

Queensland State Budget 2008–09

Greater Brisbane

Regional Budget Statement



Image courtesy of Tourism Queensland

Headland at Point Lookout, North Stradbroke Island

Queensland is experiencing the most sustained period of economic and population growth in its history.

In shaping the 2008-09 Budget, the Government has chosen to build tomorrow's Queensland today.

The State's prosperity is generating unprecedented demand for housing, healthcare, schools, transport, other essential services and vital infrastructure throughout Queensland's regions.

The Budget delivers massive injections of funding to our public hospitals and healthcare system. It funds the biggest capital works program in the State's history.



Anna Bligh MP
Premier

It increases services to the regions and delivers vital long-term social and economic infrastructure for the benefit of all Queenslanders.



heartlands, the booming hubs of mining activity and the vibrant growth of coastal areas.

This document sets out the Government's investment commitment to address the changing needs of the Greater Brisbane region.

Andrew Fraser MP
Treasurer

A centrepiece of this Budget is tax cuts to help Queenslanders purchase their first home.

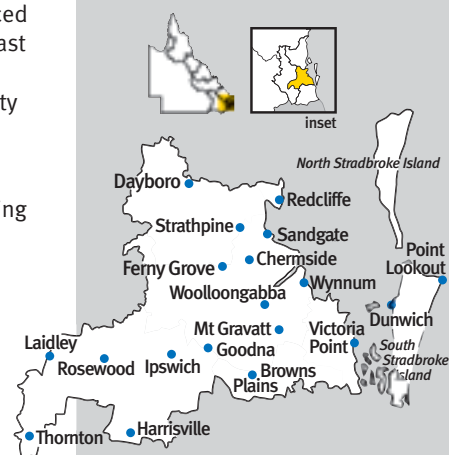
Queensland's success is built on the success of our regions, from the fast-paced expansion of the south-east corner to the agricultural

State-wide Highlights

Key priorities of the 2008-09 Budget are congestion management, housing affordability, delivering on the Health Action Plan and strengthened community services.

- Tax savings of up to \$9,500 for first homebuyers
- Full abolition of mortgage duty from 1 July 2008
- Record 17% increase in health spending
- Increased rebates and tax breaks for older Queenslanders
- 200 new police officers
- 250 new ambulance officers and 145 new vehicles
- 270 new teachers
- \$100 million boost for school maintenance over two years through the Tomorrow's Schools initiative
- \$20 million for ClimateSmart Home Services
- \$20 million increase to develop community sport and recreation facilities
- \$5.9 million boost to support front-line child protection workers

Greater Brisbane



Every five years the Census provides a snapshot of Australian society. It measures many characteristics including our age and



birthplace, language spoken and religion, if we need

assistance to perform everyday activities or to participate in community life and the work we do (paid or unpaid) and how we get there.

What did the 2006 Census reveal about **your** community? Take a look below for a snapshot of life in the Greater Brisbane region.

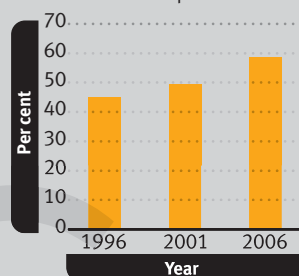
The work we do

Nurses, pharmacists, teachers, scientists, carers, sales representatives, administrative officers – Greater Brisbane residents work in a diverse range of jobs. Census data shows 22%¹ of people living in the Greater Brisbane region are employed in the retail trade industry or healthcare and social assistance industry. Manufacturing (10.7%), education and training (8.1%) and professional scientific and technical services (7.7%) are the other major employment industries in this rapidly growing region.

Our qualifications

Greater Brisbane's strong population growth has brought with it an increase in the number of skilled workers. Just under 59%² of people living in our region now hold 'beyond'³ school qualifications – a 13.9 percentage point increase compared to 1996 Census results (see graph). Of these qualifications, 34.2% are degree or higher, 14% are advanced diploma or diploma and 30.1% are certificate level. A further one-fifth of Greater Brisbane residents who identified with having a 'beyond' school qualification did not indicate the level of education received.

