

Mackay - Whitsunday

State Budget

05-06



Premier's Message

My Government is continuing our investment in public infrastructure and services to meet the current and future needs of all Queenslanders.

We are also committed to working to ensure we create opportunities for Queensland's future prosperity and to continue building on the Smart State's strong and stable foundations by supporting the leading edge research technologies.

This Regional Budget Statement outlines the Government's ongoing investment in the Mackay-Whitsunday's regional infrastructure and details important regional initiatives in 2005-06.

My Government is meeting the needs of the people in Mackay-Whitsunday through infrastructure initiatives and services, especially in the areas of transport, training, education, health and housing.

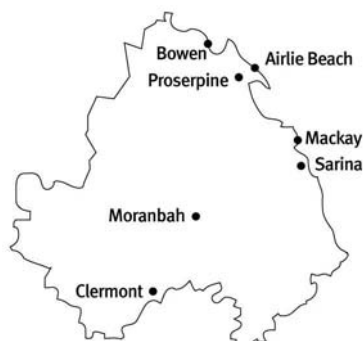
In 2005-06, our infrastructure initiatives will enable the Mackay-Whitsunday region to use the opportunities the region has to offer. This Statement demonstrates a significant commitment to the long-term viability of the region.

My Government will continue to work with the people of Mackay-Whitsunday to create employment and lifestyle opportunities for all Queenslanders.

Peter Beattie MP
Premier and Minister for Trade

State Budget highlights for the Mackay-Whitsunday region in 2005-06 include:

- \$50 million for the Stage 1 and 2 expansions at the Abbot Point Coal Terminal, potentially increasing terminal capacity by an additional 10 million tonnes per annum
- \$13 million to dredge the Port of Hay Point departure channel
- \$17.31 million to construct and upgrade projects on the Goonyella rail network
- \$10 million to progress the northern missing rail link between the Goonyella and Newlands rail systems
- \$6.9 million to upgrade facilities at Mackay airport including:
 - extending the runway;
 - extending the security car park;
 - extending the public car park; and
 - expanding the airport sterile security lounge.
- \$2.13 million to complete Sandy Creek and Sawn Creek bridge replacements along the Peak Downs Highway between Nebo and Mackay
- \$795,000, including \$40,000 for fit out, to construct additional amenities at Proserpine State High School.



→ The Mackay-Whitsunday region comprises Mackay City and the shires of Belyando, Bowen, Broomsound, Mirani, Nebo, Sarina and Whitsunday.



Queensland Government

Smart State

The Queensland Government's increased capital outlays in the 2005-06 Budget reflect our commitment to broadening our infrastructure base in order to better meet the social and economic needs of our growing population. Capital expenditure across the State in 2005-06 will be \$8 billion, an increase of 32% or \$1.9 billion, on estimated actual 2004-05 capital outlays. This allocation reflects the Government's ongoing commitment to regional and rural Queensland, with almost 60% of capital expenditure occurring outside the Brisbane Statistical Division.

Mackay - Whitsunday

➔ **\$38.17 million investment in the energy supply system in the region, including \$23.2 million on the Nebo to Broadsound transmission line (supplying North Queensland), the Mackay transmission line and refurbishment of substations that supply the electrified rail network in the Bowen Basin by Powerlink Queensland and \$14.97 million for major projects to meet the demands of urban development and expansion of coal mining in the Bowen Basin by Ergon Energy**

➔ **\$50 million for stages one and two of the expansion of Abbot Point Coal Terminal**



Image courtesy Natural Resources and Mines

➔ **\$6.9 million in total to upgrade facilities at the Mackay airport**

➔ **\$7.05 million to upgrade building, drainage and equipment at the Mackay Seaport**



Image courtesy Queensland Tourism

This Regional Budget Statement for the Mackay-Whitsunday region highlights the Government's 2005-06 spending commitment to this region and its people. As a Government, we recognise the regions' valuable contributions to making Queensland the Smart State and providing services to over 3.9 million people. In this Budget we have allocated nearly 60% of capital expenditure outside the Brisbane Statistical Division.

