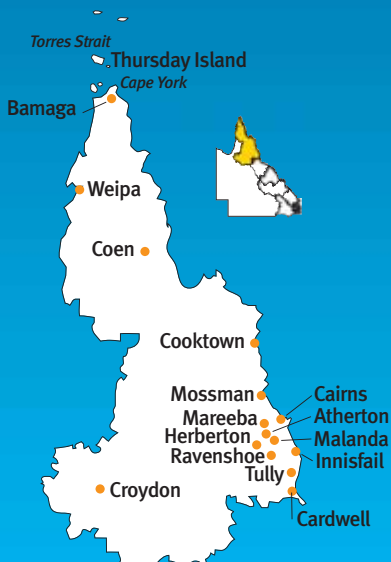


Regional Budget Statement Far North Queensland

State-wide Highlights

The 2009-10 Budget will support and create jobs by continuing the Government's capital works program for roads, schools and hospitals as well delivering new job creation programs and initiatives to expand Queensland's skills base.

- \$3.53 billion for better and safer roads
- \$464.77 million on major hospital developments
- \$301 million to build and renew school facilities through the State Schools of Tomorrow program
- \$101 million for the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative
- 203 new police officers
- 50 new ambulance officers
- 350 new teachers and teacher aides
- 645 new doctors, nurses and allied health professionals
- \$3.06 million for the Support Our Heroes package to support emergency service volunteers and prepare communities for natural disasters
- \$36 million over three years for new tourism campaigns
- \$96 million over five years for new climate change initiatives
- \$50 million over six years for the Great Barrier Reef Protection Package.



As a part of the global economy, Queensland has felt the effects of the global financial and economic crisis. The worst set of global economic circumstances in more than 75 years has resulted in falling revenues and rising unemployment.

That's why the centrepiece of the 2009-10 State Budget is jobs – creating and sustaining jobs, assisting business and industry, and positioning our economy for future growth.

Specific investments in education, employment and training, business and vital industries such as tourism will help create and support jobs for Queenslanders.

The Queensland Government is investing \$18 billion in its job-generating building program, with



Anna Bligh MP
Premier
and Minister for the Arts

injections of funding for roads, ports, schools, transport and other vital infrastructure.

Frontline service delivery is our focus with commitments for police, hospitals and healthcare, ambulance services and teachers – the things we need to keep our communities healthy, safe and growing. The Government is determined to cushion Queenslanders from

the full impact of the global recession. That means acting now to support the economy and making the long term decisions needed for the future.

Queensland's prosperity and growth is built on the strength of our regions. This document puts on record the Government's commitment to the people and economy of the Far North Queensland region.



Andrew Fraser MP
Treasurer and Minister for Employment
and Economic Development



Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE at Cairns

Protecting jobs in Far North Queensland

As the global economic crisis takes hold and Queensland's economic growth rate slows, the Government is committed to protecting the jobs of today and creating the jobs of tomorrow.

The Government's job programs are more important than ever before and will play a crucial role in supporting Queensland workers through these uncertain economic times.

The Government will implement a host of initiatives that will create new jobs and equip our workforce with the skills needed for future recovery.



Productivity Places Program

A \$414 million industry-based program (including \$259 million in Australian Government funding) to deliver almost 150,000 new training places over four years.



Tourism Blueprint to Protect Jobs

A \$37.8 million program to create 1,000 new jobs for new, regionally-focussed tourism market and product development campaigns, and to support the 'drive travel' market.



Sustainable Resource Communities

A \$25 million program to create 500 new jobs over the next 12 months by boosting employment in regional areas affected by the mining downturn.



Payroll tax apprentice and trainee incentives

A \$15 million scheme to assist Queensland businesses that employ apprentices and trainees. In addition to the payroll tax exemption provided for apprentice and trainee wages, businesses will also receive a 25% rebate on payroll tax for other equivalent employees in 2009-10.



Queensland Green Army

A \$57 million program to create 3,000 new jobs over three years by putting an army of unemployed Queenslanders to work to improve our waterways, beaches, national parks and green spaces.

