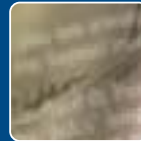




2001–02 summary report

Priorities in Progress

A report to all Queenslanders
on outcomes under the Charter of Social and Fiscal Responsibility



1 More jobs for Queensland – skills and innovation
– the Smart State

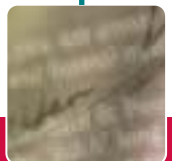
2 Safer and more
supportive communities

3 Community engagement
and a better quality of life

4 Valuing the
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5 Building
Queensland's
regions

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principles





Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to present this summary of my Government's third **Priorities in Progress** report on the outcomes being achieved under the **Charter of Social and Fiscal Responsibility**.

Priorities in Progress is an important accountability and consultation mechanism providing an insight into the Government's achievements against our five key policy priorities using a range of social, environmental and economic indicators.

The report demonstrates our ongoing commitment to creating more job opportunities for Queenslanders and growing the Smart State. It also highlights our achievements to improve the quality of life for all Queenslanders against a number of community safety, health and environmental objectives.

This summary provides a snapshot of key findings outlined in the 2001–02 report, including an overview of how we have performed, and how we are moving forward.

In striving to improve the quality of life for Queenslanders we are driving a continued evolution of policies and legislation to meet the needs of current and future generations.

This process of progressive government cannot occur without a robust assessment of our progress as presented in this report.

I once again commend **Priorities in Progress** to all Queenslanders to chart the progress of your Government.

The Honourable Peter Beattie MP
Premier and Minister for Trade



Priority 1

More jobs for Queensland – skills and innovation – the Smart State

How have we performed?

Queensland's economy grew by 4.4% in 2001–02, once again faster than the Australian economy.

A total of 32,300 jobs were created, representing 32% of all jobs created in Australia.

Strong growth in capital investment and household consumption underpinned Queensland's economic growth in 2001–02. Business investment grew by 18.8%, buoyed by strong rises in mining and manufacturing industries.

The value of Queensland's overseas exports increased to \$29.2 billion.

Queenslanders continued to embrace information and communication technology, with business use of computers and the Internet higher than the national average.

Seven out of 10 households had access to a home computer in 2002, up by 7 percentage points on the previous year.

Building a highly skilled and adaptable workforce to take advantage of traditional and knowledge industries continued, with an 11.7% increase in the number of enrolments in higher education and vocational training.

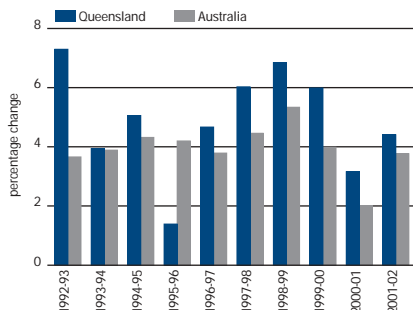
School retention rates of 79% were higher than the national average of 73.4%.

Improving educational outcomes for Indigenous students remains an area for continued improvement, as is Year 5 reading, and narrowing the gap between urban and rural literacy and numeracy performances and the retention rates of boys and girls.

Economic growth

Growth in gross state/domestic product, Queensland and Australia 1992–93 to 2001–02

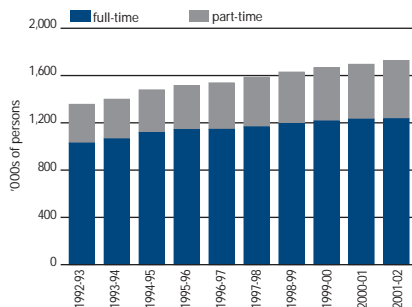
Source: ABS, Australian National Accounts (National Income, Expenditure and Product) Cat. No. 5206.0 and Queensland State Accounts, Office of Economic and Statistical Research, Queensland Treasury



Employment

Employment (full- and part-time), Queensland 1992–93 to 2001–02

Source: ABS, Labour Force Australia, Preliminary, Cat. No. 6202.0



Moving forward

The **State Infrastructure Plan** provides a policy framework to support infrastructure development for our dynamic growing economy. In addition, a four-year **Priority Infrastructure Package** will provide health technologies, police information systems, schools, water, roads and community infrastructure.

The Government provided \$4.8 billion for capital works in its 2002–03 State Budget and continues to spend more per capita on general government capital works than any other state.

