

• State Budget Highlights

Budget summary

Growing the economy

- Queensland's economy is forecast to strengthen in 2002-03 to $4\frac{1}{4}\%$, again exceeding national growth of $3\frac{3}{4}\%$.
- Business investment is forecast to reach an historical peak of almost \$13 billion in real terms.

Creating new jobs

- Queensland is creating jobs much faster than the national average. Over the 12 months to May 2002, Queensland created more than 30% of all jobs created in Australia and almost 80% of national full-time jobs.
- This strong performance is forecast to continue in 2002-03, with year-average growth in employment of $2\frac{1}{2}\%$, or about 43,000 new jobs.
- The unemployment rate is forecast to fall to a year-average $7\frac{1}{2}\%$, the lowest in a decade.

Sound finances

- A net operating surplus of \$23 million and a cash surplus of \$354 million are budgeted for the General Government sector in 2002-03, with surpluses over the forward estimates period.
- The State's net worth is expected to continue to grow, reaching \$58.5 billion by 30 June 2003.

Building Queensland's infrastructure

- A capital works program of \$4.8 billion will support some 45,100 full-time jobs.

Competitive taxes

- Payroll tax will be reduced to 4.75% from 1 July 2002.
- Queenslanders will be taxed on average \$1,321 in 2002-03, significantly lower than the average tax burden in other States and Territories of \$1,757 per capita.

Delivering on our priorities

More jobs for Queensland – skills and innovation – the Smart State

- The new Education and Training Reforms for the Future package provides \$158.3 million over four years to provide our young people with more opportunities to access high quality education and training.
- The new Queensland BioCapital Fund will invest \$100 million in venture capital in biotechnology projects that have potential for high commercial returns for the Smart State.
- The Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative has been funded an additional \$10 million over two years.

Safer and more supportive communities

- New funding of \$148 million is provided over four years for the delivery of a range of initiatives aimed at achieving better outcomes for children, young people and families. This funding is in addition to the final instalment of funding (\$40 million over four years) committed as a result of the Forde Inquiry and brings the Government's additional funding commitment in this area to \$188 million over four years (\$42 million in 2002-03).
- An additional 307 police will be appointed across the State.

Community engagement and better quality of life

- The health budget will be allocated approximately \$13.3 million for acute inpatient services and up to \$7.3 million for improvements to Home and Community Care services.
- More than \$150 million is provided for public rental housing and \$6.5 million for crisis accommodation.

Valuing the environment

- A further 60 rangers will be employed, as part of the Protecting Our Natural Assets election commitment of \$10 million per annum to fund up to 140 new park rangers and improve facilities.

Building Queensland's regions

- 55.8% of the capital works budget is allocated for outside the Brisbane Statistical Division, reflecting the Government's strong commitment to the regions.



Boonah

Kalbar

Tara

Crows Nest

Laidley

Texas

Goombungee

Lowood

Inglewood

Miles

Jandowae

Stanthorpe

51 Marsh Street
Stanthorpe QLD 4380
Phone: 4681 4965
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8.30am–4pm
Wednesday 9.30am–4pm

Toowoomba

State Development Centre
4 Little Street
Toowoomba QLD 4350
Phone: 4698 9800
Monday–Friday 8:30am–5pm

Wandoan

11 Lawton Street
Wandoan QLD 4419
Phone: 4627 5400
Monday–Friday 9am–4.30pm





Darling Downs & West Moreton Regional Budget Statement 2002-03

• Premier's Message

The importance of Queensland's regions to the economic and social life of our State is evident in the Government's 2002-03 Budget.

In capital works alone, 55.8% of spending is allocated for regions outside the Brisbane Statistical Division. In the Darling Downs and West Moreton region in 2002-03, the Government will spend \$242.8 million on capital works, including:

- almost \$100 million on energy infrastructure, such as \$5.2 million to complete Stanwell's \$7.5 million hydro-electricity generator on Wivenhoe Dam;
- \$74.2 million on main roads projects, including the Warrego Highway bypasses of Toowoomba and Gatton;
- \$13 million to improve health facilities, particularly at Toowoomba Hospital and the Inglewood and Texas multi-purpose health services facilities; and
- \$1 million towards the planned development of industrial estates at Charlton and Wellcamp.