Green Army participants will work on projects of strategic importance to enhance and protect Queensland's natural assets, strengthen the tourism industry and promote increased environmental awareness around the State.

It will create 2,300 jobs through work placements of up to six months and 700 year-long Green Traineeship positions for young, unemployed Queenslanders.

For more information about the Green Army, visit www.greenarmy.qld.gov.au.



Photograph supplied - courtesy of the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation



Covering an area of 273,160 square kilometres or 15.8 per cent of the State, Far North Queensland is home to more than 6 per cent of Queensland's total population. In fact, more than 260,000¹ Queenslanders now call Far North Queensland home.

This region's modern, broad-based economy includes mining and minerals processing, construction, and highly diversified agriculture, marine and aquaculture industries. Well-developed ports and a major international airport provide a critical gateway for exports, and support the region's major business hubs and world-renowned tourism sector.

The Queensland Government recognises the valuable contribution Far North Queensland makes to the State's economic and social development. This Regional Budget Statement highlights the Government's commitment to get on with the job of supporting the region and its people.

1 Population data as at 30 June 2008, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Population Growth (cat. no. 3218.0).

Delivering jobs for Queensland

Jobs are the Government's number one priority. Faced with challenging global economic conditions, the Government will create and protect jobs to help keep Queensland strong and secure our economic foundations.

In 2009-10, the Government will drive Queensland's \$18 billion building infrastructure program to stimulate growth, create and protect jobs and meet the infrastructure needs of our rapidly growing population.

Key building projects in Far North Queensland include:

- \$199 million towards the \$445 million expansion and redevelopment of Lotus Glen Correctional Centre
- \$113.2 million to build and improve rental units in Indigenous communities. This is part of the Government's \$1.447 billion program to expand and improve social housing across the State
- \$40 million for Far North Queensland's electricity network, including network refurbishment, load energy management, replacement of ageing assets and reliability improvements
- \$19 million for electricity network improvements in remote Cape York Peninsula and Torres Strait Island communities, including upgrades to power stations at Mapoon, Kowanyama, Thursday Island and Murray Island
- \$17 million for projects including building an electricity substation at El Arish, electricity supply improvements at Mareeba and laying underground power lines in cyclone-prone areas
- \$13.2 million to replace rail and pedestrian bridges in the region
- \$9.4 million to design and build a cruise facility terminal at the Port of Cairns
- \$6.1 million for level crossing upgrades

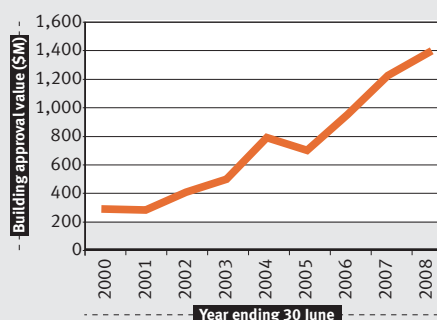
- \$4 million for improvements at the Port of Thursday Island.

As well as protecting jobs now, the Government is preparing for the future. By developing the skills base of Queensland workers, supporting emerging industries, building on traditional strengths, and attracting investment and innovation, Queensland will be well positioned to lead Australia through the period of recovery and beyond.

In 2009-10, other job-generating investments in Far North Queensland include:

- \$69.1 million for vocational education and training activities
- \$19.2 million to complete the \$36.7 million learning community centre at Innisfail
- continued funding of \$10.73 million over four years for the Backing Indigenous Arts initiative for the development of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts industry in Far North Queensland
- \$9.8 million to complete construction of stage three of Western Cape College at Weipa

Building approvals, 2000 to 2008



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Building Approvals, Queensland, Cat. no. 8731.0

Far North Queensland Regional Budget Statement



Cairns Base Hospital

The Queensland Government is committed to making Queenslanders Australia's healthiest people by investing in healthcare, health services and hospitals. In 2009-10, the Government will invest \$21.8 million towards the \$446.3 million Cairns Base Hospital redevelopment (pictured), and \$6.4 million towards the hospital's \$11.1 million Emergency Department expansion.