Beyond school qualifications
% of persons 15 years and over with a non-school qualification



How much we earn

We've certainly noticed an increase in the cost of living over the years, and as it rises so too does our income. At the time of the 1996 Census, the median weekly household income for the Greater Brisbane region was \$531. In 2006 the median weekly income for households in our region was \$928 – that's almost 74% more than we earned 10 years earlier⁴.

¹ Of the total figure, retail trade accounts for 11%, while health care and social assistance accounts for the remaining 11% of employment.

² Aged 15 years and over with a usual residence in the Greater Brisbane region at the time of the 2006 Census.

³ 'Beyond' school qualification referred to as non-school qualifications in Census data.

⁴ Based on 2006 Census data.

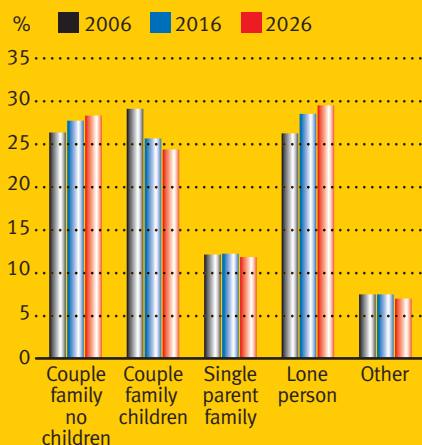
Household projections

Families come in all shapes and sizes and between now and 2026 we can expect to see a lot more of them. But what type of family will occupy most Queensland homes? For the last decade most Queensland households have consisted of couples with children. However household projections forecast that, over the next decade and beyond, the make-up of homes throughout our State will dramatically change.

Throughout our State an ageing population, declining fertility rates among younger couples, and baby boomers becoming 'empty nesters' will result in the number of couples without children and lone person households taking over as the most common types.

Take a look to the right to see how households in the Greater Brisbane region are likely to change between now and 2026.

Greater Brisbane
Household composition



Source: Data are based on medium series projections and are sourced from Department of Infrastructure and Planning, Population, Information and Forecasting Unit, Household projections Queensland Local Government Areas 2007.

The national Census telling it like it is

It might be the smallest of Queensland's regions, but what Greater Brisbane lacks in size it certainly makes up in population. Covering an area of 4,132 square kilometres or 0.2% of the State, Greater Brisbane is home to 40% of Queensland's total population. Over 1.6 million¹ Queenslanders now call Greater Brisbane home – almost 2% more than the year before².

And why not? With its enviable outdoor lifestyle, strong and vibrant economy, major port, domestic and international airports, world-class universities, research, training and sporting facilities, and proximity to business opportunities, this sub-tropical metropolis at the heart of South East Queensland is attracting global attention as it secures its place as one of Australia's fastest growing regions.

The Queensland Government recognises the role Greater Brisbane's has played in increasing our State's prosperity and sustaining its economic and social growth. This Regional Budget Statement highlights the Government's commitment to the region and its people.

¹ Population data as at 30 June 2007, Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Regional Population Growth* (cat no 3218.0).

² Population data as at 30 June 2006, Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Regional Population Growth* (cat no 3218.0).



The Gateway Upgrade Project

The Queensland Government is committed to keeping one of Australia's fastest growing regions on the move. An investment of \$537.6 million will help fund a second Gateway Bridge (pictured) and increase the capacity of sections of the Gateway Motorway.

Healthy individuals and communities

We are committed to improving and sustaining the health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders by investing in infrastructure and services that will strengthen our public health system, promote healthier lifestyles and enhance confidence and safety in our communities.

