



Darling Downs and West Moreton



Grape harvest, Stanthorpe



My Government is continuing our investment to ensure a positive future for all Queenslanders.

We are committed to work with all to ensure we create opportunities for our regions and to continue building on the Smart State's strong and stable foundations.

This Regional Budget Statement outlines the Government's ongoing investment in the Darling Downs and West Moreton region and its delivery on key election commitments for 2004-05.

The Government is meeting the needs of the people of Darling Downs and West Moreton through these initiatives and by improving services, especially in the areas of health, employment, education and child safety.

In 2004-05, our Smart State initiatives in education and training will enable the region to harness the creativity and talent within the community. This Statement demonstrates a significant commitment to a strong and prosperous Darling Downs and West Moreton region.

My Government will work with the people of Darling Downs and West Moreton to continue creating opportunities for all Queenslanders to grow and enjoy a better quality of life.

Delivering on our election commitments for the Darling Downs and West Moreton region, the 2004-05 State Budget highlights include:

- \$2.91 million contribution towards the construction of the Wetalla Waste Water Treatment Plant near Toowoomba
- \$775,000 for the co-location of the Highfields ambulance and fire stations and the Forest Hill fire station
- \$22,000 to commence operations at a new Neighbourhood Police Beat at Highfields
- \$148,000 for LiveScan fingerprinting technology for the Toowoomba Watchhouse
- \$158,000 for the Glenvale Road/McDougall Street roundabout in Toowoomba
- \$670,000, including \$60,000 for fit out, to upgrade Stanthorpe State High School agricultural science classrooms
- \$496,000, including \$45,000 for fit out, to upgrade the outdoor learning environment at Dalby State School
- \$800,000 to rehabilitate pavement on the Brisbane Valley Highway on a section south of Fernvale
- \$1.81 million for the Heifer Creek Crossing on the Gatton-Clifton Road.



Darling Downs and West Moreton

This Regional Budget Statement for Darling Downs and West Moreton outlines the Government's State Budget 2004-05 spending commitment to this region and its people. As a Government, we recognise the regions' valuable contributions to making Queensland the Smart State and home for over 3.8 million people. In this Budget we have allocated 60% of capital works funding for regions outside Brisbane.

The Darling Downs and West Moreton region covers almost 6% of the State. It is home to 262,277 Queenslanders and growing at the rate of 1% per year. 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. Education, retail trade and tourism are also important contributors to the area's diverse economic base.

Improving health care and strengthening services to the community

We are committed to providing better hospitals, services and health care for all Queenslanders. Our commitment to improving the standard and accessibility of hospital, health and emergency services in Darling Downs and West Moreton includes

spending in 2004-05 on key initiatives, such as:

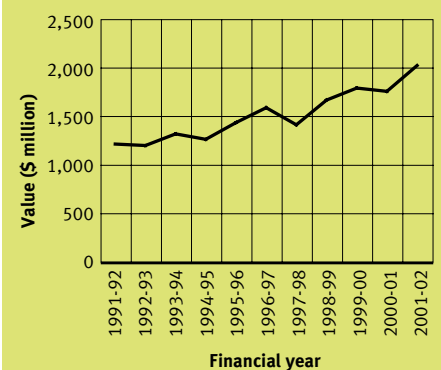
- \$4.06 million of total funding of \$14.5 million for an 80 bed nursing home at Dalby
- \$3.07 million of total funding of \$6.6 million for a 40 bed nursing home at Warwick
- \$4.2 million to help non-government organisations provide health and health related community services
- \$850,000 to improve emergency services including approximately \$450,000 for the Forest Hill Fire Station
- \$600,000 to support non-government organisations providing palliative care services in the region
- \$325,000 for the co-location of the Queensland Ambulance Service and the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service in Highfields.

We have committed \$35.9 million over the next three years to recruit an extra 240 paramedics across Queensland. In 2004-05, \$82,000 will provide two new ambulance paramedics to help save lives, maintain emergency response times and enhance the health and safety of paramedics in Darling Downs and West Moreton.

We are working to support low-

Agricultural production (\$ million)

Darling Downs and West Moreton, 1991-92 to 2001-02



Source: ABS, Agriculture, Queensland (unpublished data)

income families and individuals through providing housing and housing related services. Spending in this region in 2004-05 includes:

- \$8.3 million for new public housing construction, upgrades and maintenance including \$4.1 million to build new accommodation and \$300,000 to refurbish accommodation through the Smart State Building Fund
- \$2.1 million for community housing programs and services to address crisis, transitional and long-term housing need.

