

Queensland State Budget 2008–09

Mackay–Whitsunday

Regional Budget Statement



Image courtesy of Tourism Queensland

Tandem skydiving over Airlie Beach

Queensland is experiencing the most sustained period of economic and population growth in its history.

In shaping the 2008-09 Budget, the Government has chosen to build tomorrow's Queensland today.

The State's prosperity is generating unprecedented demand for housing, healthcare, schools, transport, other essential services and vital infrastructure throughout Queensland's regions.

The Budget delivers massive injections of funding to our public hospitals and healthcare system. It funds the biggest capital works program in the State's history.



Anna Bligh MP
Premier

It increases services to the regions and delivers vital long-term social and economic infrastructure for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

A centrepiece of this Budget is tax cuts to help Queenslanders purchase their first home.

Queensland's success is built on the success of our regions, from the fast-paced expansion of the south-east corner to the agricultural

heartlands, the booming hubs of mining activity and the vibrant growth of coastal areas.

This document sets out the Government's investment commitment to address the changing needs of the Mackay–Whitsunday region.



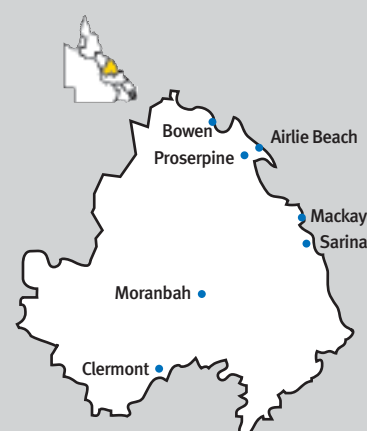
Andrew Fraser MP
Treasurer

State-wide Highlights

Key priorities of the 2008-09 Budget are congestion management, housing affordability, delivering on the Health Action Plan and strengthened community services.

- Tax savings of up to \$9,500 for first homebuyers
- Full abolition of mortgage duty from 1 July 2008
- Record 17% increase in health spending
- Increased rebates and tax breaks for older Queenslanders
- 200 new police officers
- 250 new ambulance officers and 145 new vehicles
- 270 new teachers
- \$100 million boost for school maintenance over two years through the Tomorrow's Schools initiative
- \$20 million for ClimateSmart Home Services
- \$20 million increase to develop community sport and recreation facilities
- \$5.9 million boost to support front-line child protection workers

Mackay–Whitsunday



Every five years the Census provides a snapshot of Australian society. It measures many characteristics including our age and



birthplace, language spoken and religion, if we need assistance to perform everyday activities or to participate in community life and the work we do (paid or unpaid) and how we get there.



What did the 2006 Census reveal about **your** community? Take a look below for a snapshot of life in the Mackay-Whitsunday region.

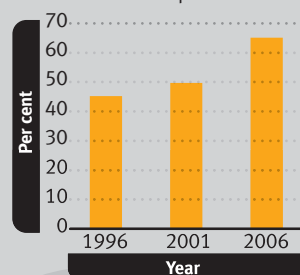
The work we do

Engineers, project managers, electricians, nurses, sales representatives, cashiers – Mackay-Whitsunday residents work in a diverse range of jobs. Census data shows 11.7% of people living in the Mackay-Whitsunday region are employed in the mining industry, while the retail trade industry accounts for 10.8% of employment. Construction (9.6%), accommodation and food services (8.3%) and manufacturing (8.1%) are the other major employment industries in this rapidly growing region.

Our qualifications

Strong population growth in the Mackay-Whitsunday region has brought with it an increase in the number of skilled workers. Just over 65%¹ of people living in our region now hold 'beyond'² school qualifications – almost a 20 percentage point increase compared to 1996 Census results (see graph). Of these qualifications, almost 16% are degree or higher, 9.5% are advanced diploma or diploma and 43.7% are certificate level. Almost one third Mackay-Whitsunday residents who identified with having a 'beyond' school qualification did not indicate the level of education received.

