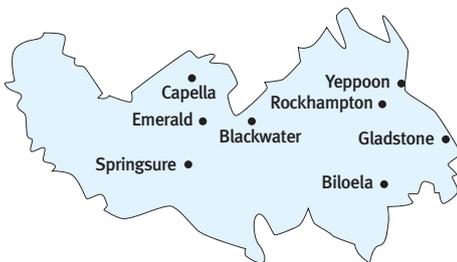




Regional Budget Statement

Fitzroy

State Budget 2006-07



The Fitzroy region comprises the cities of Rockhampton and Gladstone, and the shires of Banana, Bauhinia, Calliope, Duarina, Emerald, Fitzroy, Jericho, Livingstone, Mount Morgan, Peak Downs and Woorabinda.



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 Fitzroy 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

Anna Bligh MP
Deputy Premier and Treasurer

State Budget highlights for the Fitzroy region in 2006-07 include:

- \$360.04 million to continue expanding the RG Tanna Coal Terminal in Gladstone
- Funding to improve sections of the Dawson (\$24.22 million), Leichhardt (\$10.31 million) and Capricorn (\$6.83 million) Highways
- \$8.7 million to continue the consolidation of community health, oral health and mental health services to the Gladstone Hospital Campus
- \$5.6 million to continue the redevelopment of the oral health building at Rockhampton Base Hospital and \$5 million to continue the refurbishment and expansion of the emergency department
- \$1.6 million for research into beef production and \$1.5 million for ongoing genetic improvement of Queensland's beef herd
- \$223,000 to upgrade special education facilities at Rosella Park School and Berserker Street State School.

Fitzroy



Image Courtesy of the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water

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 Fitzroy 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 Fitzroy region includes:

- \$700,000, from over \$60 million State-wide, toward the treatment and care of cancer patients
- \$679,000, from a State-wide commitment of \$18 million, to support community mental health services by employing additional specialist mental health staff
- \$327,000, from a State-wide commitment of \$39 million, for enhanced cardiac services
- \$3.53 million for Indigenous health programs, including funding toward a whole-of-Government Pilot Indigenous Alcohol Diversion Program which will offer eligible offenders the opportunity to undertake alcohol and drug treatment prior to being sentenced.

As a result of funding increases for health services, the region will receive an increase of more than 90 staff in the Banana, Central Highlands, Gladstone, Rockhampton and Central West health service districts.

Covering 7% of the State, the Fitzroy region is home to 189,800 Queenslanders. Manufacturing, mining, tourism and agriculture make significant contributions to the region's economy.

As a Government, we recognise the valuable contribution of the Fitzroy 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 Fitzroy highlights the Government's commitment to the region and its people.

Improving health care and strengthening services to the community

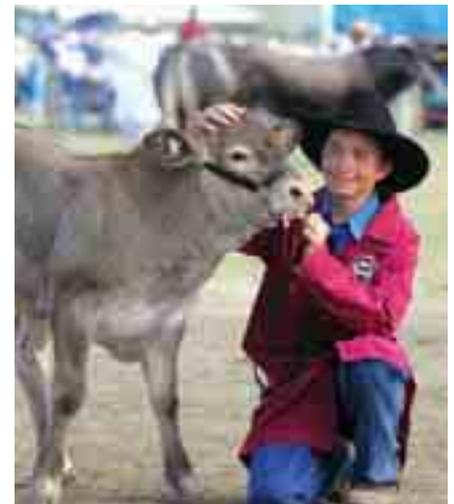
We are committed to providing better hospitals, services and health care for all Queenslanders. Within the Fitzroy region, this commitment includes:

- \$8.7 million to continue the consolidation of community health, oral health and mental health services to the Gladstone Hospital Campus
- \$5.6 million to continue the redevelopment of a new oral health building at Rockhampton Base Hospital and \$5 million to continue the refurbishment and expansion of the emergency department
- \$2 million to begin the construction of a new Yeppoon Hospital
- more than \$1 million to non-Government organisations for a range of community health services.

