



Far North Queensland

REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

QUEENSLAND BUDGET 2023–24

The 2023–24 Queensland Budget supports *good jobs*, provides *better services* for all Queenslanders and protects our *great lifestyle*. In Far North Queensland it provides:

\$1.7B on infrastructure
for productivity enhancing infrastructure and capital works, estimated to support around **4,900** jobs in this region.

\$1.6B on health
for the Torres and Cape and Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Services.

\$79.9M on education
to maintain, improve and upgrade schools in Far North Queensland.

\$206.5M for social housing
to expand and improve social housing in Far North Queensland.

\$88.5M for disaster recovery
and betterment projects to local government assets impacted by disaster events between 2019 and 2023. Delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.

\$17.7M for homelessness services
to provide essential housing and support services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Far North Queensland.

Delivering for the FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND REGION



First Home Owner Grant

2,454 grants worth \$41.1 million paid to home buyers to help them buy their first home in Far North Queensland.

(July 2015 to April 2023)



Building our Regions

\$60 million allocated to 66 projects for critical infrastructure in Far North Queensland, supporting an estimated 417 jobs. This has leveraged further financial co-contributions statewide of over \$539 million from local governments, the Australian Government, and other organisations, with a total capital expenditure value of over \$887 million.

(March 2015 to February 2024)



Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund

An estimated \$7.2 million, as part of a National Partnership Agreement, jointly funded with the Australian Government, to support 31 disaster mitigation projects and build resilience to natural disaster in Far North Queensland.

(June 2020 to June 2023)



Skilling Queenslanders for Work

\$43.7 million allocated to develop skills and provide training to 5,394 people in Far North Queensland, with 3,086 people securing a job as a direct result of their participation in the program.

(July 2015 to April 2023)

Delivering better services for the Far North Queensland region

Growth from March 2015 to March 2023



321 extra doctors
up **67.2%**



210 extra teachers
up **6.9%**



69 extra ambulance officers
up **24.9%**



27 extra firefighters
up **18.4%**

Delivering for FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

Queensland

Good jobs
Better services
Great lifestyle



1 Thursday Island Hospital



\$9.5 million in 2023-24 out of a \$66.4 million total spend for the redevelopment of the Thursday Island Hospital, the separate Primary Health Care Centre, and delivery of a new CT scanner that will combine a series of x-ray images to create 3D images of bones, organs, and other parts of the body. The redevelopment will include 31 inpatient beds including an extra negative pressure isolation room, 7 emergency department spaces, a new operating theatre with 4 recovery spaces, a birthing suite and extra space for emergency birthing, and 5 outpatient rooms.

3 Cairns Marine Precinct - Common User Facility



\$5.6 million in 2023-24 out of a \$360 million total spend for development of the Cairns Marine Precinct Common User Facility, subject to approvals. Preconstruction tests and other preliminary work is underway. The facility will enable larger vessels to be repaired in Cairns, including Defence, commercial and private vessels. These investments will create local jobs and strengthen Cairns as a leading maintenance, repair and overhaul destination in the region. Delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.

5 Malanda State School



\$1.3 million in 2023-24 out of a \$1.4 million total spend to enclose the existing covered basketball courts to create an indoor weatherproof space. The enclosed space will provide an all-weather accessible space for play and education, including supporting STEM programs, enhancing the school's drone program, and providing a meeting space for the local community.

2 Cairns Hospital



\$37 million in 2023-24 out of a \$389.3 million total spend for a range of projects, including the delivery of a new surgical centre, the construction of a new mental health unit, and the expansion of the emergency department to deliver a new pre-admission clinic and an additional endoscopy room. Also includes the \$250 million major expansion to the hospital that will deliver around 96 extra beds and provide an expanded capacity for elective and emergency surgery. Part of the Capacity Expansion Program.

4 Atherton Neighbourhood Centre



\$3 million in 2023-24 out of a \$4.1 million total spend towards the redevelopment of a new neighbourhood centre in Atherton. The redevelopment will enhance the existing support and services available from the centre and will include a large community garden and meeting space for community events, with the goal of creating a one-stop community services precinct. Delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.

