

# Queensland State Budget 2008–09

## Darling Downs and West Moreton

### Regional Budget Statement



Image courtesy of Tourism Queensland

Girraween National Park, Stanthorpe

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.

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 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 Darling Downs and West Moreton region.

Andrew Fraser MP  
Treasurer

## 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

### Darling Downs and West Moreton



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 Darling Downs and West Moreton region.

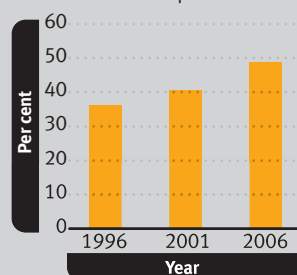
### The work we do

Engineers, pharmacists, nurses, teachers, sales representatives, machinery operators, meat workers, mechanics – Darling Downs and West Moreton residents work in a diverse range of jobs. Census data shows 12.5% of people living in the region are employed in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry, while the retail trade industry accounts for 11.5% of employment. Manufacturing (10.8%), healthcare and social assistance (10.4%) and education and training (8.8%) are the other major employment industries in this growing region.

### Our qualifications

A strong population growth in the Darling Downs and West Moreton region has brought with it an increase in the number of skilled workers. Just under 49%<sup>1</sup> of people living in our region now hold 'beyond'<sup>2</sup> school qualifications – up 12.6 percentage points from the 1996 Census (see graph). Of these qualifications, 22.2% are degree or higher, 12.9% are advanced diploma or diploma and 38.9% are certificate level. Just over one quarter of Darling Downs and West Moreton 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 Darling Downs and West Moreton region was \$469. In 2006 the median weekly income for households in our region was \$707 – that's almost 51% more than we earned 10 years earlier<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Aged 15 years and over with a usual residence in the Darling Downs and West Moreton region at the time of the 2006 Census.

<sup>2</sup> 'Beyond' school qualification referred to as non-school qualifications in Census data.

<sup>3</sup> Based on 2006 Census data.

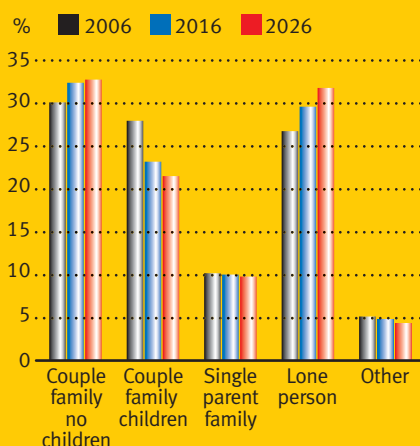
## Household projections

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 Darling Downs and West Moreton region are likely to change between now and 2026.

**Darling Downs and West Moreton**  
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.

Covering an area of 98,377 square kilometres or 5.7% of the State, Darling Downs and West Moreton is home to almost 7% of Queensland's total population. Over 287,500<sup>1</sup> Queenslanders now call Darling Downs and West Moreton home – that's 1.2% more than the year before<sup>2</sup>.

Boasting national parks, historic villages, cultural events, industry-supportive research facilities, one of Queensland's largest university campuses, and the economic and industry hub of Toowoomba, this growing region is sought after for its unique environment and rural and sustainable lifestyle. Add to this significant reserves of oil, coal and gas, intensive agricultural production, and an expanding wine industry and you get an economy as diverse as its attractions.

The Queensland Government recognises the role Darling Downs and West Moreton 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.

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

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



## 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 Darling Downs and West Moreton will benefit from spending on health infrastructure and initiatives which will include:

- \$1.4 million for a pilot project at Toowoomba Hospital offering community-based care
- \$1.1 million to complete the \$12.7 million redevelopment of the Miles Hospital
- \$300,000 to expand renal chairs in a satellite renal dialysis centre
- \$250,000 for special care nursery cots at Toowoomba Hospital
- \$110,000 to replace the airconditioning in Chinchilla Hospital's Operating Theatre.

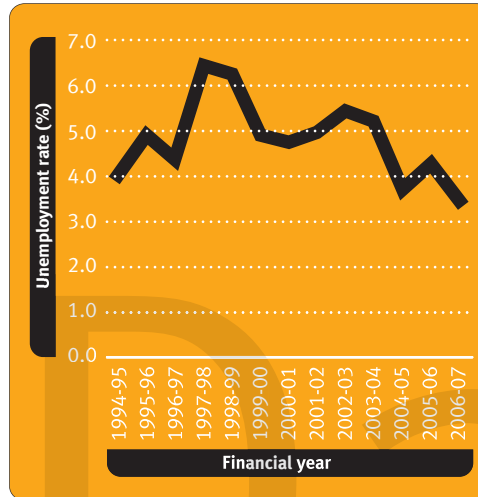
The Government's investment in healthy communities will also include \$300,000 through the Regional Centres Program for the Lockyer Valley Regional Council to construct a cycleway at the University of Queensland's Gatton Campus.

