The SIP clearly spells out the short and long term infrastructure priorities...

Over the past 12 months, we have been transforming the way Queensland approaches infrastructure, with a focus on taking the politics out of the planning process.

The first plank in this reform was establishing Building...
The SIP clearly spells out the short and long-term infrastructure priorities that our state needs: increasing the capacity and resilience of South East Queensland’s transport system; adapting new technologies in the energy sector; improving regional connectivity and freight market access; and focussing on better preservation and utilisation of public assets.

Yes elections will come and go and commitments will be made, but with this Plan Queenslanders have a prioritised pipeline of projects that have been independently assessed and will know these are the projects their government should be investing in.

Importantly, this Plan is also backed by the establishment of a new State Infrastructure Fund, with an initial investment of $500 million. This Fund builds on Queensland’s existing capital budget of $35 billion over four years and will help fast-track a number of crucial projects and support the jobs our state needs right now.

Through this investment, our state is now moving to deliver six of the 12 Queensland specific projects highlighted on the Infrastructure Australia Priority list, released just a few months ago.

We’re continuing to push for a fairer share from Canberra and through our State Infrastructure Plan, we’re exploring new and innovative ways to fund and deliver infrastructure.

I’ve set up a value capture office within my department to investigate private sector partnerships and innovation including for Cross River Rail. These partnerships are critical to delivering our State Infrastructure Plan. Value capture, wherein the Government recovers some or all of the value that public infrastructure generates for private landowners, is a key option the Palaszczuk Government is considering for funding priority infrastructure moving forward.

We want to think outside of the box and explore new ideas. One of the key concepts that we are exploring are “City Deals”, a model that has worked successfully in the United Kingdom. These deals bring Federal, State and Local Government together, so that the right infrastructure is prioritised and beneficial microeconomic reforms (like better planning principles) can be delivered.

The Deals can last for up to 10 years, and provide a long-term blueprint to transform cities and regions into more productive, knowledgeable and sustainable places to live and work.

There’s no doubt Queensland faces significant change and growth over the coming decades and it will need both the public and private sectors to connect to ensure the infrastructure needs of all Queenslanders are met.

Our Government is committed to embracing innovation and delivering the best infrastructure outcomes for Queensland as we grow. Through investing in forward-thinking solutions we’re turning Queensland’s infrastructure ‘wish-list’ into reality.