

Darling Downs and West Moreton

State Budget

05-06



Premier's Message

My Government is continuing our investment in public infrastructure and services to meet the current and future needs of all Queenslanders.

We are also committed to working to ensure we create opportunities for Queensland's future prosperity and to continue building on the Smart State's strong and stable foundations by supporting the leading edge research technologies.

This Regional Budget Statement outlines the Government's ongoing investment in the Darling Downs and West Moreton's regional infrastructure and details important regional initiatives in 2005-06.

My Government is meeting the needs of the people in Darling Downs and West Moreton through infrastructure initiatives and services, especially in the areas of transport, training, education, health and housing.

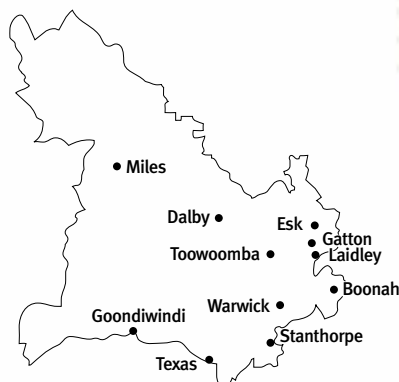
In 2005-06, our infrastructure initiatives will enable the Darling Downs and West Moreton region to use the opportunities the region has to offer. This Statement demonstrates a significant commitment to the long-term viability of the region.

My Government will continue to work with the people of Darling Downs and West Moreton to create employment and lifestyle opportunities for all Queenslanders.

Peter Beattie MP
Premier and Minister for Trade

State Budget highlights for the Darling Downs and West Moreton region in 2005-06 include:

- \$444.6 million to continue the construction of the \$1.2 billion Kogan Creek Power Station by CS Energy
- \$5.2 million to upgrade the Surat Basin railway track between Dalby and Rosewood, with a total project cost of \$15.9 million
- \$2.13 million, including \$214,000 for fit out, to create the Queensland College of Wine Tourism (Stage A) at the Stanthorpe State High School
- \$4.4 million to upgrade facilities for outpatient, maternity and emergency departments at the Dalby Hospital
- \$11.52 million to construct an 80 bed nursing home facility on the existing hospital/nursing home site at Dalby, and \$6.92 million for a new 40 bed nursing home facility on the existing hospital/nursing home site at Warwick
- \$5.7 million to upgrade the Miles Hospital.



→ The Darling Downs and West Moreton region consists of Toowoomba City and the towns of Dalby and Goondiwindi. It also includes the shires of Boonah, Cambooya, Chinchilla, Clifton, Crows Nest, Esk, Gatton, Inglewood, Jondaryan, Laidley, Millmerran, Murilla, Pittsworth, Rosalie, Stanthorpe, Tara, Taroona, Waggamba, Wambo and Warwick.



Queensland Government

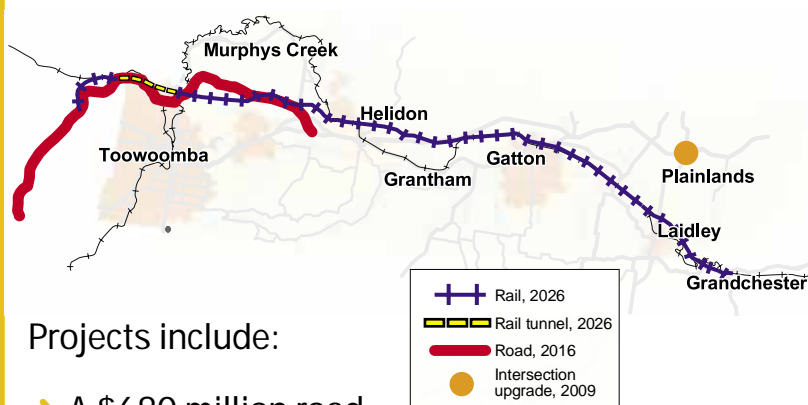
Smart State

South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan 2005-2026

South East Queensland has been growing strongly for the past 20 years and over this period the region's population has grown by almost one million people making it the fastest growing region in Australia.

