

Regional Budget Statement Mackay-Whitsunday

State-wide Highlights

The 2009-10 Budget will support and create jobs by continuing the Government's capital works program for roads, schools and hospitals as well delivering new job creation programs and initiatives to expand Queensland's skills base.

- \$3.53 billion for better and safer roads
- \$464.77 million on major hospital developments
- \$301 million to build and renew school facilities through the State Schools of Tomorrow program
- \$101 million for the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative
- 203 new police officers
- 50 new ambulance officers
- 350 new teachers and teacher aides
- 645 new doctors, nurses and allied health professionals
- \$3.06 million for the Support Our Heroes package to support emergency service volunteers and prepare communities for natural disasters
- \$36 million over three years for new tourism campaigns
- \$96 million over five years for new climate change initiatives
- \$50 million over six years for the Great Barrier Reef Protection Package.



As a part of the global economy, Queensland has felt the effects of the global financial and economic crisis. The worst set of global economic circumstances in more than 75 years has resulted in falling revenues and rising unemployment.

That's why the centrepiece of the 2009-10 State Budget is jobs – creating and sustaining jobs, assisting business and industry, and positioning our economy for future growth.

Specific investments in education, employment and training, business and vital industries such as tourism will help create and support jobs for Queenslanders.

The Queensland Government is investing \$18 billion in its jobs-generating building program, with



Anna Bligh MP
Premier
and Minister for the Arts

injections of funding for roads, ports, schools, transport and other vital infrastructure.

Frontline service delivery is our focus with commitments for police, hospitals and healthcare, ambulance services and teachers – the things we need to keep our communities healthy, safe and growing. The Government is determined to cushion Queenslanders from the

full impact of the global recession. That means acting now to support the economy and making the long term decisions needed for the future.

Queensland's prosperity and growth is built on the strength of our regions. This document puts on record the Government's commitment to the people and economy of the Mackay-Whitsunday region.



Andrew Fraser MP
Treasurer and Minister for Employment
and Economic Development



Cane harvesting at Mackay

Protecting jobs in Mackay-Whitsunday

As the global economic crisis takes hold and Queensland's economic growth rate slows, the Government is committed to protecting the jobs of today and creating the jobs of tomorrow.

The Government's job programs are more important than ever before and will play a crucial role in supporting Queensland workers through these uncertain economic times.

The Government will implement a host of initiatives that will create new jobs and equip our workforce with the skills needed for future recovery.



Productivity Places Program

A \$414 million industry-based program (including \$259 million in Australian Government funding) to deliver almost 150,000 new training places over four years.



Tourism Blueprint to Protect Jobs

A \$37.8 million program to create 1,000 new jobs for new, regionally-focussed tourism market and product development campaigns, and to support the 'drive travel' market.



Sustainable Resource Communities

A \$25 million program to create 500 new jobs over the next 12 months by boosting employment in regional areas affected by the mining downturn.



Payroll tax apprentice and trainee incentives

A \$15 million scheme to assist Queensland businesses that employ apprentices and trainees. In addition to the payroll tax exemption provided for apprentice and trainee wages, businesses will also receive a 25% rebate on payroll tax for other equivalent employees in 2009-10.



Queensland Green Army

A \$57 million program to create 3,000 new jobs over three years by putting an army of unemployed Queenslanders to work to improve our waterways, beaches, national parks and green spaces.

Green Army participants will work on projects of strategic importance to enhance and protect Queensland's natural assets, strengthen the tourism industry and promote increased environmental awareness around the State.

It will create 2,300 jobs through work placements of up to six months and 700 year-long Green Traineeship positions for young, unemployed Queenslanders.

For more information about the Green Army, visit www.greenarmy.qld.gov.au.



Photograph supplied courtesy of the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation



Covering an area of 90,346 square kilometres or 5.2 per cent of the State, Mackay-Whitsunday is home to almost 4 per cent of Queensland's total population. Almost 170,000¹ Queenslanders now call the Mackay-Whitsunday region home.

