

# 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.



# Biloela

Moura

## Springsure

# Yeppoon

## Rockhampton

Monday–Friday 8:30am–5pm





# Fitzroy

## 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 Fitzroy region in 2002-03, the Government will spend \$518.9 million on capital works, including:

- \$193.5 million for transport and main roads, including more than \$78 million for Gladstone Port and the Port of Gladstone Access Road;
- almost \$55 million towards common-user infrastructure in the Gladstone area to support current and future projects, such as Comalco's \$1.4 billion alumina refinery, and \$50 million to assist the development of Australian Magnesium Corporation's \$1.3 billion magnesium processing plant at Stanwell;
- more than \$21 million to complete the \$101.5 million raising of Awoonga Dam; and
- \$4.2 million as part of an \$8 million contribution to the Beef Expo in Rockhampton.

In the Smart State, the focus on regions is about more than infrastructure. This Budget will also boost services in the areas of families, education and law and order.

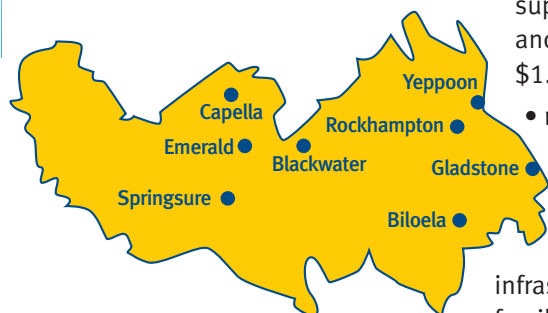
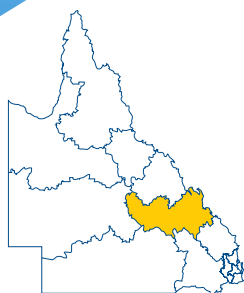
This statement highlights initiatives within your region that have been developed in response to individual community concerns. It shows the Government is passionate about listening to the community. In fact, we spend more time than any other Government listening to thousands of people at community engagement 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 MP  
Premier and Minister for Trade







## An aerial photograph showing a large cargo ship being transported on a flatbed barge. The barge is being pushed or pulled by tugboats in a wide, shallow waterway. In the background, there are industrial structures, including a large bridge or dam, and some land with buildings.

A safe and efficient transport network promotes industry competitiveness and economic development. Major transport projects in Fitzroy in 2002-03 include:

- more than \$78 million for Gladstone Port, including funding for a third berth to increase coal export capacity and the new Gladstone Port Access Road;
- \$7.5 million for work on the Dawson and Capricorn Highways;
- \$6 million for the \$9 million rail spur line to the Stanwell Industrial Park for Australian Magnesium Corporation; and
- \$1.5 million to continue upgrading rail track on the Rockhampton to Townsville line.

A reliable energy supply is critical to growth and the Government's energy corporations will invest significantly in the region in 2002-03.

- Stanwell Corporation will spend \$20.3 million for improvements to its coal-fired base load power station.
- Powerlink Queensland has allocated \$23.2 million for the Gladstone South 132kV substation rebuild and the Stanwell transmission line.
- Ergon Energy will join with Livingstone Shire Council to remove overhead power lines from Yeppoon's foreshore and place them underground. Ergon has also allocated \$4.3 million to ensure supply in Calliope and Theodore and to improve telecommunications infrastructure in Rockhampton.

Water, and its efficient use, is vital for the development of the Fitzroy region. Funding in 2002-03 includes:

- more than \$21 million to complete the \$101.5 million Awoonga Dam raising project; and
- \$8.6 million for water and sewerage infrastructure.

## • 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.

Construction of the Australian Magnesium Corporation's \$1.3 billion magnesium processing plant at Stanwell is due to commence later this year. The Government will provide \$50 million in 2002-03 as part of an assistance package for the plant, which will be the largest in the world and make Queensland an international centre for light metal production.

In addition, Stanwell Corporation is allocating \$30.1 million towards installing shared plant with AMC for the supply of power, steam, water and other services. Over the next 15 years, the plant is expected to stimulate \$4.5 billion of investment, employ at least 2,000 people and create a further 5,000 indirect jobs in the region.

Fitzroy will also share in \$30,000 to improve the competitiveness of the heavy engineering and steel fabrication sector.

To ensure our workers have the skills required for major projects such as these, the Government has established the \$2 million Central Queensland Training Strategy to provide responsive employment and training programs.

Through the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiatives, it's anticipated that \$7.5 million will be spent in Fitzroy for employment programs targeted at the long-term unemployed, mature-age job seekers, trainees and apprentices, young people and Indigenous people.