Beyond school qualifications
% of persons 15 years and over with a non-school qualification



How much we earn

We've certainly noticed an increase in the cost of living over the years, and as it rises so too does our income. At the time of the 1996 Census, the median weekly household income for the Mackay-Whitsunday region was \$606. In 2006 the median weekly income for households in our region was \$1,067 – that's 76% more than we earned 10 years earlier³.

¹ Aged 15 years and over with a usual residence in the Mackay-Whitsunday region at the time of the 2006 Census.

² 'Beyond' school qualification referred to as non-school qualifications in Census data.

³ Based on 2006 Census data.

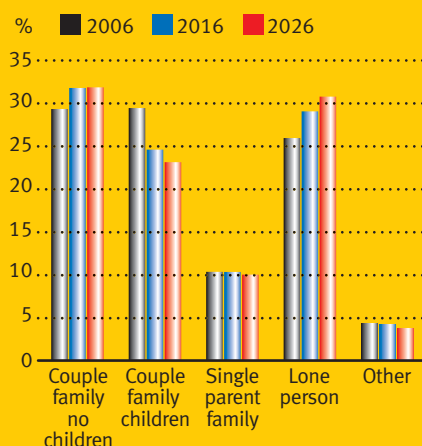
Household projections

Families come in all shapes and sizes and between now and 2026 we can expect to see a lot more of them. But what type of family will occupy most Queensland homes? For the last decade most Queensland households have consisted of couples with children. However household projections forecast that, over the next decade and beyond, the make-up of homes throughout our State will dramatically change.

Throughout our State an ageing population, declining fertility rates among younger couples, and baby boomers becoming 'empty nesters' will result in the number of couples without children and lone person households taking over as the most common types.

Take a look to the right to see how households in the Mackay-Whitsunday region are likely to change between now and 2026.

Mackay–Whitsunday
Household composition



Source: Data are based on medium series projections and are sourced from Department of Infrastructure and Planning, Population, Information and Forecasting Unit, Household projections Queensland Local Government Areas 2007.

The national Census telling it like it is

Covering an area of 90,346 square kilometres or around 5.2% of the State, Mackay-Whitsunday is home to almost 4% of Queensland's total population. Over 163,000¹ Queenslanders now call our region home – that's 2% more than the year before².

Boasting national parks, pristine beaches, a range of tourism, educational, sporting, cultural, leisure, arts and recreation facilities, this growing region is sought after for its quality, unique environment and enviable and sustainable lifestyle. Add to this a strong economy driven by coal mining, agribusiness and tourism and you can see why more and more people are choosing this region in which to work, live and play.

The Queensland Government recognises the role Mackay-Whitsunday has played in increasing our State's prosperity and sustaining its economic and social growth.

This Regional Budget Statement highlights the Government's commitment to our region and its people.

¹ Population data as at 30 June 2007, Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Regional Population Growth* (cat no 3218.0).

² Population data as at 30 June 2006, Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Regional Population Growth* (cat no 3218.0).

Healthy individuals and communities

We are committed to improving and sustaining the health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders by investing in infrastructure and services that will strengthen our public health system, promote healthier lifestyles and enhance confidence and safety in our communities.

As part of the Government's continued commitment to meet the growing needs of the community, in 2008-09 spending on health and safety infrastructure and initiatives in the Mackay-Whitsunday region will include:

- \$5.3 million to commence construction on the new \$405 million Mackay Base Hospital
- \$3 million to complete the replacement multipurpose health services facility in Collinsville.

The Queensland Government continues to invest in emergency services infrastructure including \$6.8 million to replace the police station, watchhouse and residence in Whitsunday at a total project cost of \$11.6 million.