This region's diverse economy includes mining, agribusiness and tourism, and boasts a world-class manufacturing and engineering services sector together with an abundance of high-quality sporting, education and training facilities. The region also boasts four major ports, well-established road and rail transport networks and three major commercial gateways.

The Queensland Government recognises the valuable contribution Mackay-Whitsunday makes to the State's economic and social development. This Regional Budget Statement highlights the Government's commitment to get on with the job of supporting the region and its people.

1 Population data as at 30 June 2008, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Population Growth (cat. no. 3218.0).

Delivering jobs for Queensland

Jobs are the Government's number one priority. Faced with challenging global economic conditions, the Government will create and protect jobs to help keep Queensland strong and secure our economic foundations.

In 2009-10, the Government will drive Queensland's \$18 billion building infrastructure program to stimulate growth, create and protect jobs and meet the infrastructure needs of our rapidly growing population.

Key building projects in the Mackay-Whitsunday region include:

- \$304.9 million towards the \$913 million expansion of Abbot Point Coal Terminal
- \$178.3 million towards the \$500 million Jilalan Rail Yard upgrade
- \$138 million towards construction and improvement of rail tracks in the region
- \$55.9 million to establish a new electricity substation at Bowen North and to construct a transmission line to connect it to the existing Strathmore substation
- \$32 million to construct a new substation at Glenella to reinforce electricity supply to North Mackay
- \$15 million to reinforce electricity supply to the Airlie Beach area
- \$4.5 million for infrastructure enhancements at the Port of Mackay
- \$4 million towards upgrading Whitsunday Airport.

As well as protecting jobs now, the Government is preparing for the future. By developing the skills base of Queensland workers, supporting emerging industries, building on traditional strengths, and attracting investment and innovation, Queensland will be well positioned to lead Australia through the period of recovery and beyond.

In 2009-10, other job-generating investments in the Mackay-Whitsunday region include:

- \$33.4 million for vocational education and training activities
- \$12 million to continue the \$46.1 million development of a specialist trade campus in Mackay
- \$2.21 million to create 360 jobs for young people and those disadvantaged in the labour market through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative, which includes Queensland's Green Army.

Investing in our health

To make Queenslanders Australia's healthiest people, the Government is investing in healthy lifestyles, hospitals and other frontline health services to ensure Queenslanders receive the best possible healthcare when illness strikes.

During the next three years, the Queensland Government aims to employ more than 3,500 additional doctors, nurses and allied health professionals across the State. In addition, \$7.9 million will be spent to train and recruit fully accredited nurse practitioners to reduce emergency department waiting times.

Mackay-Whitsunday Regional Budget Statement



In 2009-10, the Government will also provide funding for the following State-wide initiatives:

- \$464.77 million towards major hospital capital works
- \$30 million for the expansion of the Surgery Connect program to deliver additional elective surgery procedures
- \$1 million additional funding for new maternity services under the Mums and Bubs program to provide one-on-one midwifery support in Proserpine and other locations across the State
- \$900,000 for newborn and family drop-in clinics to provide specialist advice to new parents in Proserpine and other locations across the State. This is part of the Universal Postnatal Contact Service program.

In 2009-10, individuals and families in the Mackay-Whitsunday region will also benefit from the following treatment and healthcare initiatives aimed at maintaining healthy, strong communities:

- \$61 million to continue the \$405.6 million Mackay Base Hospital redevelopment, which will provide more operating theatres, a dedicated coronary care unit and a larger intensive care unit
- \$7.75 million for the Home and Community Care initiative
- \$5.75 million to support people with a disability
- \$3.82 million to improve community sport and recreation facilities
- \$2.78 million to support the homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless
- \$1.2 million to help Queenslanders remain in their homes or in the private rental market
- \$587,000 to support victims of domestic violence
- \$560,000 to complete the Middlemount Community Health Centre Extension, funded as part of the Sustainable Resource Communities initiative
- \$297,000 to provide specialist counselling services for families with complex or special needs
- \$194,000 for non-government organisations to employ chronic disease health workers to

Fostering innovation

\$1.5 million (total funding of \$3.1 million) from the Innovation Building Fund to establish the Mackay Renewable Biocommodities Pilot Plant. The first of its kind in Australia, the plant will become a long-term resource for developing biomass utilisation technologies for sugar-based and other industrial crops.



