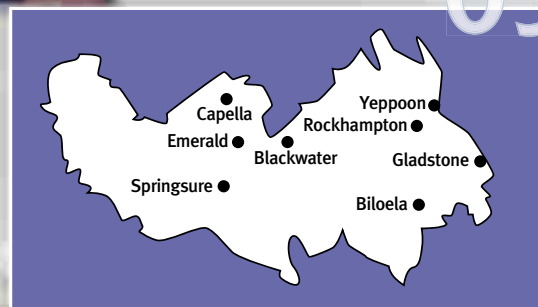
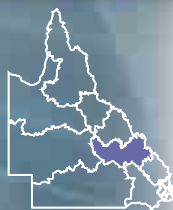


Fitzroy



Fitzroy River, Rockhampton



Premier's Message

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 Fitzroy region and its delivery on key election commitments for 2004-05.

The Government is meeting the needs of the people of Fitzroy 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 Fitzroy region.

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

Delivering on our election commitments for the Fitzroy region, the 2004-05 State Budget highlights include:

- \$24 million over two years for three new aircraft for the Royal Flying Doctor Service to replace those operating from bases in Rockhampton, Townsville and Brisbane
- \$3.6 million as part of a total \$26 million package of works including construction of the Yeppoon Western Bypass and upgrade of Yeppoon-Tanby Road
- \$3 million for the development of a multi-purpose events centre at Gracemere
- \$850,000 to improve the intersection of the Burnett Highway at the Dee River
- \$800,000 out of a total \$9.5 million for the Rockhampton Riverbank project
- \$2.8 million over three years for the Rockhampton Renal Service
- \$296,000 for LiveScan fingerprinting technology for Gladstone and Rockhampton
- upgrades for schools including:
 - \$3.1 million, including \$256,000 for fit out, for Tannum Sands State School;
 - \$450,000, including \$40,000 for fit out, for Allenstown State School; and
 - \$730,000, including \$52,000 for fit out, for Taranganba State School.
- \$750,000 for a new ambulance station at Emu Park
- \$1 million for the construction of new training facilities to relocate the Central Queensland Institute of TAFE Yeppoon campus
- \$412,000 to construct a duplex in Gladstone for government employee housing.



Queensland Government

Fitzroy

Fitzroy comprises the c

Livingstone, Mount Mo

This Regional Budget Statement for Fitzroy 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 Fitzroy region covers 7% of the State. It is home to 183,521 Queenslanders and some shires within the region are growing at the rate of over 2.5% per year. Key industries within Fitzroy include manufacturing, mining, tourism and agriculture. The industrial city of Gladstone is a major centre for aluminum production and the site of Queensland's largest regional multi-cargo port. It provides a gateway for the export of the region's significant coal resources and agricultural produce. The region is known for hosting

some of Australia's largest sales of stud and commercial cattle, for its gemfields and for the export opportunities afforded by its manufacturing and port facilities.

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 and health services in Fitzroy includes spending in 2004-05 on key initiatives including:

- \$2.8 million over three years for four new renal chairs at the Rockhampton Renal Service and to employ two extra nurses and a skilled indigenous health worker
- \$1.96 million of total Government funding of \$5.2 million to replace current aged care facilities in Springsure
- \$1.1 million for an integrated community health centre at Emerald and staff accommodation
- \$1.35 million for new or replacement ambulance stations at Emu Park and Gemfields/Sapphire.

We have committed \$35.9 million over the next three years to recruit an extra 240 paramedics across Queensland. In 2004-05, \$164,000 will provide four new ambulance paramedics to help save lives, maintain emergency response times and enhance the health and safety of paramedics in the Fitzroy region.

We are providing \$9.09 million to support people with disabilities and their carers in Fitzroy. This includes an estimated \$133,000 for grants to community groups to help local communities support people with a disability and their families and approximately \$611,000 for respite care.

We are working to support low-income families and individuals through providing housing and housing related services. Spending in this region in 2004-05 includes:

- \$14.09 million for public housing construction, upgrades and maintenance programs, including \$2.2 million for the renewal of 58 houses in Gladstone
- \$4.4 million for community housing programs and services to address crisis, transitional and long-term housing needs.

