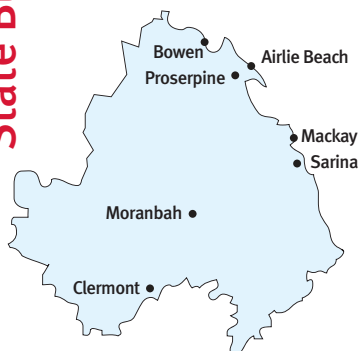


## Regional Budget Statement

# Mackay-Whitsunday

## State Budget 2006-07



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



The 2006-07 Budget re-affirms our Government's commitment to strengthening the Smart State's economy and investing in infrastructure and service delivery priorities.

This Regional Budget Statement outlines how we are meeting the needs of Mackay-Whitsunday residents.

Through the Health Action Plan, we are committing \$9.7 billion in just over five years to build Australia's best health system.

To meet the needs of our growing population, we are investing in State-wide infrastructure, especially in rural Queensland where the Blueprint for the Bush will deliver health, water and transport facilities.

Ensuring the Smart State's future, Prep Year will begin in 2007 to give our children the best education.

We are also continuing our response to residents affected by Cyclone Larry and working towards a brighter future for all Queenslanders.

Peter Beattie MP  
Premier of Queensland

Anna Bligh MP  
Deputy Premier and Treasurer

### State Budget highlights for the Mackay-Whitsunday region in 2006-07 include:

- \$129.35 million across the Mackay-Whitsunday and North Queensland regions to complete the Burdekin-Moranbah Pipeline
- \$63 million for the stage two expansion of the Abbot Point Coal Terminal, \$57.6 million to construct a third rail loop at the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal and \$32 million to increase port capacity at Hay Point
- \$9.1 million to support people with disabilities and their carers
- \$7.21 million to continue redevelopment of the Collinsville Hospital
- \$6 million to assist Mackay City Council to develop the Mackay Convention Precinct
- \$5.96 million, out of a total project cost of \$37.1 million, to begin developing a specialist trade campus at the Central Queensland Institute of TAFE in Mackay
- \$390,000 to upgrade amenities at Bowen State School.

# Mackay-Whitsunday



Image courtesy of the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water

## Blueprint for the Bush

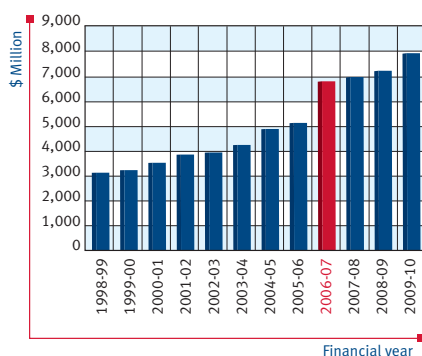
The Queensland Government has developed the Blueprint for the Bush in partnership with AgForce and the Local Government Association of Queensland to enhance the sustainability, liveability and prosperity of rural Queensland. Beginning in 2006-07, the Blueprint commits more than \$150 million over the next four years to a range of initiatives that will assist rural communities. An accompanying *Rural Economic Development and Infrastructure Plan* outlines a range of Government and private sector investment initiatives for rural and regional Queensland.

The Mackay-Whitsunday region will benefit from State-wide initiatives such as:

- \$47 million for natural resource management projects to support sustainable land management and environmental protection practices, tackle pests and weeds, and effectively manage water resources
- \$30 million to strengthen rural communities, which will include grants to non-Government organisations and local governments
- \$20 million to maintain and upgrade housing for Indigenous people
- \$5 million for rural airport upgrades
- \$4.5 million for new regional planning initiatives
- \$1.8 million for online access in public libraries
- \$1 million for local governments to assess rural infrastructure needs.

## Building a better health system

Queensland health budget  
1998-99 to 2009-10



Source: Queensland Treasury

The Government is reforming the Queensland health system. The 2005 Action Plan marked a new start with the biggest single injection of funding in the

State's history. In 2006-07, the health budget of \$6.65 billion represents a 24% increase over the 2005-06 Budget.