Photograph supplied courtesy of Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads

Forgan Bridge

The Queensland Government remains committed to investing in infrastructure in Mackay-Whitsunday to support and create jobs, and meet the region's growing infrastructure needs. In 2009-10, the Government will invest \$37.6 million to build the new Forgan Bridge (pictured) and approaches on Barnes Creek Road.

provide a variety of screening services in the areas of nutrition, physical activity, alcohol, child health, and sexual and reproductive health

- \$169,000 to support implementation of the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

Renewable energy and the environment

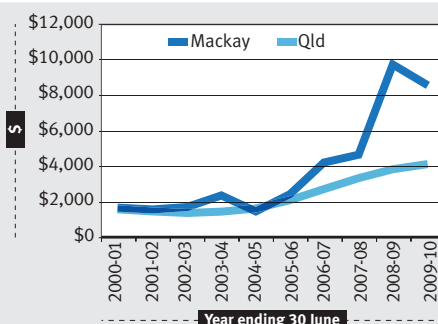
The Queensland Government is committed to the fight against climate change and reducing Queensland's carbon footprint by one-third by 2020. Across the State, the Government is investing an additional \$95.83 million over five years in new climate change initiatives, including \$15.6 million for disaster management, \$15 million for the ClimateSmart Business Service, \$8 million for the Energy Efficiency Retrofit program, \$4.5 million to extend the Rural Water Use Efficiency initiative, and \$52.7 million on energy conservation and demand management initiatives.

The Government will also create new green jobs by investing in emerging industries and renewable energy projects, such as the Solar Hot Water Program. This program will provide up to 200,000 Queensland homes with solar hot water or heat pump systems at a fraction of the normal price.

Other initiatives aimed at protecting the Mackay-Whitsunday region's natural environment include:

- \$468,000 as part of a \$936,000 grant to Whitsunday Regional Council for a Historical Foreshore Plaza, the Catalina Commemorative Area and the Sinclair Soundshell
- \$456,000 to improve facilities at Eungella National Park
- \$410,000 to complete the Whitsunday Islands Great Walk in the Whitsunday National Park
- \$43,560 as part of an \$87,000 grant to Isaac Regional Council for a Water Loss Management System.

Capital investment per capita 2000-01 to 2009-10



Source: ABS, Regional Population Growth, Australia and New Zealand, Cat no. 3218.0

Better and safer roads

The Government's \$3.53 billion road building program plans for growth by creating and sustaining Queensland jobs, improving road safety and quality, reducing congestion, and continuing to connect people and places around the State.

In 2009-10, the Government's commitment to improve road quality and safety in the Mackay-Whitsunday region will include:

- \$37.6 million to construct the \$148 million Forgan Bridge and approaches on Barnes Creek Road, due for completion in 2010-11
- \$8.7 million in Australian Government funding for the \$33.3 million 'four-laning' of the Bruce Highway southern approaches to Mackay, between Temples Lane and Farrellys Lane, due for completion in 2011-12
- \$8 million to complete the \$20 million construction of the Joint Levee Road in North Mackay
- \$6.9 million to complete the \$7.2 million replacement of the Twelve Mile Creek bridge and upgrade the approaches on the Oxford Downs-Sarina Road
- \$4.6 million to build overtaking lanes and safer intersections on the Peak Downs Highway near Nebo between Cut Creek and Retreat Creek. This project will equate to 38 full-time jobs and will significantly bolster the \$7.5 million upgrade already underway.



Queensland State Budget 2009–10

Promoting education and early childhood development

The Queensland Government is focussed on ensuring every Queensland child has access to high-quality education. The emphasis will be on the essentials of literacy, numeracy and science, as well as major infrastructure investment to provide first-rate teaching and learning environments, and generate employment opportunities.