To keep pace with this growth the Queensland Government has unveiled Australia's largest and most ambitious infrastructure plan since Federation, outlining investments of up to \$55 billion in South East Queensland over the next 20 years.

Darling Downs and West Moreton Infrastructure



Projects include:

- A \$680 million road bypass for Toowoomba (dependent upon Commonwealth funding)
- \$149 million for the Wyaralong Dam near Boonah
- \$1.05 billion for the Gowrie to Grandchester rail line



Image courtesy CS Energy

- \$444.6 million to continue the construction of the \$1.2 billion Kogan Creek Power Station by CS Energy

- \$24.65 million to upgrade and construct hospital and nursing home facilities within the region
- \$5.2 million to upgrade the Surat Basin railway track between Dalby and Rosewood with a total project cost of \$15.9 million

This Regional Budget Statement for the Darling Downs and West Moreton region highlights the Government's 2005-06 spending commitment to this region and its people. As a Government, we recognise the regions' valuable contributions to making Queensland the Smart State and providing services to over 3.9 million people. In this Budget we have allocated nearly 60% of capital expenditure outside the Brisbane Statistical Division.

The Darling Downs and West Moreton region covers almost 6% of the State. The region is home to 272,523 Queenslanders and 5.6% of the State's Indigenous population. The region's unemployment rate is 2.7%. This region is the State's largest primary producer, the source of 26% of all Queensland's agricultural output and nearly 27% of the State's agriculture related businesses. The region supports major research and production activities in livestock, horticulture and wine. Other important contributors to the area's diverse economic base are commerce, education, tourism and extraction of oil, gas and minerals.

Improving health care and strengthening services to the community

We are committed to providing better hospitals, services and health care for all Queenslanders. Within the Darling Downs and West Moreton region, this commitment includes initiatives such as:

- \$4.4 million to upgrade facilities for outpatient, maternity and emergency departments at the Dalby Hospital
- a total of \$3.07 million to buy medical equipment in 2005-06 in the Toowoomba, Northern Downs, Southern Downs and West Moreton Health Service Districts.

Expenditure on new and upgraded emergency services facilities and staff in the region includes:

- \$1.48 million to replace the Warwick Ambulance Station
- \$990,000 to construct a joint facility housing the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service and the Queensland Ambulance Service in Highfields.

We have committed \$15.46 million to support people with disabilities and their carers in the region including:

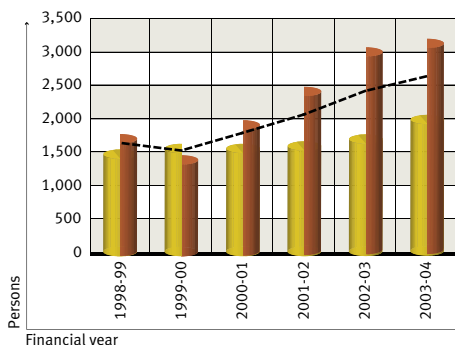
- \$925,000 for short term and limited respite care
- \$327,000 to assist young adults with a disability who are leaving the State's care to maintain their choice of living arrangements and to participate in their community.

Additional support of \$194,000 for community organisations will enable them to increase their capacity to continue to support people with a disability and their families.

Community groups will receive \$6.16 million to provide services in the region, including \$475,000 for child care,

Participation in post secondary education, apprenticeships and traineeships

1998-99 to 2003-04



Source: DET, Apprenticeships and traineeships, (unpublished data)

\$1.57 million for community support, \$542,000 for domestic violence prevention, \$750,000 for prevention and early intervention services to support vulnerable children, young people and their families, \$1.86 million to support people at risk of homelessness, \$70,000 to link older people with their community, and \$895,000 for youth development and justice.

