

Queensland  
Budget | **2017-18**

# **JOBS FOR QUEENSLAND**





# Delivering Jobs for Queensland

I am honoured to deliver the Palaszczuk Government's third budget.

Queensland's diverse and resilient economy continues to strengthen. Our economic plan has seen 59,200 jobs created since the Palaszczuk Government was elected – that is over 2,100 jobs a month. We have seen continued economic growth, a return in business and consumer confidence and a drop in the unemployment rate.

But we know there is more to be done, particularly in regional areas, which is why we are going to create thousands more jobs through our highly successful 'Back to Work' initiative, the enhanced \$420 million Advance Queensland program and continued investment in productivity boosting infrastructure, with a \$42.75 billion State-wide capital works program budgeted over the next four years.

This Budget includes the commitment to fully fund the \$5.409 billion Cross River Rail, an investment that will ensure works can commence in 2017 on Queensland's highest priority infrastructure project.

We are easing pressure on the cost of living and household budgets through the \$1.16 billion Powering Queensland Plan to put downward pressure on electricity bills. We remain committed to providing further concessions through a range of initiatives that support Queenslanders at all stages of life.

We are injecting a record \$1.8 billion into housing, which will improve the supply of social and affordable housing, including refuges for women and children escaping domestic and family violence.

Underpinning all this is a commitment to responsibly manage our state's finances, with continued operating surpluses forecast across the Budget estimates, despite an estimated restoration bill of \$1.1 billion due to Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

This has been achieved while delivering the vital services Queenslanders deserve.

This is a Budget that delivers Jobs for Queensland. It also aids our most vulnerable and helps those who need it most. Whether rebuilding roads and essential services in our cyclone affected regions, or helping a young Queenslander get their start in the working world, this is a Budget that puts jobs first.



Hon Curtis Pitt MP

Treasurer

Minister for Trade and Investment







Queensland Budget 2017-18

# At a glance

Jobs supported  
in 2017-18

**40,000**

Capital  
program over  
four years

**\$42.75B**

Cross River Rail

**\$5.41B**

Record spend  
in Health

**\$16.6B**

Record spend in  
Education and  
Training

**\$13.7B**

2017-18  
Concessions

**\$5.344B**

Powering  
Queensland  
Plan

**\$1.16B**

Significant  
investment in  
Housing

**\$1.8B**

Cost to restore  
public assets  
following  
STC Debbie

**\$1.1B**

A satellite image of a powerful tropical cyclone, Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, showing a well-defined eye and dense, swirling cloud bands over the ocean. The image is taken from space, showing the coastline of Australia in the lower left.

**\$1.1 billion** to restore essential public assets

On 29 March 2017 the VIIRS instrument aboard NASA-NOAA's Suomi NPP satellite captured this visible image of Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. Image courtesy of NASA

# Natural disaster impact

Severe Tropical Cyclone (STC) Debbie swamped remote, rural, coastal and urban areas from North Queensland to northern New South Wales, destroying homes and infrastructure. More than a week after STC Debbie crossed the coast, its destructive force was still being felt. However, Queensland has rebuilt before and the Palaszczuk Government is assisting Queenslanders to do it again.

Restoring essential public assets such as roads, bridges and other community infrastructure will cost the Queensland Government \$1.1 billion before reimbursements from the Australian Government through the jointly-funded Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

The loss to economic output due to STC Debbie is estimated to be more than \$2 billion, or around ¾ percentage point of Gross State Product.





Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk and recovery coordinator Army Brigadier Christopher Field assess damage after STC Debbie.

# Operation Queensland Recovery



Bowen crews from Rockhampton and Central West. Image courtesy of Ergon Energy

Operation Queensland Recovery is well advanced at helping Queenslanders get back on track faster, while building a safer and more resilient state.

More than **118,000 people** as at 2 June 2017 have been assisted with close to **\$30 million** distributed through the Personal Hardship Assistance Grants and Immediate Hardship Assistance Payments funded under the NDRRA.

A **\$14.7 million** Community Recovery Fund has also been established under NDRRA and additional funding of **\$2 million** has been provided for the Government's 'Go Local' campaign to support the agricultural industry.

## Following STC Debbie:



**235,000**  
properties had  
power restored



**10,763**  
Rapid Damage Assessments  
were conducted



**1,167**  
schools reopened in  
time for the second term  
of the school year



**56,000**  
insurance claims were submitted in  
Queensland and New South Wales,  
worth **\$905 million**.

# Creating job opportunities for all Queenslanders

The Government supports the growth of businesses, industries and communities across the State and this Budget will directly support around **40,000** jobs while continuing to create more, and improve employment outcomes for all Queenslanders into the future.

Key Budget initiatives to drive jobs include the **\$42.75 billion** four year investment in capital works and productivity-enhancing infrastructure, and significant additional funding for the Back to Work and Works for Queensland programs. These measures build on the Government's many existing policies and programs, such as the Jobs and Regional Growth Fund and Building our Regions, driving jobs growth across the State, including in regional Queensland.

These measures will continue to grow a more innovative, diverse and productive economy, leading to more employment opportunities for all Queenslanders over the short, medium and long term.

Back to Work campaign

The 2017-18  
Queensland Budget  
will directly  
support around  
**40,000** jobs in  
2017-18



## Back to Work expanded

Announced as part of the 2016-17 Budget, the Back to Work Regional Employment Package committed **\$100 million** to provide businesses with the confidence to employ jobseekers in regional Queensland. The program focuses on disadvantaged jobseekers, in particular the long-term unemployed. A \$20,000 Youth Boost payment is also available until 31 October 2017 to employers who hire a young jobseeker (15-24 years) in regional Queensland.

As at 31 May 2017, a total of **4,334 regional jobseekers** have been employed across regional Queensland under the Back to Work program. This includes **2,200 young jobseekers** employed under the Youth Boost. Total payments of more than \$20.9 million have already been paid to these businesses.

In the Budget the Palaszczuk Government has committed a further **\$50 million** to continue the availability of the existing Back to Work program in regional Queensland and **\$27.5 million** to introduce support payments to South East Queensland to employers who take on a long-term or young unemployed jobseeker. Back to Work South East Queensland will be available from 1 July 2017.



## Jobs and Regional Growth Fund

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to assisting areas that are doing it tough. The **\$130 million** Jobs and Regional Growth Fund is focused on generating economic development and employment opportunities in regional Queensland. Announced in the 2016-17 Mid Year Fiscal and Economic Review and opened in February 2017, the fund seeks to leverage investment and assist business to grow and expand in Queensland. Projects already approved under this fund will:

- ◆ support additional Indigenous employment – by providing assistance for Cape York Timber to secure a business loan to expand its operations in Cooktown
- ◆ advance Queensland's biofutures sector – by supporting the construction of a large scale bio-refinery in Mackay. This will further diversify the region's economy, while providing a peak of 70 construction jobs and 45 permanent operational jobs.

