

Queensland State Budget 2008–09

North Coast Regional Budget Statement



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 North Coast region.

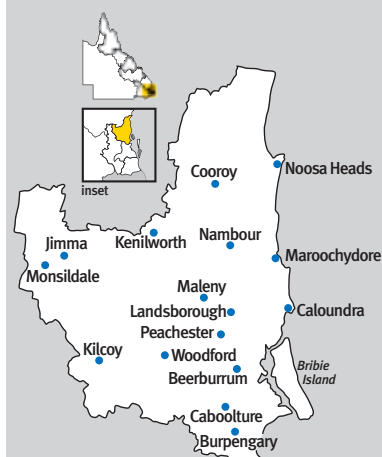
Andrew Fraser MP
Treasurer

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

North Coast



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 North Coast region.

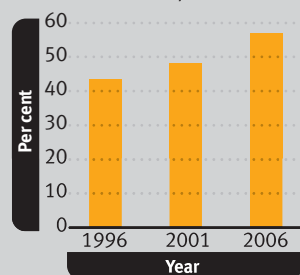
The work we do

Site engineers, diesel fitters, nurses, teachers, sales representatives, chefs, cashiers – North Coast residents work in a diverse range of jobs. Census data shows 13.7% of people living in the region are employed in the retail trade industry, while the construction industry accounts for 12.3% of employment. Healthcare and social assistance (10.7%), manufacturing (9.1%), and accommodation and food services (8.1%) are the other major employment industries in this rapidly growing region.

Our qualifications

Strong population growth in the North Coast has brought with it an increase in the number of skilled workers. Just over 57%¹ of people living in our region now hold 'beyond'² school qualifications, up 13.5 percentage points from the 1996 Census (see graph). Of these qualifications, 19.8% are degree or higher, 14.2% are advanced diploma or diploma and 40.3% are certificate level. Just over one quarter of North Coast 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 North Coast region was \$459. In 2006 the median weekly income for households in our region was \$762 – that's 66% more than we earned 10 years earlier³.

¹ Aged 15 years and over with a usual residence in the North Coast 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.

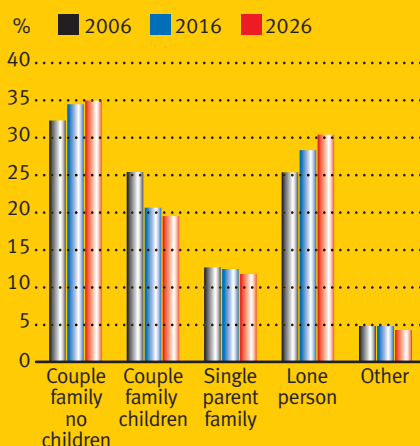
Household projections

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 North Coast region are likely to change between now and 2026.

North Coast
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

It might be one of Queensland's smallest regions, but with a population growth rate almost 30% more than the State's average, Queensland's North Coast region is making its mark in a big way. Covering an area of 5,794 square kilometres or 0.3% of the State, our region is home to almost 11% of Queensland's total population. Over 446,000¹ Queenslanders now call the North Coast region home – that's 2.8% more than the year before².

A mild sub-tropical climate, national parks and hinterlands, pristine beaches and major world-class sporting venues and themed attractions makes the North Coast region sought after for its quality, unique environment and enviable and sustainable lifestyle. Add to this a strong and diverse economy, a skilled workforce and comprehensive network of infrastructure that's close to the business and career opportunities of the State's south-east corner and you can see why more and more people are choosing the North Coast region to balance their working and family lives.

The Queensland Government recognises the role Queensland's North Coast region 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 the 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).

Noosa Triathlon

On your marks. Get set. Go! In October each year more than 8,000 elite sportspeople and spectators converge on Noosa for what is now one of the world's largest and most prestigious multi-sport events. Pictured: the preparation is over – competitors wait for the start at last year's event.



Image courtesy of Eyes Wide Open Images

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 the North Coast region will benefit from spending on health infrastructure which will include:

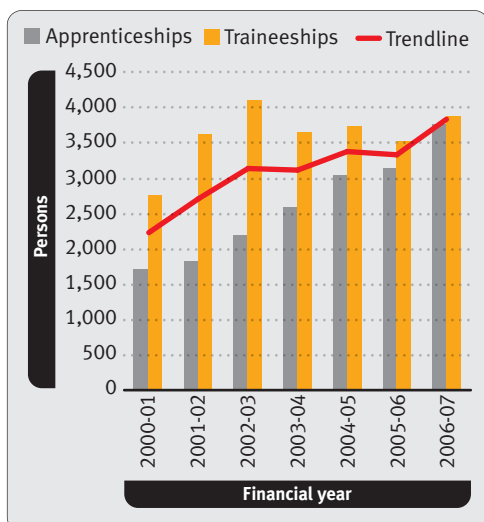
- \$90.5 million for a new \$1.2 billion hospital at Kawana, increased bed capacity at Caloundra and Nambour hospitals and the Sunshine Coast Health Precinct
- \$10.1 million as part of \$13.8 million for a 40-bed residential aged care facility at Nambour.