We are working to support low-income families and individuals through housing and housing related services. Spending in this region in 2005-06 includes:

- \$4.68 million for new and upgraded public housing
- \$1.64 million to construct, purchase and upgrade Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rental housing
- \$838,000 for community housing programs and services to address crisis, transitional and long-term housing need.

In 2005-06 the Government has funded organisations across the State to build or upgrade sport and recreation facilities. \$2.76 million for projects in the Darling Downs and West Moreton region includes:

- \$499,000 to the Gatton Shire Council to construct a multi-sport indoor facility at Withcott
- \$454,000 to the Laidley Shire Council to build a multipurpose activity centre and gymnasium.

Realising the Smart State through education, skills and innovation

The Premier launched the latest Smart State Strategy on 18 April 2005. *Smart Queensland: Smart State Strategy 2005-2015* establishes the strategic framework for using innovation and skills to drive economic growth to improve prosperity and quality of life for all Queenslanders.

As part of the Smart State Research Facilities Fund, funding will be provided for:

- \$16.97 million, in addition to \$6.9 million already provided, to construct arts, and social/community services training facilities at the Southern Queensland Institute of

TAFE-Toowoomba Bridge Street campus in a joint project with the Commonwealth

- \$1.43 million to develop a Centre of Excellence in Engineered Fibre Composites at the Toowoomba Campus of the University of Southern Queensland.

We are investing in school infrastructure across the Darling Downs and West Moreton region for the benefit of young people and their education. In 2005-06, funding includes:

- \$2.13 million, including \$214,000 for fit out, to create the Queensland College of Wine Tourism (Stage A) at the Stanthorpe State High School
- \$519,000, including \$41,000 for fit out, to begin an upgrade of the administration area at Dalby State School
- \$470,000, including \$23,000 for fit out, to construct additional amenities at Pittsworth State High School.

Protecting our children and enhancing community safety

The Government is continuing to build a radically improved child protection system. A record \$394.8 million operating budget, up 45% since last year, will be spent this year to safeguard the welfare of Queensland's children. The Darling Downs and West Moreton region will benefit from the unprecedented increase of \$123 million for State-wide initiatives such as:

- \$28.8 million for additional permanent frontline and support staff
- \$19.6 million for extra alternative care places, extended family reunification services, foster care by non-government agencies and for sexual abuse counselling services

Wine industry growth



The wine industry on the Darling Downs has ripened over the last 10-15 years, attracting more visitors to this popular destination. The University of Southern Queensland now offers new wine-making and wine tourism degrees, which aim to create more career opportunities for school leavers in the region.

- \$13 million on foster care allowances and a further \$9 million for child related costs.

Augmenting this is a capital program of \$58.8 million which includes:

- \$25 million in additional funding over two years (\$19.2 million in 2005-06) to expand the number of Child Safety offices across the State
- \$25.3 million for the roll-out of a new IT system to better manage client files and departmental business.

Investment in police services to enhance community safety within the region includes \$390,000 to construct a twin unit dwelling at Goondiwindi, \$495,000 to complete a replacement police station at Oakey and \$1.66 million to replace the police station, watchhouse and district and regional police offices in Toowoomba.

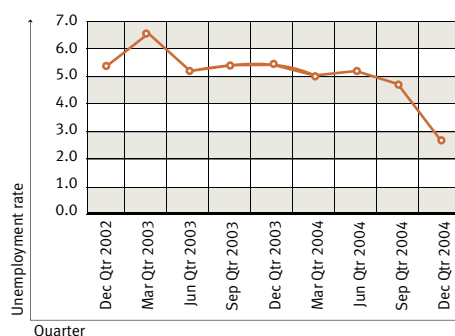
Building Queensland's regions

Efficient and integrated transport networks are important for the ongoing development of regional Queensland. In the Darling Downs and West Moreton region, major transport infrastructure initiatives are:

- \$6.4 million to upgrade the New England Highway including:
 - the Highfields Road area;
 - between Cabarlah and Meringandan Road;
 - between Strickland Road and Mt Sibley;
 - an overtaking lane at Greenmount;
 - traffic management devices between Stenner Street and Spring Street;
 - from Kings Creek to Spring Creek;
 - James Street to Perth Street; and
 - Ruthven Street.
- \$7.98 million to upgrade the Cunningham Highway including:

Unemployment rate ^a

Quarterly



Source: DEWRB - Small Area Labour Markets. (QRSIS database maintained by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR)).

