

The infrastructure industry awaits the Queensland economic recovery plan with much anticipation and some trepidation.

Infrastructure is the lifeblood of Queensland's economy and its role has never been more important.

The infrastructure and construction industries are three to six months behind other industries as the nation enters this bleak and deep recession. Without more projects in the pipeline, the industry is facing new significant job losses soon. Queensland can avoid losing more jobs in this sector but only if spend is lifted and projects are well chosen and spread across the State in a coordinated manner.

Priscilla Radice CEO of the Infrastructure Association of Queensland said IAQ had avoided providing a list of projects to governments.

"We don't need more lists –we need the State Government framework for choosing the right projects at the right time to grow our economy and create long term jobs, Ms Radice said.

"We can't just build our way out of this crisis – this is an economic recovery not a natural disaster recovery.

"Ultimately infrastructure is for people. Therefore, the projects we invest in need to lift community wellbeing as this benefits the economy, like Cross River Rail."

"We need a mix of short run and long run projects - small spend and larger spend, local and regional, place-based and interregional projects - that together create a legacy."

IAQ is calling for the infrastructure component of the economic recovery framework to lift economic activity, increase resilience and support the following outcomes for Queensland:

- Deliver new enabling and connecting infrastructure to catalyse private sector investment
- Incentivise business activity in advanced manufacturing and the industries of the future
- Deliver state-wide skills and workforce planning to create jobs and support businesses
- Provide equal and secure access to affordable energy, water, food, health care and education
- Stimulate the regions and build context-specific economic pathways to support our diverse regional communities
- Lift the efficiency, capacity, and reliability of existing infrastructure through smart asset maintenance programs
- Accelerate innovation and lift productivity
- Deliver more affordable housing options close to job opportunities
- Create a resilient efficient, competitive supply chains for exporters and businesses
- Improve sustainability - a clean and green Queensland is globally attractive to investors
- Increase public and active transport options and green infrastructure to promote community wellbeing and connectedness
- Ensure ongoing meaningful cooperation between the three levels of government including the signing of the SEQ City Deal and bidding for the 2032 Olympics
- Streamline procurement and planning processes with fit for purpose business case methodologies
- Increase co-investment opportunities with the public and private sector working together

Ms Radice said the world is fast becoming a vastly different place permanently, but with enormous change comes extraordinary opportunity. Queensland should resist the return to ordinary and strive for better-than-before outcomes.

"Queensland has all the resources, business acumen and community spirit to work together and create a bright new future let's not waste this opportunity," said Ms Radice.

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