- \$6.5 million over two years to build an agri-science facility in Mareeba
- \$6.2 million to continue the \$28.8 million redevelopment of the Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE at Cairns
- \$5 million to construct a Maritime Training College in Cairns
- \$4.93 million to create 660 jobs for young people and those disadvantaged in the labour market through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative, which includes Queensland's Green Army.

Investing in our health

To make Queenslanders Australia's healthiest people, the Government is investing in healthy lifestyles, hospitals and other frontline health services to ensure Queenslanders receive the best possible healthcare when illness strikes.

During the next three years, the Queensland Government aims to employ more than 3,500 additional doctors, nurses and allied health professionals across the State. In addition, \$7.9 million will be spent to train and recruit fully accredited nurse practitioners to reduce emergency department waiting times.

In 2009-10, the Government will also provide funding for the following State-wide initiatives:

- \$464.77 million towards major hospital capital works
- \$30 million for the expansion of the Surgery Connect program to deliver additional elective surgery procedures
- \$1 million additional funding for new maternity services under the Mums and Bubs program to provide one-on-one midwifery support in Atherton and other locations across the State.

In 2009-10, individuals and families in Far North Queensland will also benefit from the following treatment and healthcare initiatives aimed at maintaining healthy, strong communities:

- \$21.8 million to continue the \$446.3 million Cairns Base Hospital redevelopment, and a further \$6.4 million to continue the hospital's \$11.1 million Emergency Department expansion
- \$12.9 million for the Home and Community Care initiative

- \$8.7 million to continue constructing a new \$15.8 million primary healthcare centre at Yarrabah
- \$6.2 million capital program to strengthen child protection in Indigenous communities
- \$5.6 million to complete construction of the new primary health care centre on Saibai Island in the Torres Strait
- \$5.07 million to improve community sport and recreation facilities
- \$4.8 million to support people with a disability
- \$2.4 million to continue constructing the new \$12.7 million Cairns Central Community Health Centre
- \$1.5 million to help Queenslanders remain in their own homes or in the private rental market
- \$1.18 million to provide intensive support services to improve the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children and their families
- \$1.1 million for chronic disease Indigenous health funding in Cairns and Yarrabah. This will support the implementation of the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
- \$653,000 to support homeless people.

Renewable energy and the environment

The Queensland Government is committed to the fight against climate change and reducing Queensland's carbon footprint by one-third by

Fostering innovation

A \$153,000 grant (\$306,000 over two years) to establish a marine sponge farm off Yorke Island in the Torres Strait, which will grow, distribute and market sponges for cosmetic and bath use. This project will provide opportunities for local Indigenous people, initially employing four staff and expecting to employ up to eight in a few years. Future earnings are expected to reach up to \$517,000 annually.



2020. Across the State, the Government is investing an additional \$95.83 million over five years in new climate change initiatives, including \$15.6 million for disaster management, \$15 million for the ClimateSmart Business Service, \$8 million for the Energy Efficiency Retrofit program, \$4.5 million to extend the Rural Water Use Efficiency initiative, and \$52.7 million on energy conservation and demand management initiatives.

The Government will also create new green jobs by investing in emerging industries and renewable energy projects, such as the Solar Hot Water Program. This program will provide up to 200,000 Queensland homes with solar hot water or heat pump systems at a fraction of the normal price.

Other initiatives aimed at promoting renewable energy and protecting Far North Queensland's natural environment include:

- \$6.1 million to update and maintain the hydroelectricity stations at Barron Gorge and Kareeya
- \$6.04 million as part of a \$15.2 million grant to the Cassowary Coast Regional Council to construct a sewerage scheme for Cardwell and Port Hinchinbrook
- \$2.48 million as part of a \$29.16 million grant to the Cairns Regional Council to upgrade the Northern Wastewater Treatment Plant
- \$1.2 million for a feasibility study for a new Great Walk from the Daintree River to the tip of Cape York
- \$900,000 (\$5 million over four years) to expand the Wild River Ranger program by employing 10 more rangers across the region.

Better and safer roads

The Government's \$3.53 billion road building program plans for growth by creating and sustaining Queensland jobs, improving road safety and quality, reducing congestion, and continuing to connect people and places around the State.