The **Export Solutions** trade strategy aims to increase the number of exporters by 20% with a 50% increase in the value of knowledge-intensive exports.

The **Public Private Partnership (PPP) Policy** released in 2001–02 provides clear guidelines for private sector involvement in the provision of major infrastructure projects. The policy introduces a rigorous, flexible and transparent process to achieve better service outcomes and value for money.

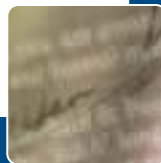
Queensland is being positioned as a key aviation hub in the Asia-Pacific. The arrival of companies such as Boeing and Virgin Blue has been supported by the Government's purpose built aviation training centre of excellence, **Aviation Australia**.

Enhancing opportunities in knowledge and innovation industries will continue to be supported. The **Queensland Research and Development Strategy** will support the development of new and traditional industries. **Growing the Smart State: A PhD Research Funding Program** will link university research to the Government's policy initiatives. The **Queensland Biodiscovery Policy** will encourage growth of biotechnology industries using the State's rich biodiversity.

The extension of the **Breaking the Unemployment Cycle** initiative to 2003–04 will increase the number of targeted apprenticeships, traineeships and job placement opportunities to 56,000.

Queensland the Smart State – Education and Training Reforms for the Future will equip current and future generations to make the most of Smart State opportunities by targeting early education, information and computer technology training and clearer pathways to work or further study.

Queensland State Education – 2010 aims to improve educational outcomes for students and increase Year 12 completion rates. **Partners for Success** will ensure that Indigenous students have access to quality education and training, career guidance or possible alternative schooling.





Priority 2

Safer and more supportive communities

How have we performed?

Crime rates in Queensland continue to be significantly lower than the national average.

Imprisonment rates have fallen and the gap between national and State imprisonment rates continues to narrow.

Indigenous Queenslanders remain over-represented in the criminal justice system.

There have been no escapes from secure custody in the past four years.

Queensland's transport and fire death rates are consistent with national rates and continue to fall.

Deaths due to electrical incidents fell sharply in 2001–02 with deaths due to drowning also falling.

The Government's work in protecting the most vulnerable members of our community saw an increase in the number of child protection notices issued.

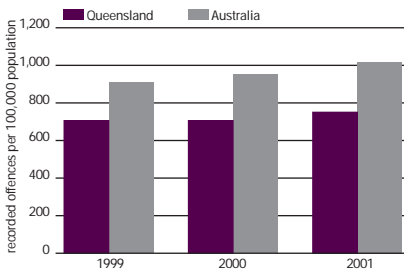
The rate of drug deaths in Queensland for people aged 15–44 years remains below the national average.

The number of working days lost due to employee injury and disease declined in 2001–02.

Crimes against the person

Recorded offences against the person, Queensland and Australia 1999 to 2001

Source: ABS, Recorded Crime Australia, Cat. No. 4510.0

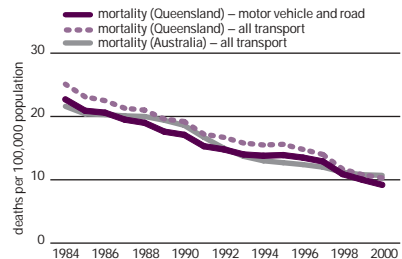


Notes:
Crimes against the person include homicide (murder), other homicide, assault, sexual offences, kidnapping and abduction, robbery, blackmail and extortion.

Transport

Transport injury mortality rate, Queensland and Australia 1984 to 2000

Source: ABS, Australian Unit Record Mortality File and Health Information Centre, Queensland Health



Notes:
Mortality as a result of motor vehicle injury includes off-road incidents. Mortality as a result of transport injury includes rail, air and maritime incidents.
Years stated refer to three-year rolling averages at year's end.
For example, 1984 refers to 1982–1984.

Moving forward

The Government recognises the importance of ensuring all Queenslanders are provided with a safe and secure community.

The **Strategic Framework for Community Crime Prevention** will engage local communities in addressing their crime concerns and support local action to build safer communities and ensure smarter investment of resources.

The trial appointment of **Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Police** in Badu Island, Yarrabah and Woorabinda communities will continue efforts to reduce the over-representation of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system.

The **Drug Court Pilot** being trialled to address the impact of drug addiction on crime, imprisonment and repeat offending through a focus on rehabilitation is being extended to North Queensland.

The **Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Agreement** aims to halve the rate of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system by 2011.