As part of the Government's continued commitment to meet the growing needs of the community, in 2008-09 spending on health infrastructure and initiatives will include:

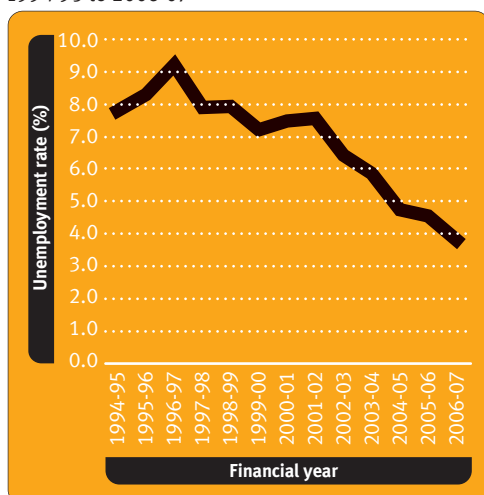
- \$97.5 million to start work on a new \$1 billion Queensland Children's Hospital in Brisbane
- \$21.8 million to expand elective surgery at the QEII Hospital
- \$10 million towards the Logan Hospital Annexe development, including three intensive unit beds to accommodate additional acute services
- \$8 million for land for the Redland Hospital expansion
- \$3.8 million for the Royal Children's Hospital including provision of a high dependency unit.

Greater Brisbane will also benefit from investments in new or concluding police and emergency services infrastructure projects including:

- \$110.5 million over five years to construct a new courthouse, police station and watchhouse in Ipswich
- \$40.1 million for a new \$76.1 million Queensland Emergency Operations Centre

Unemployment rate^(a)

1994-95 to 2006-07



(a) Data based on un-smoothed series.

Source: DEEWR, Small Area Labour Markets - Australia.

- \$7.6 million for a new \$13.2 million 24-hour police station at Fortitude Valley
- \$6.2 million for a new 24-hour police station at Carseldine
- \$5.8 million for a replacement 24-hour police station at Holland Park
- \$4.9 million for a new 24-hour police station at Springfield
- \$4.9 million new for a 24-hour police station at Crestmead
- \$3 million for a new fire and rescue station to be constructed at Redland Bay
- \$2.4 million for a new fire and rescue station at Kippa-Ring to replace an existing station in Redcliffe
- \$2.7 million to complete a replacement ambulance station in Ipswich
- \$2.3 million for a new 24-hour police station at Camp Hill
- \$2.2 million for a replacement ambulance station to be built in Grovely/Mitchelton
- \$2 million for a replacement ambulance regional training facility in South Brisbane
- \$1.6 million for a replacement ambulance station at Redcliffe
- \$600,000 for a new ambulance station in Ashgrove/The Gap
- \$500,000 for a replacement fire and rescue station to be built on the existing station site at Woodridge
- \$400,000 for a new ambulance station in Springfield.

The Government will continue its support for those in our community who are most vulnerable, with commitments in 2008-09 including:

- \$101.3 million for the Home and Community Care initiative
- \$57 million to support people with a disability through a range of programs
- \$29.7 million to improve disability access at Queensland Rail stations and trains
- \$10.9 million over four years to establish new residential care facilities for young people with complex and extreme behaviours
- \$10.2 million over four years to establish additional out-of-home care placements for children in care
- \$7.2 million towards short-term and time-limited respite support for families of people with a disability
- \$7 million to construct the healthy ageing precinct at Eventide
- \$6 million for purpose-built accommodation in Hillcrest and Wacol for people with disabilities who have challenging behaviours or high support needs.

Congestion management

To help keep one of Australia's fastest growing regions on the move, the Government will make a number of significant investments in 2008-09, including:

- \$537.6 million towards a second Gateway Bridge and increasing the capacity of the Gateway Motorway between Mount Gravatt-Capalaba Road and Nudgee Road
- \$234.2 million towards the Eastern Busway corridor connection from the Eleanor Schonell Bridge to Princess Alexandra Hospital, continuing to Buranda and to Mains Avenue, Coorparoo

Key infrastructure commitments in the Greater Brisbane region in 2008-09 include:

- \$204.5 million to continue work on the \$777 million Northern Busway
- \$168.7 million to duplicate the Centenary Highway between Darra and Springfield
- \$150 million to continue the new Houghton Highway bridge between Brighton and Redcliffe.
- \$130 million towards the 13-kilometre Darra to Springfield rail line
- \$101.7 million to be invested in the Port of Brisbane to construct new berths and terminals and redevelop and upgrade existing facilities



Helping Queenslanders under financial pressure

With household budgets under increasing stress from rising interest rates, higher rents and mounting grocery and fuel prices, the Government is committed to taking the pressure off Queensland families.