The Fitzroy region will also benefit from a range of State-wide commitments including:

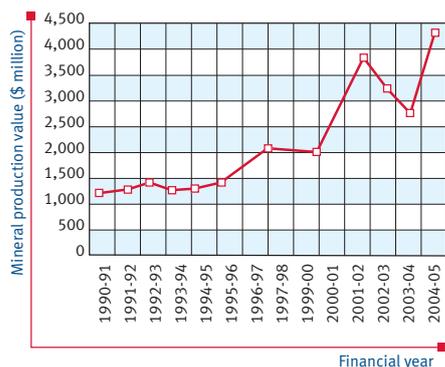
- \$70 million for new health technology equipment
- \$69.3 million to meet the increasing cost of providing existing health services

Beef Australia 2006



Value of mineral production

(\$ million), 1990-91 to 2004-05



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

- \$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
- four new paramedics for the region, fulfilling the Government's \$35.9 million election commitment to recruit 240 extra paramedics State-wide over three years.

The Government is continuing its support for people with disabilities and their carers with a \$10.95 million commitment in Fitzroy including:

- \$4.57 million for community organisations to support individuals with a disability and their families
- \$2.89 million to assist adults with a disability to maintain the living arrangements of their choice and participate in the community
- \$572,000 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 Fitzroy with funding of \$11.65 million. This includes: \$1.12 million to establish a Youth Justice Service in Gladstone and a Regional Service in Rockhampton; \$1.31 million toward domestic and family violence prevention; \$1.16 million for early intervention and family support services; and \$615,000 for child care facilities and services.

We are providing ongoing housing and housing-related services to support low-income families and individuals in Fitzroy in 2006-07, including:

- \$9.56 million for community housing programs and services to address crisis, transitional and long-term housing needs
- \$9 million for new and upgraded public housing
- \$3.36 million for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing rental program and \$3.2 million in grants to construct, upgrade and maintain dwellings in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

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 include \$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.

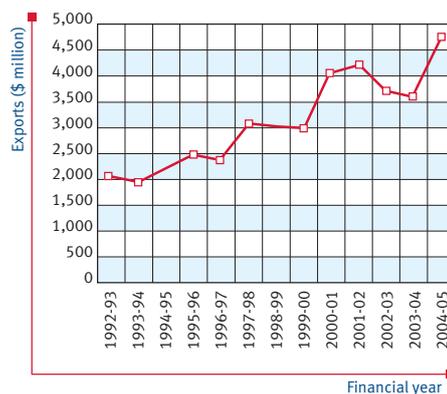
We are committed to providing high-quality education facilities to support Queensland's growing population. In 2006-07, \$2.3 million is allocated in Fitzroy for school capital works including:

- \$1 million investment in school maintenance including \$177,000 of High Priority Maintenance program works

- \$446,000 to upgrade the administration area at Emu Park State School
- \$264,000 to continue the Cooler Schools air-conditioning project across a number of schools
- \$223,000 to upgrade special education facilities at Rosella Park School and Berserker Street State School
- \$153,000 to upgrade library facilities at Tannum Sands State School.

Exports from Port of Gladstone

(\$ million), 1992-93 to 2004-05



Source: ABS Foreign Trade (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:

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

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.

The Government is providing funding for services and infrastructure to enhance community safety in Fitzroy. Key projects for 2006-07 include \$1.9 million to replace a police vessel for the Yeppoon Water Police.



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 83 schools offering Prep Year in the Fitzroy region.

Eden Bann Weir



Image Courtesy of the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water

The Eden Bann Weir on the Fitzroy River supplies water for the Stanwell power station near Rockhampton.

Managing urban growth and building Queensland's regions

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

- \$360.04 million to continue expanding the RG Tanna Coal Terminal in Gladstone
- \$24.22 million to improve sections of the Dawson Highway
- \$10.31 million to upgrade sections of the Leichhardt Highway between Westwood and Taroom
- \$9.39 million to complete the Yeppoon Western Bypass
- \$6.83 million to improve sections of the Capricorn Highway, including \$4.1 million to widen and seal the highway between Dingo and Walton Creek
- \$4.99 million to improve the road between Rockhampton and Yeppoon.

