

State Budget Highlights

Budget summary

Growing the economy

- Queensland's economy is forecast to strengthen in 2002-03 to $4\frac{1}{4}\%$, again exceeding national growth of $3\frac{3}{4}\%$.
- Business investment is forecast to reach an historical peak of almost \$13 billion in real terms.

Creating new jobs

- Queensland is creating jobs much faster than the national average. Over the 12 months to May 2002, Queensland created more than 30% of all jobs created in Australia and almost 80% of national full-time jobs.
- This strong performance is forecast to continue in 2002-03, with year-average growth in employment of $2\frac{1}{2}\%$, or about 43,000 new jobs.
- The unemployment rate is forecast to fall to a year-average $7\frac{1}{2}\%$, the lowest in a decade.

Sound finances

- A net operating surplus of \$23 million and a cash surplus of \$354 million are budgeted for the General Government sector in 2002-03, with surpluses over the forward estimates period.
- The State's net worth is expected to continue to grow, reaching \$58.5 billion by 30 June 2003.

Building Queensland's infrastructure

- A capital works program of \$4.8 billion will support some 45,100 full-time jobs.

Competitive taxes

- Payroll tax will be reduced to 4.75% from 1 July 2002.
- Queenslanders will be taxed on average \$1,321 in 2002-03, significantly lower than the average tax burden in other States and Territories of \$1,757 per capita.

Delivering on our priorities

More jobs for Queensland – skills and innovation – the Smart State

- The new Education and Training Reforms for the Future package provides \$158.3 million over four years to provide our young people with more opportunities to access high quality education and training.
- The new Queensland BioCapital Fund will invest \$100 million in venture capital in biotechnology projects that have potential for high commercial returns for the Smart State.
- The Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative has been funded an additional \$10 million over two years.

Safer and more supportive communities

- New funding of \$148 million is provided over four years for the delivery of a range of initiatives aimed at achieving better outcomes for children, young people and families. This funding is in addition to the final instalment of funding (\$40 million over four years) committed as a result of the Forde Inquiry and brings the Government's additional funding commitment in this area to \$188 million over four years (\$42 million in 2002-03).
- An additional 307 police will be appointed across the State.

Community engagement and better quality of life

- The health budget will be allocated approximately \$13.3 million for acute inpatient services and up to \$7.3 million for improvements to Home and Community Care services.
- More than \$150 million is provided for public rental housing and \$6.5 million for crisis accommodation.

Valuing the environment

- A further 60 rangers will be employed, as part of the Protecting Our Natural Assets election commitment of \$10 million per annum to fund up to 140 new park rangers and improve facilities.

Building Queensland's regions

- 55.8% of the capital works budget is allocated for outside the Brisbane Statistical Division, reflecting the Government's strong commitment to the regions.



• Government services in your region

For information on Government services in your region, contact the following offices of the Queensland Government Agent Program (QGAP), Department of State Development or Regional Communities. For economic and statistical information about your region and the State, contact your local branch of the Office of Economic and Statistical Research.

Caboolture

State Development Centre

Level 4
33 King Street
Caboolture QLD 4510
Phone: 5431 2540
Monday–Friday 8:30am–5pm

Nambour

SEQ North Regional Communities Office

Community Engagement Division -
Department of the Premier and Cabinet
91-95 Howard Street
Nambour QLD 4560
Phone: 5470 8700

Maleny

QGAP

27 Coral Street
Maleny QLD 4552
Phone: 5494 3537
Monday–Friday
9am–12:30pm & 1:30pm–4:30pm

Brisbane

Office of Economic and Statistical Research

Level 16
61 Mary Street
Brisbane QLD 4002
Phone: 3224 5326
Monday–Friday 9am–5pm
www.oesr.qld.gov.au

Mooloolaba

State Development Centre

108 Brisbane Road
Mooloolaba QLD 4557
Phone: 5470 9400
Monday–Friday 8:30am–5pm



North Coast Region Regional Budget Statement 2002-03

• Premier's Message

The importance of Queensland's regions to the economic and social life of our State is evident in the Government's 2002-03 Budget.

In capital works alone, the Government will spend \$2.7 billion in 2002-03 in South East Queensland, including the North Coast region. Initiatives in the North Coast include:

- almost \$18 million for the D'Aguilar Highway bypass of Caboolture;
- \$13 million for the Cooloola Sunshine Institute of TAFE; and
- \$6 million for the ongoing redevelopment of Nambour Hospital and a new mental health high dependency unit.

In the Smart State, the focus on regions is about more than infrastructure. We are supporting the development of early stage companies through funding for the Innovation Centre – Sunshine Coast Technology Incubator. This Budget will also boost services in the areas of families, education and law and order.

This statement highlights initiatives within your region that have been developed in response to individual community concerns. It shows the Government is passionate about listening to the community. In fact, we spend more time than any other Government listening to thousands of people at community engagement events such as Community Cabinet and Ministerial Regional Community Forums. We have responded to your call for individual solutions for each community – not a 'one size fits all' approach.