Meeting Challenges, Making Choices, the Government's response to the Cape York Justice Study, will drive reforms to address economic and social issues in Indigenous communities, including the relationship between alcohol and violence.

Community Conferencing will provide a diversionary strategy to reduce the number of young people in the youth justice system, while bringing young offenders face-to-face with their victims.

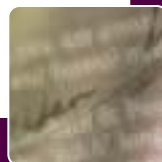
Queensland Families: Future Directions will improve child protection systems and build the capacity of service systems, individuals and families, to protect the most vulnerable members of our community.

The **Safe Families – Safer Communities Policy and Action Plan** provides a coordinated response to family violence. It expands on the Government's domestic violence legislation to protect family members, the elderly, people with disabilities and those in dating relationships.

The **Child Injury Prevention Project** focuses on children in the 0–4 years age group who are particularly vulnerable to preventable injury and involves a three-to five-year trial in Mackay and Mount Isa.

The successful **Working with Children Check** is continuing with Queensland being the first state to mandate screening for volunteers working with children. The check assesses the suitability of people in child-related employment based on their criminal history.

The **Review of Fire Safety in Budget Accommodation** has resulted in the amendment of legislation to ensure that occupiers of budget accommodation are afforded enhanced safety and a reasonable amount of protection in the event of fire.





Priority 3

Community engagement and a better quality of life

How have we performed?

International benchmarks continue to place our **quality of life** among the best in the world.

The average disposable income of Queenslanders continued to rise. Rents remained lower and home ownership was more achievable, compared to the rest of Australia.

Life expectancy remains high. Males and females can expect to live on average to 76 years and 82 years respectively.

Immunisation rates are higher than the Australian average.

Queensland is a diverse society with various cultures, languages and religions. Cultural tolerance is on the rise and people continue to volunteer their time.

Queenslanders continue to actively participate in our democratic systems with 17% contacting their local councillor

and 14% contacting a Member of Parliament.

Our most popular pastimes were attending the cinema, visiting the library and attending sporting events. Nearly one in two Queenslanders was a member of a public library.

The number of people with disabilities accessing support services has increased in recent years, with more than 80% expressing positive responses to the quality of service they experienced.

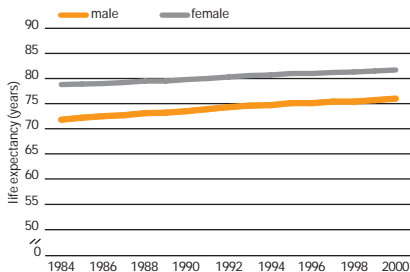
Improving health outcomes for Indigenous people continues to present a significant challenge to all governments.

Encouraging people to participate in health-benefiting physical activity to reduce obesity, and reducing the percentage of smokers, particularly among women, remain priorities.

Life expectancy

Life expectancy at birth by gender, Queensland 1984 to 2000

Source: ABS, Australian Demographic Trends 1997, Cat. No. 3102.0 and Deaths Australia, Cat. No. 3302.0

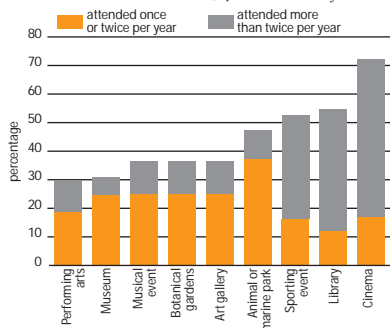


Notes:
Years stated refer to three-year rolling averages at year's end.
For example, 1984 refers to 1982-1984.

Cultural events participation

Percentage of Queensland adults attending or participating at/in cultural venues or events during the past 12 months, Queensland 2002

Source: May 2002 Queensland Household Survey, Office of Economic and Statistical Research, Queensland Treasury



Moving forward

The delivery of high quality health care in Queensland will continue to be guided by the **Smart State: Health 2020** strategy, while specific strategies targeting our ageing population, suicide prevention and Indigenous health will address community health issues.

The **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Care Initiative** will enhance capacity to improve Indigenous health outcomes by focusing on child health, nutrition and chronic disease prevention. Strategies to curb alcohol-related violence and increase women's cancer screening will broaden efforts to improve Indigenous health.

The **Queensland Physical Activity Strategy** will encourage physical activity to provide social, psychological, physical and economic benefits to individuals and communities.

