

Regional Budget Statement

Darling Downs and West Moreton

State Budget 2006-07



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, Taroom, Waggamba, Wambo and Warwick.



The 2006-07 Budget re-affirms our Government's commitment to strengthening the Smart State's economy and investing in infrastructure and service delivery priorities.

This Regional Budget Statement outlines how we are meeting the needs of Darling Downs and West Moreton residents.

Through the Health Action Plan, we are committing \$9.7 billion in just over five years to build Australia's best health system.

To meet the needs of our growing population, we are investing in State-wide infrastructure, especially in rural Queensland where the Blueprint for the Bush will deliver health, water and transport facilities.

Ensuring the Smart State's future, Prep Year will begin in 2007 to give our children the best education.

We are also continuing our response to residents affected by Cyclone Larry and working towards a brighter future for all Queenslanders.

Peter Beattie MP
Premier of Queensland

State Budget highlights for the Darling Downs and West Moreton region in 2006-07 include:

- \$359.8 million to continue construction of CS Energy's Kogan Creek power station
- \$15.96 million to improve the New England Highway
- \$8.39 million to support services provided by community groups, including child care and domestic and family violence prevention
- \$8.14 million to continue the Miles Hospital Redevelopment
- \$6.64 million for new and upgraded public housing and to purchase land for future construction
- \$6.14 million in Queensland Government funding to improve the Cunningham Highway
- \$1.64 million to continue work on the Queensland College of Wine Tourism
- The \$1 billion *Queensland Skills Plan* provides for \$655,000 for new trade apprenticeships as part of the \$4.07 million plan to provide 1,170 extra training places in the region by 2010 and \$733,000 for new Certificate IV and above training places as part of the \$5.13 million plan to provide 800 additional training places in the region by 2010.

Darling Downs and West Moreton



Blueprint for the Bush

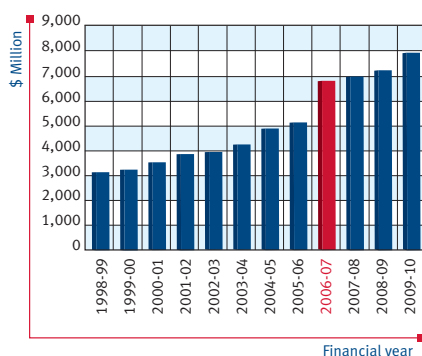
The Queensland Government has developed the Blueprint for the Bush in partnership with AgForce and the Local Government Association of Queensland to enhance the sustainability, liveability and prosperity of rural Queensland. Beginning in 2006-07, the Blueprint commits more than \$150 million over the next four years to a range of initiatives that will assist rural communities. An accompanying *Rural Economic Development and Infrastructure Plan* outlines a range of Government and private sector investment initiatives for rural and regional Queensland.

The Darling Downs and West Moreton region will benefit from State-wide initiatives such as:

- \$47 million for natural resource management projects to support sustainable land management and environmental protection practices, tackle pests and weeds, and effectively manage water resources
- \$30 million to strengthen rural communities, which will include grants to non-Government organisations and local governments
- \$20 million to maintain and upgrade housing for Indigenous people
- \$5 million for rural airport upgrades
- \$4.5 million for new regional planning initiatives
- \$1.8 million for online access in public libraries
- \$1 million for local governments to assess rural infrastructure needs.

Building a better health system

Queensland health budget
1998-99 to 2009-10



Source: Queensland Treasury

The Government is reforming the Queensland health system. The 2005 Action Plan marked a new start with the biggest single injection of funding in the State's history.

In 2006-07, the health budget of \$6.65 billion represents a 24% increase over the 2005-06 Budget. Increased health expenditure within the Darling Downs and West Moreton region includes:

- \$2 million to begin the refurbishment and upgrade of ward areas to provide additional bed capacity within the Toowoomba Medical Ward
- \$1.74 million, from over \$60 million State-wide, toward the treatment and care of cancer patients
- \$792,000, from a State-wide commitment of \$39 million, for enhanced cardiac services
- \$307,000, from a State-wide commitment of \$18 million, to support community mental health services by employing additional specialist mental health staff.