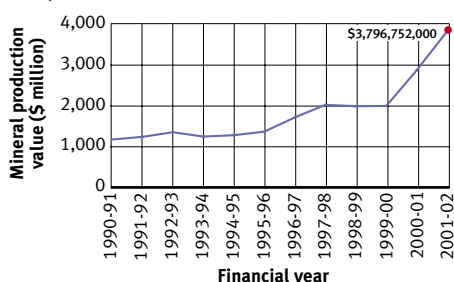
Port of Gladstone



Image courtesy Queensland Tourism

Value of mineral production (\$ million)

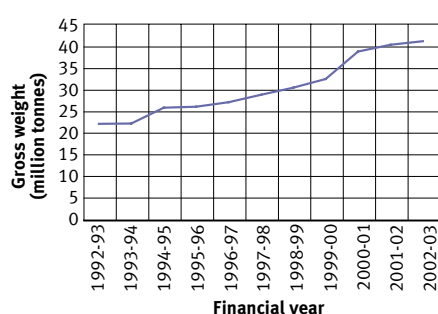
Fitzroy, Queensland, 1990-91 to 2001-02



Source: Department of Natural Resources and Mines (unpublished data)

Exports from the Port of Gladstone (million tonnes)

1992-93 to 2002-03



Source: ABS Foreign Trade (unpublished data)

Above: Coal ship at the Port of Gladstone.

The Port of Gladstone is Queensland's largest regional multi-cargo port. Funding in 2004-05 includes \$58.8 million of \$167.5 million over three years for extension of facilities at the R G Tanna Coal Terminal at Gladstone Port.

ities of Rockhampton and Gladstone, and the shires of Banana, Bauhinia, Calliope, Duaringa, Morgan and Peak Downs. In addition, the region includes the Woorabinda and Boyne Island Aboriginal

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.

We are investing in school infrastructure across the Fitzroy region for the benefit of the region's young people and their education. In 2004-05, funding includes:

- \$3.02 million, including \$242,000 for fit out, to complete the \$3.4 million stage five of Tannum Sands State High School
- \$601,000, including \$54,000 for fit out, to support industrial technology initiatives at Emerald State High School
- \$975,000 under the Cooler Schools program to complete projects worth \$2.14 million for airconditioning in 17 local schools.

In addition, \$948,000 is provided for the Triple R program, which will provide repainting, reticulation and re-roofing for 28 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 \$50 million will be invested in creating around 23,000 training places in the region.

Our commitment to meeting the vocational education, training and employment needs of the Fitzroy community will be assisted by the relocation of the Central Queensland Institute of TAFE Yeppoon campus at a cost of \$1 million.

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



Gracemere salesyard

a new, radically improved system for safeguarding the welfare of Queensland children. The Fitzroy 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.

Building Queensland's regions

In the Fitzroy region, the Government will spend over \$350 million to enhance major rail and port facilities to boost Queensland's export performance. Initiatives in 2004-05 include:

- \$194.8 million by Queensland Rail to maintain and upgrade the Blackwater rail system

- \$58.8 million for the further expansion of the R G Tanna Coal Terminal at Gladstone Port as part of total Government funding of \$167.5 million over three years, with some projects commencing from 2005-06
- \$4.39 million in partnership with the Australian Government, the Gladstone Port Authority and the Calliope Shire Council to finalise construction of the Gladstone Port Access Road to two-lane sealed standard, with a further \$1.5 million to construct a heavy-haulage route to the Port
- \$4.28 million for the Dawson Highway between Gladstone and Biloela, including upgrading the Briffney roundabout from two lanes to four lanes.

CS Energy is spending \$55.18 million to develop and improve the Callide Power Station. This will help ensure reliable electricity supply for the region.

The region's capacity to host entertainment, exhibitions, conferences and horse and livestock sports will be enhanced by the Government's

Yeppoon Western Bypass



Funding of \$3.6 million is provided in 2004-05 as part of a total package of works to construct the Yeppoon Western Bypass and upgrade the Yeppoon-Tanby Road.



\$3 million contribution to the development of the Austadium at Gracemere. Locals and tourists will also benefit from a further \$800,000 for the \$9.5 million development of the Fitzroy Riverbank.

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.

Protecting the environment for a sustainable future

Key initiatives to contribute to the ongoing protection of the natural and cultural heritage of the Fitzroy region include approximately \$302,000 of funding for weed and feral animal management and around \$49,000 for improved fire management. An estimated \$197,000 will be spent on maintaining and upgrading access and facilities in the region, with an additional \$1 million for the strategic acquisition of lands with high conservation value in Fitzroy region and the neighbouring regions of Western Queensland and Darling Downs and West Moreton.