Each year the Government offers relief to many Queenslanders through discounts, rebates and subsidies to help improve their access to, and meet the cost of, a range of services including discounted rail and taxi fares, reduced car registration costs, exemption from the community ambulance levy and cheaper electricity bills. In 2008-09 these concessions are estimated to have a total value of around \$1 billion.

However the Queensland Government recognises more and more families are 'doing it tough' and is acting on its commitment to help Queenslanders make ends meet.

On top of the existing concessions, the 2008-09 State Budget sees the implementation of a major housing affordability strategy that will provide relief for Queenslanders who are buying or renting their homes.

The Government will also spend \$570 million in 2008-09 in further relief as it tackles the rising cost of fuel by ensuring all Queenslanders receive the full 8.354 cents per litre fuel subsidy.

- \$78.1 million towards the \$187.2 million Corinda to Darra third track.

The region will also benefit from over \$320 million for vital infrastructure upgrades to the Ipswich Motorway, with Australian Government funding, including:

- \$200 million for upgrading between Wacol and Darra
- \$100 million to construct the Logan Motorway interchange
- \$20 million for planning and land acquisition between Dinmore and Goodna.

Building infrastructure

Planning and delivering the infrastructure needed to provide essential and efficient services to our rapidly growing community – now and in the future – is one of our key priorities. The Government's commitments in 2008-09 include:

- \$236.2 million for the new \$600 million Brisbane Supreme Court and District Court
- \$76 million for the \$130 million expansion of the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre
- \$59.8 million to improve the Swanbank Power Station
- \$41.5 million to establish new substations at Myrtletown, Sandgate and Tennyson
- \$31.1 million to construct a transmission line between the South Pine substation and the Sandgate substation
- \$14.1 million towards the \$32.8 million Brunswick Street station upgrade.

Water security

This financial year the Government is on track to complete the Western Corridor Recycled Water project—the largest recycled water project in the southern hemisphere—and complete the Gold Coast Desalination plant at Tugun.

In 2008-09 the Government will invest \$217 million in the 96-kilometre Southern Regional Water Pipeline, linking the Wivenhoe system with supply sources on the Gold Coast including the Hinze Dam and the desalination plant.

The South East Queensland (SEQ) Water Grid Manager will commence operations in 2008-09 to ensure security of supply for the region into the future.

Closing the gap with Indigenous communities

The Queensland Government, in partnership with the Australian Government, is committed to closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians through innovative programs such as \$3.6 million in grants to 42 Community Justice Groups to empower Indigenous communities to tackle social and justice issues. An additional \$1.7 million will be used to continue a two-year pilot of five Murri Courts.

The region will also benefit through the employment of nine Indigenous Employment and Training Support Officers and a State-wide investment of \$800,000 to enhance Indigenous agribusiness development

Housing affordability

The Queensland Government is committed to improving housing affordability for those Queenslanders hardest hit by the current economic environment

In addition to the substantial tax relief to be introduced in 2008-09 for first home buyers, low-income families and individuals in the Greater Brisbane region will receive housing services and support in the form of:

- \$105.5 million to construct, purchase and upgrade public housing involving purchasing or completing 191 homes and commencing a further 146 homes
- \$33.5 million for community housing programs and services to address crisis and long-term housing needs including \$4.9 million to complete the Lady Bowen Complex redevelopment to provide services for homeless people
- \$6 million to purchase land for future public housing
- \$5 million to provide affordable rental accommodation.