As a result of funding increases for health services, the region will receive an increase of more than 220 staff and 12 beds in the Northern Downs, Southern Downs, Toowoomba and West Moreton health service districts.

Covering almost 6% of the State, the Darling Downs and West Moreton region is home to 277,150 Queenslanders. Livestock, broadacre crops, horticulture and wine are major research and production activities in the region, with commerce, education, tourism and extraction of oil, gas and minerals also making an important contribution to its diverse economic base.

As a Government, we recognise the valuable contribution of the Darling Downs and West Moreton region to the Smart State's economy. With nearly 60% of the Government's 2006-07 capital expenditure allocated outside the Brisbane area, this Regional Budget Statement for the Darling Downs and West Moreton highlights the Government's commitment to the region and its people.

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:

- \$8.14 million to continue the Miles Hospital Redevelopment
- \$7.3 million to continue to upgrade the outpatient, maternity and emergency department facilities at Dalby Hospital
- \$922,000 to finalise construction of a 40-bed Warwick Residential Aged Care Facility.

The Darling Downs and West Moreton region will also benefit from a range of State-wide commitments including:

- \$70 million for new health technology equipment
- \$69.3 million to meet the increasing cost of providing existing health services

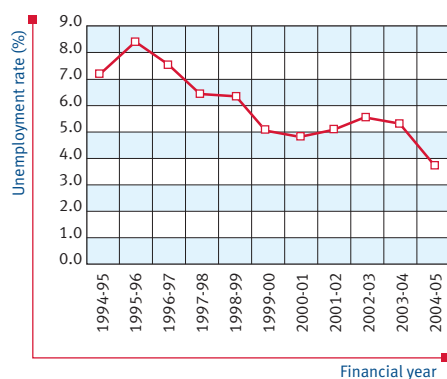
Stanthorpe Grape Crushing Festival



Image courtesy of Tourism Queensland

Unemployment rate^a

1994-95 to 2004-05



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

(a) Data based on un-smoothed series

- \$25.4 million in increased funding for workforce training and recruitment initiatives for medical, nursing and allied health staff
- \$12.3 million to improve access and meet growing demand for renal services.

Expenditure on new and upgraded emergency facilities and staffing includes:

- \$9 million as part of a \$35.3 million three-year commitment to recruit 144 new ambulance officers across Queensland
- two new paramedics for the region, fulfilling the Government's \$35.9 million election commitment to recruit 240 extra paramedics State-wide over three years
- \$608,000 to redevelop the Lowood Fire Station.

The Government is continuing its support for people with disabilities and their carers with a \$17.43 million commitment in the Darling Downs and West Moreton region including:

- \$6.82 million for community organisations to support individuals with a disability and their families
- \$4.11 million to assist adults with a disability to maintain the living arrangements of their choice and participate in the community



- \$1.12 million to provide short term and limited respite support for families, carers and people with a disability.

In 2006-07, the Government continues its support for services provided by community groups in Darling Downs and West Moreton with funding of \$8.39 million. This includes: \$1.13 million to establish a Youth Justice Service in Toowoomba; \$771,000 for early intervention and family support services; \$575,000 toward domestic and family violence prevention; and \$501,000 for child care facilities and services.

We are providing ongoing housing and housing-related services to support low-income families and individuals in Darling Downs and West Moreton in 2006-07 including:

- \$6.64 million for new and upgraded public housing and to purchase land for future construction
- \$1.94 million for community housing programs and services to address crisis, transitional and long-term housing needs
- \$1.7 million for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing rental program.

Realising the Smart State through education, skills and innovation

The Government continues to drive economic growth by utilising innovation and skills through its *Smart Queensland: Smart State Strategy 2005-2015*. In 2006-07, initiatives in Darling Downs and West Moreton will include:

- \$1.43 million for the University of Southern Queensland's Centre of Excellence in engineered fibre composites
- \$150,000 State-wide to continue the Science on Saturday program to encourage children to understand the importance of science and take an interest in science as a possible future career.