Other initiatives include:

- \$1.81 million for the Abandoned Mine Land Program, most of which will be spent progressing the rehabilitation plan for Mount Morgan and an additional \$3.5 million for the

remediation of dams on the Dee River associated with the Mount Morgan Mine

- \$500,000 for construction of a new Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol Base at Rosslyn Bay to help ensure sustainable use of the region's environmental resources.

In addition, the State Government is assisting Livingstone Shire Council with a \$3.09 million grant towards an overall project cost of approximately \$6.2 million to help Yeppoon gain a new reef-friendly sewage scheme. This will result in less impact on our valuable reef environment.

Growing a diverse economy and creating jobs

The Government continues to work in partnership with the people of Fitzroy to build the region's social and economic strengths. The Fitzroy region will receive around \$5.96 million to create an estimated 767 jobs in 2004-05 through the Government's Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative. This includes \$1.49 million allocated to community employment programs and \$4.47 million for apprenticeship and traineeship incentives to provide jobs in crucial, skills-shortage industries and the public sector.

We continue to invest in Smart State industry and skills which in central Queensland is linked to manufacturing industries. In 2004-05, \$7.17 million will be allocated to support training and skills development requirements of the region's manufacturing base. This includes \$2.34 million to support the region's

Gladstone Harbour Festival



The Gladstone Harbour Festival is an annual Easter event featuring a seven-day Marina Mardi Gras with free live on-stage entertainment, street theatre, buskers, street parade, markets and fireworks. This is combined with a diverse range of sporting and cultural activities around the city and the famous blue water classic – the Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race.

global scale industrial projects centered around the light metals industry.

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

- approximately \$4 million for the development of the Clinton Industrial Estate
- \$1.84 million for the expansion of the region's softwood plantations.

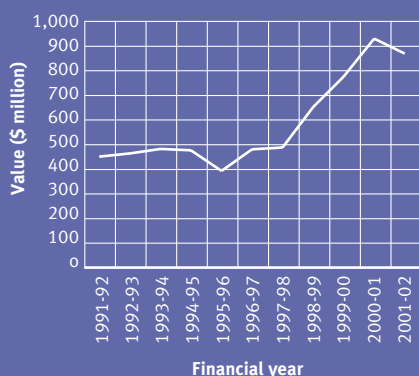
Delivering responsive government

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. In 2004-05, more than \$998,000 is allocated to support regional government offices in working with the Fitzroy community to develop opportunities and address issues.

To enhance the capacity for regional planning and coordination, \$250,000 is allocated under the Central Queensland – A New Millennium initiative, to develop a website that facilitates sharing of planning information.

Agricultural production (\$ million)

Fitzroy, Queensland, 1991-92 to 2001-02



Source: ABS, Agriculture, Queensland (unpublished data)

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 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

Biloela

QGAP

60 Kariboe Street,
Biloela QLD 4715
Telephone 4992 3245
Facsimile 4992 1768
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday - 9am to 4:30pm

Moura

QGAP

Marshall & Shirley Streets,
Moura QLD 4718
Telephone 4997 2244
Facsimile 4997 1388
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday - 9am to 12pm,
1pm to 4:30pm

Mt Morgan

QGAP

Mt Morgan Learning Centre
38 Morgan St,
Mt Morgan QLD 4714
Telephone 4938 1359
Facsimile 4938 1083
Opening hours:
Monday - 11am to 7pm, Tuesday and
Friday - 9am to 1pm, Wednesday and
Thursday - 9am to 3pm

Springsure

QGAP

Eclipse Street,
Springsure QLD 4722
Telephone 4984 1433
Facsimile 4984 1368
Opening hours:
Monday, Wednesday,
Friday - 9am to 4:30pm

Yeppoon

QGAP

Yeppoon Courthouse
Normanby Street,
Yeppoon QLD 4703
Telephone 4939 5385
Facsimile 4939 3023
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday - 9am to 4:30pm

Gladstone

State Development and Innovation Centre

33 Goondoon Street
The Old Gladstone Post Office Building,
Gladstone QLD 4680
Telephone 4971 2300
Facsimile 4971 2333
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday - 8:30am to 5pm

Rockhampton

State Development and Innovation Centre

Level 1
149 Bolsover Street,
Rockhampton
QLD 4700
Telephone 4938 4572
Facsimile 4938 4986
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday - 8:30am to 5pm

Department of Communities -Regional Communities Engagement

Ground Floor
34 East Street,
Rockhampton
QLD 4700
Telephone 4238 4235
Facsimile 4238 4236
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday - 8:30am to 5pm