(a) Data based on un-smoothed series.

- 19 kilometres between Warwick and Inglewood;
- between Cunningham's Gap and Freestone Creek; and
- widening and sealing works between Inglewood and Goondiwindi.
- \$2.52 million to upgrade the Leichhardt Highway including:
 - five kilometres of sealing road shoulders between Taroom and Miles;
 - almost four kilometres of widening between Taroom and Miles; and
 - road shoulder widening and sealing between Miles and Goondiwindi including between Yarrill Creek and Murri Murri.

Investment in the electricity system in 2005-06 includes:

- \$444.6 million to continue building the \$1.2 billion Kogan Creek Power Station by CS Energy
- \$19.59 million on major new substation and powerline works and \$34 million on various capital works in the broader South West Queensland and Darling Downs areas to improve the Ergon Energy distribution network
- \$19 million on the distribution network supplying West Moreton, including new substations at Gatton and Boonah by ENERGEX.

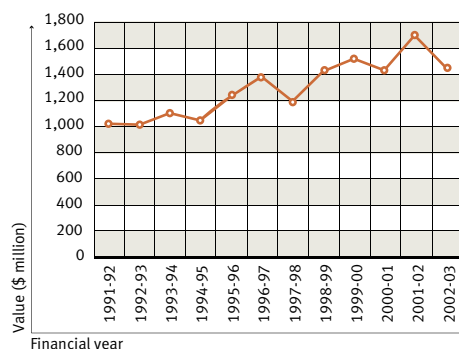
The region's long term viability is being enhanced by infrastructure projects including:

- \$3.17 million to local governments in the region for road and drainage works
- \$5.2 million to upgrade the Surat Basin railway track between Dalby and Rosewood with a total project cost of \$15.9 million
- \$4.2 million to purchase and develop industrial land west of Toowoomba at Charlton and Wellcamp
- \$8 million to begin investigations and land acquisitions for Wyaralong Dam.

The Government, in partnership with AgForce and rural Queenslanders, is also developing a Blueprint for the Bush. The Blueprint will be a long term plan which will include practical strategies to support sustainable rural communities.

Agricultural production

value (\$ million), Darling Downs Statistical Division, 1991-92 to 2002-03



Source: ABS, Agriculture, Queensland (unpublished data)

Note: This graph is based on data for the Darling Downs Statistical Division and not the Darling Downs and West Moreton region

Carnival of Flowers



Image courtesy Queensland Tourism

Protecting the environment for a sustainable future

The natural and cultural heritage of the Darling Downs and West Moreton region is valued by all Queenslanders. This is reflected in our commitment of \$372,000 to improve local parks and forest reserves including:

- upgrading Spicers Gap Road Conservation Park
- replacing toilets and upgrading Cunningham's Gap picnic ground in Main Range National Park
- upgrading Bald Rock Creek Picnic Area in Girraween National Park
- constructing a radio repeater tower in Expedition National Park
- constructing boundary fencing at Warroo Reserve.

Growing a diverse economy and creating jobs

The unemployment rate in the Darling Downs and West Moreton region was 2.7% during the December quarter 2004, and has fallen by 5.0 percentage points since the December quarter 1996. The Government continues to work in partnership with the people of the Darling Downs and West Moreton region to build on the region's economic potential.