In the Smart State, the focus on regions is about more than infrastructure. We will provide \$4.5 million to the University of Southern Queensland for research into fibre composite, a revolutionary construction material. This Budget will also boost services in the areas of families, education and law and order.

This statement highlights initiatives within your region that have been developed in response to individual community concerns. It shows the Government is passionate about listening to the community. In fact, we spend more time than any other Government listening to thousands of people at community engagement events such as Community Cabinet and Ministerial Regional Community Forums. We have responded to your call for individual solutions for each community – not a 'one size fits all' approach.

The Government is working with you and for you, to build employment and lifestyle opportunities. We are committed to expanding export markets, encouraging value-adding industries and building the regions' competitive advantages.

This means focusing on a workforce that is more highly skilled, educated and in demand. It also means improving social infrastructure, so community life flourishes.

The Queensland Government is committed to building partnerships with the regions because active communities are central to us achieving the Smart State vision. Together, we can forge a better future for our communities.



Peter Beattie

Peter Beattie MP
Premier and Minister for Trade



• Introduction

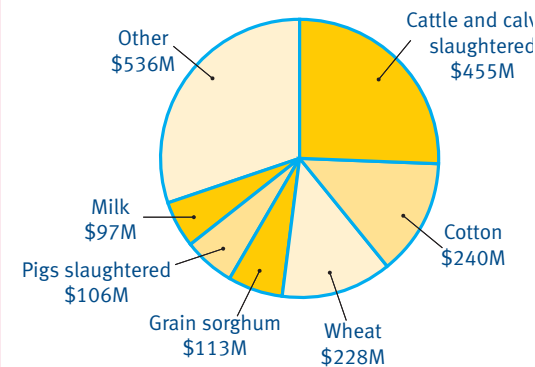
The infrastructure and services funded in the 2002-03 State Budget and outlined in this statement demonstrate the Queensland Government's commitment to working with the Darling Downs and West Moreton region to promote economic development and job creation, stronger community networks and a prosperous future.

The Darling Downs and West Moreton region covers almost 6% of the State and is home to about 7% of all Queenslanders. It includes 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 region produces more than a quarter of the State's agricultural production in dollar terms. Crops are the biggest earner, followed by livestock disposals and products.

The Darling Downs and West Moreton is home to almost 14% of Queensland's electricity, gas and water supply businesses, which power the south-east corner of the State. Other major employers are the retail trade and manufacturing sectors. The region is a centre of education, with the University of Southern Queensland and the Gatton campus of the University of Queensland.

Gross value of agricultural production, Darling Downs and West Moreton, 1999-2000



Source: ABS, Agriculture, Queensland (unpublished data)

• Building Queensland's regions

The Government is working with Queenslanders in the Darling Downs and West Moreton region to drive economic development and ensure that the region prospers. This Budget provides:

- a further \$250,000 for the Western Corridor Economic Development Strategy to address future economic development and employment generation opportunities in the region, including a study of the food manufacturing industries;
- \$1 million towards the planned development of industrial estates at Charlton and Wellcamp in collaboration with Toowoomba City Council, the Eastern Downs Regional Organisation of Councils and Jondaryan Shire Council. The project will provide industrial land for transportation, rural production and warehousing activities in the region; and
- a further \$60,000 to implement the Darling Downs Regional Plan.

A safe and efficient transport network promotes industry competitiveness and economic development in the regions. Major transport projects in the Darling Downs and West Moreton region in 2002-03 include:

- \$1.7 million towards the \$2.6 million widening of the Warwick-Killarney Road;
- a further \$1.7 million to upgrade the Miles-Roma-Muckadilla rail track; and



- \$20.2 million in federal funding for works on the Warrego Highway, including bypasses of Gatton and Toowoomba, which are due for completion in 2003-04 at a total cost of \$74.1 million.

