



Queensland State Budget 2011–12

Regional Budget Statement



Queensland Government

Far North Queensland

Over the 2011 summer, Queensland experienced State-wide devastation from natural disasters.

The floods and Cyclone Yasi saw 100 per cent of Queensland local government areas declared disaster affected and triggered the largest rebuilding and recovery operation ever undertaken in this state.

The 2011-12 Budget fosters that recovery, while also providing relief for families. My Government's decision to abolish the ambulance levy will provide immediate relief for families doing it tough.

There is also a new \$140 million Queensland Building Boost, to stimulate the housing sector and make it more attractive for people to purchase their first home.



Anna Bligh MP
Premier and Minister
for Reconstruction

We will also implement reforms to our education system by moving Year 7 into high school, enabling our children to get full benefit from the new Australian Curriculum. This Budget invests a record amount in events funding - an \$85.8 million boost over five years - to help Queensland attract major events and drive up tourism numbers. This is a Budget built on strength of spirit that will restore long-term social and economic prosperity to the Far North Queensland region and right across the State.

On track for recovery from the global financial crisis, Queensland's economy was instead faced with the worst floods in 100 years and Cyclone Yasi.

Mines were flooded, crops destroyed and communities were isolated. Some of our key export partners, too, were hit by natural disasters.

The 2011-12 State Budget faces those challenges head-on, reprioritising our needs and maintaining our sights on prosperity and a return to surplus.

It will also chart our course back to the front of the economic pack, with growth in 2011-12 to outpace the other states and the nation.

Our prosperity is in our regions - our mineral-rich centres, our tourism and heritage hotspots, and our business, industry and agriculture hubs.



Andrew Fraser MP
Treasurer and Minister for
State Development and Trade

This Government will maintain its focus on economic reform and jobs generation.

Our infrastructure investment will clock in at \$15 billion - more than Western Australia and more than Victoria. The program will support almost 93,000 jobs.

The 2011-12 State Budget will strengthen Queensland's economy and deliver on our commitment to protect Queensland jobs.

Government services in Far North Queensland

Smart Service Queensland

State Emergency Service

13 Health

Every Dollar Counts concessions website

For Government services call 13 13 04 or visit www.qld.gov.au

Telephone: 132 500

Telephone: 13 43 25 84

www.communityservices.qld.gov.au/community/concessions/

State-wide Highlights

Helping Queenslanders into new homes

- Massive stimulus package for building new homes
- \$10,000 grant for a new home contracted between 1 August 2011 and 31 January 2012
- Zero stamp duty for first home buyers under \$500,000
- First home owners can now receive up to \$17,000
- Kick-starting the housing market, generating jobs and construction

Rebuilding Queensland

- \$6.8 billion in State and federal disaster funding, including \$2.9 billion on roads, \$2.75 billion for local governments and \$656 million for small business, non-profit organisations and primary producers

Supporting jobs and investing in the future

- \$100 million over three years in new Smart State initiatives
- \$85.8 million over five years to attract new events to support tourism
- Capital program of \$15 billion in 2011-12, supporting 93,000 jobs

A better education system for our children

- \$328 million over four years for State schools for building works to move Year 7 to secondary school in 2015
- \$50 million in 2011-12 for the State School Investment Program

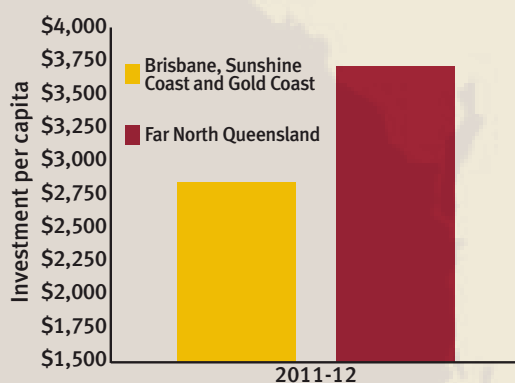
Investing in services

- A record health budget of \$11.05 billion
- More police, to meet our commitment to deliver 600 officers this term, and 50 new ambulance officers

A greener Queensland

- \$75 million to support investment in solar power energy generation
- \$60 million to the end of next year for ClimateSmart Home Services – reducing households bills and carbon emissions

Capital expenditure per capita



2011-12 Regional Budget Statement – Far North Queensland

For more information about Government initiatives in your region, visit www.qld.gov.au/buildingqld

- **\$28.4 million** towards relocating Tagai State College's Mer Campus in the Torres Strait.