We are committed to providing high-quality education facilities to support Queensland's growing population. In 2006-07, \$5.85 million is allocated in Darling Downs and West Moreton for school capital works expenditure, including:

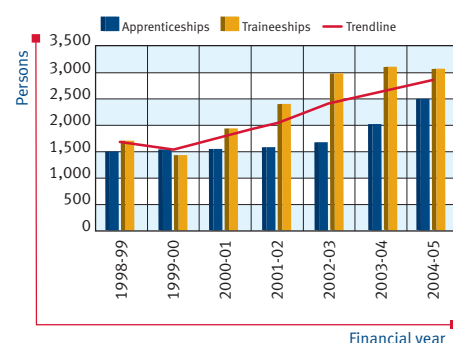
- \$618,000 for major amenities upgrades at Gatton State School
- \$303,000 to continue electrical upgrades at a number of schools
- \$297,000 to upgrade special education facilities at Harristown State High School
- \$250,000 for classroom upgrades to support multimedia initiatives at Wilsonton State School.

We are investing in training facilities across Darling Downs and West Moreton. Funding in 2006-07 includes:

- \$2.57 million to consolidate training services at Toowoomba's Bridge Street TAFE Campus
- \$1.64 million to continue work on the Queensland College of Wine Tourism.

Participation in post secondary education, apprenticeships and traineeships

1998-99 to 2004-05



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

Protecting our children and enhancing community safety

The Government continues to implement significant reforms to improve the child protection system. A record \$503.1 million, up almost 28% since last year, will be spent in 2006-07 to protect our children.

The region will benefit from a range of State-wide initiatives including:

- \$7.6 million for an extra 50 front-line staff and to attract and retain child protection staff in regional, rural and remote areas
- \$10 million for non-Government partners to deliver extra alternative care places for children in care with complex and extreme needs
- \$15.6 million to continue to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Recognised Entities.

We are also investing in major funding initiatives to boost our police service, with the number of police officers across Queensland reaching 9,728 by September 2007 through the creation of an extra 350 police officer positions. This will more than meet the Government's commitment to maintain police numbers at or above the national average police-to-population ratio.

Get set for Prep

Preparatory Year will be available at all State schools from 2007 to help Queensland kids make a smooth transition to Year 1. Replacing preschool, it will lay the foundation for success at school by developing a positive approach to learning; independence and confidence; thinking, problem-solving and language skills; physical abilities; and early literacy and numeracy. To prepare for the intake of eager young students, the Queensland Government is undertaking one of the largest building programs in education history. Across the State, \$106 million will be spent on building and upgrading classrooms and other facilities, with 159 schools offering Prep Year in the Darling Downs and West Moreton region.

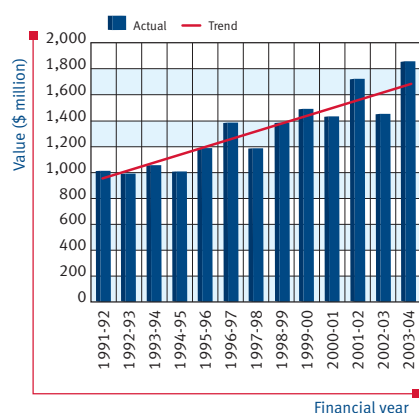
Australian Gospel Music Festival



The Australian Gospel Music Festival attracts over 30,000 people to Toowoomba each year and is one of the nation's top events for youths, children and families alike.

Agricultural production

value (\$ million), 1991-92 to 2003-04



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

Managing urban growth and building Queensland's regions

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

- \$15.96 million in Queensland Government funding to improve the New England Highway, including duplication to four lanes at Highfields, and rehabilitation and widening between Highfields and Crows Nest
- \$6.14 million in Queensland Government funding to improve the Cunningham Highway, including widening between Warwick and Inglewood
- \$4.78 million to improve sections of the Leichhardt Highway
- \$4.77 million to improve sections of the Millmerran–Inglewood Road.