The Mackay-Whitsunday region covers 5.2% of the State. The region is home to 146,000 Queenslanders and 4.1% of the State's Indigenous population. The region's unemployment rate is 4.6%. The Mackay-Whitsunday region enjoys a diverse local industry, with the main industries being sugar growing and processing, coal mining, cattle production, and hospitality. The region is home to an international port with the largest coal loading facilities in the Southern Hemisphere. Tourism is also a major industry, based on the area's natural and cultural heritage, climate and lifestyle.

Improving health care and strengthening services to the community

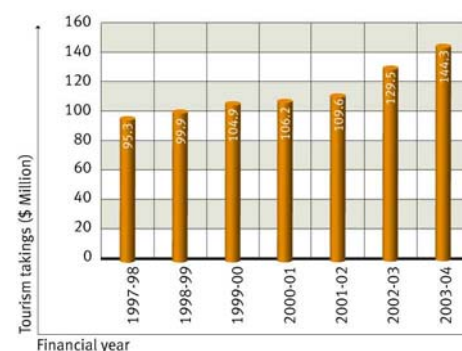
We are committed to providing better hospitals, services and health care for all Queenslanders. Within the Mackay-Whitsunday region, this commitment includes spending on initiatives such as:

- \$5.14 million to redevelop Collinsville Hospital and investigate its potential to act as an integrated health and aged care facility
- \$3.02 million to provide an improved consultation area for specialist outpatients at the Mackay Hospital
- a total of \$2.35 million to buy medical equipment for the Mackay, Moranbah and Bowen Health Service Districts.

We have committed \$7.05 million to support people with disabilities and their carers in the region, including \$163,000 to assist young adults with a disability who are leaving the State's care to maintain their choice of living arrangements and to participate in their community.

Tourism

takings (\$ million), 1997-98 to 2003-04



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

Airlie Beach



Image courtesy Queensland Tourism

Realising the Smart State through education, skills and innovation

The Premier launched the latest Smart State Strategy on 18 April 2005.

Smart Queensland: Smart State Strategy 2005-2015 establishes the strategic framework for using innovation and skills to drive economic growth to improve prosperity and quality of life for all Queenslanders.

In 2005-06, \$334,000 has been allocated to the BioBus, which will

provide travelling biotechnology education and public awareness exhibitions to rural and regional Queensland schools. An additional \$140,000 has also been allocated in capital expenditure for ongoing enhancements of the exhibition.

The Government will provide \$400,000 in 2005-06 to support research to assess prospects for the development of a cane toad specific toxin bait by the Australian Invasive Animal Cooperative Research Centre.

We are investing in school infrastructure across the Mackay-Whitsunday region for the benefit of young people and their education. In 2005-06, funding includes estimated expenditures of:

- \$795,000, including \$40,000 for fit out, to construct additional amenities at the Proserpine State High School

Craftsman at Mackay Markets



Image courtesy Queensland Tourism

Participation in post secondary education, apprenticeships and traineeships

1998-99 to 2003-04



Source: DET, Apprenticeships and traineeships, (unpublished data)

Additional support of \$52,000 for community organisations will enable them to increase their capacity to continue to support people with a disability and their families.

Community groups will receive \$5.01 million to provide services in the region, including \$294,000 for child care, \$1.09 million for community support, \$602,000 for domestic violence prevention, \$367,000 for prevention and early intervention services to support vulnerable children, young people and their families, \$1.79 million to support people at risk of homelessness, \$63,000 to link older people with their community, and \$811,000 for youth development and justice.

We are working to support low-income families and individuals through housing and housing related services. Spending in this region in 2005-06 includes:

- \$5.96 million for new and upgraded public housing
- \$2.66 million to construct, purchase or upgrade dwellings, and purchase land for future construction of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rental housing
- \$2 million for community housing programs and services to address crisis, transitional and long-term housing need.