## Capital works program

The Government will invest **\$42.75 billion** through the State's capital works program over the next four years. This program will support around **29,000 jobs** in 2017-18, with the projects promoting long term economic and employment opportunities across Queensland.

## Local jobs in local communities

The 2017-18 Budget provides additional funding of **\$200 million** over two years for the Works for Queensland program, supporting local governments outside South East Queensland that are facing unemployment issues to undertake job-creating maintenance and minor infrastructure works. This supplements the \$200 million provided in the Mid Year Fiscal and Economic Review, bringing the Palaszczuk Government's total Works for Queensland commitment to \$400 million.

The **\$375 million** Building our Regions program will continue, having already provided \$156.2 million to 108 critical regional infrastructure projects. This investment has attracted a further \$277.8 million investment from councils and other organisations and will support **1,323 jobs**.



Image courtesy of iStock



# Infrastructure

## \$42.75 billion

over four years for infrastructure projects that will contribute to around

## 40,000 jobs\*

supported by the Budget in 2017-18

The capital program includes:

- ◆ **\$3.885 billion** for transport and roads, including \$252.5 million towards construction of the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, and \$236.3 million towards widening the Gateway Motorway North, south of Nudgee, to six lanes
- ◆ **\$604.6 million** for the construction and refurbishment of school educational facilities, early childhood education and care services, and training assets
- ◆ **\$916.1 million** for health, including investments in health facilities and supporting infrastructure across urban, rural and regional areas, and \$8.7 million for adolescent mental health facilities
- ◆ **\$2.063 billion** for the energy and water sectors to support the Government to deliver cost effective, safe, secure and reliable energy and water supply.

\* 40,000 jobs includes estimated jobs supported by capital works, capital grants and other key 2017-18 Budget Initiatives



# Cross River Rail – \$5.41 billion

Queensland's highest priority infrastructure project

The Palaszczuk Government has committed to fully fund the **\$5.409 billion** required to deliver Cross River Rail. The Government recognises the significant potential of this infrastructure to create jobs and economic growth and add value to commercial and residential development sites across the region.

The current project design for Cross River Rail features a 10.2 kilometre link from Dutton Park to Bowen Hills, with 5.9 kilometres of tunnel under the Brisbane River and CBD. Five new and upgraded high-capacity stations will be developed, and the second rail river crossing will ease congestion, improve network reliability and increase accessibility to the Brisbane CBD.

The Cross River Rail Delivery Authority will now move to undertake the early works necessary and conduct market engagement to confirm the procurement and delivery strategy for major project elements.

While this commitment delivers certainty of funding, it is expected that the cost to the State will be reduced through future Australian Government contributions and the proceeds of commercial funding sources, such as the development of government land around stations. The Queensland Government will continue to work with the Australian Government to secure a contribution that properly reflects the strategic importance of this project and its contribution to the nation.



Albert Street station artist impression.



Cross River Rail alignment 2017



# Regional infrastructure

The Palaszczuk Government recognises some areas of Queensland are doing it tougher than others. Investment in regional infrastructure supports economic development and liveability.

The 2017-18 Queensland Budget delivers:

## Strategic Blueprint for Queensland's North West Minerals Province

**\$39 million** over four years to support regions through resource sector development, diversify regional economies and create employment opportunities.

This includes large-scale geological surveys to identify new commercial deposits, support for smaller mines exploration and projects development.

## Cairns Convention Centre

**\$176 million** over two years from 2018-19 to expand the Cairns Convention Centre, which will provide better facilities and activate other investment in supporting infrastructure in the region.

## Water infrastructure in Indigenous communities

**\$120 million** over four years from 2016-17 to address priority works relating to water, wastewater and solid waste assets in 16 Indigenous councils.

## Mackay Ring Road

**\$70 million** in 2017-18 out of a total estimated cost of \$497.8 million to construct the Mackay Ring Road in partnership with the Australian Government. Due for completion in July 2020, the project will improve connectivity between Mackay and the Bowen Basin, and ensure the region is prepared for future growth.

## Port of Cairns

A contribution of **\$60 million** over two years from 2018-19 as part of the **\$120 million** Cairns Shipping Development Project to widen and deepen the Trinity Inlet Channel and swing basin at the Port of Cairns. The project will be subject to an Environmental Impact Statement and business case approval.

## Burdekin Falls Dam Safety Improvement Program

As part of the Powering North Queensland plan the Government will work with SunWater to deliver the Burdekin Falls Dam Safety Improvement project. At a cost of approximately **\$200 million** the improvement works will support the proposed hydro-electric power station, and allow for the potential raising of the dam wall to create water storage for urban growth, resources and irrigation.

## Capricornia Correctional Centre

A **\$200 million** expansion of the centre will ease prison overcrowding and support more than **100 construction** and **70 ongoing operational jobs**.

## Townsville Water Security

Following the launch of Australia's first City Deal in Townsville, an intergovernmental Water Taskforce has been established to review options to secure a long-term water supply for Townsville. **\$225 million** over four years from 2017-18 is set aside by the Government to support Townsville water security.

## North Queensland Stadium

The **\$250 million** North Queensland Stadium is a joint project of the Queensland Government, Australian Government and Townsville City Council and is supported by both the National Rugby League and the North Queensland Cowboys. The new stadium will attract visitors, events and investment to North Queensland. It is expected that up to **750 jobs** will be supported throughout the design and construction phase of the 25,000 seat stadium, and that many positions will be filled by people from the Townsville region. The Palaszczuk Government is contributing \$140 million to this project.



North Queensland Stadium concept design



# \$5.8 billion for better roads and transport

Queensland has the longest state-controlled road network in Australia with 33,350 kilometres of roads. Well planned and managed transport networks bring communities together and services closer, and support commerce and industry – all signs of a healthy, robust economy.

## Bruce Highway: Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway – \$929.3 million

Construction is under way to increase safety and ease congestion for around 40,000 motorists daily. \$743 million has been secured from the Australian Government for this vital piece of infrastructure.

## Ipswich Motorway: Rocklea to Darra upgrade

The Queensland and Australian Governments are providing **\$36 million** for stage 1 of this \$400 million upgrade. It will include:

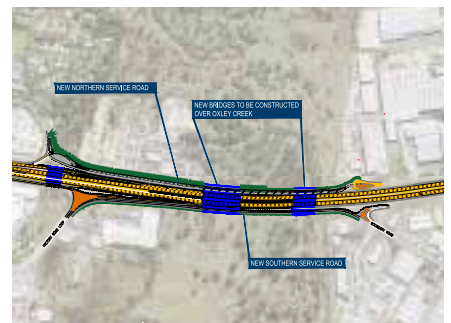
- ◆ two extra lanes (moving from four to six lanes)
- ◆ seven new bridges and a new connection over the Oxley Creek floodplain
- ◆ a new connection from the Rocklea industrial precinct to Oxley commercial and retail areas.

## Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme

As part of the 2016-17 Budget commitment to Building our Regions, the Queensland Government committed a \$90 million boost to the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme to commence in 2017-18. The scheme will provide additional support to local government transport infrastructure for three years.



Existing Bruce Highway looking north near Martin Road



Ipswich Motorway Upgrade, Rocklea to Darra Stage 1 (Granard Road to Oxley Road)

## Affordable flights

Communities in the far north need reliable, efficient and affordable transport to bring people together, boost productivity and employment, and improve access to education and health services. The Budget provides **\$8.3 million** over two years for the Local Fare Scheme, giving Cape York and Torres Strait communities access to affordable flights. A further **\$2 million** in 2017-18 will deliver a 12-month trial of the scheme in the Western Cape.

Image courtesy of  
Gettyimages



# Advance Queensland

Increased investment in the Advance Queensland initiative takes the Palaszczuk Government's total commitment to **\$420 million**, positioning Queensland as the place to turn great ideas into reality.



## Inspiring individuals

- ◆ Over **24,000** attended Advance Queensland events, with over half of the attendees from outside of Brisbane.
- ◆ More than **120,000** Queenslanders attended the World Science Festival.



## Investing in Queensland

- ◆ Additional funding of **\$15 million** is being provided over four years to develop **10-year priority industry roadmaps and action plans** to support emerging and priority sectors.
- ◆ Over **\$10.9 million** is being invested in Queensland businesses from the **Business Development Fund**, which is encouraging venture capital investment in Queensland.
- ◆ A further **\$10 million** is being redirected into the successful **Ignite Ideas Fund**, with almost **\$16.5 million** invested to date in **118 innovative small firms**.
- ◆ The **Industry Attraction Fund** is encouraging businesses to relocate or establish new projects in Queensland and has attracted businesses involved in industry sectors such as biofuels, advanced manufacturing and robotics.



## Connecting people

- ◆ **12 regions** across Queensland are receiving funding to grow local collaboration and build local jobs through the Advancing Regional Innovation Program.
- ◆ **54 small businesses** have been supported to take on graduates to pursue innovative projects.



## Discovering new solutions

- ◆ To support diversity in our research talent, **134 women researchers** and **two Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers** are being supported to undertake ground-breaking work in areas such as skin cancer detection and reducing run-off to the reef.
- ◆ Advanced health improvements are being explored through investments in a Clinical Genomics Centre and the Integrated HealthCare Fund.



## Impact investing

Attracting investment is not solely limited to growing businesses and generating jobs. Queensland's first two **Social Benefit Bonds (SBB)** will see new and innovative approaches to tackling complex social and economic challenges commence this year.

The Newpin Queensland SBB aims to reunite children in the child protection system safely with their families and has a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. The second SBB, Life Without Barriers, seeks to reduce reoffending rates for Queensland's young people.

The Government continues to work with non-profit service providers and investors to find solutions for some of Queensland's toughest social problems.





Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and Treasurer Curtis Pitt with Australian of the Year Professor Emeritus Alan Mackay-Sim at Griffith University Institute for Drug Discovery

## Queensland Trade and Investment Strategy 2017-2022

# \$35 million

is being provided over five years to drive local jobs and help Queensland businesses to export more and expand into international markets.

The strategy identifies 22 new initiatives to boost exports, attract job-creating investment and strengthen Queensland's regions. Initiatives include export and e-commerce training for business, more international showcases and trade missions, and expanded overseas trade offices.



Queensland Advanced Manufacturing 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan is powering the Queensland economy



# \$1.16 billion

## Powering Queensland Plan

The Plan will ensure Queenslanders continue to enjoy a lifestyle brought by an affordable, secure and sustainable energy supply. The Plan provides a roadmap to put downward pressure on electricity prices, and drive investment to generate jobs. It will lead the State's transition to a 50 per cent renewable energy target which will deliver significant benefits to Queensland. Actions under the Powering Queensland Plan will include:

- ◆ **\$771 million** to provide relief for Queensland electricity consumers by covering the cost of the Solar Bonus Scheme
- ◆ **\$386 million** for the Powering North Queensland Plan
- ◆ an **Energy Security Taskforce** which works in partnership with Queensland's energy businesses to ensure secure, reliable and clean electricity supply across Queensland
- ◆ returning **Swanbank E gas-fired power station** to service, to increase and support reliable supply
- ◆ directing **Stanwell Corporation** to undertake strategies to place downward pressure on wholesale prices
- ◆ a **Queensland Gas Action Plan** ensuring long-term gas supply for electricity generation
- ◆ assessing the feasibility of a separate **CleanCo** to operate Queensland's existing renewable and low-emissions energy generation assets and develop new renewable energy projects.

Image courtesy of Gettyimages



# Powering North Queensland Plan generating **5,000 jobs**

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to securing energy supply and driving down energy costs for Queensland consumers. The 2017-18 Budget is using some of the Government Owned Corporations' 2016-17 earnings to kick-start growth-enhancing infrastructure projects through a **\$386 million** down payment for the Powering North Queensland Plan.

The Powering North Queensland Plan includes:

- ◆ **\$150 million** for the development of strategic transmission infrastructure to support a clean energy hub
- ◆ **\$100 million** to help fund the proposed hydro-electric power station at Burdekin Falls Dam
- ◆ **\$100 million** towards improvement works to ensure that the Burdekin Falls Dam continues to meet design standards
- ◆ the commissioning of a **hydro-electric study** to assess options for deploying new hydro in the state, including North Queensland.

There has been an unprecedented level of renewable energy investment activity in North Queensland, with existing projects expected to deliver **\$1.6 billion** of infrastructure spending and create more than **1,400 jobs**. Further projects such as a new transmission line will unlock around 2,000MW of wind, pumped hydro and solar projects, and create **3,600 jobs** over the long term.

The clean energy hub will connect the 75MW wind farm at Forsayth, the 520MW Kidston Hydro and Solar project and the 1,200MW Kennedy Energy Park near Hughenden which combines wind and solar generation.