The Government will continue its support for those in our community who are most vulnerable with commitments for the Mackay-Whitsunday region in 2008-09 including:

- \$7.1 million for the Home and Community Care initiative
- \$3.3 million to support people with a disability through a range of programs
- \$1.3 million over four years to establish new residential care facilities to accommodate children with complex needs and extreme behaviours
- \$1.2 million for counselling and support services for victims of domestic and family violence
- \$800,000 over four years to establish additional out-of-home care placements for children in care
- \$700,000 to help non-Government organisations provide mental health services in the region
- \$700,000 for short-term and time-limited respite support for families of people with a disability.

Building infrastructure

Planning and delivering the infrastructure needed to provide essential and efficient

Airlie Beach Triathlon

In its tenth year, the Airlie Beach Triathlon has come a long way since its humble beginnings in 1999. Run by the Whitsunday Triathlon Club, the event is now a multi-event weekend of competition, attracting professional and amateur sporting enthusiasts of all ages.



Photograph supplied courtesy of Airlie Beach Triathlon



services to our rapidly growing communities – now and in the future – is one of our key priorities. Significant economic activity arising from strong global demand for Queensland's resources has resulted in high demand for energy and other inputs.

The Government's infrastructure investments in the Mackay-Whitsunday region to underpin the region's economic development include:

- Almost \$173 million to be invested in the region's electricity network capacity and reliability, including:
 - \$73.2 million to construct a transmission line between Nebo and Strathmore;
 - \$56 million to reinforce electricity supply to the coal ports and surrounding area of Hay Point/Dalrymple Bay; and
 - \$43.6 million for a new substation at Glenella and upgrades at Airlie Beach.
- \$800,000 as part of \$17 million over three years to purchase land for a dam on the Connors River.

Government funding in 2008-09 as part of the Coal Infrastructure Program of Actions will ensure the timely and commercial delivery of coal-related infrastructure in the region to meet expected short term and future demand through initiatives such as:

- \$400 million to improve rail infrastructure as part of the \$500 million Jilalan Yard Upgrade

- \$357 million for the Abbot Point Coal Terminal, including:
 - \$250 million of \$818 million towards the terminal's X50 Expansion to increase its capacity to 50 million tonnes per annum;
 - \$70 million as part of a total of \$95 million towards the terminal's X25 Expansion to increase its capacity to 25 million tonnes per annum; and
 - \$35 million towards the \$68.3 million renewal of the terminal's stacker reclaimers 1 and 2.
- \$32.5 million towards the duplication of the track between Broadlea and Wotonga
- \$16.8 million towards replacing the St Lawrence River Bridge
- \$14.4 million for preliminary works between the Goonyella rail system and the Abbot Point Coal Terminal as part of \$46.1 million for planning and preconstruction works related to the Northern Missing Link project.

Regional development

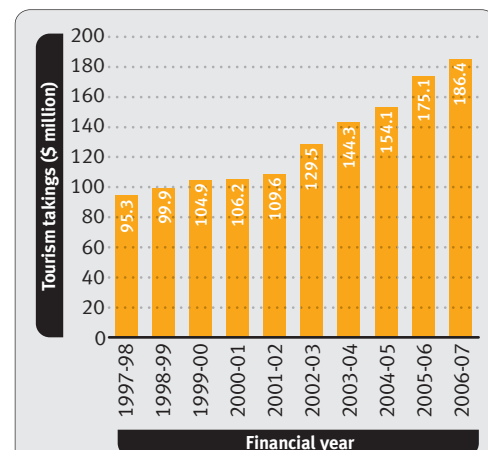
Regional development is at the heart of Queensland's economic future and the Government is laying the foundation for future economic growth and prosperity for all Queenslanders by responding to the growth needs of the region.

