1. The Hervey Bay Statistical Areal Level 3 (SA3) region forms part of the broader Wide Bay Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4) region in South East Queensland. The Hervey Bay SA3 region includes a large portion of the electorate of Hervey Bay and part of the electorate of Maryborough. Hervey Bay SA3 also incorporates part of Fraser Coast Regional Council Local Government Area (LGA).
2. As at 30 June 2020, the estimated resident population of the Hervey Bay SA3 region was 61,168 persons. This is projected to increase to 77,134 persons by 2041, an increase of   
   1.2 per cent per annum, compared with 1.6 per cent increase per annum expected at the state level.
3. Within the Hervey Bay region, the health care and social assistance, and retail trade industries make up the majority of the region’s employment, employing 19.3 per cent and 13.0 per cent of the region’s employed persons respectively (according to Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 census data).
4. According to Queensland Treasury estimates of 2016–17 Gross Regional Product, the gross value of the health care and social assistance industry was $1.2 billion in Wide Bay SA4 region, while the gross value of the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry was $1.1 billion.
5. The Queensland Government is creating jobs, boosting investment, and supporting the Wide Bay SA4 region by:
   * investing more than $44.2 million under the Building our Regions program for 28 projects across five LGAs in the Wide Bay region, supporting an estimated 435.7 jobs
   * providing $158.03 million in Works for Queensland funding, estimated to support or create 7380.57 jobs
   * under the previous Back to Work program (closed 30 June 2021) and since July 2016, more than $49.8 million has been invested in Wide Bay region across six LGAs. This investment has supported 2198 employers and 4,772 jobs (as at 1 September 2021)
   * investing more than $38 million, through Skilling Queenslanders for Work, supporting 4385 disadvantaged Queenslanders with 2881 gaining jobs.
6. Cabinet noted an update on economic conditions and job creating initiatives in Hervey Bay.
7. *Attachments*

* Nil.