Investing in the Smart State means investing in education and training. 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, Fitzroy will share in the allocation of:

- 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.

Education and training funding for the region includes:

- \$1.5 million to complete a student centre and performing arts block at Tannum Sands State High School and \$372,000 for the Cawarral State School administration and library upgrade;
- \$622,000 for improvements to the Central Queensland Institute of TAFE;
- \$320,000 for two new classrooms at Calliope State School and \$289,000 to complete the \$2.8 million Gladstone State High School renewal project;
- \$285,715 for the Learning and Development Centres (Technology) at Warraburra State School and \$86,000 to support gifted and talented students at Denison State School; and
- \$130,000 for the New Basics initiative at Gladstone State High School and State Schools at Biloela, Goovigen, Jambin, Mt Murchison, Prospect Creek and Thangool to equip students with critical thinking, problem solving and lifelong learning skills.

## • 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. Over the next three years, an additional 30 police will be appointed to the Rockhampton District.

impression of the  
energy Park upgrade

(far right) Santa  
Gertrudis calves

A Tactical Crime Squad with seven officers will commence operations in Rockhampton in July 2002 to target crime hotspots and drug offenders.

Extensions to the Tannum Sands police station will be completed in the coming year. Work will commence on the Boyne Island ambulance station and residence and the joint Emergency Services Centre in Yeppoon will be completed.

## • 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.

The Government is improving the health of Queenslanders in the Fitzroy region through:

- the completion of the \$26.2 million redevelopment of Rockhampton Hospital;
- a new multi-purpose health services facility at Springsure;
- the implementation of the Better Health Outcomes Project in Rockhampton and Wooralinda;
- a new primary health centre at Boyne Valley; and
- new funding of \$514,000 for mental health and forensic services.

The Government has allocated more than \$13 million for housing projects in Fitzroy in 2002-03. We will also fund \$532,000 for Home Assist Secure Schemes to allow elderly people in the region to remain in their own homes longer, with improved safety and quality of life.

Fitzroy residents will also benefit from the Government's ongoing commitment to screen all windows and doors of dwellings in the Dengue Fever Zone.

Services for people with a disability and their families will be boosted through:

- \$270,000 to improve disabled access to rail services; and
- approximately \$170,000 for new and enhanced family support and respite services.

To encourage individuals and communities to be healthy, we will spend \$2.4 million on new multi-purpose sport and recreation centres at Theodore and Gladstone and the extension of Gladstone's existing multi-purpose facility.

Local shows play an important role in bringing together communities in regional Queensland. This Budget provides \$131,000 under the Showground Subsidy Scheme for showground improvements in the Yeppoon, Mount Morgan, Banana and Mount Larcom areas.

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, and the Millenium Arts Regional Program.

In Fitzroy in 2002-03, these initiatives will provide:

- \$857,000 to complete and market the Mount Morgan Mining Centre cultural tourism project;
- \$1.1 million for the Gladstone Museum and Art Gallery; and
- \$1 million for the Rockhampton Customs House.

To enable regional Queenslanders to participate more in Government decision-making, a Community Engagement Division has been formed in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. The Division maintains the Regional Communities program comprising a network of regional offices, including one in Rockhampton.

## • Valuing the environment

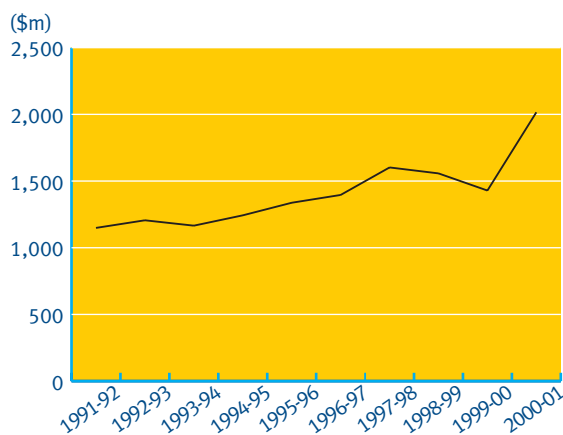
Queensland is Australia's most naturally diverse State and the Government is committed to protecting our environment and its biodiversity for current and future generations.

Fourteen new rangers will be employed in the Rockhampton, Gladstone, Daringa and Emerald areas.

The \$100,000 Gladstone Airshed Modelling project will establish six monitoring stations to predict the air quality impacts from industries proposing to locate at Gladstone.

Facilities in Mount Etna Caves, Blackdown Tableland and Capricorn Coast National Parks will be upgraded with funding of \$345,000.

**Export of coal from the Port of Gladstone  
1991-92 to 2000-01**



Source: ABS, Foreign Trade (unpublished data)