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

- \$26.1 million to improve and overhaul CS Energy's Callide power station

Unemployment rate^a

1994-95 to 2004-05



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

(a) Data based on un-smoothed series

- \$16.5 million for the Lilyvale to Blackwater Powerlink transmission line.

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
- \$8 million to improve the Woorabinda water supply
- \$3.36 million will be expended across the Fitzroy and Mackay-Whitsunday regions to enhance water supply services in Nogoa Mackenzie
- \$1.18 million to refurbish infrastructure in Awoonga, Callide Valley, Dawson Valley and Lower Fitzroy areas.

Queenslanders enjoy a lifestyle with a high level of community participation in a range of sporting activities. In the Fitzroy region, \$1.6 million is allocated to projects including: \$487,100 to extend the Blackwater Police Citizens Youth Club, incorporating training and administration rooms; \$332,500 to construct an amenities building at the Springsure swimming pool; and \$244,729 to construct covered grandstand seating at Browne Park in Rockhampton.

Protecting the environment for a sustainable future

The natural and cultural heritage of Fitzroy 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
- \$7.1 million to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- \$2 million to address water quality and salinity issues specific to the region under the *National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality*

- \$1.96 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 Fitzroy region. In 2006-07, the plan will deliver:

- \$520,000 for new trade apprenticeships as part of a \$3.74 million plan to provide 960 extra training places in the region by 2010
- \$581,000 for new Certificate IV and above training places as part of a \$4.07 million plan to provide 840 additional training places in the region by 2010
- a new Skilling Solutions Queensland centre in Gladstone which will provide face-to-face advice to Queenslanders on training and career opportunities.

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

- \$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
- \$2.84 million to continue biosecurity programs in the region including the National Citrus Canker eradication program
- \$1.6 million for research into genetic and nutritional improvement, animal welfare, best practice grazing systems, and capacity building for beef producers
- \$1.5 million for ongoing genetic improvement of Queensland's beef herd by facilitating the use of artificial breeding technology.

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 our 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 identify strategies which meet 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

Biloela

QGAP Office

60 Kariboe Street
Biloela QLD 4715
Telephone 4992 8700
Facsimile 4992 1768
Opening hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and
Friday – 9am to 4:30pm; Wednesday
– 9:30am to 4:30pm

Moura

QGAP Office

Cnr Marshall and Shirley Streets
Moura QLD 4718
Telephone 4997 2244
Facsimile 4997 1388
Opening hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
– 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 4:30pm;
Wednesday – 10am to 12pm and
1pm to 4:30pm

Mt Morgan

QGAP Office

Mt Morgan Learning Centre (LNQ)
38 Morgan Street
Mt Morgan QLD 4714
Telephone 4938 1359
Facsimile 4938 1083
Opening hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and
Friday – 9am to 2pm;
Wednesday – 9am to 1pm

Springsure

QGAP Office

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

Yeppoon

QGAP Office

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

Emerald

Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water

Government Offices
99 Hospital Road
Emerald QLD 4720
Telephone 4987 9300
Facsimile 4987 9333
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 4:30pm

Gladstone

State Development Centre

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

Rockhampton

Department of Communities – Fitzroy - Central West Queensland Regional Office

Level 3, State Government Building
209 Bolsover Street
Rockhampton QLD 4700
Telephone 4938 6715
Facsimile 4938 4118
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 5pm

Rockhampton

Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water

Level 1, State Government Building
209 Bolsover Street
Rockhampton QLD 4700
Telephone 4938 4600
Facsimile 4938 4800
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 4:30pm

Rockhampton

Office of Economic and Statistical Research

Level 3, State Government Building
209 Bolsover Street
Rockhampton QLD 4700
Telephone 4938 4486
Facsimile 4938 4488
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday – 9am to 5pm

Rockhampton

State Development Centre

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

Rockhampton

Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

Cnr Bruce Highway and Yeppoon Road
Rockhampton QLD 4700
Telephone 4936 0211
Facsimile 4936 0345
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