In 2009-10, the Queensland Government will provide \$301 million to continue the State Schools of Tomorrow program to improve and build new facilities in some of Queensland's oldest schools.

As part of the Government's commitment to universal access to a quality early childhood education, joint Queensland and Australian Government funding of \$15.4 million under the Early Childhood Reform National Partnership will be provided in 2009-10 for the establishment of kindergarten infrastructure on 15 State school sites with 240 new or extra kindergarten services to be running by 2014.

The Government will further invest in the Mackay-Whitsunday region with \$6.3 million in joint Queensland and Australian Government funding to construct a \$7.8 million combined trade training school and industry trade centre for Mackay North State School.

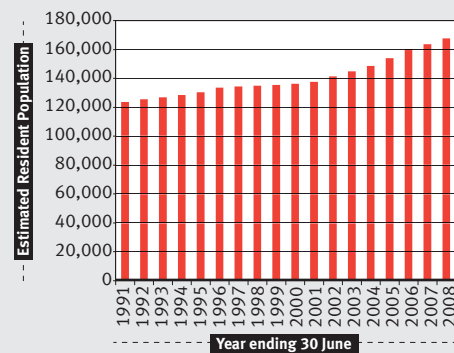
Improving emergency services

Over the past year, Queensland has experienced devastating floods, cyclones and torrential storms. The Government's investment in emergency services will help make Queensland communities safer, provide quality emergency relief services, and create and sustain jobs.

In 2009-10, individuals and families across Queensland will benefit from:

- \$57.03 million for new and upgraded police stations and facilities
- \$22.2 million for nine new or improved urban fire and rescue stations, and improvements to emergency service facilities
- \$20.93 million for 150 new ambulance vehicles, including 140 replacement vehicles and 10 additional vehicles
- \$19.25 million for 20 new or redeveloped ambulance facilities
- \$14.8 million for 57 new or replacement urban and rural fire and rescue appliances
- \$1.84 million (\$7.34 million over four years) to increase safety for rural firefighters under the \$12.98 million Support our Heroes package
- \$1.22 million (\$5.64 million over five years) for vehicles, flood boats and trailers for the State Emergency Service under the \$12.98 million Support our Heroes package.

Estimated Residential Population, 1991 to 2008^{(a)(b)}



(a) Data for year ending 30 June

(b) All years are standardised to ASGC 2006

Source: ABS, Regional Population Growth, Australia and New Zealand, Cat no. 3218.0

The Mackay-Whitsunday region will also benefit from the following initiatives aimed at improving emergency services:

- \$1.19 million to construct and upgrade a State Emergency Service facility and ambulance station at Moranbah
- \$100,000 to complete a vital upgrade to the Eimeo Surf Lifesaving Club.



Get on board with Q150 celebrations

Queensland has come a long way since its birth as a separate colony 150 years ago. To celebrate this milestone, the Government is bringing Queenslanders together to honour the importance of our people, places and stories in shaping our great State.

With more than 480 community events and 91 social, historic and community legacy infrastructure projects happening around the State, there's something for everyone to enjoy – including the historic Q150 Steam Train and travelling Q150 Shed.



To find out more about Q150 celebrations in the Mackay-Whitsunday region and across Queensland, visit the Q150 website at www.q150.qld.gov.au

Queensland State Budget Highlights 2009–10

Budget summary

Internationally Australia is a standout performer; Queensland to remain ahead of the nation

- Queensland's economy is expected to expand by $\frac{1}{2}\%$ in 2008-09, compared with no growth in the Australian economy.
- The State economy is forecast to experience a slightly milder contraction than the national average in 2009-10.
- Year-average employment growth is forecast to be $1\frac{1}{4}\%$ in 2010-11, compared with $\frac{1}{2}\%$ over the year to June quarter 2011 for Australia as a whole.
- Queensland's year-average unemployment rate is forecast to peak at $7\frac{1}{4}\%$ in 2010-11, compared with a peak in the national rate of $8\frac{1}{2}\%$ in June quarter 2011.