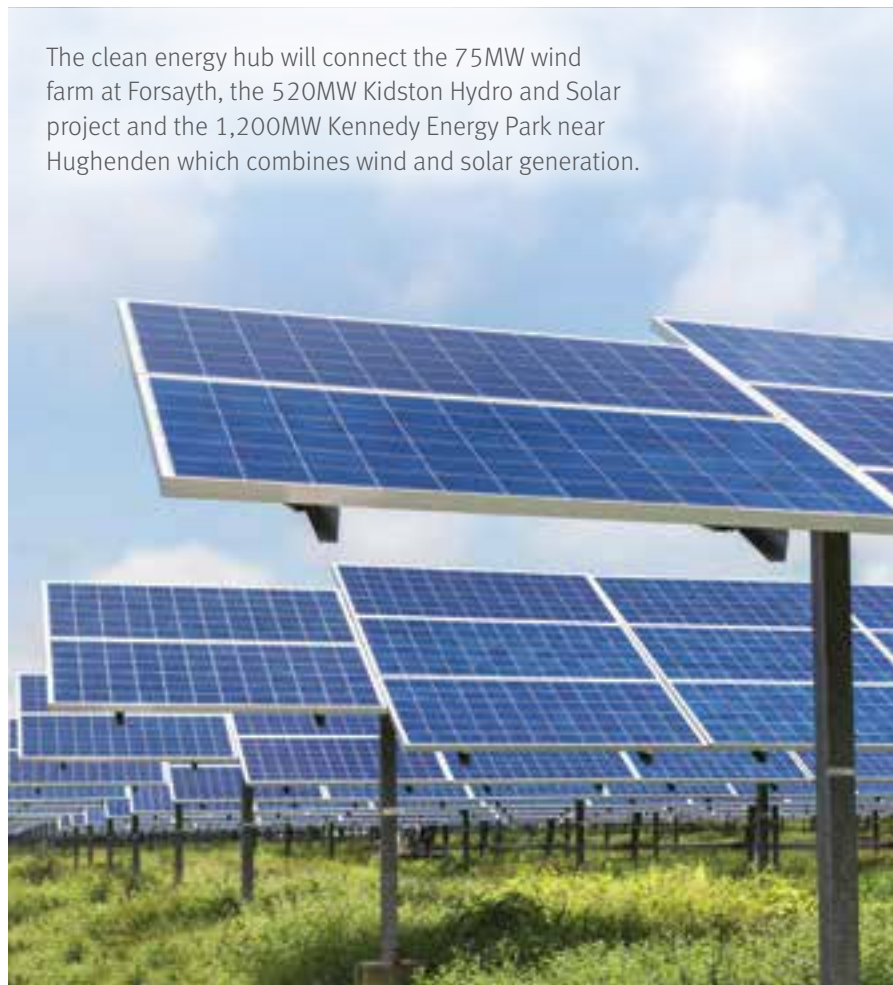


Image courtesy of Gettyimages



Burdekin Falls Dam. Image courtesy of Fiona Harding/Newsplix

Image courtesy of Ergon Energy

# A record \$16.6 billion for health

The 2017-18 Queensland Budget provides a record **\$16.6 billion** as well as a \$916.1 million capital program to deliver first rate health services by a highly skilled workforce. All Queenslanders deserve safe, accessible and timely access to health services that are responsive to their needs, and focus on preventative care and health promotion alongside acute hospital-based services. The Palaszczuk Government is employing more doctors, nurses and ambulance operatives on the frontline to take care of you and your family.

## A skilled and valued workforce

Since March 2015 we have employed an additional:



**3,172**  
nurses



**882**  
allied health professionals



**1,191**  
doctors



**250**  
ambulance operatives.

The Government continues to invest in and plan for world-class health and hospital facilities to support contemporary care standards and meet growing demand through:

**\$208M**

to upgrade health facilities and supporting infrastructure in rural and regional Queensland

**\$200M**

to enhance public hospital capacity and services in South East Queensland, including:

- ♦ **\$131.8 million** for detailed planning and preparatory works for proposed redevelopments at Logan, Caboolture and Ipswich hospitals
- ♦ **\$68.9 million** for a new adolescent mental health facility at The Prince Charles Hospital and associated support services in Brisbane, Logan and the Gold Coast.

The Government is also focused on delivering other health-related commitments including:



**\$126.5 million** in 2017-18 to continue initiatives across Queensland to reduce specialist outpatient long waits



An additional **3,300 nursing and midwifery graduates, 16 nurse educators, and 121 nurse navigators** have commenced across Queensland over the last two years.



delivering mental health, alcohol and other drug services and supporting infrastructure as part of the Connecting Care to Recovery 2016-2021 plan.



# Sunshine Coast University Hospital

Opened in March 2017

it cost | **\$1.8B**

employs | **3,000** staff

and provides | **450** beds.

New tertiary services will be developed and capacity expanded to meet demand, with all 738 beds expected to be available by July 2021.



A new hybrid operating theatre at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital Queensland will be the only one of its kind in the southern hemisphere.

# A record \$13.7 billion for education

Children are our most precious asset. They deserve the best education possible before moving into adulthood with confidence and knowledge. They need schools with modern infrastructure, advanced learning programs and the best teachers. That is why the 2017-18 Queensland Budget commits a record **\$13.7 billion** to education, an increase of 6.4 per cent on last year.

## Children first

Every child deserves a quality education no matter where they live. Since March 2015 we have employed an additional **3,095 teachers** and **teacher aides**. This year the Budget does more to help our children grow and learn through:



**\$28 million** as part of the \$500 million Building Future Schools Fund to address enrolment growth pressures in state schools



**\$314.8 million** in programs to provide children with access to quality early childhood education and care, strengthening their transition to school



**\$250 million** for new secondary school classrooms and other infrastructure to cater for an additional 17,000 students in 2020



**\$200 million** in additional funding to fast track 98 school infrastructure projects, including more than **\$100 million** to build new school halls and upgrade existing halls at 30 state schools



**230 more teachers** in 2018 and 2019 to ensure that the first smaller cohort of Prep Year students from 2007 are not disadvantaged in subject choices as they complete their senior phase of schooling



**\$150 million** to attract, retain and build capacity in Queensland teachers and school leaders to support continued improvements in student outcomes.







# Skilling Queenslanders for Work

The Palaszczuk Government recognises education doesn't finish in secondary school. As the economy continues to transition from the mining boom the Government is doing more to get Queenslanders back into work including

## \$60M

in 2017-18 as part of the four-year **\$240 million** Skilling Queenslanders for Work program.

Since the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative started in 2015:

- ◆ more than **18,000 disadvantaged Queenslanders** have been assisted to develop skills, undertake paid work placements and earn nationally recognised qualifications
- ◆ over **9,500 participants** who have exited the programs have gone on to secure jobs, undertake further training, study or both.

## Regional Skills Adjustment Strategy

**\$10 million** over two years to assist unemployed individuals develop their skills for jobs in demand in the regions.



# Housing

The Palaszczuk Government recognises that access to safe, affordable and appropriate housing is a fundamental human need. The Queensland Housing Strategy is a long-term plan to address issues across the housing spectrum to ensure every Queenslanders can go about their life with confidence and security.

## Housing strategy

# \$1.8 billion

The 2017-18 Queensland Budget's injection of **\$1.8 billion** over 10 years into the Queensland Housing Strategy is the **biggest commitment to housing in Queensland's recent history** – creating jobs, strengthening communities and building a better future for all Queenslanders. This includes:

- ◆ **\$1.2 billion** to renew the existing social housing property portfolio
- ◆ **\$420 million** for a housing construction program to boost the supply of social and affordable housing (including **\$3.5 million** to construct two refuges for women and children escaping domestic and family violence)
- ◆ **\$75 million** to progress home ownership in discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- ◆ **\$100 million** for reforms to the housing and homelessness service system.