In 2005-06 the Government has funded organisations across the State to build or upgrade sport and recreation facilities. \$2.12 million for projects in the Mackay-Whitsunday region includes:

- \$1.2 million to the Mackay Cricket Association Inc to upgrade the cricket oval at Harrup Park
- \$365,600 to the Nebo Shire Council to construct a roof structure over an existing equestrian arena and to construct new facilities at Nebo.

- \$790,000, including \$63,000 for fit out, to build a multi-purpose covered area at the Mackay West State School
- \$696,000 including \$56,000 for fit out, to upgrade the special education facilities at Mackay District Special School
- \$684,000, including \$55,000 for fit out, to upgrade a classroom at Andergrove State School.

Protecting our children and enhancing community safety

The Government is continuing to build a radically improved child protection system. A record \$394.8 million operating budget, up 45% since last year, will be spent this year to safeguard the welfare of Queensland's children. The Mackay-Whitsunday region will benefit from the unprecedented increase of \$123 million for State-wide initiatives such as:

- \$28.8 million for additional permanent frontline and support staff
- \$19.6 million for extra alternative care places, extended family reunification services, foster care by non-government agencies and for sexual abuse counselling services
- \$13 million on foster care allowances and a further \$9 million for child related costs.

Augmenting this is a capital program of \$58.8 million which includes:

- \$25 million in additional funding over two years (\$19.2 million in 2005-06) to expand the number of Child Safety offices across the State
- \$25.3 million for the roll-out of a new IT system to better manage client files and departmental business.

Investment in services and infrastructure to enhance community safety within the Mackay-Whitsunday region includes \$1.85 million to complete the new Sarina Police Station, \$3.02 million for a new police station at North Mackay and \$2.4 million to continue to upgrade existing facilities at the Bowen Courthouse.

Building Queensland's regions

Efficient and integrated transport networks are important for the ongoing development of regional Queensland. In the Mackay-Whitsunday region, major transport infrastructure initiatives include:

- \$67.86 million for major Queensland Rail acquisition and construction projects within the region, including \$10 million to progress the detailed feasibility and engineering study for the northern missing rail link between the Goonyella and Newlands rail systems
- \$50 million for the stage 1 and 2 expansions at the Abbot Point Coal Terminal, potentially increasing terminal capacity by an additional 10 million tonnes per year
- \$13 million for the dredging of the Port of Hay Point departure channel, potentially increasing port capacity by an additional 1.8 million tonnes per year
- Upgrading landside and airside facilities at Mackay Airport including:
 - extending the runway;
 - extending the security car park;
 - extending the public car park; and
 - expanding the airport sterile security lounge.
- \$7.05 million to upgrade drainage, buildings and equipment at Mackay Seaport
- \$1.82 million to repair pavement between the open level crossing east of Two Mile Creek and Mossvale turnoff on the Bowen Developmental Road between Bowen and Collinsville
- \$7.58 million for a joint project with Newlands Coal Pty Ltd to upgrade the Collinsville to Elphinstone Road

- \$4.7 million for improvements to Mackay to Bucasia Road, including George Fordyce Drive intersection improvements and upgrading of sections to four lanes.

Investment in the electricity system in 2005-06 includes:

- \$23.2 million on the Nebo to Broadsound transmission line (supplying North Queensland), the Mackay transmission line and refurbishment of substations that supply the electrified rail network in the Bowen Basin by Powerlink Queensland
- \$14.97 million for major projects to meet the demands of urban development and expansion of coal mining in the Bowen Basin by Ergon Energy.

The region's long term viability is being enhanced by infrastructure projects including:

- \$1.24 million to local governments in the region for road and drainage works
- \$2 million to develop existing and proposed new landholdings within the South Mackay Industrial Estate to provide additional industrial sites.