In 2008-09 we will deliver the following key infrastructure and regional development initiatives in Mackay-Whitsunday:

- \$66 million to duplicate the Forgan Bridge
- \$11.6 million to construct the Hospital Bridge at Mackay

Tourism

Takings, 1997-98 to 2006-07



Source: ABS, *Tourist Accommodation, Queensland* (8635.3.40.001 and 8635.3)



Mackay Base Hospital

The Queensland Government is committed to improving the health of all Queenslanders and to meeting the growing needs of the community. In 2008-09, \$5.3 million will start the construction of the \$405 million Mackay Base Hospital. Above: bird's-eye view of the proposed hospital.

- \$8.1 million to improve the reliability and supply of water including \$6.2 million for the Sarina Water Supply Pipeline
- \$1.6 million towards establishing the Mackay Renewable Biocommodities Pilot Plant
- \$800,000 to construct boat ramps at Freshwater Point, Aspley Way and Bucasia and the widening of the ramp at Sarina Inlet.

Economic growth

Queensland's economic growth is supported by rising productivity and increasing labour force participation. The Government remains committed to expanding the productive capacity of the Queensland economy through initiatives that develop infrastructure, promote education and training and facilitate research and innovation.

Commitments for the Mackay-Whitsunday region in 2008-09 include:

- \$32.2 million to deliver over two million hours of vocational education and training in the region, including \$600,000 to provide additional trades training places as part of the Queensland Skills Plan. This is expected to create an additional 780 training places in the Mackay-Whitsunday region by 2010
- \$14.4 million towards developing a specialist trade training centre in Mackay
- \$6.6 million to widen the Mackay-Bucasia Road
- \$6.2 million to widen the Rockleigh-North Mackay Road at Twelve Mile Creek to four lanes between Sams Road and Barnes Creek Road
- \$5.5 million to complete replacement of the bridge and approaches at Twelve Mile Creek.

The Mackay-Whitsunday region will also benefit from \$2.1 million to provide employment and training assistance to 195 people.

Closing the gap with Indigenous communities

The Queensland Government, in partnership with the Australian Government, is committed to closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians through a range of measures to enhance the health, safety and wellbeing of Indigenous communities including:

- \$3.5 million to construct, purchase or upgrade homes and land for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing rental program
- \$800,000 State-wide to enhance Indigenous agribusiness development
- \$200,000 for non-Government organisations aimed at improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- the employment of an Indigenous Employment and Training Support Officer to support trainees and maximise employment opportunities for Indigenous job seekers.

Housing affordability

The Queensland Government is committed to improving housing affordability for those Queenslanders hardest hit by the current economic environment.

In addition to the substantial tax relief to be introduced by the Government in 2008-09 for

first home buyers, low-income families and individuals in the Mackay-Whitsunday region will receive:

- \$11.9 million to construct, purchase and upgrade public housing and purchase land. This will involve purchasing or completing 30 homes and commencing the construction of a further 17 homes
- \$2.7 million towards affordable rental accommodation
- \$2.3 million for community housing programs and services to address crisis and long-term housing needs.

Education and early childhood development

Giving every child every chance to learn in the best possible environment is a priority for the Government. This is reflected in our 2008-09 commitment to the Mackay-Whitsunday region of an additional \$3.1 million for school maintenance programs and \$1.9 million in capital works investment in schools, including:

- \$625,000 to complete additional amenities at Homebush State School
- \$590,000 to complete replacement amenities at Mackay North State School
- \$300,000 for additional amenities at Bowen State High School



Helping Queenslanders under financial pressure

With household budgets under increasing stress from rising interest rates, higher rents and mounting grocery and fuel prices, the Government is committed to taking the pressure off Queensland families.