## Regional planning

The Budget is providing **\$10 million** for regional planning and program implementation to support a land supply monitoring program, and a strategic assessment of Queensland's planning and environmental offsets framework for growth areas in South East Queensland. Funding will help minimise environmental impacts and reduce avoidable costs and time delays for development.

Logan, South East Queensland



## First Home Owners' Grant extended

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to helping Queenslanders into their first home sooner.

The 2017-18 Queensland Budget is providing additional funding of **\$30 million** to extend the temporary increase in the Queensland First Home Owners' Grant from \$15,000 to \$20,000 for a further six months.

The popularity of the boost is clear, with **6,353 applications**, worth **\$127.1 million**, received as at 31 May 2017. Of those, 4,900 worth \$98 million have been approved so far, with more to be approved as house purchases by applicants proceed.

The increased grant will be extended to eligible transactions entered into from 1 July 2017 to 31 December 2017, for buying or building new houses, units or townhouses valued at less than \$750,000.



Image courtesy of iStock

# Law and order

**\$2.37 billion** for the Queensland Police Service to help make our communities safer

Now more than ever, the Palaszczuk Government knows how important it is for our communities to feel and be safe. The 2017-18 Queensland Budget is providing **\$2.37 billion** for the Queensland Police Service to help make our communities safer, as well as putting into action key reforms to deliver hi-tech policing, reduce reoffending, ease pressure on courts, and tackle domestic and family violence.

**\$43.7 million** to deliver



**30**

Counter Terrorism  
officers



**20**

regional Rapid Action  
and Patrol Group officers



**20**

additional Police officers  
for other priority areas



## Action on ice

**\$18 million** to tackle the harmful use and effects of crystal methamphetamine (ice) in Queensland, with measures that increase awareness, support families and better equip our frontline service providers.



## Youth justice

**\$199.6 million** to support the transfer of 17 year olds from the adult justice system to the youth justice system and provide pathways to reduce offending behaviour.



## Drug court

**\$32.6 million** (\$22.7 million new funding and \$9.9 million reprioritised funding) to re-establish a drug court in Brisbane with support and referral services in four locations.



## Probation and parole

**\$265 million** to overhaul Queensland's probation and parole system to enable tougher supervision of parolees, expand GPS monitoring, establish a fully independent parole board, reduce reoffending, and improve rehabilitation and mental health services.



## Domestic and family violence courts

**\$69.5 million** to continue the specialist domestic and family violence court at Southport and to roll out courts in Beenleigh and Townsville, including circuit courts to Mount Isa and Palm Island. This includes \$40.4 million over four years provided as a whole of government contingency in the 2016-17 Budget.





## Counter terrorism

# \$47M

to construct the new Counter Terrorism and Community Safety Training Centre at Westgate.

## Commonwealth Games security

The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation has appointed a consortium of four Australian companies to provide the security workforce for GC2018.

Comprising MSS Security, Wilson Security, SecureCorp and SNP, the consortium will deploy more than 4,000 security personnel with 30 per cent of the security workforce to be recruited from South East Queensland. The workforce will be trained to deliver a high quality presence for the Games, with hundreds of local workers obtaining new industry recognised skills. Safety and security of spectators and athletes will be the major priority for GC2018.

Since March 2015  
we have employed  
an additional:



**332**

Police officers

# Supporting our communities

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to supporting all Queenslanders. The 2017-18 Queensland Budget focuses on the sustainability of the disability and community services sectors which support some of our most vulnerable people.

Fire and emergency services

## \$108 million

for new and updated fire and emergency facilities, vehicles and essential communications equipment.

## \$30 million

to support volunteer Rural Fire Brigades by accelerating the acquisition of much needed replacement vehicles.

## 205

new Fire and Emergency Services Officers employed since March 2015.



Queensland Fire and Rescue Academy







Incident control, Albert Street, Brisbane

## Disability services

The Budget delivers a record **\$1.887B** for disability services

The Budget includes:

- ◆ **\$548.9 million** for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) which continues to be rolled out in Ipswich and extended to Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Gladstone and regions west to the state border. Around 91,000 Queenslanders are expected to receive NDIS-funded support services by the end of 2018-19 when it is fully rolled out.
- ◆ **\$1.338 billion** for non-NDIS disability services

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## Child safety

In 2017-18 **\$1.11B** for child safety and family services



Image courtesy of Gettyimages

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to protecting Queensland's children and young people, ensuring they are safe from abuse.

Building on our already strong commitment in this area, the 2017-18 Budget provides for an increase of 9.8 per cent in child safety and family services funding on last year. This commitment includes an additional **\$141.8 million** over four years to further strengthen Queensland's child protection system, taking new funding for child safety to **\$200 million** since the 2016-17 Budget.

This includes the **\$56.8 million** package of initiatives announced earlier in 2017 to further support foster carers and respond to critical issues following the release of the Queensland Family and Child Commission's report on the death of Mason Jet Lee.

The new funding supports **292 new** front line safety officers, support officers, team leaders and administrative officers.

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## Supporting our community services sector

The Budget commits an additional **\$137.7 million** over four years to help eligible community services organisations meet increased wage costs arising from Fair Work Australia's Equal Remuneration Order. The funding will be allocated on a prioritised basis to community services organisations which support dependent and vulnerable Queenslanders.

# \$5.3 billion

## to lower the cost of living

The Palaszczuk Government remains committed to easing cost of living pressures for households and small businesses through a range of initiatives that support Queenslanders at all stages of life.

### Concessions for life's essentials

The 2017-18 Budget provides **\$5.344 billion** in concessions to help Queenslanders who need it most, based on factors such as age, income and special needs or disadvantage. Broader concession arrangements are also in place to reduce the price paid by all consumers in areas such as transport, electricity and water.

### Fairer Fares

In the 2016-17 Budget, The Palaszczuk Government launched the Fairer Fares program at a cost of **\$230 million** over four years. As a result, more than 93 percent of public transport users in South East Queensland can benefit from cheaper fares and a reduced number of travel zones. The Palaszczuk Government has guaranteed these lower fares will remain frozen in 2017 and has also extended concession fares to jobseekers and asylum seekers.

### Powering Queensland Plan

The Government invested **\$771 million** in 2016-17 to remove the cost of the Solar Bonus Scheme from electricity prices over the next three years. This will provide an average saving of \$51 for households and \$90 for small businesses in 2017-18.

### Oral Health Scheme

More than **\$149 million** to provide free dental care to eligible Queenslanders. In rural and remote areas where no private dental practitioner exists, the Queensland Government provides access to subsidised dental care for the general public, usually at rates 15-20 per cent lower than average private dental fees.



Image courtesy of iStock



Image courtesy of iStock



Cairns chemist



Image courtesy of Gettyimages





## Supporting pensioners



### **Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme**

The Palaszczuk Government is providing **\$54 million** over 2017-18 to help pensioners remain in their own homes with a 20 per cent subsidy (up to a maximum of \$200 a year) for local government rates and charges.