Increased health expenditure within the Mackay-Whitsunday region includes:

- \$2.19 million to construct a community-based rehabilitation facility in Mackay and \$1.7 million to develop the Mackay Base Hospital Annex to free up more space for beds
- \$1.04 million, from a State-wide commitment of \$18 million, to support community mental health services by employing additional specialist mental health staff
- \$495,000, from a State-wide commitment of \$39 million, for enhanced cardiac services.

As a result of funding increases for health services, the region will receive an increase of more than 54 staff in the Bowen, Mackay and Moranbah health service districts.

Covering 5.2% of the State, the Mackay-Whitsunday region is home to 147,370 Queenslanders. The region's main industries are sugar growing and processing, coal mining, cattle production, tourism and hospitality. Drawn to the area by its natural beauty, cultural heritage, tropical climate and lifestyle, the region attracts tourists from all over Australia and the world.

As a Government, we recognise the valuable contribution of Mackay-Whitsunday to the Smart State's economy. With nearly 60% of the Government's 2006-07 capital expenditure allocated outside the Brisbane area, this Regional Budget Statement for Mackay-Whitsunday highlights the Government's commitment to the region and its people.

## 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:

- \$7.21 million to continue redevelopment of the Collinsville Hospital
- \$405,000 to non-Government organisations for a range of community health services.

The Mackay-Whitsunday region will also benefit from a range of State-wide commitments including:

- \$70 million for new health technology equipment
- \$69.3 million to meet the increasing cost of providing existing health services
- \$25.4 million in increased funding for workforce training and recruitment initiatives for medical, nursing and allied health staff
- \$12.3 million to improve access and meet growing demand for renal services.

Expenditure on new and upgraded emergency facilities and staffing includes:

- \$9 million as part of a \$35.3 million three-year commitment to recruit

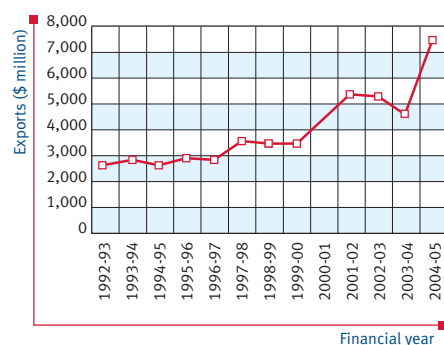
## 2006 Suncorp North Queensland Games



Image courtesy of Murray Anderson-Clemence, Extreme Photography

## Exports from Hay Point

(\$ million), 1992-93 to 2004-05



Source: ABS Foreign Trade (unpublished data)

144 new ambulance officers across Queensland

- \$720,000 for a replacement ambulance station at Carmila.

The Government is continuing its support for people with disabilities and their carers with a \$9.1 million commitment in Mackay-Whitsunday including:

- \$3.34 million for community organisations to support individuals with a disability and their families
- \$2.14 million to assist adults with a disability to maintain the living arrangements of their choice and participate in the community
- \$676,000 to provide short term and limited respite support for families, carers and people with a disability.

In 2006-07, the Government continues its support for services provided by community groups in Mackay-Whitsunday with funding of \$6.96 million. This includes: \$970,000 to establish a Youth Justice Service in Mackay; \$736,000 for early intervention and family support services; \$639,000 toward domestic and family violence prevention; and \$311,000 for child care facilities and services.

We are providing ongoing housing and housing-related services to support low-income families and individuals in Mackay-Whitsunday in 2006-07 including:

- \$9.42 million for new and upgraded public housing

- \$5.06 million for community housing programs and services to address long-term and crisis, transitional and long-term housing needs
- \$2.26 million for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing rental program.

