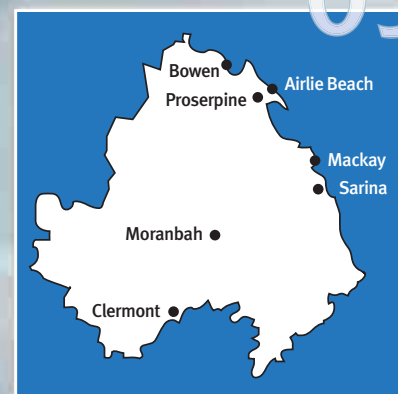
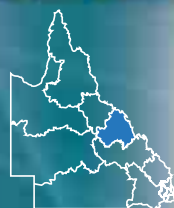




Mackay-Whitsunday



Hogs Breath Yacht Race, Airlie Beach, Whitsundays



Premier's Message

My Government is continuing our investment to ensure a positive future for all Queenslanders.

We are committed to work with all to ensure we create opportunities for our regions and to continue building on the Smart State's strong and stable foundations.

This Regional Budget Statement outlines the Government's ongoing investment in the Mackay-Whitsunday region and its delivery on key election commitments for 2004-05.

The Government is meeting the needs of the people of Mackay-Whitsunday through these initiatives and by improving services, especially in the areas of health, employment, education and child safety.

In 2004-05, our Smart State initiatives in education and training will enable the region to harness the creativity and talent within the community. This Statement demonstrates a significant commitment to a strong and prosperous Mackay-Whitsunday region.

My Government will work with the people of Mackay-Whitsunday to continue creating opportunities for all Queenslanders to grow and enjoy a better quality of life.

Delivering on our election commitments for the Mackay-Whitsunday region, the 2004-05 State Budget highlights include:

- \$2 million as part of total Government funding of \$6 million to begin lane widening on the Mackay-Bucasia Road between George Fordyce Drive and Golf Links roundabout
- \$3.2 million provided as part of \$33 million over three years for the Queensland Government's State Sugar Industry Reform Package
- \$1.2 million for improvements to Mackay Base Hospital
- \$148,000 for LiveScan fingerprinting technology for the Mackay Watchhouse
- \$430,000, including \$21,000 for fit out, for additional toilets at Pioneer State High School
- \$339,000, including \$31,000 for fit out, to complete the \$659,000 agricultural science initiative at Sarina State High School
- \$51,000, including \$5,000 for fit out, to commence the \$648,000 practical learning activities project at Bowen State School, to be completed in 2005-06
- \$417,000 to establish a Neighbourhood Police Beat at Seaforth
- \$153,000 for the Whitsundays Great Walk.



Mackay-Whitsunday

This Regional Budget Statement for Mackay-Whitsunday outlines the Government's State Budget 2004-05 spending commitment to this region and its people. As a Government, we recognise the regions' valuable contributions to making Queensland the Smart State and home for over 3.8 million people. In this Budget we have allocated 60% of capital works funding for regions outside Brisbane.

The Mackay-Whitsunday region covers 5.2% of the State. It is home to 139,790 Queenslanders and growing at the rate of 1.2% per year. Some areas within the region are growing at rates as high as 2.7% per year. Mackay-Whitsunday 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. Health services in the Mackay-Whitsunday region will benefit from:

- \$1.2 million as part of total Government funding of \$2.3 million for improvements to Mackay Base Hospital

- \$3 million as part of total Government funding of \$9 million for five new community-based stroke rehabilitation teams, one of which will be based in Mackay
- \$1.1 million in 2004-05 for health providers to purchase medical equipment
- \$3 million to support non-government organisations to provide health and health related community services.

Funding of \$5.85 million is provided to upgrade facilities and equipment to

support people with disabilities and their carers in this region. This includes \$1.06 million to assist adults with a disability to maintain the living arrangements of their choice and participate in their community.

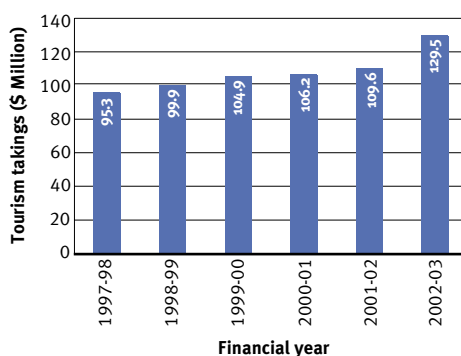
We are working to support low-income families and individuals through providing housing and housing related services. Spending in this region in 2004-05 includes:

- \$7.4 million for new public housing and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing construction, upgrades and maintenance projects including the renewal of more than 20 existing houses in Mackay
- funding of \$2.4 million for community housing projects and services to help meet crisis, transitional and long-term housing need.