In a major investment, InterGen, a private company, is building a new \$922 million coal-fired base-load power station at Millmerran, including a connection to the Queensland and National Electricity Market grid. The power station is due to start commercial operations later this year and is expected to create 230 permanent jobs.

Other major capital works include:

- \$20.9 million allocated by Ergon Energy to augment supply to Goondiwindi and for substations at Oakey, Warwick and Goondiwindi;
- \$18.6 million allocated by Tarong Energy to develop a coalmine and associated infrastructure in Chinchilla;
- \$2.6 million to develop infrastructure and community facilities in Toowoomba, Warwick, Gatton and Pittsworth shires;
- \$876,000 to provide reliable water supply and sewerage services for Esk, Gatton, Boonah, Laidley, Clifton, Goondiwindi and Millmerran;
- \$366,000 for Powerlink's Middle Ridge 275 kV transmission line reinforcement; and
- \$355,000 to repair damage done in Gatton, Laidley and Waggamba shires by floods and storms in February 2001.

To support the cotton industry, we will fund \$250,000 for research into fusarium wilt, a soil-borne disease affecting most of the region that causes cotton plants to die.

• More jobs for Queensland – skills and innovation – the Smart State

The Government is positioning Queensland as the Smart State with a strategy that supports a diversified economy through investment in traditional and new industries.

As part of that drive, we have allocated \$4.5 million in 2002-03 to develop a world-class Centre of Excellence in Engineered Fibre Composites at the University of Southern Queensland. Fibre composite is a lightweight material far stronger than steel and concrete that is set to revolutionise the engineering and construction sector worldwide. This is part of a \$10 million package for fibre composite research and commercialisation.

Investment in new industries creates 21st century jobs. Through the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiatives, it's anticipated that approximately \$7.8 million will be spent in the Darling Downs and West Moreton in 2002-03 for employment programs targeted at the long-term unemployed, mature-age job seekers, trainees, apprentices and young people.

The Government will also provide more than \$100,000 to Mission Australia to run programs for students at risk of leaving school without the education or skills to get a job.

Investing in the Smart State means investing in training and education.

We have provided \$900,000 to Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE to progress an Information Technology Platform and develop new facilities.

The Government recognises that Queensland children deserve the very best education to help them reach their full potential. This Budget provides \$158.3 million over four years state-wide to fund an innovative package of education and training reforms for the future.

In 2002-03, Darling Downs and West Moreton will share in:

- an additional \$22.7 million for information and communication technologies (ICT) in classrooms and ICT training for teachers; and
- 382 additional teachers to provide for growth and other needs, including 158 teachers as part of the Government's election commitment to employ 800 additional teachers over four years.

Highlights in education funding for the region include:

- \$2.7 million for Harristown State High School and \$1.3 million for Toowoomba State High School to modernise their facilities;
- \$167,000 for the New Basics initiative at Goondiwindi and Boonah State High Schools and State Schools at Inglewood, Dalby, Brigalow, Condamine and Dulacca to equip students with critical thinking, problem solving and lifelong learning skills; and
- \$200,000 for Highfields and Toowoomba State High Schools, which together are the site for a Technology, Maths and Science Centre of Excellence, one of eight across Queensland.

To provide enhanced life-long learning opportunities, almost \$1 million has been allocated to public libraries in the Darling Downs and West Moreton.

• Safer and more supportive communities

Families are the foundation of our communities and to support them, we are this year funding a package of \$188 million over four years (\$42 million in 2002-03) for delivery of a range of initiatives aimed at achieving better outcomes for children, young people and families. This comprises new funding of \$148 million over four years, in addition to the final instalment of funding (\$40 million over four years) committed as a result of the Forde Inquiry. This funding will be allocated across all regions of the State.

Smarter policing and crime prevention are vital for ensuring our communities are safe. This year, \$6.3 million is provided to complete the construction of the new Toowoomba police station and watchhouse and the design of the District and Regional Offices.

