

Moreton Bay Regional Council

GENERAL MEETING - 513
5 August 2020

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Supporting Information

ITEM 1.6 - 124TH ANNUAL LGAQ CONFERENCE - MBRC MOTION (Cont.)

#1 Proposed Motion: Funding - Works for Queensland Funding Eligibility

Submitting Council	Moreton Bay Regional Council
Supporting ROC (if applicable)	LGAQ Policy Executive district District 2 - SEQ Northern
Date of council resolution	5 August 2020
Title of motion	Funding – Works for Queensland Funding Eligibility
Motion	<p>That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) expand the eligibility of the Works for Queensland (W4Q) Program to include South East Queensland councils; b) make W4Q a permanent feature of Queensland Government funding for South East Queensland councils; and c) make an annual allocation to South East Queensland councils that is separate, and in addition to the remaining 65 councils in Queensland
Background	<p>Since the commencement of the \$200 million Works for Queensland program in 2017, the Queensland Government has limited eligibility to rural and regional local government areas outside South East Queensland (65 councils). The aim of the program is to support job-creating maintenance and minor infrastructure works related to local government owned assets.</p> <p>The Queensland Government amended the 2019–21 \$200 million Works for Queensland guidelines to allow 19 Councils to access unspent W4Q funding for COVID-19 related expenses including 12 South-East councils to further boost economic recovery. The first round of the funding has been successful in stimulating local economies and generating local jobs.</p> <p>In June 2020, a \$50 million boost for South East Queensland councils was announced to build new and upgraded infrastructure as part of Queensland’s economic recovery from COVID-19. The additional \$50 million allocation built on the \$200m COVID Works for Queensland program which allocated funding to all Queensland councils as part of Queensland’s Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan.</p> <p>The councils eligible for projects for South-East Queensland program funding were Brisbane City Council, Gold Coast City Council, Ipswich City Council, Lockyer Valley Regional Council, Logan City Council, Moreton Bay Regional Council, Noosa Shire Council, Redland City Council, Scenic Rim Regional Council, Somerset Regional Council, Sunshine Coast Regional Council and Toowoomba Regional Council.</p>

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	<p>Through the \$50 million program, each of the abovementioned councils were entitled to receive a base allocation of \$2 million for local shovel ready infrastructure works with the remaining \$26 million distributed through a competitive application process.</p> <p>Job creation and the maintenance of essential infrastructure is important in urban areas to create employment opportunities and support infrastructure of the scale and standard needed to service high growth communities.</p> <p>To accommodate growth across the urban fringe and stimulate local economies, an ongoing South East Queensland Works for Queensland program would provide funding certainty to local governments, in turn leading to better planning outcomes and more strategic infrastructure delivery. In the short-term, building or upgrading local infrastructure boosts aggregate demand through increased construction activity and employment. In the long-term, infrastructure investment boosts economic growth by increasing the supply capacity of a local economy. South East Queensland councils will be in a far stronger position to deliver better social and economic infrastructure outcomes thereby accommodating for strong population growth if Works for Queensland were made a permanent feature of Queensland Government funding.</p> <p>The original intention of the Works for Queensland program was to move towards more allocative models of funding to councils, rather than cumbersome competitive bid programs where smaller rural and regional councils were competing against larger provincial and South East Queensland councils. Allocative funding enables councils and the state government to deliver projects quickly and efficiently. The State Government and the LGAQ commenced a grant review process but this did not fully achieve an improved system when it comes to allocative funding. Extending this funding to SEQ would go some way to achieving this improved funding system.</p>
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