The Government continues to ensure a reliable energy supply through its investment in the electricity network in 2006-07, including:

- \$359.8 million to continue construction of CS Energy's Kogan Creek power station
- \$55 million for the South East Queensland Augmentation project across the Darling Downs and West Moreton, Greater Brisbane and South Coast regions
- \$32.4 million on reinforcement of supply by Ergon Energy
- \$23 million in capital electricity and gas works projects by ENERGEX.

The Government is also managing the State's water resources and ensuring a continuing water supply through a range of initiatives including:

- \$12.83 million State-wide as part of the Water Reform — Continuity of Supply initiative
- \$5.75 million to continue the upgrade of the Wetalla Wastewater Treatment Plant
- \$1.37 million as part of the ongoing project to develop and implement an Integrated Urban Water Management Policy and Regulatory Framework
- \$1.19 million for the Clifton Water Supply Scheme upgrade
- \$505,000 to refurbish infrastructure in central and lower Lockyer Valley, Chinchilla, Macintyre Brook and Upper Condamine.

Queenslanders enjoy a lifestyle with a high level of community participation in a range of sporting activities. In the Darling Downs and West Moreton region, \$2.2 million is allocated to projects including: \$126,000 to construct a walking and cycling track, connecting the Gatton Sport and Recreational Centre and Lake Apex; \$482,500 to construct a multipurpose leisure facility at Miles; and \$260,000 to construct a multipurpose facility at Commonwealth Oval in Toowoomba.

Protecting the environment for a sustainable future

The natural and cultural heritage of Darling Downs and West Moreton is

valued by all Queenslanders. To reflect this, we are committing:

- \$12.8 million State-wide to complete the implementation of the new vegetation management framework
- \$5.5 million to address water quality and salinity issues specific to the region under the *National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality*
- \$2.42 million on research to improve water use efficiency and the sustainability of farming systems
- \$1.14 million to enhance national and conservation parks in the region.

Growing a diverse economy and creating jobs

Launched in March 2006, the \$1 billion *Queensland Skills Plan* is the Government's strategy for responding to skills shortages across Queensland. This strategy aims to ensure the vocational education and training sector meets the skills challenges facing the Darling Downs and West Moreton region. In 2006-07, the plan will deliver:

- \$655,000 for new trade apprenticeships as part of a \$4.07 million plan to provide 1,170 extra training places in the region by 2010
- \$733,000 for new Certificate IV and above training places as part of a \$5.13 million plan to provide 800 additional training places in the region by 2010
- a new Skilling Solutions Queensland centre in Toowoomba to provide face-to-face advice to Queenslanders on training and career opportunities.

Other Government initiatives to create and protect jobs in the region include:

- \$15.84 million State-wide for livestock industries research
- \$10.8 million State-wide for cotton, fruit, vegetable, grains and fodder crops research
- \$6 million State-wide for the 14 Regional Tourism Offices and six Convention Bureaus to promote Queensland's tourism industry, with an extra \$1 million for destination marketing and development.

Delivering responsive government

The Government's continuing commitment to restore public trust and accountability in the Queensland public health system includes \$7.7 million to establish a new Health Quality and Complaints Commission.

Through initiatives such as regular Ministerial Regional Community Forums and Community Cabinets, the Queensland Government engages with local communities, businesses and other government agencies to ensure better co-ordination of services and to respond to local needs.

Budget Highlights 2006-07

Budget summary

Stronger economic growth maintains low unemployment

- Queensland's economic growth is forecast to strengthen to 4¼% in 2006-07 and exceed growth in the rest of Australia for the 11th consecutive year.
- Employment growth is expected to exceed the rest of Australia in 2005-06 and 2006-07 at 3% and 2½% respectively.
- As a result, Queensland's year-average unemployment rate is forecast to remain at 5% – around the 30-year low, and slightly below the national rate (5¼%).