The Government's **E-Democracy** project will provide greater opportunities for the community to interact with and view our democratic systems. Internet technology will be used to broadcast Parliament and enable electronic lodgement of petitions.

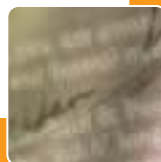
To boost youth participation in government decision-making, the Government will progress the **Youth Participation Strategy** through the implementation of such initiatives as the **Queensland Youth Charter** and the **Connections Project**.

The **Funding Reform Project** will improve models of support for people with disabilities while legislative reforms will address ongoing improvements in service delivery and the needs of carers.

The **Affordable Housing in Sustainable Communities Strategic Action Plan** will address unmet housing needs for older people, people with disabilities and their carers.

Smart Service Queensland, through the **Access Queensland** framework, is providing a one-stop approach to delivering government services such as permits, vehicle and vessel renewal registrations. Forty government services will be integrated over the next 12 months, rising to 400 within three to five years.

The Government is seeking the resolution of outstanding historical issues surrounding the control of Indigenous wages, labour and savings, and the distribution of the **Aborigines Welfare Fund**. An offer of reparation, including monetary reparations, written apologies and a protocol for commencing all official government functions with an acknowledgement of the traditional owners was made in May 2002. As consultation on this offer resulted in an overwhelmingly positive response, reparation payments will commence in early 2003, with priority to be given to very elderly recipients.





Priority 4

Valuing the environment

How have we performed?

Queensland is Australia's most naturally diverse State. It has 13 terrestrial and 14 marine bioregions, supporting more than 1,000 ecosystem types. We have 65% of Australia's known frog, reptile, bird and mammal species and 47% of its plant species.

Queensland's protected area estate has increased to 7.5 million hectares of land. Marine parks protect and conserve 5.2 million hectares of State tidal lands and waters.

A total of 76% of the State's timber is sourced from plantations and aquaculture production continues to increase, reducing pressure on the State's native forests and wild fisheries.

Queensland's greenhouse gas emissions are relatively high compared to other states mainly due to Queensland's growing economy, the relative abundance of fossil fuels and primary production.

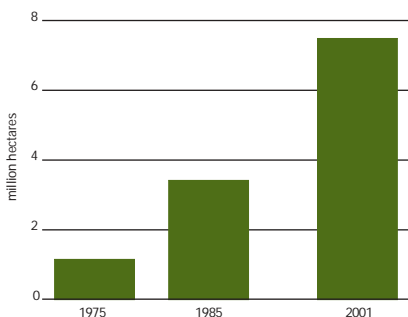
Queensland's water quality compares favourably to the rest of Australia.

Agriculture is the predominant land use in the State.

Protected area estate

Protected area estate, Queensland 1975 to 2001

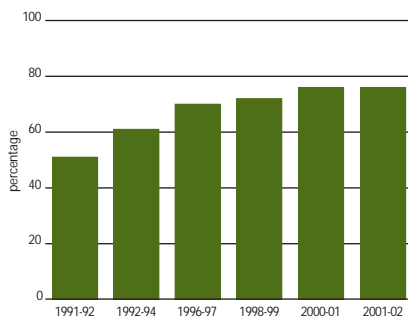
Source: Environmental Protection Agency



Timber

Processed timber sourced from plantations, Queensland 1991-92 to 2001-02

Source: Department of Primary Industries



Moving forward

The Queensland Energy Policy – A Cleaner Energy Strategy will continue to promote renewable energy sources and pave the way for developments such as gas infrastructure and a base load power station in Townsville.

Under the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, regional plans will chart progress to improve land and water quality.

Continued implementation of the South East Queensland Forests Agreement will protect 800,000 hectares of native forests from logging, while the SEQ Hardwood Plantation Program is on target to achieve 5,000 hectares planted on public and private land in the region by June 2003.

Water reform will continue and include Rural Water Use Efficiency Initiatives in the management of water resources in sugar, cotton, grains, horticulture, dairy and lucerne production.

Queensland's parks system will be guided by a master plan. The Enhanced Park Maintenance initiative will provide an additional 140 new rangers to manage national parks, forests, marine parks and wildlife.

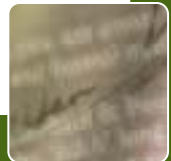
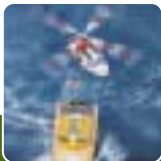
The State's fish stocks will be protected by changes to fisheries regulations including: increased restrictions on species to be taken by trawl; and catch limits on tailor for both commercial and recreational fishers.