Initiatives to enhance community safety through investments in emergency services infrastructure include \$700,000 to replace and relocate the Goondiwindi auxiliary fire and rescue station and \$900,000 to replace the Oakey ambulance station.

The Government will continue its support for those in our community who are most vulnerable, with commitments for the Darling Downs and West Moreton region in 2008-09 including:

- \$13.9 million for the Home and Community Care initiative
- \$7.5 million to support people with a disability through a range of programs
- \$4.9 million over two years to redevelop and refurbish Boonah's Southern Outlook centre
- \$1.6 million for short term and time-limited respite support for families of people with a disability
- \$1.6 million over four years to establish additional out-of-home care places for children in care

Unemployment rate<sup>(a)</sup>  
1994-95 to 2006-07



(a) Data based on un-smoothed series.  
Source: DEEWR, *Small Area Labour Markets – Australia*.

- \$1.4 million for community development services, community centre-based activities and support to address gambling issues
- \$1.2 million over four years to establish new residential-care facilities to accommodate young people with complex and extreme behaviours
- \$1 million for youth development services to build independent living skills
- \$900,000 over four years to deliver extra out-of-home care places for children in care
- \$500,000 to complete an innovative combined home and respite centre for people with disabilities in Toowoomba.

## Building infrastructure

Planning and delivering the infrastructure needed to provide essential and efficient services to our rapidly growing communities – now and in the future – is one of our key priorities. For many regions, growing populations have resulted in higher demand for energy. The Government's commitment to the Darling Downs and West Moreton region to secure and enhance the reliability of energy supply in 2008-09 includes:

- \$67.8 million to construct powerlines and substations and upgrade existing infrastructure
- \$19.2 million in efficiency enhancements to the Kogan Creek power station

- \$6.3 million for a new zone substation at Lockrose and an upgrade of the substation at Kalbar
- \$2.1 million for improvements to the Wivenhoe Power Station.

The Government's investment in other key infrastructure in the region includes \$196.7 million for the South East Queensland Correctional Precinct at Gatton which will include a women's centre.

## Regional development

Regional development is at the heart of Queensland's economic future and the Government is laying the foundation for future economic growth and prosperity for all Queenslanders by responding to the growth needs of the region.

In 2008-09 the Government will invest in significant transport infrastructure in support of regional development in Darling Downs and West Moreton, including:

- \$13.1 million for intersection improvements in Ruthven Street (New England Highway) in Toowoomba
- \$10.7 million to widen the New England Highway and realign the highway at the Pechey Range between John Street, Crows Nest and Millard Road
- \$10 million to widen and seal the New England Highway between Munro Road and Pioneer Road, south of Crows Nest
- \$7.1 million to upgrade the four lanes of Ruthven Street (New England Highway) between James Street and Long Street in Toowoomba.

Water management is a critical issue for Queensland and the Government is making historic levels of investment in essential water and sewerage infrastructure to meet the needs of Queensland communities.

In 2008-09, the Government will invest in the following initiatives to improve the reliability and supply of water services in the Darling Downs and West Moreton region:

- \$5.9 million for an emergency bore at Toowoomba
- \$700,000 for a wastewater treatment plant at Wyreema.

## Economic growth

Queensland's economic growth is supported by rising productivity and increasing labour force participation.



### The Australian Small Winemakers Show

Not a bad drop that... showcasing the very best small wineries have to offer, the Australian Small Winemakers Show fosters the winemaking skills of Australian and New Zealand wineries on a level playing field. Pictured: Warren Smith (below), President of the Australian Small Winemakers Show, and Committee members (at left) standing among the 1,500 entries at last year's event.



Photography by David Spoule



### 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.

The Government remains committed to expanding the productive capacity of the Queensland economy through initiatives that develop infrastructure, promote education and training and facilitate research and innovation.

Commitments to the Darling Downs and West Moreton region in 2008-09 include:

- \$52.1 million to provide over 3.7 million hours of vocational education and training, including \$900,000 to provide additional training places as part of the Queensland Skills Plan. This is expected to create an additional 1,170 training places in the region by 2010
- \$3.3 million for employment and training assistance for 323 people
- \$700,000 for new automotive teaching facilities at the Bridge Street Campus of Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE.

