



Queensland

Royalties for Regional Advancement Youth Act 2025

Youth Act No. 6 of 2025

A Youth Bill for a Youth Act to strengthen and develop local government areas in Queensland which generate the most royalties through extraction of resources by establishing a fund to distribute a portion of the total royalties received by the State each financial year

[Assented to 23 October 2025]



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Royalties for Regional Advancement Youth Act 2025

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The Youth Parliament of Queensland enacts—

Part 1 Preliminary

1 Short title

This Youth Act may be cited as the *Royalties for Regional Advancement Youth Act 2025*.

2 Main purpose of Youth Act

- (1) The main purpose of this Youth Act is to strengthen and develop local government areas in Queensland which generate the most royalties through extraction of resources.
- (2) The main purpose of this Youth Act is primarily achieved by establishing a fund with the same purpose as the main purpose of this Youth Act to distribute a portion of the total royalties received by the State each financial year.

3 Definitions

In this Youth Act—

forecast royalty income, for a financial year, means the estimated total amount of royalties the State will receive under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* in the financial year stated in the budget papers for the financial year.

fund means the Royalties for Regional Advancement Fund established under section 4.

major industry sector means an industry which relates to agriculture, education, construction, health, mining, manufacturing or transmission.

mine see *Mineral Resources Act 1989*, section 6A.

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3A Meaning of *eligible local government*

A local government is an *eligible local government*, for a financial year, if at least 5% of the forecast royalty income for the financial year is estimated to be generated by mining being carried out in the local government area for the local government.

Part 2 Royalties for Regional Advancement Fund

4 Establishment of fund

The Royalties for Regional Advancement Fund is established.

5 Fund bank account

- (1) The department must keep a fund bank account.
- (2) The account is in addition to other accounts the department is required or permitted to keep under an Act.
- (3) The chief executive must pay all amounts received for the fund into the fund bank account, including amounts appropriated by Parliament and any other amounts received by the department for the fund.
- (4) The chief executive may pay amounts out of the fund bank account only in order to make a payment from the fund under section 8.
- (5) The Treasurer may give the chief executive a direction about the banking arrangements for the fund bank account.
- (6) The direction must be consistent with requirements applying to the department under this Youth Act or another Act.
- (7) The chief executive must comply with a direction given under subsection (5).

6 Purpose of fund

The purpose of the fund is to strengthen and develop local government areas in Queensland, which generate the most royalties through extraction of resources.

7 Treasurer to make payments into fund following annual budget

- (1) Within 21 days after the budget for the State for a financial year is tabled in the Legislative Assembly, the Treasurer must cause an amount equal to 25% of the forecast royalty income for the financial year to be paid out of the consolidated fund and into the fund.

8 Limit on amount in fund

The Treasurer must ensure that the total amount in the fund does not exceed \$25,000,000,001.

8A Allocation of funds to local governments

- (1) The chief executive and the under-Treasurer must, after an amount is paid into the fund under section 7, allocate the amount to subsidiary accounts for each eligible local government.
- (2) For subsection (1), the allocation must be made as follows—
 - (a) 40% of the amount paid into the fund must be allocated equally between each eligible local government; and
 - (b) 60% of the amount paid into the fund must be allocated proportionally according to the percentage of the forecast royalty income for the financial year the amount relates to that is estimated to be generated by mining being carried out in the local government area for the local government.

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9 Payments from fund

- (1) A local government for a subsidiary account may request that the chief executive and under-Treasurer make a payment from the fund.
- (2) The local government may request an amount be paid from the fund only if—
 - (a) the amount will, or is likely to, contribute to achieving a purpose of the fund; and
 - (b) the amount is being paid from the fund for a purpose mentioned in section 10.
- (3) In making a request for the payment of an amount from the fund, the local government must have regard to the following matters—
 - (a) the public interest in amounts in the fund are used to fund where appropriate, state government infrastructure and federal government infrastructure;
 - (b) the public interesting in allocating amounts in the funds across all purposes for which funds may be paid under section 10;
 - (c) how effectively the payment will contribute to achieving a purpose of the fund;
 - (d) whether the payment is the most practical or cost-effective way to achieve a purpose of the fund;
 - (e) whether there are alternative sources of funding available for the purpose for which the proposed payment is to be made;
 - (f) any other matter prescribed by regulation.
- (4) After receiving the local government's request, the chief executive and under-Treasurer must decide jointly whether to make a payment from the fund.
- (5) Unless the chief executive and the under-Treasurer reasonably believe the paying of the amount from the funds is not in the public interest, the chief and the under-Treasurer must pay the amount from the fund.