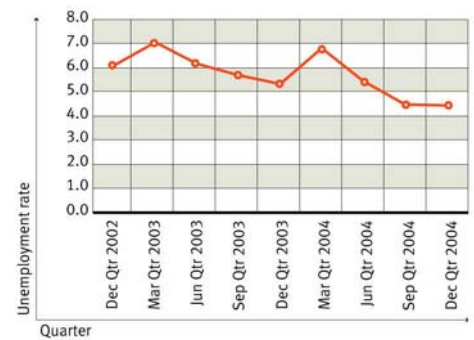
The Government, in partnership with AgForce and rural Queenslanders, is developing a Blueprint for the Bush. The Blueprint will be a long term plan which will include practical strategies to support sustainable rural communities.

Protecting the environment for a sustainable future

The natural and cultural heritage of Mackay-Whitsunday is valued by all Queenslanders. This is reflected in our commitment of \$926,000 for improvements to National Parks and State Forests including:

Unemployment rate ^a

Quarterly



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

(a) Data based on un-smoothed series.

- implementation of Broken River Master Plan for Eungella National Park
- Mackay Highlands Great Walk in Crediton State Forest
- Nara Inlet development in Whitsunday Islands National Park
- Newry Island Bush Camp in Newry Islands National Park
- extending and refurbishing the National Parks and Wildlife Service Whitsunday District Office.

Growing a diverse economy and creating jobs

The unemployment rate in the Mackay-Whitsunday region was 4.6% during the December quarter 2004, and has fallen by 4.4 percentage points since the December quarter 1996. The Government continues to work in partnership with the people of Mackay-Whitsunday to build on the region's economic potential.

The Government's Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative provides training and job opportunities to Queenslanders. \$1.08 million is allocated in 2005-06 to community employment programs and \$3.04 million for apprenticeship and trainee incentives to provide jobs in crucial, skills-shortage industries and the public sector.

Delivering responsive government

The Queensland Government continues to engage with local communities, businesses and other government agencies to better coordinate services and identify strategies to meet local needs, including through regular Ministerial Regional Community Forums and Community Cabinets.

\$44.56 million will be spent State-wide in 2005-06 (\$125.5 million over the project life) to provide technology to improve business processes across government agencies. This project will generate long term savings and improve service delivery throughout the State.

Waterskiing on Brampton Island



Image courtesy Queensland Tourism

Budget summary

Achieving strong economic growth and historic low unemployment rates

- Queensland's year-average unemployment rate is expected to fall to a 30-year low of 5% in 2004-05 and to remain at this historically low level in 2005-06.
- Queensland's employment continues to grow and, at 5¾% and 2½%, is expected to exceed the rest of Australia in 2004-05 and 2005-06, respectively.
- The State is expected to continue to grow more rapidly than the rest of Australia in 2005-06, representing the 10th consecutive year of performance above that of the other states.

Strong finances

- A General Government net operating surplus of \$934 million is forecast in 2005-06.
- The expected 2004-05 operating result of \$2.725 billion reflects the strength of the economy and investment markets.
- Beyond 2005-06, smaller operating and cash surpluses are forecast, primarily reflecting costs associated with significant investment in new infrastructure, the abolition of a number of State taxes, and the assumption of investment returns in line with long run averages.
- The State's net worth is budgeted to grow from \$85 billion at 30 June 2005 to in excess of \$93 billion by 30 June 2009.

Competitive taxes

- Queensland's competitive tax status has been maintained, with taxpayers in other states and territories paying on average 25% more state tax than Queenslanders in 2005-06.
- A land tax relief package will significantly reduce the number of Queenslanders paying land tax and provide rate reductions for all land tax payers, at a cost of \$847 million over four years.
- Debits tax and six stamp duties will be progressively abolished, beginning 1 July 2005. Queenslanders will save \$3.5 billion over seven years from the abolition of these State taxes.