North Coast will also benefit from a number of police and emergency services infrastructure projects including:

- \$8.6 million for a new \$9.5 million combined 24-hour police station and district support facility at Burpengary
- \$4 million to construct a new \$5.5 million 24-hour police station at Sippy Downs
- \$3 million for relocation of the new Sunshine Coast Water Police Facility to Kawana Waters

Participation in post-secondary education, apprenticeships and traineeships

2000-01 to 2006-07



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

- \$2.4 million for a new \$3.3 million fire and rescue station at Burpengary
- \$1.8 million for the replacement and relocation of a new \$3.7 million fire and rescue station at Nambour
- \$1.1 million of a total \$2.1 million to replace the ambulance station at Coolool Beach
- \$200,000 to refurbish and extend the Bribie Island Police Station
- \$200,000 to replace the Woodford Police Station.

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

- \$24.6 million for the Home and Community Care initiative
- \$9.1 million to support people with a disability through a range of programs
- \$3.3 million for counselling and support services for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
- \$2.1 million over four years to establish new residential care facilities to accommodate young people with complex and extreme needs
- \$2.1 million over four years to establish additional out-of-home care placements for children in care
- \$1.9 million over two years to establish the Maleny Neighbourhood Centre
- \$1.7 million towards short-term and time-limited respite support for families of people with a disability
- \$800,000 million for tailored accommodation in Deception Bay for people with a disability with challenging behaviours.

Congestion management

To help keep one of Australia's fastest growing regions on the move, the Government will make a number of significant transport infrastructure investments in the North Coast region in 2008-09, including:

- \$82.8 million to widen the Bruce Highway to six lanes between Uhlmann Road and Caboolture, with Australian Government funding
- \$32.4 million for the Pacific Paradise interchange and access to David Low Way on the Sunshine Motorway
- \$27.2 million to duplicate lanes between the Bruce Highway and Pierce Avenue on Caloundra Road



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.

- \$14 million for the new two-lane sealed road between Caloundra Road and Creekside Boulevard
- \$13.5 million to complete works to widen the Sunshine Motorway to four lanes between Maroochydore Road and Pacific Paradise and to finalise the duplication of the Maroochy River Bridge.

Building infrastructure

Planning and delivering the infrastructure needed to provide essential and efficient services to our rapidly growing communities – now and in the future – is one of our key priorities. For many regions, growing populations have resulted in higher demand for energy.

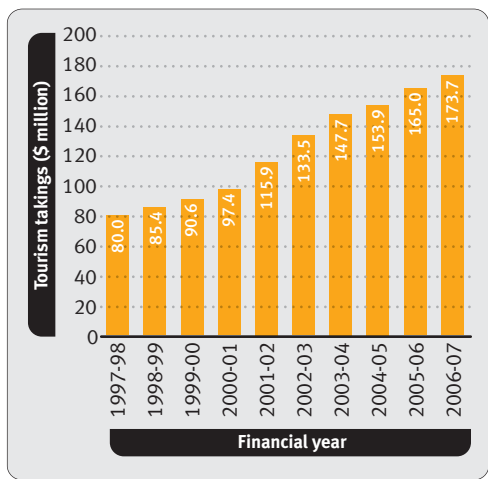
The Government's commitment to the North Coast region to secure and enhance the reliability of energy supply in 2008-09 includes \$26.7 million for new and upgraded substations and transformers at Currumbundi, Caboolture, Bribie Island, Cooroy and Mooloolaba.

Significant investments in transport infrastructure in 2008-09 include:

- over \$80 million for the duplication of the track between Caboolture and Beerburum

Tourism

Takings, 1997-98 to 2006-07^(a)



(a) Data based on Sunshine Coast Tourism Region
Source: ABS, *Tourist Accommodation, Queensland* (8635.3.40.001 and 8635.3)

- \$58.3 million to continue planning works for the North Coast rail line between Landsborough and Nambour
- \$23.1 million for the \$67.6 million Beerwah Rail Crossing Project
- \$2.7 million for planning for the duplication of the rail link between Beerburum and Landsborough.

