









C. Timeline of key events

Timeline of key events in the Queensland Government’s response to COVID-19, 25 January to 21 August 2020.















Figure C1
Timeline of key events from 25 January–21 August 2020

















Date	Event
January 2020	
25 January	Australia’s first case of COVID-19 is confirmed (in Victoria).
29 January	Queensland’s first confirmed case of COVID-19. Queensland Government declares a public health emergency.
February 2020	
18 February	Queensland Government announces \$27.25 million COVID-19 aid package as support for tourism and fishery sectors.
March 2020	
2 March	Queensland Government announces small and medium businesses impacted by COVID-19 will be able to defer their payroll tax payment for six months.
17 March	Queensland Government announces it will offer \$500 million interest-free loans to local businesses.
18 March	Queensland Government announces support for small-to-medium arts organisations through funding extensions, changes to funding application time frames and rent relief for tenants based in Queensland Government arts infrastructure.
22 March	Queensland Government announces \$17 million in funding for University of Queensland researchers to fast-track a coronavirus vaccine. It included \$10 million from the Queensland Government, \$3 million from the Australian Government and \$3.5 million from the Paul Ramsay Foundation.
24 March	Queensland Government announces Queensland’s border will close from midnight 25 March, with only freight and essential travel allowed.
24 March	Queensland Government announces a \$4 billion package in response to COVID-19. Package includes \$2.5 billion for workers and businesses, with up to \$500 million to help workers who lose jobs or income; \$400 million for households, including \$200 off utility bills; and \$1.2 billion for health.
24 March	Queensland Government announces further support for the arts sector, to be delivered as grant funding to provide support for individual artists and arts organisations.
25 March	Queensland Government announces a range of measures to provide support for vulnerable Queenslanders, particularly those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.



















Date	Event
26 March	Queensland Government announces Queensland schools will become 'student-free' from 30 March. Schools will remain open until the end of term on 3 April, to allow for the children of essential workers to remain at school and for teachers to prepare to move to remote learning from home.
April 2020	
1 April 	Queensland Government announces a rental grant scheme, which is a one-off payment of up to four weeks rent (maximum of \$2,000) available to those affected by COVID-19.
1 April	The Premier launches the 'care army', calling on residents to help their neighbours.
2 April	The Premier announces a 12-month pay freeze for public servants, effective from 1 July 2020. This would provide government savings of \$500 million in the 2020–21 financial year.
2 April 	Queensland Government announces Cairns doctors, nurses, paramedics and health professionals are expected to receive up to \$152 million in extra funding to build up their COVID-19 preparations.
6 April 	Queensland Government announces \$50 million in tax relief for pubs and clubs, to be delivered as a three-month deferral on gaming machine taxes. Additionally, around 50 licensees who have already paid their gaming machine taxes for March will have a total of \$1.4 million returned to them.
6 April 	Queensland Government announces \$17.5 million plan to protect families of frontline health workers, by providing free accommodation to these workers if they want to self-isolate.
6 April	Testing for coronavirus is expanded to include anyone with respiratory symptoms in hotspots across Queensland, including Brisbane, the Gold Coast and Cairns.
8 April 	Queensland Government announces funding of \$5.5 million to boost domestic violence support services, including by providing more accommodation during the pandemic.
9 April 	Queensland Government announces \$400 million land tax relief for commercial and residential property owners who agree to provide rent relief for tenants affected by COVID-19.
12 April 	Queensland Government announces \$17 million for community kindergartens struggling with falling enrolments due to COVID-19.
13 April	Queensland Government announces school students will be learning at home for the first five weeks of Term 2, with schools only open for the children of essential workers.
14 April 	Queensland Government announces funding to support Queensland's community-based health service groups as part of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.
16 April	Queensland Government opens a new online portal that will connect Queenslanders who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19 with new job opportunities. The new <i>Jobs Finder Queensland</i> web portal initiative is part of the government's \$4 billion package of support measures.



Date	Event
18 April 	Queensland Government offers \$200 million to help bail out Virgin Australia in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
23 April 	Queensland Parliament passed the <i>Appropriation (COVID-19) Act 2020</i> , which provides additional funding of \$4.8 billion over two years in household, business and health support measures. The bill provides additional appropriation of \$3.181 billion in 2019–20 and additional interim supply of \$1.615 billion for 2020–21.
23 April 	Queensland Government announces funding support for two charities—Lifeline (\$3.5 million) and Legacy (\$1 million) in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. This \$4.5 million in emergency funding is part of \$1.2 billion previously announced to reinforce Queensland Health’s response to COVID-19.
24 April 	Queensland Government announces additional support for Far North Queensland port businesses, providing rental relief for the region’s tourism, resource and seafood sectors.
25 April 	Queensland Government announces a \$54.5 million package that will allow regional air, bus and ferry services to keep running while social distancing measures remain in place.
26 April 	The Premier announces the first easing of restrictions, with drives of up to 50 kilometres from home and family picnics allowed, along with other recreational activities (such as non-essential shopping) to be allowed from Saturday, 2 May.
28 April 	Queensland Government announces waiving of \$33.8 million in land rent for 1 April to 30 September, to help support business.
May 2020	
4 May 	The Premier announces a partial resumption of classes, with kindergarten, prep and years 1, 11 and 12 to return to school from 11 May. Other students are to follow from 25 May.
5 May 	Queensland Government announces freeze on irrigation prices in 2020–21 and absorbs dam safety costs, as relief for farmers.
5 May 	The \$1 billion Pacific Motorway upgrade from Varsity Lakes to Tugun has been fast-tracked to bust congestion and create jobs to help in the recovery from COVID-19. The Australian and Queensland governments are jointly funding this project, with both governments contributing \$500 million each.
6 May 	Queensland Government announces relief for resources sector, which includes waiving of rent for 12-months on exploration land due between 1 April and 1 September and freezing fees and charges until 1 July 2021. The government has also brought forward \$2.8 million in grant funds for innovative exploration in the North West Minerals Province.
7 May 	The Premier announces payroll tax exemption on the Australian Government’s JobKeeper payments. This provides additional effective relief of \$360 million over six months to businesses.
7 May 	The Premier announces from 10 May, up to five people from one household are to be allowed to visit another household as contact restrictions are further eased.
8 May 	The Premier releases Queensland’s roadmap to easing COVID-19 restrictions, permitting pubs, clubs, restaurants and cafes to reopen from Saturday, 16 May, for up to 10 patrons among other relaxations.