Strong finances

- The expected 2005-06 operating result of \$2.853 billion reflects the strength of the economy and investment markets.
- A General Government operating surplus of \$245 million is forecast in 2006-07.
- Moderating surpluses reflect significant capital investment, implementation of the Health Action Plan and commitments in other key service delivery areas, and the impact of a range of State tax abolition and relief measures.
- The State's net worth is budgeted to grow from around \$96 billion at 30 June 2006 to over \$107 billion by 30 June 2010.

Competitive taxes

- Queensland maintains its tax competitiveness, with Queenslanders to pay an average of 15% less State tax than taxpayers in other states and territories in 2006-07.
- Queensland's competitiveness has been enhanced through a range of tax measures in the 2006-07 Budget.

Delivering on our priorities

Improving health care and strengthening services to the community

- As part of the Queensland Government's commitment to the Health Action Plan, an investment of almost \$6.4 billion in just over five years was announced in 2005 to relieve pressure on health services delivered across the State. Through the 2006-07 State Budget, funding for Queensland Health will grow by \$9.7 billion over the five years.
- Increased recurrent funding of \$128 million and \$6 million in capital funding will be invested over four years to enhance disability services in Queensland.
- More than \$21 million is committed over the next three years to help fight obesity.

Protecting our children and enhancing community safety

- Additional funding of \$133.2 million will be invested over four years to enhance child protection services, including \$28.1 million in 2006-07.
- The Government is providing funding for an additional 350 sworn police officers across the State by September 2007, bringing the total number of sworn officers to 9,728 and meeting the Government's commitment to maintain police numbers at or above the national average police-to-population ratio.
- An additional \$35.3 million is provided over three years to recruit 144 additional ambulance officers and \$12.4 million over four years to improve ambulance call response times at communication centres.

Realising the Smart State through education, skills and innovation

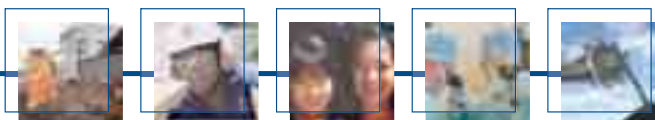
- A record \$1 billion will be invested over five years in Queensland's education system, directed at planning, modernising and refurbishing school facilities across the State.
- The \$1 billion *Queensland Skills Plan* sets out initiatives to transform and modernise the State's vocational education and training system.
- Further funding of \$11.8 million is allocated over three years to develop a joint animal research facility with The University of Queensland.

Protecting the environment for a sustainable future

- As part of the Blueprint for the Bush, additional funding of \$11 million over three years is provided to improve the management of high-risk weeds and pest animals across Queensland.
- Additional funding of \$20 million is provided in 2006-07 to acquire properties within South East Queensland to increase green space. The land will be added to the protected estate.

Managing urban growth and building Queensland's regions

- Estimated capital spending is more than \$10 billion in 2006-07, an increase of 23% on estimated actual 2005-06 outlays. Almost 60% of this will be spent outside the Brisbane area. This spending will support around 73,700 full-time jobs in Queensland.
- More than \$150 million is provided for additional initiatives across rural and regional Queensland over the next four years as part of Blueprint for the Bush.



Government services in your region

Boonah

QGAP Office

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

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

Dalby

Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water

Ergon Energy Building
30 Marble Street
Dalby QLD 4405
Telephone 4669 9599
Facsimile 4662 5310
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday –
8:30am to 4:30pm

Goondiwindi

Department of Natural Resources, Mines 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 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
and 1pm to 4pm

Jandowae

QGAP Office

Community and Cultural
Centre
Cnr George and High Streets
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
Shire 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 Queensland Regional Office

Level 6, Condamine Centre
Bell Street Mall
Toowoomba QLD 4350
Telephone 4688 4060
Facsimile 4688 1169
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday –
8:30am to 5pm

Toowoomba

State Development Centre

Downs Business Centre
4 Little Street
Toowoomba QLD 4350
Telephone 4698 9800
Facsimile 4638 2139
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday –
8:30am to 5pm

Preparatory Year enquiries

Telephone 1300 650 220
Facsimile 3247 3988

13 HEALTH

Telephone 13 43 25 84

Smart Service Queensland

For information on all other
Government services call 13 13 04