The Government's Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative provides training and job opportunities to Queenslanders. The Darling Downs and West Moreton region will receive around \$5.5 million to create an estimated 787 jobs through the initiative during 2005-06. \$1.16 million is allocated this year to community employment programs and \$4.34 million for apprenticeship and trainee incentives to provide jobs

in crucial, skills-shortage industries and the public sector.

The local horticulture industry is being supported through \$1.8 million to build a new laboratory and office complex at the Applethorpe Research Centre to provide temperate fruit and vegetable research and information.

Delivering responsive government

The Queensland Government continues to engage with local communities, businesses and other government agencies to better coordinate services and identify strategies to meet local needs, including through regular Ministerial Regional Community Forums and Community Cabinets.

\$44.56 million will be spent State-wide in 2005-06 (\$125.5 million over the project life) for technology to improve business processes across government agencies. This project will generate long term savings and improve service delivery throughout the State.

Jondaryan Woolshed



Image courtesy Queensland Tourism

Jondaryan Woolshed is the major attraction of Jondaryan Woolshed Historical Museum and Park. This tourism destination has been attracting visitors to the Darling Downs region for the past 25 years.



Budget summary

Achieving strong economic growth and historic low unemployment rates

- Queensland's year-average unemployment rate is expected to fall to a 30-year low of 5% in 2004-05 and to remain at this historically low level in 2005-06.
- Queensland's employment continues to grow and, at 5¾% and 2½%, is expected to exceed the rest of Australia in 2004-05 and 2005-06, respectively.
- The State is expected to continue to grow more rapidly than the rest of Australia in 2005-06, representing the 10th consecutive year of performance above that of the other states.

Strong finances

- A General Government net operating surplus of \$934 million is forecast in 2005-06.
- The expected 2004-05 operating result of \$2.725 billion reflects the strength of the economy and investment markets.
- Beyond 2005-06, smaller operating and cash surpluses are forecast, primarily reflecting costs associated with significant investment in new infrastructure, the abolition of a number of State taxes, and the assumption of investment returns in line with long run averages.
- The State's net worth is budgeted to grow from \$85 billion at 30 June 2005 to in excess of \$93 billion by 30 June 2009.

Competitive taxes

- Queensland's competitive tax status has been maintained, with taxpayers in other states and territories paying on average 25% more state tax than Queenslanders in 2005-06.
- A land tax relief package will significantly reduce the number of Queenslanders paying land tax and provide rate reductions for all land tax payers, at a cost of \$847 million over four years.
- Debits tax and six stamp duties will be progressively abolished, beginning 1 July 2005. Queenslanders will save \$3.5 billion over seven years from the abolition of these State taxes.

Delivering on our priorities

Improving health care and strengthening services to the community

- The health budget increases by \$413 million or 8.4%, including service enhancements across the State.
- \$115.1 million in capital funding and \$120.4 million in recurrent funding has been allocated over four years to further develop responses to homelessness.
- An additional \$180 million over four years is provided to enhance disability services, including respite, emergency and crisis care.

Realising the Smart State through education, skills and innovation

- \$80.1 million will improve the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) environment in schools and improve ICT access and the skills of students and teachers.
- \$291.9 million in recurrent and \$62.7 million in capital funding in 2005-06 will support training initiatives under the \$1 billion SmartVET strategy, including additional traineeship places in new and emerging industries, and further funding for the Mining Centre of Excellence to reduce skills shortages affecting the Queensland mining industry.

Protecting our children and enhancing community safety

- An overall funding increase of \$123.1 million will enhance child protection services.
- Police staffing and resources will be enhanced and \$231 million is allocated over three years to upgrade and extend various correctional facilities.

Managing urban growth and building Queensland's regions

- Capital spending will be boosted to \$8 billion, \$1.9 billion more than last year's record program.
- The South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program identifies capital projects amounting to around \$55 billion. Over the next four years, approximately \$2 billion is allocated over current Budget commitments.