Education and early childhood development

Giving every child every chance to learn in the best possible environment is a priority for the Government. This is reflected in our 2008-09 commitment to the Greater Brisbane region of an additional \$15.1 million for school maintenance programs and \$40.3 million in capital works investment in schools, including:

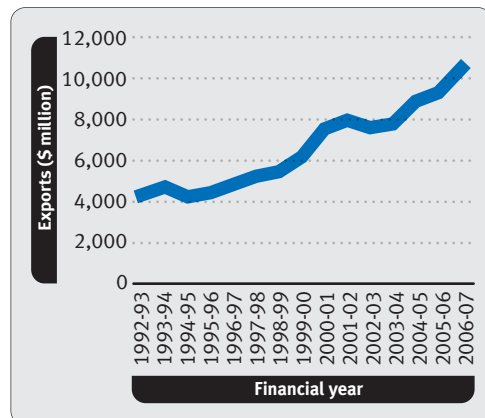
- \$17.9 million for a new primary school in outer northern Brisbane
- \$12.4 million to complete secondary stage 2 of Stretton State College
- \$9.6 million to complete stages 2A and 2B of Brisbane State High School
- \$5.9 million to complete the development of Aviation High
- \$5.2 million to complete an indoor sports facility at Earnshaw State College
- \$3.9 million to complete additional classrooms at Wilston State School
- \$3.3 million over two years to complete the Browns Plains Early Years Centre.

In 2008-09, the Government will address skills shortages through:

- \$559.9 million to provide over 31 million hours of vocational education and training, including \$9 million for additional trades training places as part of the Queensland Skills Plan. This is expected to create an additional 6,630 training places in Greater Brisbane by 2010
- \$30.6 million for SkillsTech Australia's trade training centre at Acacia Ridge
- \$21.7 million to provide employment and training assistance to 2,737 people.

Exports from the Port of Brisbane

Overseas goods exports, 1992-93 to 2006-07



Source: ABS Foreign Trade (unpublished data)

Art for Art's Sake

Held between 19 May and 30 May 2008, the Art for Art's Sake exhibition supported the Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland. Themed 'New Beginnings,' around 30 well-known artists donated their pieces for auction at the fundraising event. Money raised will go towards improving the services and support available to children and adults with cerebral palsy and related disabilities. Pictured is artist Banx (Michael Banks) and his painting 'The Boardroom'.



Photograph supplied courtesy of Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland

Prevention and early intervention

The Queensland Government is focused on developing and supporting prevention and early intervention strategies or initiatives that are targeted to disadvantaged areas, individuals and/or population groups.

In 2008-09 the Government will commit:

- \$12.7 million for Greater Brisbane families, including early intervention programs to improve the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children and their families
- \$5.9 million over four years for a Family Intervention Service which will strengthen child protection services by providing direct support to families in their own home.

Managing climate change and protecting the environment

In 2008-09 the Government will allocate \$30 million for new climate change initiatives from the proceeds of the Queensland Climate Change Fund. The fund's first major initiative will be the ClimateSmart Home Service which will provide Queenslanders with tools to monitor and reduce their energy use to deliver savings in household electricity costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2008-09, the Government will invest \$2.9 million in the South Bank stormwater harvesting project. With a total investment of \$4.6 million, this project will capture and pump stormwater to an underground storage area before it is treated and used to supply 78% of the water needed for irrigation and water features in the Parklands.

To protect the Moreton Bay Marine Park, \$17.5 million will be provided to finalise the park's Zoning Plan.

Queensland State Budget Highlights 2008–09

Budget summary

Strong economic growth maintains record low unemployment

- Economic growth in Queensland is forecast to strengthen to 4¼% in 2008-09, outstripping the nation for the 13th year in a row.
- With jobs growth again outpacing the nation, the unemployment rate is estimated to fall to a 34-year low of 3¾% in 2007-08 and remain there in 2008-09, taking it below the national rate for the fifth consecutive year.

Strong finances

- A General Government operating surplus of \$809 million is forecast in 2008-09.
- The State's net worth is budgeted to grow from \$123 billion at 30 June 2008 to over \$140 billion by 30 June 2012 – reflecting Queensland's position of holding the strongest balance sheet in the nation.
- Interest expenses in the General Government sector is budgeted at just 1.5% of revenue in 2008-09.