## Realising the Smart State through education, skills and innovation

The Government continues to drive economic growth by utilising innovation and skills through its *Smart Queensland: Smart State Strategy 2005–2015*. In 2006-07, initiatives in Mackay-Whitsunday include:

- \$790,000 to continue support for the sugar industry through the Sugar Industry Innovation Fund
- \$150,000 State-wide to continue the Science on Saturday program to encourage children to understand the importance of science and take an interest in science as a possible future career.

We are committed to providing high-quality education facilities to support Queensland's growing population. In 2006-07, \$3.6 million is allocated in Mackay-Whitsunday for school capital works including:

- \$917,000 in school maintenance
- \$573,000 for new amenities and infrastructure at Kinchant Dam Outdoor Education Centre
- \$390,000 to upgrade amenities at Bowen State School
- \$129,000 to continue the Cooler Schools air-conditioning project across a number of schools in the region.

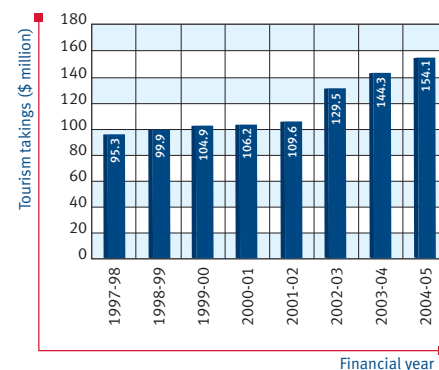
In 2006-07, we will spend \$5.96 million, out of a total project cost of \$37.1 million, to begin developing a specialist trade campus at the Central Queensland Institute of TAFE in Mackay.

## Protecting our children and enhancing community safety

The Government continues to implement significant reforms to improve the child protection system.

## Tourism

takings (\$ million), 1997-98 to 2004-05



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

A record \$503.1 million, up almost 28% since last year, will be spent in 2006-07 to protect our children.

The region will benefit from a range of State-wide initiatives including:

- \$15.6 million to continue to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Recognised Entities
- \$10 million for non-Government partners to deliver extra alternative care places for children in care with complex and extreme needs
- \$7.6 million for an extra 50 front-line staff and to attract and retain child protection staff in regional, rural and remote areas.

We are also investing in major funding initiatives to boost our police service, with the number of police officers across Queensland reaching 9,728 by September 2007 through the creation of an extra 350 police officer positions. This will more than meet the Government's commitment to maintain police numbers at or above the national average police-to-population ratio.

The Government is providing funding for services and infrastructure to enhance community safety in Mackay-Whitsunday. Key projects for 2006-07 include a \$2 million investment to complete the upgrade of Bowen Courthouse.

## Managing urban growth and building Queensland's regions

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

- \$63 million for the stage two expansion of the Abbot Point Coal Terminal
- \$57.6 million to construct a third rail loop at the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal
- \$32 million to increase port capacity at Hay Point by dredging the channel
- \$13.51 million to improve sections of the Peak Downs Highway
- \$2.5 million towards duplicating the Forgan Bridge and replacing the Hospital Bridge in Mackay.



## Get set for Prep

Preparatory Year will be available at all State schools from 2007 to help Queensland kids make a smooth transition to Year 1. Replacing preschool, it will lay the foundation for success at school by developing a positive approach to learning; independence and confidence; thinking, problem-solving and language skills; physical abilities; and early literacy and numeracy. To prepare for the intake of eager young students, the Queensland Government is undertaking one of the largest building programs in education history. Across the State, \$106 million will be spent on building and upgrading classrooms and other facilities, with 63 schools offering Prep Year in the Mackay-Whitsunday region.



## Airlie Beach



Image courtesy of Tourism Queensland

Airlie Beach is internationally renowned for its sandy white beaches and attracts thousands of sun-loving tourists each year.

The Government continues to ensure a reliable energy supply through its investment in the electricity network in 2006-07, including:

- \$50.1 million for the North Queensland Transmission Reinforcement project between the Broadsound and Nebo substations
- \$28.5 million on major Ergon Energy projects to reinforce supply to the Mackay-Whitsunday region
- \$25.5 million for a transmission line from Nebo substation to the Pioneer Valley
- \$18 million for the Strathmore substation to increase transmission capacity to North Queensland.