We have committed \$12.89 million to support people with disabilities and their carers in Darling Downs and West Moreton. This includes \$221,000 to assist young adults with a disability exit care and participate in their community and \$213,000 for grants to community groups to help support people with a disability and their families. We have also provided \$855,000 for respite care, including approximately \$200,000 for additional respite care in Boonah.



Funding to assist regional cultural celebrations includes \$48,000 to support the Carnival of Flowers. The carnival brings together horticulture, entertainment and gourmet food in a display of colour and events. Thousands of people visit Toowoomba each September to experience this event.

Darling Downs and West Moreton consists of Toowoomba City and the towns of Laidley, Millmerran, Murilla, Pittsworth, Rosalie, Stanthorpe, Tara, Taroom, Wag

Realising the Smart State through education, skills and innovation

Participation in the Smart State means we encourage and reward ideas, innovation, entrepreneurship and hard work across all sectors of the Queensland community, industry and Government.

Continual development of school facilities is important to ensure ongoing high quality education for the region's young people.

We are allocating an estimated \$10.37 million, including \$1.11 million for fit out, for school and education centre upgrades including:

- \$1.23 million, including \$110,000 for fit out, to support agricultural science initiatives at Stanthorpe and Tara State High Schools
- \$2 million, including \$180,000 for fit out, for the science block at Warwick State High School.

In addition, \$1.33 million is provided for the Triple R program, which will provide repainting, reticulation and re-roofing for 41 local schools.

We are promoting lifelong learning and skilling the workforce to meet the needs of industries central to the Smart State vision and Queensland's economic growth. In 2004-05 approximately \$63 million will be invested in creating approximately 24,000 training places in the region.

Protecting our children and enhancing community safety

The Government is intent on reforming the child protection system. We are increasing

the recurrent funding for child protection to at least \$109 million in 2004-05 and at least \$214 million by 2006-07 to build a new, radically improved system for safeguarding the welfare of Queensland children. The Darling Downs and West Moreton region will benefit from new funding for State-wide initiatives that include:

- an additional 518 service delivery and support staff who will be employed over the next three years with 318 of these to start in 2004-05 and \$11.74 million for additional frontline staff in 2004-05
- 23 new or expanded Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child care agencies by 2006-07 and the establishment of a new Indigenous Support Branch
- therapeutic services such as counselling and support for children with a disability
- 134 new alternative care places in 2004-05 for young people who are not suited to conventional foster care
- \$4.17 million in 2004-05 to further support our foster carers
- \$4.19 million for new places and improvements to residential care.

Implementing strategies that contribute to safe communities is a priority. In Darling Downs and West Moreton key initiatives include an estimated \$22,000 as part of total Government funding of \$300,000 for a new Neighbourhood Police Beat at Highfields and approximately \$2.8 million for new police facilities in Toowoomba.

In addition, approximately \$130,000 is provided for the ongoing work of Regional Crime Prevention Resource Officers to facilitate local crime prevention action planning and initiatives.

Leyburn Sprints



The Leyburn Sprints attract around 15,000 visitors annually, providing a welcome injection into the Leyburn and Warwick economies. It is supported by Queensland Events.



Building Queensland's regions

The \$1.1 billion construction of Kogan Creek Power Station will provide multiple benefits for the people of the Darling Downs and West Moreton region, including an estimated 1,000 jobs during construction and 120 permanent positions. CS Energy is spending \$129.92 million on this project in 2004-05. In addition, Powerlink is spending \$57.05 million for the augmentation of the transmission system to the area and Ergon Energy has allocated \$23.54 million to augment supply to Goondiwindi and \$734,000 for a new zone substation at Kearney's Springs.

Australian Government funding of \$3 million is allocated for construction of the \$12 million Laidley-Plainland Road interchange on the Warrego Highway. In addition, \$1.69 million is allocated in 2004-05 for widening and sealing sections of the Leichhardt Highway between Miles and Goondiwindi, with these projects having a total cost of \$3.12 million.