6 Kaban Wind Farm capacity purchase agreement



\$343.7 million in 2023-24 to exercise the rights to 157 megawatts of renewable energy capacity from a new wind farm in the Atherton Tablelands region. The Kaban Wind Farm, being developed by Neoen, will consist of 28 wind turbines and will supply around 457 gigawatt hours of electricity each year, enough to power 96,000 homes. During construction, this project will support up to 250 jobs and provide clean renewable energy for the grid.



Andrew Watson Photography

Regional Trade Distribution Centre takes off in Cairns

The Queensland Government has committed \$20 million to deliver 2 regional trade distribution centres to support Queensland producers to grow their businesses, with the newest facility opening at the Cairns Airport. This investment has been funded by the government's Jobs and Regional Growth Fund.

The Regional Trade Distribution Centre Cairns opened in March 2023 following a one-year construction period that supported more than 200 jobs. The new facility is assisting producers to export fish and crustaceans (live and frozen), avocados, mangoes, and other fresh produce. With 2,400 square metres of space, the facility has ample capacity for future growth.

With a second trade distribution centre in Toowoomba, Queensland producers across the state now have greatly improved access to first-class facilities. Investing in export infrastructure will help more producers to capitalise on Queensland's global reputation as a leader in the production and processing of quality produce.

Delivering for the FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND REGION

Explore the
Budget Map



- 
Mer (Murray) Island Primary Health Care Centre
 \$1.7 million in 2023-24 out of a \$8.8 million total spend for the replacement of the existing Primary Health Care Centre to support the provision of quality and safe services for current and future healthcare needs.
- 
Torres Strait Islands community fuel resource upgrade
 \$752,400 in 2023-24 out of a \$1.1 million total spend for the Multi-Island Fuel Infrastructure Replacement Project to ensure remote communities have safe and sustainable access to reliable diesel and petrol. Part of the 2022-24 Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program.
- 
Horn Island passenger jetty and wharf upgrade
 \$6 million in 2023-24 out of a \$8.5 million total spend for the upgrade of the Horn Island passenger jetty and wharf head.
- 
Horn Island affordable housing project
 \$672,757 in 2023-24 out of a \$961,057 total spend to expand the Horn Island affordable housing project to provide safe, affordable housing opportunities for Indigenous homebuyers. Part of the Building our Regions Program.
- 
Bamaga Hospital
 \$3 million in 2023-24 out of a \$3.8 million total spend for the rectification and replacement of end of life non-compliant hydraulic pipelines.
- 
Cullen Point Campground and Mission Site development
 \$1 million in 2023-24 out of a \$2.9 million total spend to upgrade and expand the Cullen Point Campground in Mapoon and develop a historical interpretation walk of the mission village sites in the old Mapoon Precinct. Part of the Resources Community Infrastructure Fund.
- 
Western Cape College - Weipa
 \$10.3 million in 2023-24 out of a \$11 million total spend to construct a new building for additional learning spaces.
- 
Coen Airport facilities upgrade
 \$100,000 in 2023-24 out of a \$1.4 million total spend to upgrade community infrastructure at the Coen Airport. Part of the Resources Community Infrastructure Fund.
- 
Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program
 \$450,327 in 2023-24 to protect environmental and Indigenous cultural heritage values in Mareeba and Palmerville Station. Part of the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program, providing \$27 million statewide in 2023-24.
- 
Splash Parks for Port Douglas and Mossman

 \$900,000 in 2023-24 out of a \$1.5 million total spend for construction of a splash park in Port Douglas and a splash play area in Mossman at the existing pool site.
- 
Wangetti Trail
 \$10.4 million in 2023-24 out of a \$47.1 million total spend for the construction of a 94 kilometre walking and mountain biking trail from Palm Cove to Port Douglas, with public and eco-accommodation facilities. Delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.
- 
Barron Gorge Hydro Maintenance
 \$3.3 million in 2023-24 for the maintenance of existing assets including major valve work and the control system.
- 
Captain Cook Highway, Cairns CBD to Smithfield, upgrade
 \$6 million in 2023-24 out of a \$359 million total spend towards upgrades of the Captain Cook Highway between Cairns and Smithfield. Delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.
- 
Cairns Western Arterial Road, Redlynch Connector Road to Captain Cook Highway