Date	Event
<p>9 May </p>	<p>Queensland Government announces additional \$500 million in funding for its program of 12-month interest free loans for COVID-19-affected businesses, doubling the initial commitment.</p>
<p>11 May </p>	<p>Queensland’s kindergarten, prep, year 1 and years 11 and 12 return to schools.</p>
<p>19 May </p>	<p>The Premier announces the <i>Queensland’s Economic Recovery Strategy—Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs</i>, to help the state recover from COVID-19 with a focus on Queensland jobs.</p>
<p>19 May </p>	<p>Queensland Government announces \$100 million in small business grants and training to combat COVID-19.</p>
<p>19 May </p>	<p>Queensland Government announces an extra \$50 million to help support tourism businesses, and theme and animal parks get through COVID-19.</p>
<p>19 May </p>	<p>Queensland Government announces \$400 million in new, accelerated funding for Queensland roads.</p>
<p>19 May </p>	<p>Queensland Government announces \$200 million in council works program.</p>
<p>26 May </p>	<p>Queensland Government announces further financial support for independent creative artists, producers, designers, technicians and arts workers.</p>
<p>31 May </p>	<p>Queensland Government announces major easing of the COVID-19 restrictions to commence on 1 June (stage two easing of restrictions), with Queenslanders now to enjoy unrestricted travel throughout the state.</p>
<p>June 2020</p>	
<p>5 June </p>	<p>Queensland Government announces support for Queensland workers who test positive for COVID-19 and have no access to paid sick leave. This will provide affected workers with a one off \$1,500 payment to cover their unpaid sick leave.</p>
<p>7 June </p>	<p>Queensland Government announces a new tourism campaign, <i>Queensland – You’re Good to Go</i>. This campaign is projected to deliver a \$1 billion in overnight accommodation takings for hard hit tourism operators over the next four months.</p>
<p>9 June </p>	<p>Queensland Government announces a \$3.5 million grant to Cairns Aquarium to help local tourism sustain and recover during the global COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
<p>12 June </p>	<p>Queensland Government announces easing of travel restrictions for Queensland’s remote and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.</p>
<p>12 June </p>	<p>Queensland Government announces funding of \$0.5 million in support for zoos and mobile animal exhibitors.</p>
<p>16 June </p>	<p>Queensland Government announces next phase of its economic recovery plan to back Queensland jobs, businesses, and industries.</p>
<p>16 June </p>	<p>Queensland Government announces \$267 million in building stimulus to support construction sector jobs and promote investment and economic development.</p>



Date	Event
16 June 	Queensland Government announces additional \$100 million in support for small businesses to help them recover.
16 June 	Queensland Government announces \$22.5 million to support the creative recovery plan after COVID-19 in Queensland.
16 June 	Queensland Government announces \$17 million investment towards a new Renewable Energy Training Facility that is expected to provide Queenslanders with the skills they need for jobs now and into the future.
16 June 	Queensland Government announces \$15 million package for interstate and intrastate flights
16 June 	Queensland Government announces \$12.5 million funding package for agribusiness and food sector.
16 June 	Queensland Government announces \$10 million in mineral exploration grants
16 June 	Queensland Government announces \$9 million in additional funding for national park infrastructure and nature-based tourism.
16 June 	Queensland Government announces \$23 million to support the state's taxi and limousine operators.
17 June 	Queensland Government announces a trial to allow crowds of up to 2,000 to watch the football at stadiums.
30 June 	Queensland Government announces state borders will reopen to visitors from all states but Victoria from 10 July.
July 2020	
3 July 	Queensland Government announces major lifting of restrictions—larger events and workers can return to offices (stage three easing of restrictions).
6 July 	Queensland Government announces further support for pubs and clubs with extending the deferral of gaming taxes until 2021.
9 July 	Queensland Government announces it will implement \$3 billion worth of savings measures.
14 July 	Queensland Government announces it will block entry to NSW residents from COVID-19 hotspots of Campbelltown and Liverpool, after a cluster of cases were identified in Sydney.
29 July 	Queensland Government declares the greater Sydney area a COVID-19 hotspot and closes its borders to its residents from 1 August.
August 2020	
2 August 	Queensland Government announces \$150 million to support Queensland universities impacted by COVID-19.

Date	Event
8 August	Queensland state border restrictions resume.
20 August	The Premier announces <i>Queensland's Economic Recovery Plan</i> .

Note: The timeline does not include all government announcements on COVID-19.

Source: Queensland Audit Office review of government media statements, government websites, Queensland's Economic Recovery Strategy—Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs and Queensland's Economic Recovery Plan.