The Queensland Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund will assist in commercialising sustainable energy technologies that promote the use of renewable energy sources, use less energy than existing products and substitute fuels that reduce environmental impacts.

The Doing Business in a Green World policy will equip business and industry to meet the demands for environmentally sustainable operations.

The Reef Water Quality Protection Plan for the Great Barrier Reef together with regional natural resource management plans will address nutrient run off, salinity and water quality issues.

A five-year statewide management framework for weeds and pests will help manage their negative impacts on our environment.





Priority 5

Building Queensland's regions

How have we performed?

Nearly 35% of Queenslanders live in regional areas of the State (outside the Brisbane and Moreton Statistical Divisions).

The population of regional Queensland has increased on average by 0.9% per annum over the five years to June 2001, similar to the rest of Australia.

Regional Queensland recorded employment growth of 0.8% in 2001–02, recovering from a decline of 2.2% in the previous year.

Queensland's overseas exports of goods and services grew by 4.9% in 2001–02, with the majority of goods exported originating from regional Queensland.

Regional livability, as reflected in retail prices, compares favourably with the State's capital. Of 45 centres surveyed outside Brisbane, 30 centres had the same

or cheaper retail prices. Remote communities in Far North and North West Queensland experience higher retail prices due primarily to the cost of freight.

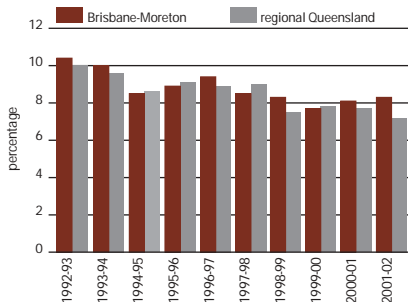
A regional focus on infrastructure investment was maintained during 2001–02 with 47.5% of budgeted capital outlays directed to regional Queensland.

Queensland continues to resolve native title matters, achieving 18 of the total 24 consent determinations issued by the Federal Court. Progress was also made on pending actions by 11 native title claimant groups.

Regional unemployment

Regional unemployment rates, Brisbane–Moreton and regional Queensland 1992–93 to 2001–02

Source: ABS, *Labour Force Australia, Preliminary*, Cat. No. 6202.0 and unpublished data



Retail prices

Index of retail prices, Queensland October 2001

Source: Office of Economic and Statistical Research, Queensland Treasury



Moving forward

The **Regional Business Development Scheme** will foster economic development by diversifying Queensland industry and promoting employment-generating opportunities.

The **Gladstone Region Business Strategy Action Plan** will encourage small- to medium-sized enterprises to tap into large scale projects planned for the **Gladstone State Development Area** such as Astral Calcining and LG Chemicals.

The **State Development Plan** will continue to identify critical infrastructure needs for regional development while the Government's **Public Private Partnership (PPP) Policy** provides guidelines for private sector involvement in infrastructure provision.

The **North West Queensland Development Initiative** aims to broaden the economic base of the region and contribute to the sustainability of communities with a traditional reliance on mining.

The **Queensland Port Network Strategy**, the **Rail Network Strategy** and the **Road Implementation Program** will ensure transport systems continue to contribute to regional economic and job growth.

The **Reef Network** high-speed fibre optic cable network between Brisbane and Cairns has resulted in a 60% drop in carrier costs and will continue to foster information and communication technology use and developments. The **SmartNet** initiative is also being progressed to improve Internet and broadband services in regional Queensland.

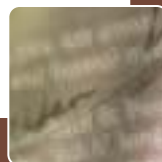
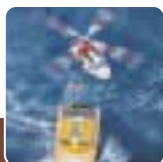
The **Growing Tourism Strategy** provides a framework for government and industry to work together to promote sustainable tourism throughout the State. Expansion of the strategy is planned to provide a greater regional focus.

The **Commercial and Tourism Aviation Plan** provides a framework to develop commercially viable air services that promote business and tourism, and target priority markets. The **Cairns Business Tourism Strategy** will maximise business opportunities arising from Australian Airlines' (a Qantas subsidiary) decision to establish an aviation hub in Cairns.

The **Millennium Arts Project** will upgrade and expand arts and cultural facilities in 16 locations throughout the State.

Training and employment initiatives tailored to the needs of regional communities will include the **Cape York Training Strategy**, **Indigenous Employment Policy**, and the **Training and Employment Strategy for Central Queensland**.