### 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.

Other initiatives to strengthen Indigenous communities in the Darling Downs and West Moreton region include:

- \$2 million to purchase or upgrade homes and to purchase land for future housing for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing rental program
- \$800,000 for Indigenous agribusiness development State-wide
- \$265,000 to employ health workers to address chronic disease and improve Indigenous health
- the employment of three Indigenous Employment and Training Officers to support trainees and maximise employment opportunities for Indigenous job seekers.

### 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 by the Government in 2008-09 for first home buyers, low-income families and individuals in the Darling Downs and West Moreton region will receive housing services and support in 2008-09 in the form of:

- \$10.6 million to build, purchase and upgrade public housing dwellings involving purchasing or completing construction of 28 homes and commencing the construction of a further six homes
- \$4.3 million for community housing programs and services to address crisis and long-term housing needs
- \$1.5 million to purchase land for future public housing.

### 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 Darling Downs and West Moreton region of an additional \$4.1 million for school maintenance programs and \$1.8 million in capital works investment in classrooms, including:

- \$550,000 to complete replacement amenities at Toowoomba West Special School
- \$500,000 for additional amenities at Fernvale State School
- \$300,000 for additional amenities at Glen Aplin State School
- \$300,000 to subsidise construction of a multipurpose indoor centre at Highfields State School
- \$150,000 to complete additional amenities at Minden State School.

### Prevention and early intervention

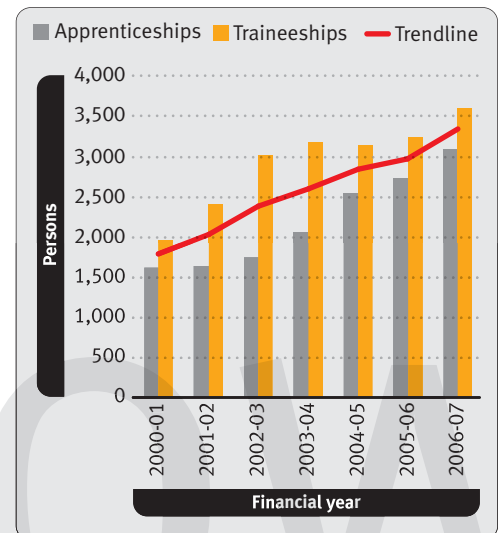
The Queensland Government is focused on developing and supporting prevention and early intervention strategies or initiatives that are targeted at disadvantaged areas, individuals and/or population groups.

In 2008-09, the Government will commit:

- \$1.4 million to support Darling Downs and West Moreton families, including early intervention to improve the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children and their families

### Participation in post-secondary education, apprenticeships and traineeships

2000-01 to 2006-07



Source: DETA, Apprenticeships and traineeships, (unpublished data).

- \$1 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 has allocated \$30 million for new climate change initiatives from the proceeds of the Queensland Climate Change Fund. The first major initiative of the Climate Change Fund 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.

The Darling Downs and West Moreton region will benefit from \$500,000 for a biorefinery ethanol plant at Dalby.

To enhance maintenance of the region's national parks the Government has committed \$380,000 for a workshop and compound at Bunya Mountains National Park.

The Darling Downs and West Moreton region will also benefit from a State-wide investment of \$4.2 million to help primary producers adapt to climate change. This will be complemented by support from the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority for producers impacted by drought in the short term.



### Securing our region's energy

The Queensland Government is committed to securing and enhancing the reliability and efficiency of our region's energy supply. In 2008-09, \$67 million will go towards constructing powerlines and substations and upgrading existing infrastructure in the Darling Downs and West Moreton region.



# 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.

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 Darling Downs and West Moreton

## Boonah

### QGAP

70 High Street  
Boonah QLD 4310  
E-Mail [boonah.qgap@qld.gov.au](mailto:boonah.qgap@qld.gov.au)  
Telephone 5463 2165  
Facsimile 5463 2167  
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 4.30pm  
New Registrations 8.30am to 4pm only

## Crow's Nest

### QGAP

16 Charlotte Street  
Crow's Nest QLD 4355  
E-Mail [crowsnest.qgap@qld.gov.au](mailto:crowsnest.qgap@qld.gov.au)  
Telephone 4698 2985  
Facsimile 4698 2800  
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 9.30am to 4.30pm

## Dalby

### Department of Natural Resources and Water

Ergon Energy Building  
30 Marble Street  
Dalby QLD 4405  
Telephone 4672 4800  
Facsimile 4672 4850  
Opening Hours:  
Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 4.30pm

## Goondiwindi

### Department of Natural Resources and Water

24-26 McLean Street  
Goondiwindi QLD 4390  
Telephone 4671 6100  
Facsimile 4671 3163  
Opening Hours:  
Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 4.30pm