In 2009-10, the Government's commitment to improve road quality and safety in Far North Queensland will include:

- \$11.3 million to complete construction of a new bridge and approaches on the Endeavour Valley Road at Endeavour River (west of Cooktown) at a total estimated cost of \$15 million
- \$9 million towards the \$31.5 million upgrade of the Kennedy Developmental Road, south of Mount Garnet
- \$6.2 million to complete bitumen widening on sections of the Gulf Developmental Road, east of Mount Surprise
- \$6 million towards the \$18 million construction of a new Jubilee Bridge at Innisfail.

Promoting education and early childhood development

The Queensland Government is focussed on ensuring every Queensland child has access to high-quality education. The emphasis will be on the essentials of literacy, numeracy and science, as well as major infrastructure investment to provide first-rate teaching and learning environments, and generate employment opportunities.

In 2009-10, the Queensland Government will provide \$301 million to continue the State



Queensland State Budget 2009–10

Schools of Tomorrow program to improve and build new facilities in some of Queensland's oldest schools.

As part of the Government's commitment to universal access to a quality early childhood education, joint Queensland and Australian Government funding of \$15.4 million under the Early Childhood Reform National Partnership will be provided in 2009-10 for the establishment of kindergarten infrastructure on 15 state school sites with 240 new or extra kindergarten services to be running by 2014.

The Government will further invest in Far North Queensland with the following initiatives aimed at promoting education and early childhood development:

- \$5.5 million in Australian Government funding to start constructing a \$7.3 million trade training centre at Atherton State High School
- \$4 million in joint Queensland-Australian Government funding to construct a combined trade training and school industry trade centre at Woree State High School
- \$1.4 million in Australian Government funding to construct a trade training centre at Tagai State College
- \$600,000 subsidy for an indoor multipurpose centre at Tully State High School.

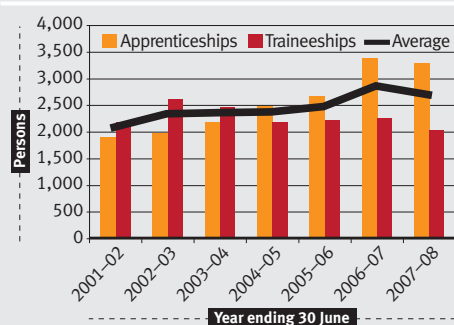
Improving emergency services

During the past year, Queensland has experienced devastating floods, cyclones and torrential storms. The Government's investment in emergency services will help make Queensland communities safer, provide quality emergency relief services, and create and sustain jobs.

In 2009-10, individuals and families across Queensland will benefit from:

- \$57.03 million for new and upgraded police stations and facilities
- \$22.2 million for nine new or improved urban fire and rescue stations, and improvements to emergency service facilities
- \$20.93 million for 150 new ambulance vehicles, including 140 replacement vehicles and 10 additional vehicles
- \$19.25 million for 20 new or redeveloped ambulance facilities
- \$14.8 million for 57 new or replacement urban and rural fire and rescue appliances
- \$1.84 million (\$7.34 million over four years) to increase safety for rural firefighters under the \$12.98 million Support our Heroes package

Participation in post-secondary education Apprenticeships and traineeships, 2001-02 to 2007-08



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

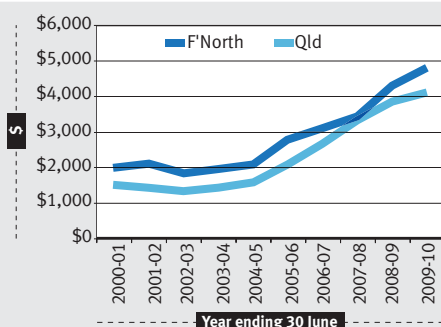
- \$1.22 million (\$5.64 million over five years) for vehicles, flood boats and trailers for the State Emergency Service under the \$12.98 million Support our Heroes package.

Far North Queensland will also benefit from the following initiatives aimed at improving emergency services:

- \$6.13 million to complete the \$7.4 million replacement police station and watchhouse at Mareeba
- \$1.5 million for the new \$2 million Tully Ambulance Station
- \$200,000 towards the \$2 million replacement ambulance station at Ravenshoe.