 \$30.9 million in 2023-24 out of a \$300 million total spend towards the duplication of the Cairns Western Arterial Road between Redlynch Connector Road and the Captain Cook Highway. Delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.
- 
Cairns Safer Streets and Midnight Basketball
 \$750,000 in 2023-24 out of a \$1.5 million total spend to support the Cairns Safer Streets and Midnight Basketball Program to engage young people and minimise the risk of anti-social behaviour. Part of the Youth Justice Investment.
- 
Cairns police facility upgrade
 \$1.4 million in 2023-24 out of a \$20 million total spend to complete the upgrade of the police facility at Cairns.
- 
Great Barrier Reef International Marine College
 \$8 million in 2023-24 out of a \$16 million total spend to expand TAFE Queensland's Great Barrier Reef International Marine College, which will include construction of a new workshop, additional classrooms, staff facilities and a boat shed.
- 
Woree State School

 \$5.9 million in 2023-24 out of a \$6.7 million total spend to deliver a new hall facility.
- 
Bruce Highway, Cairns Southern Access Corridor (Stage 5), Foster Road
 \$1.1 million in 2023-24 out of a \$225 million total spend towards upgrading the intersection of Foster Road and the Bruce Highway. Delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.
- 
Gordonvale State High School
 \$754,000 in 2023-24 to construct additional specialist classrooms.
- 
Atherton Hospital
 \$7.1 million in 2023-24 out of a \$86.4 million total spend for the redevelopment of the existing facility including a new clinical services building and community allied and mental health building.
- 
Additional Electricity Bill Support

 \$1.483 billion in 2023-24 for electricity bill support, including a \$550 rebate for all Queensland households, a higher \$700 vulnerable households rebate and a \$650 small business rebate.
- 
Far North Queensland Youth Detention Centre

 A new youth detention centre is to be built near Cairns. Site selection is ongoing.
- 
Modern Manufacturing Initiative

 \$13 million in 2023-24 out of a \$153.5 million total spend to support businesses to adopt new technologies and improve their manufacturing processes. Part of the Queensland Jobs Fund and the Modern Manufacturing Initiative, delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.
- 
Queensland First Home Owner Grant

 \$72 million in 2023-24 to provide first-time home buyers buying or building a new home with grants to get into the market sooner.
- 
Raise, repair and retrofit homes, as part of the Resilient Homes Fund

 \$219.9 million in 2023-24 out of a \$381 million total spend to allow eligible homeowners to raise, repair or retrofit their homes to incorporate flood resilient design and materials to reduce the impacts of future flood events.
- 
Staff Accommodation Program

 \$12 million in 2023-24 out of a \$21.1 million total spend to build standardised modular design staff accommodation to help staff retention at rural and remote staff accommodation facilities.
- 
Youth Co-responder teams

 \$30.1 million in 2023-24 out of a \$96.2 million total spend statewide over 4 years to continue to deliver and expand the youth co-responder model to deal with or divert high risk young people. Part of the Youth Justice Investment.

Project key

-  Community wellbeing
-  Utilities
-  Health
-  Education
-  Statewide/region-wide
-  Transport and roads
-  Justice and safety
-  Government services
-  Recreation and culture
-  Relates to government election commitment



At a Glance

Total concessions in 2023-24	\$8.2B	Total capital program over 4 years	\$89B
Total health funding in 2023-24	\$25.8B	Jobs supported by the capital program in 2023-24	58,000
Investment in regional Queensland supported by coal royalties	over \$16B	Percentage of capital spend outside of greater Brisbane in 2023-24	65.5%
Additional funding for social housing infrastructure and housing and homelessness support over 5 years	over \$1.2B	Total capital investment to support the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan over 4 years	\$19B

Good jobs. Better services. Great lifestyle.

More jobs in more industries

Good, secure jobs in our traditional and emerging industries

Queensland is building on its advantages in traditional and emerging industries that support good, secure jobs. The Queensland Government's economic strategy will help Queensland businesses to take advantage of these opportunities and grow the economy.



Better services

Deliver even better services right across Queensland

A growing economy will allow the government to deliver better services across the state, including in education, justice and social services. High-quality services improve the lives of Queenslanders and help everyone to participate fully in our economy and our community.

Protecting Queenslanders' lifestyle

Protect and enhance our Queensland lifestyle as we grow

Our great Queensland lifestyle will be protected while the economy grows. The Queensland Government is investing in crucial infrastructure to support our growing population, reducing cost-of-living pressures and taking care of our natural environment.



Images supplied courtesy of:
Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water.
Queensland Ambulance Service.
Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training.