New ambulance stations at Chinchilla and Boonah will be completed, with \$530,000 provided in 2002-03.

(right)
st's impression of
ing@Miles Centre

(far right)
Fibre composite
building material

• Community engagement and a better quality of life

All Queenslanders are encouraged to take part in the rich cultural, social and economic life of the State. The Queensland Government is working to ensure equality of opportunity and equitable access to high standards of health, housing and family services through greater participation in the choices made by Government.

In particular, healthy individuals and communities are fundamental to the standard of living and way of life we enjoy in Queensland.

In the Darling Downs and West Moreton, we will spend:

- \$4 million to upgrade multi-purpose health services facilities in Inglewood and Texas in accordance with the 2008 Commonwealth Aged Care Standards;
- more than \$3 million for Toowoomba Hospital;
- \$417,00 for mental health services;
- almost \$357,000 to extend the Toowoomba Police Citizens Youth Centre to create a youth activity space and dedicated gymnastics area, in partnership with the Queensland Police Citizens Youth Welfare Association; and
- approximately \$310,000 for new and enhanced family support and respite services in Boonah for people with a disability and their families.

We will also fund \$877,000 for Home Assist Secure Schemes to assist elderly people in the region to remain in their own homes longer, with improved safety, independence and quality of life.

A further \$3.8 million will be spent to complete new public housing and upgrade existing housing.



Local shows play an important role in bringing together communities in regional Queensland. This Budget provides \$76,000 under the Showground Subsidy Scheme for showground improvements in Warwick, Clifton Shire, Dalby, Killarney, Stanthorpe, Bell, Texas and Toogoolawah.

Queensland's regions have a rich cultural heritage, which we are preserving and promoting through the Queensland Heritage Trails Network, in partnership with the Commonwealth and local governments.

In the Darling Downs and West Moreton region in 2002-03, we will complete the \$2 million conservation of Glengallan Homestead and its new interpretive and visitor facilities.

We will also provide a further \$62,000 towards the \$750,000 Dogwood Crossing@Miles Centre, integrating the library, heritage and tourism centres and art gallery.

• Valuing the environment

Queensland is Australia's most naturally diverse State and the Government is committed to protecting our environment and its biodiversity for current and future generations.

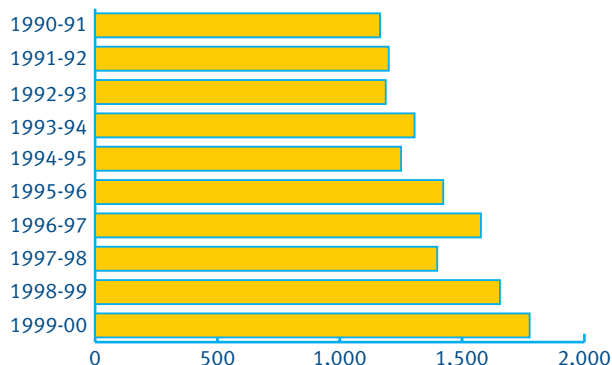
As part of our commitment to clean energy, the Government-owned Stanwell Corporation will spend \$5.2 million to complete constructing a new hydro-electricity generator on Wivenhoe Dam. The \$7.5 million project will provide South East Queensland with clean, reliable and secure renewable energy and is due for completion in December 2002.

We will spend \$580,000 in 2002-03 for the Eastern Farming Systems Project to manage production and environmental sustainability solutions.

To protect the natural assets of the Darling Downs and West Moreton region, this Budget provides:

- \$839,000 for five new rangers in the Dalby, Toowoomba, Bunya Mountains and Girraween areas, as part of the Protecting Our Natural Assets election commitment of \$10 million per annum to fund up to 140 new park rangers and improve facilities; and
- \$191,000 to upgrade Girraween National Park.

Gross value of agricultural production (\$ million) Darling Downs and West Moreton



Source: ABS, Agriculture, Queensland (unpublished data)