Capital investment per capita 2000-01 to 2009-10



Source: ABS Regional Population Growth, Australia and New Zealand, Cat no. 3218.0

Get on board with Q150 celebrations

Queensland has come a long way since its birth as a separate colony 150 years ago. To celebrate this milestone, the Government is bringing Queenslanders together to honour the importance of our people, places and stories in shaping our great State.

With more than 480 community events and 91 social, historic and community legacy infrastructure projects happening around the State, there's something for everyone to enjoy – including the historic Q150 Steam Train and travelling Q150 Shed.



To find out more about Q150 celebrations in the Far North Queensland region and across Queensland, visit the Q150 website at www.q150.qld.gov.au

Queensland State Budget Highlights 2009–10

Budget summary

Internationally Australia is a standout performer; Queensland to remain ahead of the nation

- Queensland's economy is expected to expand by $\frac{1}{2}\%$ in 2008-09, compared with no growth in the Australian economy.
- The State economy is forecast to experience a slightly milder contraction than the national average in 2009-10.
- Year-average employment growth is forecast to be $1\frac{1}{4}\%$ in 2010-11, compared with $\frac{1}{2}\%$ over the year to June quarter 2011 for Australia as a whole.
- Queensland's year-average unemployment rate is forecast to peak at $7\frac{1}{4}\%$ in 2010-11, compared with a peak in the national rate of $8\frac{1}{2}\%$ in June quarter 2011.

Challenging fiscal environment

- A deteriorating global and domestic economic environment has significantly impacted Queensland's finances.
- Since the 2008-09 Budget, \$15 billion over 4 years has been knocked off the State's key revenue sources (GST, taxes and royalties).
- As a result, Queensland is forecasting a General Government operating deficit in 2009-10 and across the forward estimates.
- The Government is committed to returning the Budget to surplus and lowering the State's debt levels and, consequently, has implemented around \$5.4 billion worth (over four years) of measures aimed at improving Queensland's fiscal position.
- The Government has undertaken steps to repair the State's finances for the longer term, charting a course back to surplus by 2016-17.

Investing in infrastructure to sustain jobs

- The Government's key objective is to continue to invest in infrastructure to sustain jobs while the current economic circumstances prevail.
- The 2009-10 capital program is forecast to be \$18.2 billion which is expected to support 127,000 full-time jobs.
- In 2009-10 there will be capital outlays of \$7.307 billion for transport and main roads, \$1.447 billion for housing and homelessness services, \$1.837 billion for education and training, \$1.296 billion for health, and \$1.121 billion for water.

Delivering for Queensland

In 2009-10, the Government will provide \$20.3 million for intensive teaching of Year 3 and 5 students who are not meeting national literacy and numeracy standards.

The Budget will also provide for an additional 350 teachers and teacher aides to meet enrolment growth.

Queensland Health's budget will grow to \$9.037 billion in 2009-10, an 8.2% increase on the previous year.

An additional \$30 million will be provided for Surgery Connect to provide treatment opportunities for patients currently waiting longer for surgery than is clinically recommended.

The 2009-10 Budget will see funding provided for an additional 50 ambulance officers, 150 new ambulances, 20 new or redeveloped ambulance facilities, nine new or improved urban fire and rescue stations, 23 new or replacement urban fire and rescue appliances and 34 new or replacement rural fire appliances.

Government services in Far North Queensland

Atherton

Department of Environment and Resource Management – Business Centre

29B Mabel Street
Atherton QLD 4883
Telephone: 4095 7000
Facsimile: 4091 2844
Opening hours: Monday to Friday
– 8:30am to 4:30pm

Babinda

QGAP

91 Munro Street
Babinda QLD 4861
Telephone: 4067 2021
Facsimile: 4067 2027
Opening hours: Monday to Friday
– 10am to 3:00pm

Cairns

Department of Communities – Far North Queensland Region

Level 3, 85 Spence Street
Cairns QLD 4870
Telephone: 4048 9333
Facsimile: 4039 8693
Opening hours: Monday to Friday
– 8:30am to 5pm