Challenging fiscal environment

- A deteriorating global and domestic economic environment has significantly impacted Queensland's finances.
- Since the 2008-09 Budget, \$15 billion over 4 years has been knocked off the State's key revenue sources (GST, taxes and royalties).
- As a result, Queensland is forecasting a General Government operating deficit in 2009-10 and across the forward estimates.
- The Government is committed to returning the Budget to surplus and lowering the State's debt levels and, consequently, has implemented around \$5.4 billion worth (over four years) of measures aimed at improving Queensland's fiscal position.
- The Government has undertaken steps to repair the State's finances for the longer term, charting a course back to surplus by 2016-17.

Investing in infrastructure to sustain jobs

- The Government's key objective is to continue to invest in infrastructure to sustain jobs while the current economic circumstances prevail.
- The 2009-10 capital program is forecast to be \$18.2 billion which is expected to support 127,000 full-time jobs.
- In 2009-10 there will be capital outlays of \$7.307 billion for transport and main roads, \$1.447 billion for housing and homelessness services, \$1.837 billion for education and training, \$1.296 billion for health, and \$1.121 billion for water.

Delivering for Queensland

In 2009-10, the Government will provide \$20.3 million for intensive teaching of Year 3 and 5 students who are not meeting national literacy and numeracy standards.

The Budget will also provide for an additional 350 teachers and teacher aides to meet enrolment growth.

Queensland Health's budget will grow to \$9.037 billion in 2009-10, an 8.2% increase on the previous year.

An additional \$30 million will be provided for Surgery Connect to provide treatment opportunities for patients currently waiting longer for surgery than is clinically recommended.

The 2009-10 Budget will see funding provided for an additional 50 ambulance officers, 150 new ambulances, 20 new or redeveloped ambulance facilities, nine new or improved urban fire and rescue stations, 23 new or replacement urban fire and rescue appliances and 34 new or replacement rural fire appliances.

Government services in Mackay-Whitsunday

Cannonvale

QGAP

Shops 5-7, 11 Island Drive

Cannonvale QLD 4802

Telephone: 4948 2981

Facsimile: 4948 2899

Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday – 9am to 4:30pm;
Wednesday – 9:30am to 4:30pm

Clermont

QGAP

44 Daintree Street

Clermont QLD 4721

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 then 2pm to 4:30pm

Mackay

Department of Communities – Mackay-Whitsunday Regional Office

Level 2, Healthpoint Pharmacy Building

67-69 Sydney Street

Mackay QLD 4740

Telephone: 4967 4420

Facsimile: 4967 4425

Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 5pm

Mackay

Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

Post Office Square

Level 2, 2 Sydney Street

Mackay QLD 4740

Telephone: 4967 1022

Facsimile: 4967 4447

Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 5pm

Mackay

Department of Environment and Resource Management – Business Centre

22-30 Wood Street

Mackay QLD 4740

Telephone: 4967 0820

Facsimile: 4957 4005

Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 4:30pm

Mackay

Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries

30 Tennyson Street

Mackay QLD 4740

Telephone: 4944 7800

Facsimile: 4944 7811

Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 5pm

Middlemount

QGAP

Middlemount Shopping Centre

Middlemount QLD 4746

Telephone: 4985 7255

Facsimile: 4981 2888

Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 8:20am to 12pm then
12:45pm to 4:45pm

Mirani

QGAP

20 Victoria Street

Mirani QLD 4754

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

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

Telephone: 4956 1820

Facsimile: 4943 1009

Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 9am to 12:30pm then 1:30pm
to 4:30pm

Other services

Smart Service Queensland

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

State Emergency Service

Telephone: 132 500

13 Health

Telephone: 13 43 25 84

Green Army

Find out more or register your interest in joining the Green
Army by calling 1800 249 215 (Monday to Friday – 8am to
6pm) or online at www.greenarmy.qld.gov.au

Rapid Response Team

A hotline (1800 035 749) is available for retrenched workers
who require information about Federal and State Government
assistance