Delivering on our priorities

Improving health care and strengthening services to the community

- The health budget increases by \$413 million or 8.4%, including service enhancements across the State.
- \$115.1 million in capital funding and \$120.4 million in recurrent funding has been allocated over four years to further develop responses to homelessness.
- An additional \$180 million over four years is provided to enhance disability services, including respite, emergency and crisis care.

Realising the Smart State through education, skills and innovation

- \$80.1 million will improve the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) environment in schools and improve ICT access and the skills of students and teachers.
- \$291.9 million in recurrent and \$62.7 million in capital funding in 2005-06 will support training initiatives under the \$1 billion SmartVET strategy, including additional traineeship places in new and emerging industries, and further funding for the Mining Centre of Excellence to reduce skills shortages affecting the Queensland mining industry.

Protecting our children and enhancing community safety

- An overall funding increase of \$123.1 million will enhance child protection services.
- Police staffing and resources will be enhanced and \$231 million is allocated over three years to upgrade and extend various correctional facilities.

Managing urban growth and building Queensland's regions

- Capital spending will be boosted to \$8 billion, \$1.9 billion more than last year's record program.
- The South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program identifies capital projects amounting to around \$55 billion. Over the next four years, approximately \$2 billion is allocated over current Budget commitments.

Protecting the environment for a sustainable future

- \$58 million in recurrent funding and \$25 million in capital funding has been allocated over four years to manage an estimated additional 3.46 million hectares of Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service estate.
- \$10 million over four years will support Queensland organisations to adopt resource efficient practices to improve the way they do business.

Growing a diverse economy and creating jobs

- More than \$470 million is provided over four years to support the Government's 10-year Smart State Strategy. This includes \$136 million in recurrent and \$64 million in capital funding over four years for three new Smart State grants programs to build research centres and support innovation in fields including health and medicine, agriculture and mining.
- The Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative will continue to provide employment programs for Queenslanders aimed at reducing skills shortages and improving the employability of job seekers.

Government services in your region

For information on government services and activities in the Mackay-Whitsunday region, please contact the offices listed below. Additional contacts are available on the Government gateway at www.qld.gov.au or by ringing Smart Service Queensland on 13 13 04.

Cannonvale

QGAP Office

Shops 5-7, 11 Island Drive
Cannonvale QLD 4802
Telephone 4948 2981
Facsimile 4948 2899
Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
– 9am to 4:30pm; Wednesday – 9:30am to 4:30pm

Clermont

QGAP Office

44 Daintree Street
Clermont QLD 4721
Telephone 4983 1233
Facsimile 4983 3164
Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 9am to 4:30pm

Collinsville

QGAP Office

64 Sonoma Street
Collinsville QLD 4804
Telephone 4785 5567
Facsimile 4785 5789
Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 9am to 12:30pm and
2pm to 4:30pm

Middlemount

QGAP Office

Middlemount Shopping Centre
Middlemount QLD 4746
Telephone 4985 7255
Facsimile 4985 2888
Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 8:20am to 12pm and
12:45pm to 4:45pm

Mirani

QGAP Office

20 Victoria Street
Mirani QLD 4754
Telephone 4959 1842
Facsimile 4959 1275
Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 8am to 4:30pm

Moranbah

QGAP Office

21 Griffin Street
Moranbah QLD 4744
Telephone 4941 7633
Facsimile 4941 5743
Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
– 9am to 4:30pm; Thursday – 9am to 6pm

Sarina

QGAP Office

Broad Street
Sarina QLD 4737
Telephone 4956 1820
Facsimile 4943 1009
Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 9am to 12:30pm and
1:30pm to 4:30pm

Mackay

Department of Communities – Mackay-Whitsunday Regional Office

Level 1, Post Office Square
71-73 Sydney Street
Mackay QLD 4740
Telephone 4944 8600
Facsimile 4957 2334
Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 5pm

Mackay

State Development and Innovation Centre

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