### **Electricity Rebate Scheme**

This scheme provides a rebate up to **\$341 a year** towards electricity costs for eligible pensioners or seniors, and was extended to Commonwealth Health Care Card Holders and asylum seekers from 1 January 2017 following the 2016-17 Mid Year Fiscal and Economic Review. This extension will ease electricity price pressures for an additional 157,000 households at a cost of \$170 million over four years from 2016-17.



### **Pensioner Water Subsidy Scheme**

This scheme provides up to **\$120 a year** to eligible pensioner property owners in South East Queensland to lessen the impact of increased water prices.



# Supporting small business

Small business is vital for Queensland's economic growth. Under the Palaszczuk Government small business confidence is at its highest level in seven years.\* The Government is committed to supporting small business and creating conditions that attract more business and investment leading to more jobs, especially in our regional communities.

\*Sensis Business Index survey: March 2017



## Strong business confidence

- ◆ Business confidence is the highest since December 2014.\*
- ◆ General business conditions are the highest since December 2009.\*

\* Suncorp CCIQ Pulse survey March Quarter 2017

## Payroll tax rebate

The Government is **continuing the successful initiative** of raising the payroll tax rebate for apprentices and trainees from 25 per cent to 50 per cent. Employers who hire apprentices and trainees will receive a payroll tax rebate of 50 per cent on their wages in addition to their wages being exempt from payroll tax until 30 June 2018.

The rebate will be used as an offset against payroll tax payable on the wages of other employees, and will enable Queensland to continue developing a highly skilled workforce into the future.

## Made in Queensland

The **\$20 million** Made in Queensland initiative has seen over 450 manufacturing businesses registering to receive support to become more competitive and adopt innovative processes and technologies.

Of these, 192 have completed a benchmarking process, and two have received grant funding which reimburses them up to 50 per cent of the cost of implementing recommendations from the benchmarking.

## Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy 2016-2020

This small business strategy, launched in 2016, is continuing to create an environment for small businesses to flourish, including through being a strong advocate for small businesses, simplifying service delivery and connecting small businesses to opportunities.



**ecoBiz** supports Queensland businesses to drive costs down and reduce their carbon footprint. An additional **\$916,000** has been committed in 2017-18 for this program.

Made in Queensland is targeted at helping small to medium sized manufacturers





# Growing and protecting agricultural assets

The Palaszczuk Government recognises the importance of Queensland's agricultural sector to the economy, particularly as a significant export earner. The 2017-18 Queensland Budget provides funding to protect our precious agricultural assets from feral pests, disease and invasive weeds, grow our export industry, and continue measures focused on curbing farm debt.



Image courtesy of Gettyimages

Image courtesy of iStock





Key features of the 2017-18 Queensland Budget include:

- ◆ extension of existing drought relief arrangements, with up to **\$34.6 million** in assistance available
- ◆ **\$5.2 million** over three years to support rural economic development through Growing Queensland's Food Exports, development of a Rural Economies Centre of Excellence and continuation of the One Stop Service
- ◆ **\$5.9 million** over two years from 2016-17 for the Electric Ant Eradication Program, wild dog fencing through Round 3 of the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative and management of Navua Sedge
- ◆ up to **\$9 million** over two years to continue the Government's emergency response to white spot disease, building on the \$17.6 million committed in 2016-17
- ◆ **\$2.8 million** to continue the fight against Panama disease
- ◆ **\$3.4 million** over four years for the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority to undertake a rural debt survey, operate the Farm Debt Restructure Office, and develop a policy and research function
- ◆ **\$30 million** over three years to implement management reforms for Queensland fisheries.





# Arts

From big budget Hollywood blockbusters to international music acts, renowned theatre productions and art exhibitions, the world is coming to Queensland. The Palaszczuk Government continues to grow a vibrant, sustainable arts and cultural sector. A successful and growing sector contributes to the creation of jobs and a diverse economy.

The 2017-18 Queensland Budget contributes:

- ◆ **\$17.5 million** over four years for an Arts Infrastructure Investment Fund to prioritise infrastructure projects in state-owned arts and cultural facilities
- ◆ **\$9.4 million** over two years to transform the Queensland Museum's Sciencentre into a cutting edge interactive hub for science, technology, engineering and mathematics
- ◆ **\$6.5 million** over four years for Indigenous and regional arts initiatives
- ◆ **\$2 million** for Rockhampton Regional Council to support the planned relocation of the city's art gallery
- ◆ **\$2.1 million** for an arts incubator space for start-up Indigenous performance companies and to commission new dance performances at the Cairns Centre of Contemporary Arts and within Indigenous communities.

The Palaszczuk Government is continuing its four-year **\$30 million** commitment to attract large-scale film and high-end television productions to Queensland. Projects include *Thor: Ragnarok*, *Aquaman* and *Tidelines* (a Netflix Original Series).

Thor, image courtesy of AAP



# Tourism and events

Tourism is a **\$23 billion** industry for Queensland. It directly and indirectly **supports 220,000** Queenslanders and generates \$55.3 million a day in overnight visitor expenditure. With a total of **52,200 tourism-related businesses** working hard across the state, no other sector of the economy has more small businesses. Sixty-one per cent of these are located in regional areas. The Palaszczuk Government is determined to see tourism thrive and will continue to attract and secure major events that grow the Queensland economy and support jobs.

The 2017-18 Budget commits an additional

## \$47 million

in 2020-21 to continue to deliver the

## \$100 million

per annum funding guarantee for Tourism and Events Queensland.

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### Attracting Aviation Investment Fund

Growth in tourism is being supported by the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund, designed to open up new aviation routes and tourism expenditure between Asian growth markets and Queensland's international-ready destinations. The Fund has already attracted new services or extra flights from several destinations to the Gold Coast, Cairns and Brisbane.



Gold Coast, image courtesy of Tourism and Events Queensland



Image courtesy of Gettyimages



# **\$1.5 billion** State Government commitment to deliver the **Gold Coast** 2018 Commonwealth Games

The countdown is on for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (GC2018). Between 4 and 15 April 2018, 6,600 athletes and officials from 70 nations and territories will compete in 18 sports before an estimated global television audience of 1.5 billion people. GC2018 will also feature the largest integrated para-sport program in Commonwealth Games history. The Palaszczuk Government is proud to say we are on track and on budget to deliver this exciting event that will leave a lasting legacy for Queensland.



# Trade 2018

Trade 2018 is a trade and investment partnership between the Queensland Government, the Australian Government and the City of Gold Coast. On our journey towards GC2018 there will be opportunities to raise awareness of Queensland as a trade and investment partner and showcase our key strengths on the world stage.

## Security workforce

The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation has appointed a consortium of four Australian companies to provide more than 4,000 personnel to provide security for GC2018.

## Three new venues and the Games Village

# 1,500

jobs



Games Village Parklands (scheduled handover early October 2017).

# 390

jobs



Gold Coast Sports and Leisure Centre was completed in April 2017 at a cost of **\$105.3 million**.