An estimated \$1.3 million will be available through the Gambling Community Benefit Fund to help approved non-profit organisations provide community services or activities.

Tourism takings (\$ million)

Mackay-Whitsunday, Queensland, 1997-98 to 2002-03



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

Realising the Smart State through education, skills and innovation

Participation in the Smart State means we encourage and reward ideas, innovation, entrepreneurship and hard work across all sectors of the Queensland community, industry and Government.

We are investing in school infrastructure across the Mackay-Whitsunday region for the benefit of the region's young people and their education. In 2004-05, overall funding includes:

- \$700,000, including \$63,000 for fit out, to upgrade facilities at the Mackay District Special School



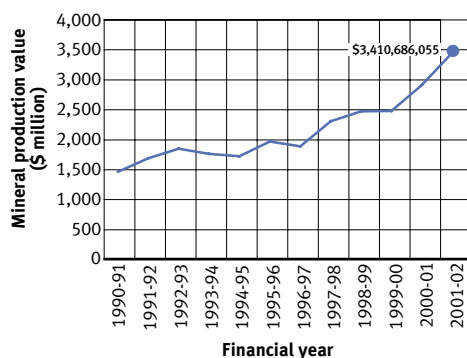
Sunrise at Mount Oldfield, Lindeman Island

Image courtesy Queensland Tourism

Mackay-Whitsunday comprises Mackay City and the Bowen, Broomsound, Mirani, Nebo, Sarina and Whitsunday

Value of mineral production (\$ million)

Mackay-Whitsunday, Queensland, 1990-91 to 2001-02



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

- \$339,000, including \$31,000 for fit out, to support agricultural science initiatives at Sarina State High School
- \$128,000 under round four of the Cooler Schools program to complete projects worth \$1.09 million for airconditioning in seven local schools.

This is in addition to the \$896,000 provided for the Triple R program, which will provide repainting, reticulation and re-roofing for 30 local schools including Moranbah State School.

We are promoting lifelong learning and skilling the workforce to meet the needs of industries central to the Smart State vision and Queensland's economic growth. In 2004-05, approximately \$37 million will be invested in creating around 16,000 training places in the region. Of this, \$5.07 million will be for manufacturing industry related training as part of the Making Queensland's Future – A Manufacturing Development Plan initiative.

Protecting our children and enhancing community safety

The Government is intent on reforming the child protection system. We are increasing the recurrent funding for child protection to at least \$109 million in 2004-05 and at least \$214 million by 2006-07 to build a new, radically improved system for safeguarding the welfare of Queensland children. The Mackay-Whitsunday region

will benefit from new funding for State-wide initiatives that include:

- an additional 518 service delivery and support staff who will be employed over the next three years with 318 of these to start in 2004-05 and \$11.74 million for additional frontline staff in 2004-05
- 23 new or expanded Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child care agencies by 2006-07 and the establishment of a new Indigenous Support Branch
- therapeutic services such as counselling and support for children with a disability
- 134 new alternative care places in 2004-05 for young people who are not suited to conventional foster care
- \$4.17 million in 2004-05 to further support our foster carers
- \$4.19 million for new places and improvements to residential care.

Implementing strategies that contribute to safe communities is a priority. In Mackay-Whitsunday, key initiatives include approximately \$417,000 for a new Neighbourhood Police Beat at Seaforth and approximately \$2.55 million for new police facilities at Mackay North, Sarina and Whitsunday.

The Government is also funding the development of safer communities through:

- improving the capacity to find offenders by providing \$148,000 for the purchase of LiveScan fingerprinting technology at the Mackay Watchhouse
- ongoing funding of approximately \$130,000 for the work of Regional Crime Prevention Resource Officers to facilitate local crime prevention action planning and initiatives.

In addition, the people of Mackay-Whitsunday will benefit from the State-wide commitment to broadening the role of Neighbourhood Watch.