We are assisting local governments in the Darling Downs and West Moreton region to provide safe, efficient and environmentally



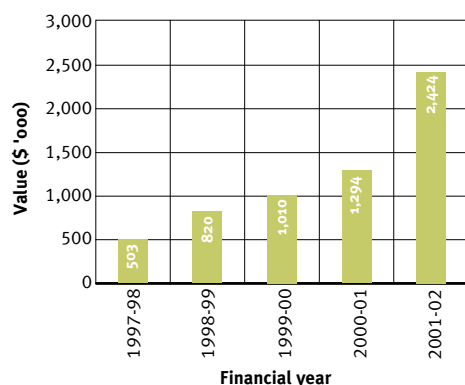
The Highfields Cultural Centre

Dalby and Goondiwindi. It also
 Gatton, Inglewood, Jondaryan,
 Toowoomba, Wambo and Warwick.



Wine grape production value (\$'000)

Darling Downs & West Moreton, 1997-98 to 2001-02



Source: ABS, Agriculture, Queensland (unpublished data)

responsible water and waste treatment services. In 2004-05, funds of \$4.53 million is provided including \$2.91 million for the construction of the Wetalla Waste Water Treatment Plant. In addition, we are contributing around \$713,000 for flood mitigation works and \$3.14 million for roads and drainage works throughout the region.

Funding of \$102,500 is provided to support key industry and economic development initiatives through the Queensland Business Regional Advisory Service.

The Queensland Events Regional Events Program will be bolstered with an extra \$1.4 million a year, expanding the program to \$2.4 million a year for the next two years and including two new innovative schemes.

Funding to assist regional cultural celebrations includes \$48,000 to support the Carnival of Flowers and \$25,000 for the Ludwig Leichhardt exploration exposition.

Protecting the environment for a sustainable future

To continue the ongoing protection and enjoyment of the

region's environmental heritage we will spend \$350,000 on upgrades of roads and facilities in several parks within the region. In addition, \$72,000 is allocated to the Fire Management initiative and \$255,000 for pest and weed management. This money will contribute to comprehensive pre-emptive programs such as planned burning to reduce fire hazards and manage biodiversity, maintaining a comprehensive network of fire trails and targeting problematic pest and weed species.

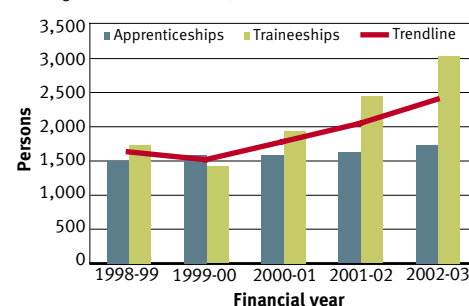
Growing a diverse economy and creating jobs

The Government continues to work in partnership with the people of Darling Downs and West Moreton to build the region's social and economic strengths. The Darling Downs and West Moreton region will receive around \$5.2 million in 2004-05 to create an estimated 749 jobs through the Government's Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative. This includes \$1.18 million allocated to community employment programs and \$4.02 million for apprenticeship and traineeship incentives to provide jobs in crucial, skills-shortage industries and the public sector.

Initiatives that will foster economic diversification and create jobs in the region include:

Participation in apprenticeships and traineeships

Darling Downs & West Moreton, 1998-99 to 2002-03



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

- approximately \$795,000 for the Centre for Native Floriculture at the University of Queensland Gatton campus to further develop the native floriculture industry in Queensland
- \$618,000 for expanding softwood plantations in the region
- an estimated \$2.25 million for the development of land in the Charlton-Wellcamp Integrated Employment Area for large scale industrial development (stage one only)
- \$2 million State-wide over four years to develop and commence implementation of a wine industry development strategy and promote the industry to national and international markets.

In conjunction with the Australian Government, we are continuing to invest in agricultural research. In 2004-05, \$874,000 is provided for Stanthorpe based research into new varieties and production of apples and other deciduous fruit.

Delivering responsive government

The Government continues to engage with local communities and businesses to better coordinate service delivery and identify solutions to local issues, including through the regular Ministerial Regional Community Forums and Community Cabinets. Over \$1.4 million is allocated to support regional government offices in working with the Darling Downs and West Moreton community to develop opportunities and address issues.



The Ruthven Street upgrade is part of the revitalisation project for Toowoomba's CBD.