- (6) To remove any doubt, it is declared that an amount may be paid to State, including, for example, to the department, another department or a government owned corporation.
- (7) A regulation may prescribe—
 - (a) requirements or obligations that must be complied with by a recipient or proposed recipient of a payment from the fund; and

Example of requirements or obligations—

- 1 A regulation may require fund recipients who receive a payment for the purpose of promoting employment within the manufacturing sector to submit a plan and establish partnerships with local education institutions and training organisations.
- 2 A regulation may require fund recipients who receive a payment for the purpose of improving telecommunications to consult regularly with residents, local government, Aboriginal persons and Torres Strait Islander persons, the State and telecommunications and infrastructure providers.
- (b) any other matter necessary or convenient to ensure the fund is administered—
 - (i) in accordance with this Youth Act; and
 - (ii) in an effective and efficient way.

10 Purposes for which funds may be paid

An amount may only be paid from the fund for the following purposes—

- (a) recreation, sport and the arts—
 - (i) constructing, improving, maintaining and operating facilities for recreation, sport and art;
 - (ii) delivering recreation, sport and art activities and events out of those facilities;
- (b) tourism and events—
 - (i) constructing, improving, maintaining and operating facilities for tourism, including hotels and venues;

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- (ii) promoting attractions and events;
 - (iii) organising and delivering events, festivals and tours;
 - (iv) improving the visual amenity of parks and recreation areas; and
 - (v) improving the liveability of roads;
- (c) agriculture and the environment—projects and initiatives relating to—
 - (i) irrigation;
 - (ii) soil regeneration;
 - (iii) pest-management;
 - (iv) drought resilience;
 - (v) fire management;
 - (vi) conservation;
 - (vii) revegetation;
 - (viii) biodiversity protection;
 - (ix) increasing the skills of workers in the agricultural and environmental conservation and management sectors;
 - (x) diversifying agricultural practices;
- (d) transmission and manufacturing—
 - (i) providing specialised, industry aligned training for workers in the transmission and manufacturing sectors;
 - (ii) establishing training facilities and programs for workers and persons seeking employment within the transmission and manufacturing sectors;
 - (iii) creating pathways to long-term employment in regional manufacturing sectors;

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- (iv) increasing participation, including by Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people, in rural transmission and manufacturing sectors;
 - (v) establishing new manufacturing industries;
 - (e) telecommunications—
 - (i) constructing, maintaining and improving telecommunications infrastructure;
 - (ii) expanding high speed and affordable internet access;
 - (f) State infrastructure—
 - (i) health—constructing, maintaining, improving, expanding, operating and delivering hospital and health services, including the recruitment of staff.
 - (ii) roads—constructing, maintaining and improving roads;
 - (iia) public transport—constructing, maintaining and improving public transport, including public transport that is targeted to workers in major industry sectors;
 - (iii) education—
 - (A) constructing, maintaining, improving, operating and delivering educational institutions, education and educational activities, including the recruitment of staff;
 - (B) increasing participation in education;
 - (iv) law enforcement—constructing, maintaining, improving, expanding, operating and delivering law enforcement services;
 - (v) employment—programs or resources that connect students to industry to improve the student's employability;
 - (g) not-for-profits—reducing and funding operational and other costs incurred by not-for-profits entities;

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- (h) low-income housing—
 - (i) the construction of new affordable housing units, including, for example, single-family homes, apartment complexes, and traditional housing structures;
 - (ii) rental assistance programs, including, for example, housing vouchers or rent subsidies;
 - (iii) down payment assistance programs for first-time low-income home buyers;
 - (iv) housing for key workers—constructing, maintaining and improving housing for workers in major industry sectors.

11 Annual review

- (1) The Minister must review the operation and effectiveness of this Youth Act, including the fund, as soon as practicable after the day that is 1 year after the commencement.
- (2) The Minister must also review the operation and effectiveness of this Youth Act every year after the review mentioned in subsection (1).
- (3) The Minister must table a report about the outcome of each review in the Legislative Assembly.
- (4) Before preparing their report, the Minister must consult all eligible local governments.
- (5) The report must include—
 - (a) information about how amounts from the funds were distributed; and
 - (b) information about the outcomes of projects and initiatives that received payments from the fund; and
 - (c) recommendations about how amounts from the fund should be distributed in the future; and
 - (d) any other information prescribed by regulation.

12 Fund guideline

- (1) The chief executive and under-Treasurer may make a guideline about the administration of the fund under this part, including—
 - (a) procedures relating to making payments from the fund; and
 - (b) procedures for dealing with complaints about payments from the fund.
- (2) The chief executive and under-Treasurer must comply with the guideline in administering the fund.

13 Reporting requirement

The department must include the following information about the fund in the department's annual report under the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*, section 63—

- (a) the total funds held in the fund bank account kept under section 5 when the annual report is prepared; and
- (b) a summary of the payments made from the fund for the financial year; and
- (c) a description of how the payments have contributed to achieving the purposes of the fund.