

Darling Downs

Toowoomba Second Range Crossing

The Government is providing \$321.25 million over five years to build a second range crossing that will virtually eliminate heavy vehicle highway traffic from the Toowoomba CBD.

The Toowoomba Second Range Crossing (TSRC) is a \$1.606 billion, 41-kilometre route that is one of the Government's top three infrastructure priorities. Its national significance is in its contribution to Australia's road network, improving freight efficiency, safety, reliability and capacity. It will provide a vital link between the resource-rich Surat Basin and the international gateways and labour and services markets in South East Queensland.

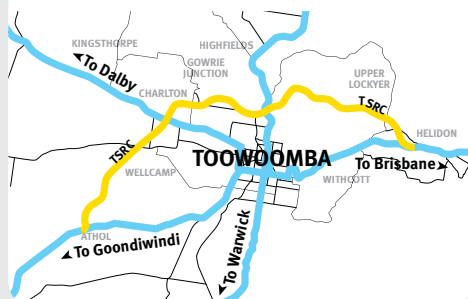
The TSRC will cut up to 40 minutes from travel time across the range for heavy and super heavy commercial vehicles and avoid up to 16 sets of traffic lights. Residents will experience increased livability and safety as heavy vehicles are taken out of the CBD.

For the economy, TSRC is forecast to directly generate around 1,800 jobs (full time equivalent) during its three-year construction, and 700 jobs over its span of operations. It is also expected to increase the productivity of the Toowoomba region by \$2.4 billion (net present value over 30 years).

The Australian Government will provide \$1.285 billion for the TSRC over four years from 2014-15 – the largest regional road infrastructure investment in Queensland's history.

Construction is expected to begin by early to mid-2015 and be completed in mid-2018.

Read more about TSRC at www.treasury.qld.gov.au/projects-queensland/projects/toowoomba-range-crossing/



Warrego Highway Upgrade

The Warrego Highway is one of the state's most vital pieces of transport infrastructure. Its upgrade will ensure the Highway continues to serve regional Queensland for decades to come.

The Queensland Government's aim is to increase the standard of the Warrego Highway to a more efficient, safer and reliable highway with greater capacity, safety and heavy vehicle efficiency and better route reliability and connectivity by addressing high-risk flood prone sections.

This work will also play an important role in strengthening regional communities by generating jobs and catering for future growth. An upgraded Warrego Highway will provide substantial economic benefits to producers and livestock transporters alike, supporting the region's strong tradition of agricultural production.

As a vital link in the transport system for both Queensland and Australia, a long-term plan for investment in the Highway is a positive step forward in supporting regional communities and economies.

This investment will enhance productivity and livability of both Queensland and Australia. It will support Queensland's export industries, agricultural and tourism sectors and is critical in developing the Surat Basin energy province.

Ongoing planning and investment will create jobs and provide vital support in building stronger Queensland regions, which are essential to a prosperous future for the state.

The \$24.5 million to upgrade sections of the Warrego Highway between Toowoomba and Miles is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Government at a total cost of \$635 million.

Warrego Highway



© Michael Marston

A STRONG PLAN FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Regional Budget Statement DARLING DOWNS

This Budget continues to deliver a Strong Plan for a Brighter Future.

The 2014-15 Budget carefully balances **increases in education, health and community services spending, while not introducing or raising any new taxes or reducing services.**

Strong choices have to be made so that a brighter future can be ours; **we need to reduce the State's \$80 billion debt and the annual \$4 billion interest bill. This Budget outlines our plan to secure our finances by making the strongest and smartest choice to reduce debt** so we can sustainably invest in the schools, hospitals and infrastructure for the future.

We are making significant progress in restoring our finances, growing a four pillar economy, revitalising frontline services and funding infrastructure projects and jobs – **with more than 60,000 jobs created in Queensland in the last year.** To sustain this we must reduce debt, so we can truly keep building on our Strong Plan for a Brighter Future.

Health
UP 6% to
\$13.6 billion

New and improving hospitals:

\$224.5 million towards building the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital

\$369.8 million towards building the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital

\$173.3 million for the redevelopment of hospitals in Cairns, Mackay, Mount Isa, Townsville and Rockhampton

Education
UP 7% to
\$11.8 billion

Great Results Guarantee

\$131 million to improve the numeracy and literacy of our children

10 new schools



under the \$1.4 billion Queensland Schools Project

Transport and roads
\$5.4 billion

Toowoomba Second Range Crossing

\$321 million towards the history making \$1.6 billion, 41km innovative toll road project

75 new six-car trains

Bruce Highway

\$768 million in 2014-15 to upgrade sections of the Bruce Highway



Safe Night Out Strategy
\$44.5 million
to address alcohol and drug-related violence



Royalties for the Regions
\$495 million
for infrastructure improvements

Drought assistance
\$62 million



Safer Children
\$406 million
for child and family services in response to the Carmody Inquiry



Reef Water Quality Program
\$55 million



\$33.9 million
for tourism marketing and event promotion

For more detail: www.budget.qld.gov.au

Great state. Great opportunity.

Darling Downs

A STRONG PLAN FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Queensland State Budget 2014–15

Royalties for the Regions

The Queensland Government has committed \$495 million over four years from 2012 for community infrastructure, roads and flood mitigation projects across Queensland's regions.

Royalties for the Regions ensures regional communities receive real long-term benefits through better planning and infrastructure investment. The program is helping communities better manage the impacts of resource sector development and ensures they remain liveable and sustainable well into the future.

To date, Royalties for the Regions has approved over \$296 million to support 93 infrastructure projects, with a total cost of over \$501 million, across 38 regional and shire councils. These include:

- 34 community infrastructure projects including 20 water, sewerage and waste management projects, six regional airport upgrades, two telecommunications projects, and other projects that will provide a variety of community facilities
- 40 projects to provide critical road safety and access improvements across regions impacted by resource development
- 16 flood mitigation projects that will provide levees, upgraded town drainage and road and bridge upgrades to improve access and safety
- 3 projects to support essential community services including two new childcare facilities and a new medical centre.

Investment in these projects is critical to managing growth and improving the liveability of resource communities.

The Darling Downs region will benefit from \$106.3 million for 32 projects in the Balonne Shire and the Goondiwindi, Maranoa, Toowoomba and Western Downs Regional Council areas, including road upgrades, flood mitigation works and waste management facilities.