In line with stakeholder submissions to a review of the State's native title mining and exploration regime, the Government will amend the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* to facilitate more effective use of the Commonwealth's native title right to negotiate procedures.





Governance principles

How have we performed?

International credit rating agencies have again awarded Queensland a **AAA local currency credit rating**, enabling the Government to borrow at a lower cost and to minimise debt servicing costs.

Queenslanders paid \$1,312 per capita in State taxes in 2001–02, compared to \$1,783 for the average of the other states. This **low tax status** continues to attract business and investment.

Poor performance in domestic and international equity markets impacted on the State's investment returns and contributed to a net operating deficit (in accrual terms) in 2001–02. In cash terms, Queensland recorded a general government operating surplus of \$188 million.

Queensland's net financial asset position remains sound and based on current projections, covers all accruing and expected liabilities.

The Government continues to provide avenues to allow the public to scrutinise its decisions, access government documents and lodge complaints through the continued operation of organisations such as the Queensland Ombudsman's Office and the Crime and Misconduct Commission.

Credit rating

Credit rating, by State 2001–02

Source: Queensland Treasury

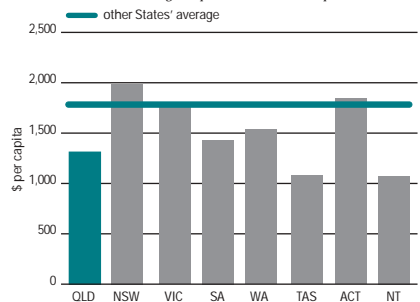
	QLD	NSW	VIC	SA	WA	TAS
Moody's Investor Service	Aaa	Aaa	Aaa	Aa2	Aaa	Aa2
Standard & Poor's	AAA	AAA	AAA	AA+	AAA	AA-

Notes:
 Rating scale – best to worst.
 Moody's – Aaa, Aa1, Aa2, Aa3, A1, A2, A3, etc.
 Standard & Poor's – AAA, AA+, AA-, A+, A, A-, BBB+, BBB, BBB-, etc.

Taxes

Taxes per capita, by State 2001–02

Source: Various States' Budget Papers and Outcomes Reports



Notes:
 Qld, NSW, Vic and WA are actuals sourced from individual Outcomes Reports. SA, Tas, ACT and NT are estimated actuals from State and Territory Budget Papers.

Moving forward

In delivering its social and fiscal objectives, the Government will continue to demonstrate high standards of accountability, leadership and innovation, while governing in a fair, transparent and equitable manner.

The Government will continue using the **Managing for Outcomes** framework to ensure social, economic and environmental outcomes for Queenslanders are optimised through the effective management of government resources, strategic alliances with industry and community engagement.

The Managing for Outcomes framework has led to a major review of government service delivery under the **Aligning Services and Priorities (ASAP)** program. The program ensures that services provided by agencies are aligned with the priorities the Government seeks to achieve for the community. Under the ASAP program the Government has undertaken reviews of corporate services, strategic information management, fees and charges and building maintenance.

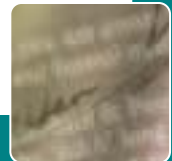
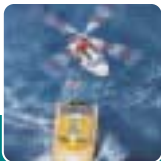
The leading role agency chief executive officers play in driving implementation of the Government's priorities will be enhanced through five strategic committees focusing on law and justice, human services, economic development and infrastructure, land and resources and governance.

Public liability reforms will continue to be implemented through the work of the **Public Liability Taskforce** which has already contributed to law reform and the establishment of a group insurance scheme for not-for-profit community based organisations.

As part of **Meeting Challenges, Making Choices**, the Government will work with Indigenous groups to devise models of community governance for Indigenous community councils.

The broader role of the Ombudsman detailed in the *Ombudsman Act 2001* will provide greater access to the Ombudsman's services and assist government agencies to improve the quality of decision making and administrative practices.

The Barcardine Reforms – *Electoral and Other Acts Amendment Act 2002* creates the strongest and most transparent electoral system in Australia.



Further information

If you would like to find out more about Queensland Government initiatives and services, please visit our website www.qld.gov.au

A copy of the full 2001–02 **Priorities in Progress** report, and previous reports, can be viewed online at www.treasury.qld.gov.au

We welcome your feedback on this publication. If you have any comments or queries, please send them to:

Priorities in Progress report 2001–02

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**Queensland
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