The Government is also managing the State's water resources and ensuring a continuing water supply through a range of initiatives including:

- \$129.35 million across the Mackay-Whitsunday and North Queensland regions to complete the Burdekin-Moranbah Pipeline
- \$14.4 million for the Mackay Effluent Reuse and Water Recycling Scheme
- \$12.83 million State-wide as part of the Water Reform — Continuity of Supply initiative
- \$4.89 million to refurbish infrastructure in the Bowen and Broken Rivers, Burdekin, Eton and Pioneer areas
- \$3.36 million across the Mackay-Whitsunday and Fitzroy regions to enhance water supply services in Nogo Mackenzie

- \$1.95 million to finish constructing the Eungella Water Pipeline.

Queenslanders enjoy a lifestyle with a high level of community participation in a range of sporting activities. In the Mackay-Whitsunday region, \$789,000 is allocated to projects, including: \$456,000 to upgrade an existing bowling green at Bowen; \$100,000 to construct a multipurpose indoor recreation facility at Hideaway Bay; and \$100,000 to install competition standard lighting to a soccer field in Andergrove.

## Protecting the environment for a sustainable future

The natural and cultural heritage of Mackay-Whitsunday is valued by all Queenslanders. To reflect this, we are committing:

- \$12.8 million State-wide to complete the implementation of the new vegetation management framework
- \$7.1 million to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- \$61,000 to enhance national and conservation parks in the region, including stage two of the Nara Inlet development in the Whitsunday Islands National Park.

## Growing a diverse economy and creating jobs

Launched in March 2006, the \$1 billion *Queensland Skills Plan* is the Government's strategy for responding to skills shortages across Queensland. This strategy will ensure the vocational education and

training sector meets the skills challenges facing the Mackay-Whitsunday region. In 2006-07, the plan will deliver:

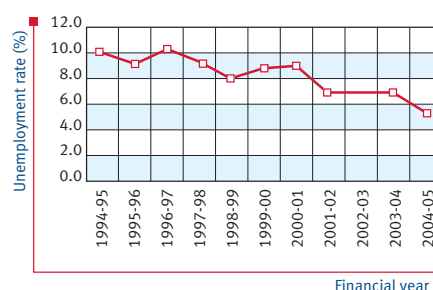
- \$419,000 for new trade apprenticeships as part of a \$3.08 million plan to provide 780 extra training places in the region by 2010
- \$469,000 for new Certificate IV and above training places as part of a \$3.28 million plan to provide 590 additional training places in the region by 2010.

Other Government initiatives to create and protect jobs in the region include:

- \$7.4 million to develop existing and proposed new landholdings within the South Mackay Industrial Estate as part of our ongoing commitment to develop industry
- \$6 million State-wide for the 14 Regional Tourism Offices and six Convention Bureaus to promote Queensland's tourism industry, with an extra \$1 million for destination marketing and development
- \$6 million to assist Mackay City Council to develop the Mackay Convention Precinct
- \$472,000 to protect our agricultural industry through continued biosecurity programs.

## Unemployment rate<sup>a</sup>

1994-95 to 2004-05



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

(a) Data based on un-smoothed series

## Delivering responsive government

The Government's continuing commitment to restore public trust and accountability in the Queensland public health system includes \$7.7 million to establish a new Health Quality and Complaints Commission.

Through initiatives such as regular Ministerial Regional Community Forums and Community Cabinets, the Queensland Government engages with local communities, businesses and other government agencies to ensure better co-ordination of services and to identify strategies which meet local needs.