# 130

jobs



Coomera Indoor Sports Centre was completed in August 2016 at a cost of **\$40.2 million**.

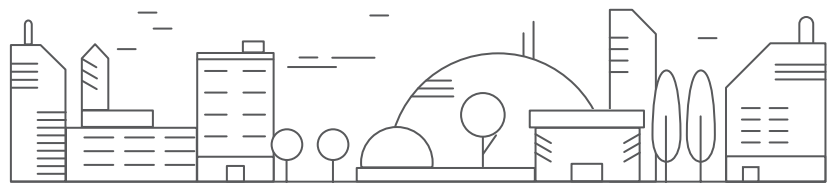
# 190

jobs



Anna Meares Velodrome Chandler was completed in November 2016 at a cost of **\$60.1 million**.

## Supporting local businesses



Of the **\$657 million** in construction contracts for the venues and Games Village, around 90 per cent of the value has been awarded to South East Queensland businesses (**\$277 million** to Gold Coast and **\$313 million** to other South East Queensland businesses).

## Beyond GC2018 – a lasting legacy

More than a spectacular sporting event, GC2018 provides a unique opportunity to leave a lasting legacy for business, industry, and sporting and community groups in Queensland. The Palaszczuk Government is committed to delivering this legacy through projects and programs which will maximise the benefits from hosting this major event.

Anna Meares Velodrome



GC2018 Commonwealth Games Mascot Borobi

# Environment

From its white sands and turquoise seas to the red outback and tropical rainforests, Queensland's environment is the envy of the world. The Palaszczuk Government is committed to keeping it that way through a number of 2017-18 Queensland Budget initiatives that protect our most precious environmental assets and help combat the effects of climate change.



## Queensland Reef Water Quality Program

The Great Barrier Reef (GBR) supports around **69,000 jobs** and contributes **\$5.7 billion** to the Queensland and Australian economies. Yet it remains under pressure from agricultural run-off, climate change, coastal development and illegal fishing. Cyclones and severe flooding have also impacted the reef.

The Budget provides **\$175 million** over the next five years to deliver the GBR Water Quality Program. This is over and above the \$100 million committed in 2015-16 to address the GBR Water Science Taskforce recommendations.



## Managing protected areas

The Government continues to support the protection of areas with high conservation and biodiversity value with increased funding of **\$3.2 million** for delivery of the Government's Protected Area Strategy and the continued management of Nature Refuge Agreements.

**\$19.7 million** has already been made available to secure Nature Refuge Agreements under the NatureAssist Program which provides incentives to landowners to conserve high value habitat on privately owned land.

Pixies Garden, Great Barrier Reef. Image courtesy of Tourism and Events Queensland





## Climate change

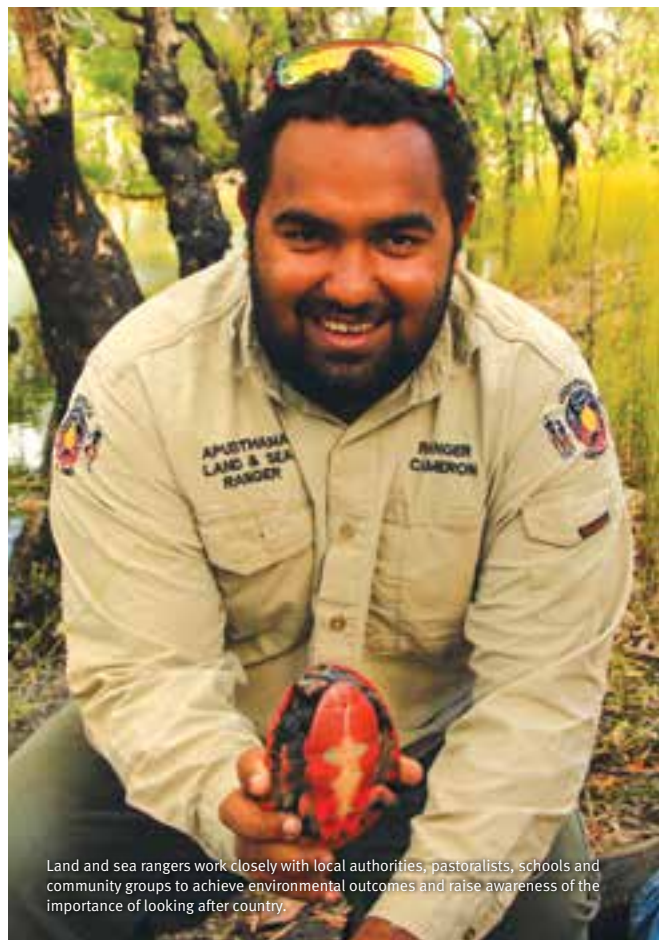
The Budget provides an additional **\$15 million** over three years to begin the task of reducing carbon emissions. This is in addition to the previous \$15 million climate adaption package (including the \$12 million coastal hazards adaption program) and the \$8.4 million CarbonPlus initiative to support Indigenous carbon farming.

The Budget also commits **\$1.6 million** to implement the recommendations of the Queensland Renewable Energy Expert Panel. They include undertaking a reverse auction for up to 400MW of renewable capacity, to commence in the second half of 2017. This process will include a focus on bringing forward renewable energy solutions that can support long-term system security (eg storage and dispatchable generation).



## Container refund scheme and plastic bag ban

The Budget provides **\$2.5 million** to implement the container refund scheme and plastic bag ban from 1 July 2018 as part of the Advancing Queensland Waste Reform Agenda.



Land and sea rangers work closely with local authorities, pastoralists, schools and community groups to achieve environmental outcomes and raise awareness of the importance of looking after country.

# Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger program

The Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger program provides grant funding, training and mentoring support to Indigenous organisations. It increases Indigenous participation in environmental management and supports jobs in areas including ecotourism.

An additional **\$8.1 million** is being provided over four years for the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger program, creating an additional **25 jobs** in regional and remote areas of Queensland. This takes the total number of ranger positions to 100 across 17 regional and remote communities.



# Budget overview

The 2017-18 Budget is focused on supporting continued growth and creating jobs for Queensland, while enabling the State's \$300 billion economy to transition to be more innovative, diverse and productive.

International ratings agency Moody's recognised, among other things, our fiscal principles and the State's Debt Action Plan when it lifted Queensland's credit rating outlook from negative to stable.