Approximately \$2 million is allocated for upgrades and extensions to the Bowen and Mackay Courthouses. The work to be undertaken in Mackay will include providing facilities for child witnesses and victims.

Building Queensland's regions

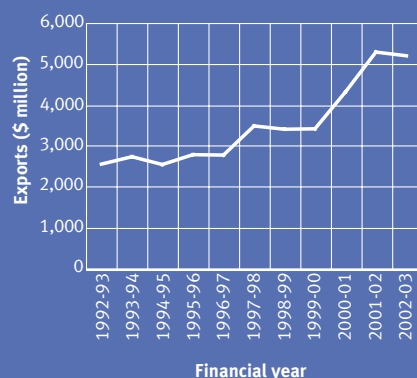
Efficient and integrated transport networks are important for the ongoing development of regional Queensland. In the Mackay-Whitsunday region, major initiatives for 2004-05 include:

- \$4.53 million as part of total Government funding of \$24.3 million to upgrade the coal network infrastructure
- \$7.57 million as part of total funding of \$110 million for the construction and electrification of the Hail Creek mine railway spur
- \$6.24 million for improvements to the Peak Downs Highway including construction of overtaking lanes in the Nebo to Mackay section close to Cut Creek
- \$70,000 for set-down and pick-up areas for Swaynsville, Homebush and Mirani Primary Schools.

Powerlink is spending \$3.66 million to augment a transformer at Nebo and Ergon Energy is spending \$1.16 million to augment the Pioneer Valley substation. Other power infrastructure spending that will benefit the people of Mackay-Whitsunday includes \$33.15 million for capital works associated with Enertrade's

Exports from Hay Point (\$ million)

1992-93 to 2002-03



Source: ABS Foreign Trade (unpublished data)

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completion of the North Queensland Gas Pipeline project.

We are assisting local governments in the Mackay-Whitsunday region to provide safe, efficient and environmentally responsible water and waste treatment services and roads. In 2004-05 approximately \$2.88 million will be spent including \$1.94 million for the Mirani/Marian Water Supply Scheme. In addition, around \$1.19 million is provided for roads and drainage works.

To promote tourism in Mackay-Whitsunday, \$201,000 each is provided to two key regional tourism development organisations to fund destination-based marketing of the region. Other funding for 2004-05 to enhance the region includes:

- approximately \$4 million for the \$38 million Mackay Multipurpose Centre project
- \$50,000 to establish a mining museum in Collinsville.

The Queensland Events Regional Events Program will be bolstered with an extra \$1.4 million a year, expanding the program to \$2.4 million a year for the next two years and including two new innovative schemes.

Protecting the environment for a sustainable future

The natural and cultural heritage of Mackay-Whitsunday is one of the region's assets. We will help ensure its ongoing protection through approximately \$59,000 of funding for weed and feral animal management and \$41,000 for improved fire management. In addition, the region will benefit from an additional \$2.31 million being spent across the State to enhance water resource monitoring programs.

People's ability to use and enjoy the region's natural areas will be enhanced with \$1.07 million to maintain and upgrade access and facilities. This includes \$561,000 to develop the Mackay Highlands Great Walk from Eungella to Homevale through Crediton State Forest and the Whitsundays Great Walk in the Conway State Forest.

Growing a diverse economy and creating jobs

The Government continues to work in partnership with the Mackay-Whitsunday region to build its social and economic strengths. The Mackay-Whitsunday region will receive around \$4.04 million to create an estimated 515 jobs in 2004-05 through the Government's Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative. This includes \$1.13 million allocated to community employment programs and \$2.91 million for apprenticeship and traineeship incentives to provide jobs in crucial, skills-shortage industries and the public sector.

Mackay-Whitsunday is also experiencing change in key industries, one of which is the sugar industry. Producers will benefit from:

- \$33 million over three years for the Queensland Government's State Sugar Industry Reform Package, which will result in more profitable and sustainable farms
- transfer duty relief of up to \$7 million over three years for intergenerational gifting of cane farms
- transfer duty relief of up to \$5 million over two years to assist cane farmers to purchase adjoining farms to improve efficiency and productivity in the industry.

Mount Basset Waste Water Treatment Plant



Photograph supplied courtesy of Mackay City Council

Virgin Blue



Photograph supplied courtesy of Virgin Blue

Above: Virgin Blue staff at the Proserpine-Melbourne launch.