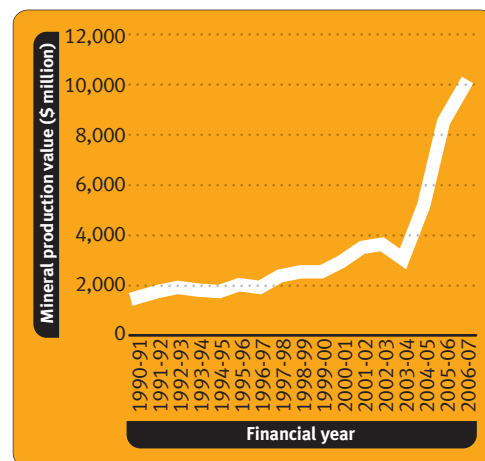
Each year the Government offers relief to many Queenslanders through discounts, rebates and subsidies to help improve their access to, and meet the cost of, a range of services including discounted rail and taxi fares, reduced car registration costs, exemption from the community ambulance levy and cheaper electricity bills. In 2008-09 these concessions are estimated to have a total value of around \$1 billion.

However the Queensland Government recognises more and more families are 'doing it tough' and is acting on its commitment to help Queenslanders make ends meet.

On top of the existing concessions, the 2008-09 State Budget sees the implementation of a major housing affordability strategy that will provide relief for Queenslanders who are buying or renting their homes.

The Government will also spend \$570 million in 2008-09 in further relief as it tackles the rising cost of fuel by ensuring all Queenslanders receive the full 8.354 cents per litre fuel subsidy.

Value of mineral production 1990-91 to 2006-07



Source: Department of Mines and Energy (unpublished data)

- \$350,000 for additional amenities at Nebo State School
- \$60,000 to subsidise undercover walkways at Seaforth State School.

Prevention and early intervention

The Queensland Government is focused on developing and supporting prevention and early intervention strategies or initiatives that are targeted at disadvantaged areas, individuals and/or population groups.

In 2008-09 the Government will commit:

- \$900,000 to deliver gambling related community development and support services and coordinate community centre-based activities
- \$900,000 to support Mackay-Whitsunday families, including early intervention programs to improve the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children and their families
- \$800,000 over four years for a Family Intervention Service which will strengthen child protection services by providing direct support to families in their own home
- \$600,000 to non-Government organisations to minimise the harm associated with alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and help with alcohol and drug rehabilitation.

Managing climate change and protecting the environment

The Government is committed to minimising harm to the environment by using and promoting modern and effective environmental management techniques.

In 2008-09 the Government will allocate \$30 million for new climate change initiatives from the proceeds of the Queensland Climate Change Fund. The first major initiative of the Fund is a ClimateSmart Home Service to provide Queenslanders with tools to monitor and reduce their energy use to deliver savings in household electricity costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2008-09 the Government will invest \$1.8 million in projects at Whitsunday Islands National Park as part of the More Great Walks in Queensland program.

In addition, \$8.4 million will be provided for the day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and \$450,000 to implement the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan to halt and reverse the decline in the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef.

Queensland State Budget Highlights 2008–09

Budget summary

Strong economic growth maintains record low unemployment

- Economic growth in Queensland is forecast to strengthen to 4¼% in 2008-09, outstripping the nation for the 13th year in a row.
- With jobs growth again outpacing the nation, the unemployment rate is estimated to fall to a 34-year low of 3¾% in 2007-08 and remain there in 2008-09, taking it below the national rate for the fifth consecutive year.

Strong finances

- A General Government operating surplus of \$809 million is forecast in 2008-09.
- The State's net worth is budgeted to grow from \$123 billion at 30 June 2008 to over \$140 billion by 30 June 2012 – reflecting Queensland's position of holding the strongest balance sheet in the nation.
- Interest expenses in the General Government sector is budgeted at just 1.5% of revenue in 2008-09.

Competitive taxes

- Queensland maintains its competitive tax status, with taxpayers in other states and territories to pay an average of \$274 more state tax each than Queenslanders in 2008-09.
- The 2008-09 Budget provides tax relief to make housing more affordable. From 1 July 2008, the home and first home transfer duty concession thresholds will be increased from \$320,000 to \$350,000. The first home concession threshold will be further increased from 1 September so that no transfer duty will be payable on a first home valued up to \$500,000.
- Mortgage duty will be abolished in full from 1 July 2008 – another saving to those taking out home loans.
- There are also land tax cuts, including specific measures to benefit Queensland's elderly such as exempting aged-care facilities.
- While already having the nation's lowest pay-roll tax rate, further relief will benefit 6,800 businesses in Queensland.