## Goombungee

### QGAP

89 Mocatta Street  
Goombungee QLD 4354  
E-Mail [goombungee.qgap@qld.gov.au](mailto:goombungee.qgap@qld.gov.au)  
Telephone 4696 5985  
Facsimile 4696 7940  
Opening Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 9am to 1pm,  
Tuesday & Thursday 12pm – 4pm

## Inglewood

### QGAP

25 Albert Street  
Inglewood QLD 4387  
E-Mail [qginglewoo@transport.qld.gov.au](mailto:qginglewoo@transport.qld.gov.au)  
Telephone 4652 1310  
Facsimile 4652 2964  
Opening Hours: Monday to Thursday – 9.30am to 1:30pm, 2pm to 3pm  
Friday – 9.30am to 1.30pm, 2pm to 4pm

## Jandowae

### QGAP

Cnr George & High Sts  
Jandowae QLD 4410  
E-Mail [jandowae.qgap@qld.gov.au](mailto:jandowae.qgap@qld.gov.au)  
Telephone 4668 5488  
Facsimile 4668 5842  
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 9am to 4pm

## Kalbar (Boonah Branch)

### QGAP

78 George Street  
Kalbar QLD 4309  
Telephone 5463 7777  
Facsimile 5463 7888  
Opening Hours:  
Tuesday to Friday – 12pm to 4pm

## Laidley

### QGAP

Spicer Street  
Laidley QLD 4341  
E-Mail [laidley.qgap@qld.gov.au](mailto:laidley.qgap@qld.gov.au)  
Telephone 5466 8814  
Facsimile 5466 8860  
Opening Hours:  
Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 4.30pm

## Lowood

### QGAP

Cnr Michel and Main Streets  
Lowood QLD 4311  
E-Mail [lowood.qgap@qld.gov.au](mailto:lowood.qgap@qld.gov.au)  
Telephone 5426 2007  
Facsimile 5426 1816  
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 9am to 5pm

## Miles

### QGAP

32 Constance Street  
Miles QLD 4415  
E-Mail [qgapmiles@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:qgapmiles@dpi.qld.gov.au)  
Telephone 627 1177  
Facsimile 4627 1341  
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 9am to 4.30pm

## Stanthorpe

### QGAP

51 Marsh Street  
Stanthorpe QLD 4380  
E-Mail [florinda.l.barnes@transport.qld.gov.au](mailto:florinda.l.barnes@transport.qld.gov.au)  
Telephone 4681 4965  
Facsimile 4681 4971  
Opening Hours: Monday Tuesday Thursday  
Friday – 8.30am to 4pm  
Wednesday – 9.30am to 4pm

## Tara

### QGAP

19 Fry Street  
Tara QLD 4421  
E-Mail [tara.qgap@qld.gov.au](mailto:tara.qgap@qld.gov.au)  
Telephone 4665 3130  
Facsimile 4665 3460  
Opening Hours:  
Monday to Friday – 9am to 1pm, 2pm to 4pm

## Texas

### QGAP

32 Cadell Street  
Texas QLD 4385  
E-Mail [qgtexas@transport.qld.gov.au](mailto:qgtexas@transport.qld.gov.au)  
Telephone 4653 1251  
Facsimile 4653 1265  
Opening Hours: Monday Wednesday Thursday  
Friday – 9.30am to 1pm, 2pm to 5pm  
Tuesday closed

## Toowoomba

### Department of Communities – Darling Downs South West Queensland

Regional Office  
Level 6, Condamine Centre  
Bell Street Mall  
Toowoomba QLD 4350  
Telephone 4688 4090  
Facsimile 4688 4065  
Opening Hours:  
Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 5pm

## Toowoomba

### Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry

Downs Business Centre  
4 Little Street  
Toowoomba QLD 4350  
Telephone 4698 9800  
Facsimile 4638 2139  
Opening Hours:  
Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 5pm

## Toowoomba

### Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

203 Tor Street  
Toowoomba QLD 4350  
Telephone 4688 1200  
Facsimile 4688 1199  
Opening Hours:  
Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 5pm

## Wandoan

### QGAP

11 Lawton Street  
Wandoan QLD 4419  
E-Mail [wandoan.qgap@qld.gov.au](mailto:wandoan.qgap@qld.gov.au)  
Telephone 4627 5400  
Facsimile 4627 5400  
Opening Hours:  
Monday to Friday – 9am to 4.30pm

## Other services

### Smart Service Queensland

For information on all other Government services call 13 13 04 [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au)

### State Emergency Service

Telephone 132 500

### Queensland Water Commission

Telephone 1300 789 906

### 13 HEALTH

Telephone 13 43 25 84