Budget

Highlights

2004-05

Budget summary

Sustained economic growth and strong employment conditions

- Queensland is expected to continue to outperform the rest of Australia in both 2003-04 and 2004-05 with economic growth of 4% and 4¼%.
- Employment growth remains substantially higher than the rest of Australia, with growth of 2¼% forecast for 2004-05.
- The State's year-average unemployment rate is 6¼%, the lowest level in more than two decades.

Strong finances

- A General Government net operating surplus of \$646 million and a cash surplus of \$1.059 billion are forecast in 2004-05, following a record estimated actual net operating surplus of \$2.374 billion for 2003-04.
- The State's net worth is budgeted to grow from \$69.4 billion at 30 June 2004, to in excess of \$80 billion by 30 June 2008.

Competitive taxes

- Queensland's competitive tax status has been maintained, with taxpayers in other States and Territories paying on average 27% more state tax than Queenslanders in 2004-05.
- From 1 August 2004, credit card duty will be abolished and the general insurance duty rate will be reduced from 8.5% to 7.5%. In addition, debits tax will be abolished from 1 July 2005.
- From 1 August 2004, the threshold for the principal place of residence transfer duty concession will be increased from \$250,000 to \$300,000, providing home buyers with a saving of up to \$1,250.

Delivering on our priorities

Improving health care and strengthening services to the community

- The Budget includes \$90 million over three years to cut elective surgery waiting lists.
- An additional \$220 million over four years is provided to support people with a disability, their families and carers.

Realising the Smart State through education, skills and innovation

- The three year, \$1 billion, SmartVET strategy will introduce a number of new training initiatives and the expansion of high priority programs.
- Funding is provided for the Education and Training Reforms for the Future package including more than \$135 million in 2004-05 and rising to more than \$307 million in 2006-07.

Protecting our children and enhancing community safety

- Full implementation of child safety reforms will involve additional funding of at least \$214 million per annum by 2006-07.
- Funding of \$35.9 million over three years will employ 240 additional paramedics to address growth in demand, maintain emergency response times and improve services.

Managing urban growth and building Queensland's regions

- Capital spending will be boosted to over \$6 billion, the first time the capital works program has exceeded that benchmark.
- An additional \$200 million is allocated over four years for the Busway network and \$571 million over four years for a new Arterial Roads Infrastructure Package.

Protecting the environment for a sustainable future

- An additional \$75 million is allocated over four years, beyond the existing \$75 million commitment, to end the broadscale clearing of remnant native vegetation in Queensland by 2006.
- Funding of \$12.5 million is provided over three years for the acquisition of the strategic parcels of land of high conservation value to add to the protected estate in Cape York and the Daintree.

Growing a diverse economy and creating jobs

- The Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative will be extended for another three years at a cost of up to \$278 million.
- A \$20 million State contribution is provided towards construction of the \$60 million Queensland Brain Research facility, located at the University.

Government services in your region

For more information on government services and activities in your region contact the primary contact offices listed below or visit the Government gateway at www.qld.gov.au

Boonah

QGAP

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

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

89 Mocatta Street
Goombungee QLD 4354
Telephone 4696 5985
Facsimile 4696 7940
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday -
8:30am to 4pm

Inglewood

QGAP

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

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

Kalbar

QGAP

78 George St,
Kalbar QLD 4309
Telephone 5463 7777
Opening hours:
Tuesday to Friday -
12pm to 4pm

Laidley

QGAP

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

Lowood

QGAP

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

Miles

QGAP

32 Constance Street
Miles QLD 4415
Telephone 4627 1177
Facsimile 4627 1341
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday - 9am to
1pm, 2pm to 4:30pm

Roma

State Development and Innovation Centre

C/- Department of
Natural Resources
31 McDowall Street,
Roma QLD 4455
Telephone: 4624 1543
Facsimile: 4624 1559

Stanthorpe

QGAP

51 Marsh Street
Stanthorpe QLD 4380
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
Telephone 4665 3130
Facsimile 4665 3460
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday - 9am to
12pm, 1pm to 4pm

Toowoomba

State Development and Innovation Centre

Downs Business Centre
4 Little Street
Toowoomba QLD 4350
Telephone: 4698 9800
Facsimile: 4638 2139

Texas

QGAP

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

Wandoan

QGAP

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