Competitive taxes

- Queensland maintains its competitive tax status, with taxpayers in other states and territories to pay an average of \$274 more state tax each than Queenslanders in 2008-09.
- The 2008-09 Budget provides tax relief to make housing more affordable. From 1 July 2008, the home and first home transfer duty concession thresholds will be increased from \$320,000 to \$350,000. The first home concession threshold will be further increased from 1 September so that no transfer duty will be payable on a first home valued up to \$500,000.
- Mortgage duty will be abolished in full from 1 July 2008 – another saving to those taking out home loans.
- There are also land tax cuts, including specific measures to benefit Queensland's elderly such as exempting aged-care facilities.
- While already having the nation's lowest pay-roll tax rate, further relief will benefit 6,800 businesses in Queensland.

Delivering for Queensland

The 2008-09 State Budget delivers a massive boost to health, with a record Budget allocation of \$8.352 billion.

The Budget funds new hospitals and upgrades at locations across the State. Areas of increasing demand such as emergency departments and birthing services are a key focus.

There is a \$100 million boost to school maintenance to deliver a record program for the next two years – part of the \$6 billion Budget allocation to the Department of Education and Training. This funding includes 270 new teachers and teacher aides to meet enrolment growth and 4,250 additional trade training places to help address skills shortages.

To boost front-line services, 200 new police and 250 new ambulance officers are funded. The Budget also provides for 145 new ambulance vehicles as part of a record emergency services allocation.

A new \$20 million ClimateSmart Home Service will assist Queensland households to meet the challenges of climate change. Public transport will be boosted with 12 new trains and 90 new buses funded this financial year.

An increase in the electricity rebate and other tax breaks will assist older Queenslanders.

With tax cuts to assist Queenslanders break into home ownership, this is a Budget focussed on the future and delivering the front-line services a growing state needs.

Government services in Greater Brisbane

Brisbane

Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

80 Ann Street
Brisbane QLD 4000
Telephone 13 25 23 or 3404 6999
Facsimile 3404 6900
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8am to 6pm

Brisbane Northside

Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry

Level 2, Homemaker City
825 Zillmere Road
Aspley QLD 4034
Telephone 3406 6999
Facsimile 3406 6996
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 5pm

Brisbane Southside

Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry

6 Paxton Street
Springwood QLD 4127
Telephone 3884 7860
Facsimile 3808 9759
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 5pm

Brisbane

Department of Natural Resources and Water - LandCentre Service Centre

Level 2, Cnr Main and Vulture Streets
Woolloongabba QLD 4102
Telephone 3896 3216
Facsimile 3896 3333
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 4.30pm

Brisbane

Department of Communities

Level 2, Mineral House
Cnr George and Margaret Streets
Brisbane QLD 4000
Telephone 3405 6373
Facsimile 3224 2317
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 9am to 5pm

Brisbane

Office of Economic and Statistical Research

Level 8, 33 Charlotte Street
Brisbane QLD 4000
Telephone 3224 5326
Facsimile 3227 7437
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 5pm

Ipswich

Department of Natural Resources and Water

Hayden Centre
Level 4, 37 South Street
Ipswich QLD 4305
Telephone 3884 5300
Facsimile 3884 5396
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 4.30pm

Ipswich

Department of Communities – Moreton Regional Office

5-7 Wharf Street
Ipswich QLD 4305
Telephone 3280 1031
Facsimile 3280 1035
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 5pm

North Stradbroke Island

QGAP

5 Ballow Street
Dunwich QLD 4183
E-Mail: stradbroke@transport.qld.gov.au
Telephone 3409 9906
Facsimile 3409 9431
Opening Hours: Tues and Thursday 8.30am to 1pm then 2pm to 4pm
Inspections done at 1.45pm by appointment

Other services

Smart Service Queensland

For information on all other Government services call 13 13 04
www.qld.gov.au

State Emergency Service

Telephone 132 500

Queensland Water Commission

Telephone 1300 789 906

13 HEALTH

Telephone 13 43 25 84