Regional development

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

In 2008-09 the Government will invest in significant infrastructure in support of regional development in the North Coast, including:

- \$9 million as part of \$84.5 million for a new government building in the Maroochydore CBD to accommodate a range of government workers
- \$1.8 million to construct Stage 3 of the State Equestrian Centre at Caboolture.

Water management is a critical issue for Queensland and the Government is making historic levels of investment in essential water and sewerage infrastructure to meet the needs of Queensland communities.

In 2008-09, the Government will invest in the following initiatives to improve the reliability and supply of water services in the North Coast region:

- \$219.8 million for the Northern Interconnector Pipeline to deliver water to the northern areas of Brisbane. Stage 1 consists of a pipeline from Morayfield to Landers Shoot to access water from Baroon Pocket Dam
- \$7.1 million to the Moreton Bay Regional Council for the Burpengary East sewerage treatment plant augmentation
- \$2.1 million for the Bribie Island Recycled Water Scheme.

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 to the North Coast region in 2008-09 include:

- \$71.5 million to provide over 5.3 million hours of vocational education and training, including \$1.3 million to provide additional trades training places as part of the Queensland Skills Plan. This is expected to create an additional 1,160 training places in the North Coast region by 2010
- \$6.7 million for the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative and employment and training assistance for 605 people
- \$3 million towards redeveloping the Sunshine Coast Institute of TAFE's Nambour campus
- the employment of nine Indigenous Employment and Training Support Officers.

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 North Coast region will receive housing services and support in 2008-09 in the form of:

- \$14.2 million to construct, purchase and upgrade public housing involving purchasing or completing 65 houses and commencing the construction of 18 houses
- \$1.7 million for community housing programs and services to address crisis and long-term housing needs
- \$1.4 million for community renewal programs
- \$1.1 million for private housing information, advice and assistance to help Queenslanders remain in their homes or in the private rental market.

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 North Coast region of an additional \$4 million for maintenance programs and \$12.8 in capital works investment in schools, including:

- \$4 million for stage 2A at Meridan State College and \$2 million to begin work on stage 3
- \$3.6 million to complete stage two at Burpengary Meadows State School
- \$3.2 million to complete stage 3C at Chancellor State College.

Prevention and early intervention

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

In 2008-09 the Government will commit to the following initiatives to support the families in the North Coast region:

- \$3.3 million to support families, including early intervention programs to improve the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children and their families
- \$2.6 million for youth development services to build independent living skills

- \$1.2 million over four years for a Family Intervention Service which will strengthen child protection services by providing direct support to families in their own home.

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 has also committed \$800,000 for the Conondale Great Walk as part of the More Great Walks in Queensland program.



Sunshine Coast transport infrastructure

The Queensland Government is committed to keeping one of Australia's fastest growing regions on the move and will invest in excess of \$300 million in 2008-09 on a range of transport infrastructure in the region under the South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program (SEQIPP).

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. Public transport will be boosted with 12 new trains funded this financial year.

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 on the North Coast

Caboolture

Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry

Level 4, 33 King Street
Caboolture QLD 4510

Telephone 5431 2540

Facsimile 5495 7456

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 5pm

Caboolture

Department of Natural Resources and Water

Level 4, 33 King Street
Caboolture QLD 4510

Telephone 5433 7700

Facsimile 5433 7719

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 4.30pm

Gympie

Department of Natural Resources and Water

Government Office Building
27 O'Connell Street
Gympie QLD 4570

Telephone 5480 5308

Facsimile 5480 5302

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 4.30pm

Maleny

QGAP

38A Coral Street,
Maleny QLD 4552

E-Mail maleny.qgap@qld.gov.au

Telephone 5494 3537

Facsimile 5494 3506

Opening Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 9am to 12pm

Nambour

Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

91-95 Howard Street

Nambour QLD 4560

Telephone 5430 4911

Facsimile 5430 4994

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 5pm

Nambour

Department of Natural Resources and Water

Centenary Square

52-64 Currie Street

Nambour QLD 4560

Telephone 5451 2222

Facsimile 5451 2262

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 4.30pm

Nambour

Department of Communities – Sunshine Coast

91-95 Howard Street

Nambour QLD 4560

Telephone 5470 8700

Facsimile 5740 8703

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 5pm

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

Queensland Water Commission

Telephone 1300 789 906

13 HEALTH

Telephone 13 43 25 84

