1. The economy of the Mackay and Whitsundays region is supported by agricultural, resource and tourism assets. The region has been rebuilding since Severe Tropical Cyclone (STC) Debbie struck in March 2017.
2. The Insurance Council of Australia described STC Debbie as the second most costly storm in Australia’s history, with more than $1.5 billion in insurance losses. However, there are promising signs of new economic growth and Queensland Government support is assisting to boost key sectors such as mining, tourism and renewables.
3. To support regional economic growth across the Mackay and Whitsunday region, the Queensland Government is leading or helping facilitate progress on projects that include critical upgrades to transport, infrastructure, schools and hospitals, police and fire services, and initiatives aimed at improving jobs, growth, and environmental outcomes.
4. The 2017-18 State Budget included a number of significant economic stimulus and job creation initiatives to directly support up to 2,300 jobs in the Mackay SA4 region, focused on restoring frontline services, boosting regional jobs, and driving trade and investment. This includes $519.8 million for infrastructure and capital works, estimated to support about 1,400 jobs, and $415.1 million in health spending for the Mackay Hospital and Health Service.
5. Cabinet noted an update on economic conditions and key achievements in the Mackay and Whitsundays region.
6. *Attachments*
* Nil.