Below: Virgin Blue now operates daily flights between Mackay and Brisbane and direct flights between the Whitsunday Coast and Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.



Photograph supplied courtesy of Virgin Blue

Delivering responsive government

The Government continues to engage with local communities and businesses to better coordinate service delivery and identify solutions to local issues, including through the regular Ministerial Regional Community Forums and Community Cabinets. Over \$1 million is allocated to support regional government offices in working with the Mackay-Whitsunday community to develop opportunities and address issues.

Budget

Highlights

2004-05

Budget summary

Sustained economic growth and strong employment conditions

- Queensland is expected to continue to outperform the rest of Australia in both 2003-04 and 2004-05 with economic growth of 4% and 4¼%.
- Employment growth remains substantially higher than the rest of Australia, with growth of 2¼% forecast for 2004-05.
- The State's year-average unemployment rate is 6¼%, the lowest level in more than two decades.

Strong finances

- A General Government net operating surplus of \$646 million and a cash surplus of \$1.059 billion are forecast in 2004-05, following a record estimated actual net operating surplus of \$2.374 billion for 2003-04.
- The State's net worth is budgeted to grow from \$69.4 billion at 30 June 2004, to in excess of \$80 billion by 30 June 2008.

Competitive taxes

- Queensland's competitive tax status has been maintained, with taxpayers in other States and Territories paying on average 27% more state tax than Queenslanders in 2004-05.
- From 1 August 2004, credit card duty will be abolished and the general insurance duty rate will be reduced from 8.5% to 7.5%. In addition, debits tax will be abolished from 1 July 2005.
- From 1 August 2004, the threshold for the principal place of residence transfer duty concession will be increased from \$250,000 to \$300,000, providing home buyers with a saving of up to \$1,250.

Delivering on our priorities

Improving health care and strengthening services to the community

- The Budget includes \$90 million over three years to cut elective surgery waiting lists.
- An additional \$220 million over four years is provided to support people with a disability, their families and carers.

Realising the Smart State through education, skills and innovation

- The three year, \$1 billion, SmartVET strategy will introduce a number of new training initiatives and the expansion of high priority programs.
- Funding is provided for the Education and Training Reforms for the Future package including more than \$135 million in 2004-05 and rising to more than \$307 million in 2006-07.

Protecting our children and enhancing community safety

- Full implementation of child safety reforms will involve additional funding of at least \$214 million per annum by 2006-07.
- Funding of \$35.9 million over three years will employ 240 additional paramedics to address growth in demand, maintain emergency response times and improve services.

Managing urban growth and building Queensland's regions

- Capital spending will be boosted to over \$6 billion, the first time the capital works program has exceeded that benchmark.
- An additional \$200 million is allocated over four years for the Busway network and \$571 million over four years for a new Arterial Roads Infrastructure Package.

Protecting the environment for a sustainable future

- An additional \$75 million is allocated over four years, beyond the existing \$75 million commitment, to end the broadscale clearing of remnant native vegetation in Queensland by 2006.
- Funding of \$12.5 million is provided over three years for the acquisition of the strategic parcels of land of high conservation value to add to the protected estate in Cape York and the Daintree.

Growing a diverse economy and creating jobs

- The Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative will be extended for another three years at a cost of up to \$278 million.
- A \$20 million State contribution is provided towards construction of the \$60 million Queensland Brain Research facility, located at the University.

Government services in your region

For information on government services and activities in your region contact the primary contact offices listed below or visit the Government gateway at www.qld.gov.au

Cannonvale

QGAP

Shops 5-7, 11 Island Drive
Cannonvale QLD 4802
Telephone 4948 2981
Facsimile 4948 2899
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday - 9am 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, 2pm to 4:30pm

Middlemount

QGAP

Middlemount Shopping Centre
Middlemount QLD 4746
Telephone 4985 7255
Facsimile 4985 7976
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday - 8.30am to 12pm,
12:45pm to 4:45pm

Mirani

QGAP

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

Moranbah

QGAP

21 Griffin Street
Moranbah QLD 4744
Telephone 4941 7633
Facsimile 4941 5743
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday - 9am to 4:30pm

Sarina

QGAP

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

Rockhampton

Office for Economic and Statistical Research – Central Queensland Regional Office

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

Department of Communities -Regional Communities Engagement

Level 2
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