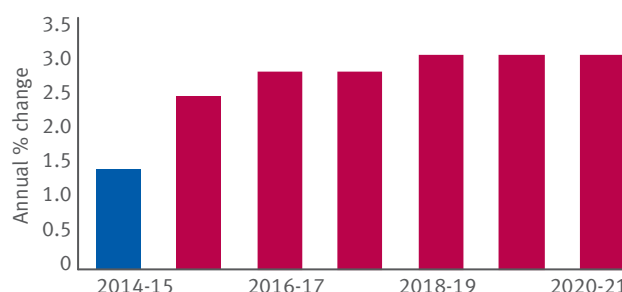


Image courtesy of Gettyimages

## Economic Overview

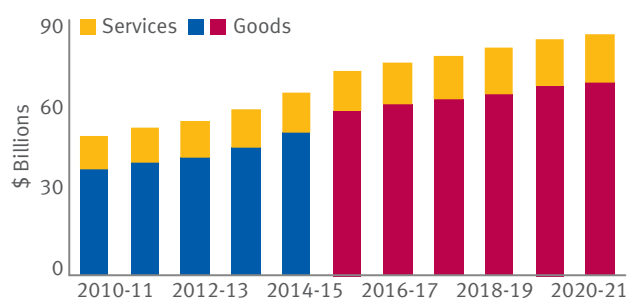
### Queensland economic growth

Queensland economic growth accelerated in 2015-16 and is forecast to strengthen further across the forward estimates, from 2.4% in 2015-16, to 2.75% in both 2016-17 and 2017-18, and 3% in 2018-19.



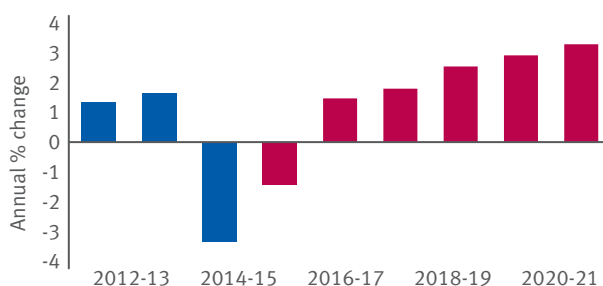
### Queensland overseas exports

Queensland overseas exports are forecast to grow solidly over the forecast period. Growth in services exports such as tourism and education will continue to be supported by a sustained lower A\$ and growing demand from Asian markets.



### Queensland's domestic economy

Following the LNG investment wind down, GSP growth is increasingly driven by improving state final demand (which is a key measure of the State's domestic activity). As labour intensive domestic activity strengthens, so too will employment growth.

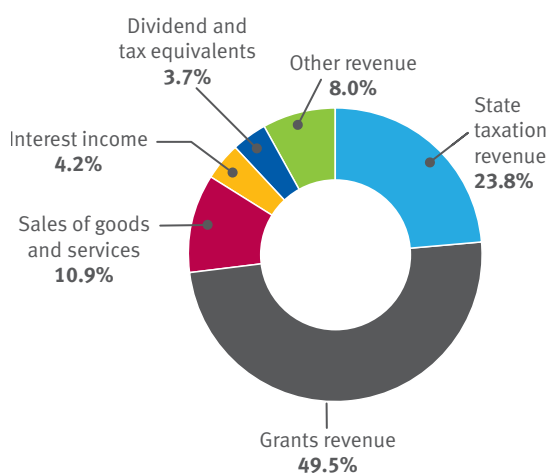




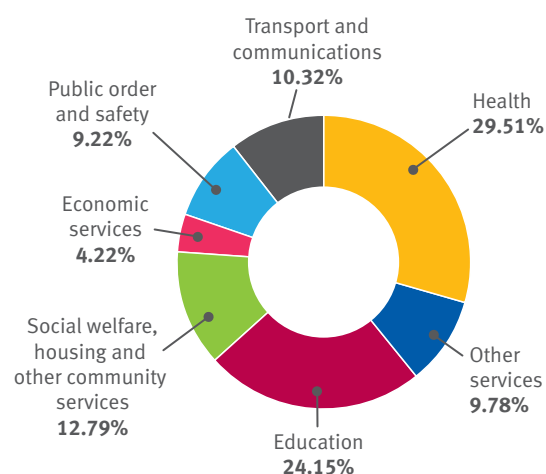
## Fiscal Outlook

The Government recognises that the \$2.8 billion surplus in 2016-17 is being supported by a number of temporary factors, such as the timing of disaster recovery reimbursements from the Australian Government and spikes in coal prices. This strong 2016-17 operating surplus will see General Government sector debt in 2016-17 around \$3.8 billion lower than estimated in the 2016-17 Budget. This has provided the Government the opportunity to support additional infrastructure investment and a range of targeted temporary measures to support businesses and households.

### 2017-18 Revenue



### 2017-18 Expenses

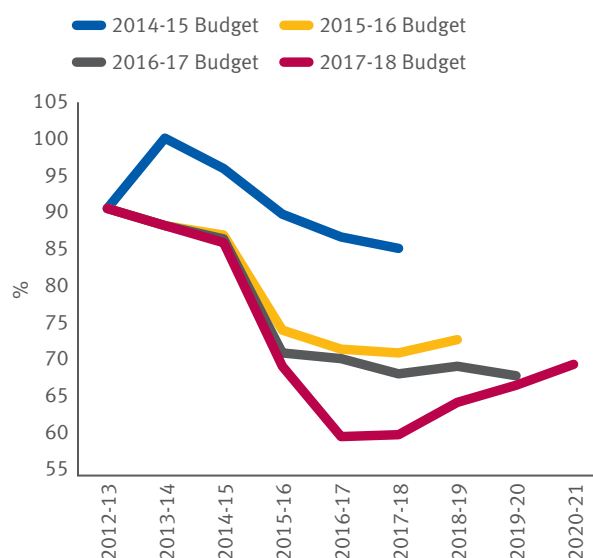


## Debt Action Plan

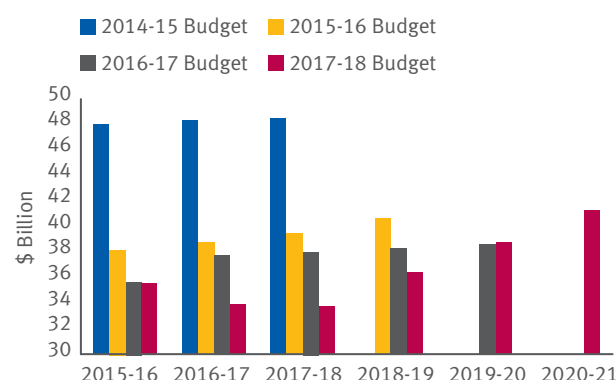
The Government's actions will continue to manage General Government Sector debt and provide additional funds for infrastructure investment without requiring the sale of government-owned corporations, without increases in taxes on Queenslanders, without cuts to services and without redundancies. The strong performance of government-owned corporations in 2016-17 demonstrates the sustainability of the Government's Debt Action Plan.

General Government Sector debt in 2017-18 is expected to be \$33.8 billion, a reduction of \$14.7 billion compared with the 2014-15 Budget projection. The reduction in General Government debt achieved through the Debt Action Plan, supplemented with further balance sheet measures, has provided the Government with the capacity to fund important new capital infrastructure, without significantly increasing debt, over the forward estimates.

### General Government debt to revenue ratio



### General Government debt





[budget.qld.gov.au](http://budget.qld.gov.au)