Cairns

Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

Cairns Port Authority Building
Cnr Grafton and Hartley Streets
Cairns QLD 4870
Telephone: 4048 1111
Facsimile: 4048 1122
Opening hours: Monday to Friday
– 8:30am to 5pm

Cairns

Department of Environment and Resource Management – Business Centre

William McCormack Place
3rd Floor, 5B Sheridan Street
Cairns QLD 4870
Telephone: 4039 8431
Facsimile: 4039 8145
Opening hours: Monday to Friday
– 8:30am to 4:30pm

Cairns

Office of Economic and Statistical Research

Level 9, 15 Lake Street
Cairns QLD 4870
Telephone: 4039 8804
Facsimile: 4039 8828
Opening hours: Monday to Friday
– 9am to 4:30pm

Cairns

Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries

Cairns District Office
21-23 Redden Street
Cairns QLD 4870
Telephone: 4044 1600
Facsimile: 4035 5474
Opening hours: Monday to Friday
– 8:30am to 5pm

Cooktown

QGAP

172 Charlotte Street
Cooktown QLD 4895
Telephone: 4069 5333
Facsimile: 4069 5864
Opening hours: Monday to Friday
– 9am to 4:30pm

Croydon

QGAP

Samwell Street
Croydon QLD 4871
Telephone: 4745 6185
Facsimile: 4745 6147
Opening hours: Monday,
Thursday – 9am to 4pm

Georgetown

QGAP

High Street
Georgetown QLD 4871
Telephone: 4062 1204
Facsimile: 4062 1260
Opening hours: Monday to Friday
– 8:30am to 4:30pm

Herberton

QGAP

56 Grace Street
Herberton QLD 4887
Telephone: 4096 2702
Facsimile: 4096 2704
Opening hours: Thursday – 9am
to 1pm then 2pm to 4pm

Innisfail

Department of Environment and Resource Management – Business Centre

Canegrowers Building
88 Rankin Street
Innisfail QLD 4860
Telephone: 4048 3701
Facsimile: 4061 4840
Opening hours: Monday to Friday
– 8:30am to 4:30pm

Malanda

QGAP

21 James Street
Malanda QLD 4885
Telephone: 4096 5277
Facsimile: 4096 5008
Opening hours: Monday to Friday
– 8:30am to 4pm
Last vehicle/trailer registration –
3:30pm

Mareeba

Department of Environment and Resource Management

Business Centre
28 Peters Street
Mareeba QLD 4880
Telephone: 4048 4850
Facsimile: 4092 2366
Opening hours: Monday to Friday
– 8:30am to 4:30pm

Mt Garnet

QGAP

Police Station
Garnet Street
Mt Garnet QLD 4872
Telephone: 4097 9005
Facsimile: 4097 9036
Opening hours: Wednesday –
9:30am to 3:30pm

Ravenshoe

QGAP

27-29 Grigg Street
Telephone: 4097 6660
Facsimile: 4097 6830
Opening hours: Monday to
Friday – 9am to 1pm then 2pm to
4:30pm

Weipa

QGAP

Central Avenue
Weipa QLD 4874
Telephone: 4069 9999
Facsimile: 4069 9160
Opening hours: Monday to Friday
– 9am to 4:30pm

Yarrabah

QGAP

5 Noble Drive
Yarrabah QLD 4871
Telephone: 4056 0727
Facsimile: 4056 9380
Opening hours: Monday to Friday
– 9am to 12pm then 1pm to 4pm
Closed every second Friday

Other services

Smart Service Queensland

For information on all other
Government services call
13 13 04 or visit
www.qld.gov.au

State Emergency Service

Telephone: 132 500

13 Health

Telephone: 13 43 25 84

Green Army

Find out more or register
your interest in joining
the Green Army by calling
1800 249 215 (Monday to
Friday – 8am to 6pm) or
online at www.greenarmy.qld.gov.au

Rapid Response Team

A hotline (1800 035 749)
is available for retrenched
workers who require
information about Federal
and State Government
assistance