Delivering for Queensland

The 2008-09 State Budget delivers a massive boost to health, with a record Budget allocation of \$8.352 billion.

The Budget funds new hospitals and upgrades at locations across the State. Areas of increasing demand such as emergency departments and birthing services are a key focus.

There is a \$100 million boost to school maintenance to deliver a record program for the next two years – part of the \$6 billion Budget allocation to the Department of Education and Training. This funding includes 270 new teachers and teacher aides to meet enrolment growth and 4,250 additional trade training places to help address skills shortages.

To boost front-line services, 200 new police and 250 new ambulance officers are funded. The Budget also provides for 145 new ambulance vehicles as part of a record emergency services allocation.

A new \$20 million ClimateSmart Home Service will assist Queensland households to meet the challenges of climate change.

An increase in the electricity rebate and other tax breaks will assist older Queenslanders.

With tax cuts to assist Queenslanders break into home ownership, this is a Budget focussed on the future and delivering the front-line services a growing state needs.

Government services in Mackay–Whitsunday

Cannonvale

QGAP

Shops 5-7, 11 Island Drive
Cannonvale QLD 4802
E-Mail manager.qgap_cannonvale@transport.qld.gov.au
Telephone 4948 2981
Facsimile 4948 2899
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 9am to 4.30pm
(Wednesdays opens 9.30am)

Clermont

QGAP

44 Daintree Street
Clermont QLD 4721
E-Mail courthouse.clermont@justice.qld.gov.au
Telephone 4983 1233
Facsimile 4983 3164
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 9am to 4.30pm

Collinsville

QGAP

64 Sonoma Street
Collinsville QLD 4804
Telephone 4785 5567
Facsimile 4785 5789
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 9am to 12.30pm, 2pm to 4.30pm

Mackay

Department of Natural Resources and Water

22-30 Wood Street
Mackay QLD 4740
Telephone 4967 0820
Facsimile 4957 4005
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 4.30pm

Mackay

Department of Communities – Mackay-Whitsunday Regional Office

Level2, Day and Night Pharmacy Building
67-69 Sydney Street
Mackay QLD 4740
Telephone 4967 1022
Facsimile 4967 4447
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 5pm

Mackay

Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry

Level 2, Post Office Square
67-69 Sydney Street
Mackay QLD 4740
Telephone 4967 1099
Facsimile 4967 1079
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 5pm

Middlemount

QGAP

Middlemount Shopping Centre
Middlemount QLD 4746
E-Mail middlemount.qgap@qld.gov.au
Telephone 4985 7255
Facsimile 4981 2888
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8.20am to 12pm and 12.45 to 4.45pm

Mirani

QGAP

20 Victoria Street
Mirani QLD 4754
E-Mail mirani.qgap@qld.gov.au
Telephone 4959 1842
Facsimile 4959 1275
Opening Hours QGAP: Monday to Friday – 9am to 3pm
Opening Hours Council: Monday to Friday – 8am to 4.30pm

Moranbah

QGAP

21 Griffin Street
Moranbah QLD 4744
E-Mail courthouse.moranbah@justice.qld.gov.au
Telephone 4941 7633
Facsimile 4941 5743
Opening Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday – 9am to 4.30pm
Thursday – 9am to 6pm

Sarina

QGAP

Broad Street
Sarina QLD 4737
E-Mail courthouse.sarina@justice.qld.gov.au
Telephone 4956 1820
Facsimile 4943 1009
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 9am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4.30pm

Other services

Smart Service Queensland

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

State Emergency Service

Telephone 132 500

13 HEALTH

Telephone 13 43 25 84