- **\$61.1 million** to build and maintain homes in Indigenous communities.

- **\$8.9 million** to complete the \$11.8 million floodway on the Peninsula Developmental Road at Laura River.

- **\$8.5 million** towards a client and training centre at Mareeba and infrastructure development at the Walkamin primary industries research facility.

- **\$51.3 million** to continue the \$442.8 million expansion and redevelopment of the Lotus Glen Correctional Centre.

- **\$25 million** of \$115 million to continue the Cardwell Range realignment on the Bruce Highway between Ingham and Innisfail, in partnership with the Australian Government.

- **\$6.5 million** to replace Lockhart River Police Station.

- **\$3.3 million** to continue developing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts industries in Queensland.

- **\$1.1 million** of \$4.6 million for a replacement fire and rescue station at Smithfield.

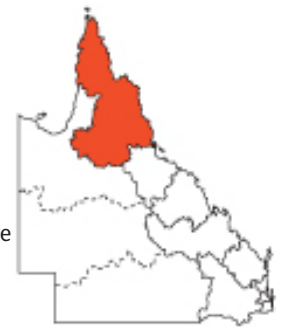
- **\$6.3 million** to refurbish Cairns Convention Centre.

- **\$4.9 million** for more classrooms at Redlynch State College.

- **\$9 million** of \$23.3 million to continue developing the foreshore in the Cairns Cityport.

- **\$8.9 million** to complete the \$26.6 million upgrade of the Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE in Cairns.

- **\$50 million** towards the \$446.3 million redevelopment of the Cairns Base Hospital, due to open in 2014.



Key	
●	Health
●	Environment
●	Education
●	Law and order
●	Infrastructure
●	Community
+	Disaster response

Disaster response funding

- + **\$151.3 million** to local governments for recovery and reconstruction projects, in partnership with the Australian Government.

- + **\$30 million** over two years for ten cyclone shelters, including in Cairns, the Cassowary Coast and Weipa.

- + **\$500,000** of \$10 million to restore essential services at Tully State High School.

- + **\$15 million** to assist the Cassowary Coast Regional Council restore vital infrastructure, vegetation and beaches.

- + **\$5 million** to reconstruct the Bruce Highway along the Cardwell foreshore.

- + **\$14.1 million** of \$20 million for industry clean-up and building industry resilience following Cyclone Yasi.

- + **\$25 million** to reconstruct the Kennedy Developmental Road between Three Ways and the Lynd Junction.



- **\$99 million** for vocational education and training, including apprenticeships and traineeships.

- **\$8.2 million** to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the Marine Park's Field Management Program.

- **\$12 million** to commence work on the City Place Bus Station, at a total estimated cost of \$36 million, as part of the Cairns Transit Mall and Public Transport Network Upgrade.



Photo courtesy of MWA Viewfinder

Cost of living support for Queenslanders

Supporting our State's regions by improving access to and affordability of a range of services:

- **\$140 million** to reduce the cost of electricity bills by abolishing the Community Ambulance Cover levy.
- **\$411 million** to ensure that regardless of where they live, all Queensland electricity customers of a similar type pay a similar price for electricity.

- **\$165.9 million** for cost of living concessions, to improve affordability of council rates for pensioners and electricity for pensioners and seniors.
- **\$337.8 million** for regional freight and passenger transport subsidies, including air services in Cairns and Weipa and bus services in Cairns and Innisfail.

- **\$54.6 million** for the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme which assists patients accessing specialist medical services not available within their local area.
- **\$146.7 million** for the School Transport Assistance Scheme to assist students who have to travel long distances to their nearest school.