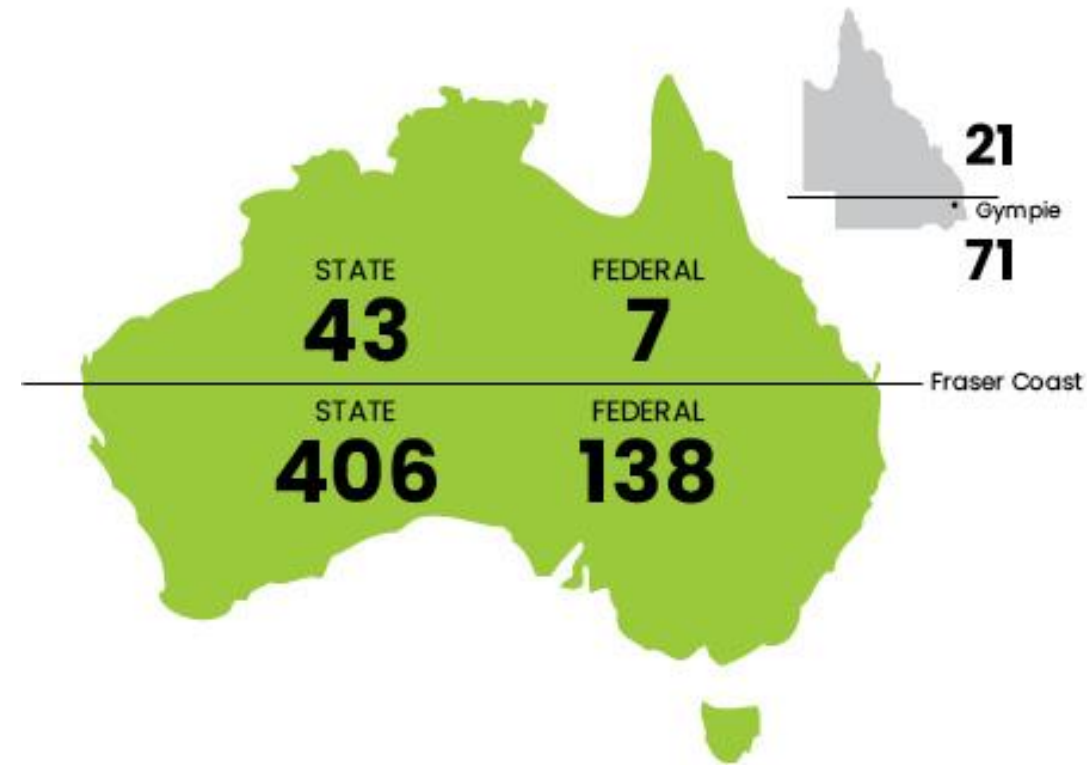
ALGA 2022 Federal Election Priorities

Economic recovery, transport and community infrastructure, building resilience, circular economy, intergovernmental relations

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# How our region wins

- Building off our diversity
- Planning and working together
- Getting the conversation going
- Picking and agreeing our priorities
- Developing a unified vision and voice
- Business leadership & stakeholder groups
- Keeping the momentum and positivity going



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