# Budget Highlights 2006-07

## Budget summary

### Stronger economic growth maintains low unemployment

- Queensland's economic growth is forecast to strengthen to 4¼% in 2006-07 and exceed growth in the rest of Australia for the 11th consecutive year.
- Employment growth is expected to exceed the rest of Australia in 2005-06 and 2006-07 at 3% and 2½% respectively.
- As a result, Queensland's year-average unemployment rate is forecast to remain at 5% – around the 30-year low, and slightly below the national rate (5¼%).

### Strong finances

- The expected 2005-06 operating result of \$2.853 billion reflects the strength of the economy and investment markets.
- A General Government operating surplus of \$245 million is forecast in 2006-07.
- Moderating surpluses reflect significant capital investment, implementation of the Health Action Plan and commitments in other key service delivery areas, and the impact of a range of State tax abolition and relief measures.
- The State's net worth is budgeted to grow from around \$96 billion at 30 June 2006 to over \$107 billion by 30 June 2010.

### Competitive taxes

- Queensland maintains its tax competitiveness, with Queenslanders to pay an average of 15% less State tax than taxpayers in other states and territories in 2006-07.
- Queensland's competitiveness has been enhanced through a range of tax measures in the 2006-07 Budget.

## Delivering on our priorities

### Improving health care and strengthening services to the community

- As part of the Queensland Government's commitment to the Health Action Plan, an investment of almost \$6.4 billion in just over five years was announced in 2005 to relieve pressure on health services delivered across the State. Through the 2006-07 State Budget, funding for Queensland Health will grow by \$9.7 billion over the five years.
- Increased recurrent funding of \$128 million and \$6 million in capital funding will be invested over four years to enhance disability services in Queensland.
- More than \$21 million is committed over the next three years to help fight obesity.

### Protecting our children and enhancing community safety

- Additional funding of \$133.2 million will be invested over four years to enhance child protection services, including \$28.1 million in 2006-07.
- The Government is providing funding for an additional 350 sworn police officers across the State by September 2007, bringing the total number of sworn officers to 9,728 and meeting the Government's commitment to maintain police numbers at or above the national average police-to-population ratio.
- An additional \$35.3 million is provided over three years to recruit 144 additional ambulance officers and \$12.4 million over four years to improve ambulance call response times at communication centres.

### Realising the Smart State through education, skills and innovation

- A record \$1 billion will be invested over five years in Queensland's education system, directed at planning, modernising and refurbishing school facilities across the State.
- The \$1 billion *Queensland Skills Plan* sets out initiatives to transform and modernise the State's vocational education and training system.
- Further funding of \$11.8 million is allocated over three years to develop a joint animal research facility with The University of Queensland.

### Protecting the environment for a sustainable future

- As part of the Blueprint for the Bush, additional funding of \$11 million over three years is provided to improve the management of high-risk weeds and pest animals across Queensland.
- Additional funding of \$20 million is provided in 2006-07 to acquire properties within South East Queensland to increase green space. The land will be added to the protected estate.

### Managing urban growth and building Queensland's regions

- Estimated capital spending is more than \$10 billion in 2006-07, an increase of 23% on estimated actual 2005-06 outlays. Almost 60% of this will be spent outside the Brisbane area. This spending will support around 73,700 full-time jobs in Queensland.
- More than \$150 million is provided for additional initiatives across rural and regional Queensland over the next four years as part of Blueprint for the Bush.



# Government services in your region

## 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

Broadsound Shire Council  
Middlemount Shopping Centre  
Middlemount QLD 4746  
Telephone 4985 7255  
Facsimile 4981 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 – 9am to 3pm

## 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 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

### State Development Centre

Level 2, Healthpoint Pharmacy Building  
67-69 Sydney Street  
Mackay QLD 4740  
Telephone 4967 1099  
Facsimile 4967 1079  
Opening hours:  
Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 5pm

## Preparatory Year enquiries

Telephone 1300 650 220  
Facsimile 3247 3988

## 13 HEALTH

Telephone 13 43 25 84

## Smart Service Queensland

For information on all other  
Government services call 13 13 04