Protecting the environment for a sustainable future

- \$58 million in recurrent funding and \$25 million in capital funding has been allocated over four years to manage an estimated additional 3.46 million hectares of Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service estate.
- \$10 million over four years will support Queensland organisations to adopt resource efficient practices to improve the way they do business.

Growing a diverse economy and creating jobs

- More than \$470 million is provided over four years to support the Government's 10-year Smart State Strategy. This includes \$136 million in recurrent and \$64 million in capital funding over four years for three new Smart State grants programs to build research centres and support innovation in fields including health and medicine, agriculture and mining.
- The Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative will continue to provide employment programs for Queenslanders aimed at reducing skills shortages and improving the employability of job seekers.

Government services in your region

For information on government services and activities in the Darling Downs and West Moreton region, please contact the offices listed below. Additional contacts are available on the Government gateway at www.qld.gov.au or by ringing Smart Service Queensland on 13 13 04.

Boonah

QGAP Office

70 High Street
Boonah QLD 4310
Telephone 5463 2165
Facsimile 5463 2167
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 8:30am to
4:45pm

Crows Nest

QGAP Office

16 Charlotte Street
Crows Nest QLD 4355
Telephone 4698 2985
Facsimile 4698 2800
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 9:30am to
4:30pm

Goombungee

QGAP Office

89 Mocatta Street
Goombungee QLD 4354
Telephone 4696 5985
Facsimile 4696 7940
Opening hours: Monday,
Wednesday and Friday
– 9am to 1pm; Tuesday
and Thursday – 12pm to
4pm

Inglewood

QGAP Office

25 Albert Street
Inglewood QLD 4387
Telephone 4652 1310
Facsimile 4652 2964
Opening hours: Monday
to Thursday – 9:30am to
2:30pm; Friday – 10am to
12pm, 2pm to 5pm

Jandowae

QGAP Office

Community & Cultural
Centre
Cnr George & High Sts
Jandowae QLD 4410
Telephone 4668 5488
Facsimile 4668 5842
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 9am to 4pm

Kalbar

QGAP Office

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

Laidley

QGAP Office

Spicer Street
Laidley QLD 4341
Telephone 5466 8814
Facsimile 5466 8860
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 8:30am to
4:30pm

Lowood

QGAP Office

Cnr Michel & Main Streets
Lowood QLD 4311
Telephone 5426 2007
Facsimile 5426 1816
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 9am to 5pm

Miles

QGAP Office

32 Constance Street
Miles QLD 4415
Telephone 4627 1177
Facsimile 4627 1341
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 9am to
4:30pm

Stanthorpe

QGAP Office

51 Marsh Street
Stanthorpe QLD 4380
Telephone 4681 4965
Facsimile 4681 4971
Opening hours: Monday,
Tuesday, Thursday and
Friday – 8:30am to 4pm;
Wednesday – 9:30am to
4pm

Tara

QGAP Office

19 Fry Street
Tara QLD 4421
Telephone 4665 3130
Facsimile 4665 3460
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 9am to 1pm
and 2pm to 4pm

Texas

QGAP Office

32 Cadell Street
Texas QLD 4385
Telephone 4653 1251
Facsimile 4653 1265
Opening hours: Monday,
Wednesday and Friday
– 9am to 1pm and 2pm
to 5pm; Thursday – 9am
to 1pm

Wandoan

QGAP Office

11 Lawton Street
Wandoan QLD 4419
Telephone 4627 5400
Facsimile 4627 5400
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 9am to
4:30pm

Ipswich

Department of Communities – Moreton Regional Office (Services Boonah, Laidley, Gatton and Esk Shires' residents)

5-7 Wharf Street
Ipswich QLD 4305
Telephone 3280 1777
Facsimile 3280 1962
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 8:30am to
5pm

Toowoomba

Department of Communities – Darling Downs South-West Regional Office

Level 6, Condamine
Centre
Bell Street Mall
Toowoomba QLD 4350
Telephone 4688 4060
Facsimile 4688 4065
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 8:30am to
5pm