The Government is working with you and for you, to build employment and lifestyle opportunities. We are committed to expanding export markets, encouraging value-adding industries and building the regions' competitive advantages.

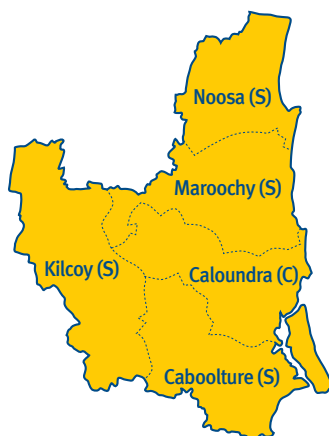
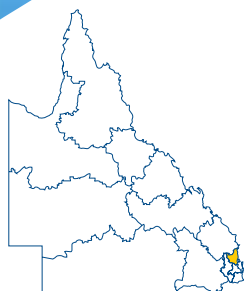
This means focusing on a workforce that is more highly skilled, educated and in demand. It also means improving social infrastructure, so community life flourishes.

The Queensland Government is committed to building partnerships with the regions because active communities are central to us achieving the Smart State vision. Together, we can forge a better future for our communities.



Peter Beattie

Peter Beattie MP
Premier and Minister for Trade



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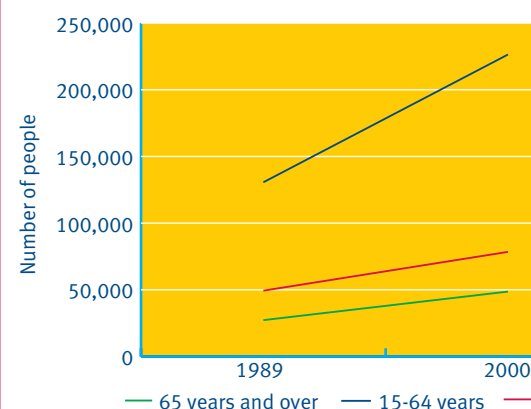
• Introduction

The infrastructure and services funded in the 2002-03 State Budget and outlined in this statement demonstrate the Queensland Government's commitment to working with the North Coast region to promote economic development and job creation, stronger community networks and a prosperous future.

Pristine beaches and a spectacular mountain hinterland make up the North Coast region, including Caloundra city and the shires of Caboolture, Kilcoy, Maroochy and Noosa. The region is home to almost 10% of all Queenslanders and its population is growing significantly faster than the rest of the State. By 2021, the population is projected to grow by more than 75% to almost 635,000 people.

The region has a diverse economy with retail trade, manufacturing and construction being the major providers of employment. Tourism is also a significant contributor to the economy, generating more than \$100 million in accommodation alone in 2001. By hosting the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2002, the region proved to the world it is an excellent location for major international events.

Estimated resident population, North Coast Region, 1989 and 2000



Source: ABS, Population by Age and Sex (3235.3)

• Building Queensland's regions

The Government is working with Queenslanders in the North Coast region to drive economic development and ensure that the region prospers. A key outcome of this partnership is the development of SEQ 2021 – A Sustainable Future, a joint regional planning project to support and manage growth in the fastest growing area of the State. We have provided \$450,000 in 2002-03 for South East Queensland, including the North Coast, matched by the South East Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils.

The Government has assisted Singapore Airlines, through the Singapore Flying College, in its plans to establish a Learjet training school at Maroochy Airport. When fully operational, the college will train approximately 170 pilots each year.

Tourism is a valuable industry for the North Coast region and we will provide ongoing funding of \$200,000 to Tourism Sunshine Coast to market the region to visitors.

A safe and efficient transport network promotes industry competitiveness and economic development. Major road projects in the North Coast region include:

- \$17.9 million for the D'Aguilar Highway to continue the \$33.3 million northern bypass of Caboolture;
- a further \$11 million to continue the \$17 million Kawana Arterial, linking Nicklin Way and the Sunshine Motorway; and
- \$32.5 million in federal funding towards the \$110 million expansion of the Bruce Highway between Yandina and Cooroy to four lanes.



To promote equitable access to services, the Queensland Government provides funding to local government to facilitate the provision of infrastructure and services.

In the North Coast region, \$1 million is provided for the Caboolture CBD redevelopment project. We will also provide \$5.5 million for water and sewerage infrastructure in Caboolture and Maroochy shires and Caloundra city. This includes \$4.8 million for the Landers Shute augmentation for the Caloundra-Maroochy Water Supply Board.

A reliable energy supply is critical to growth in the regions. This year, Government-owned Energex will invest more than \$4.6 million to upgrade electricity supply to meet the growing needs of the North Coast community.

• More jobs for Queensland – skills and innovation – the Smart State

The Government is positioning Queensland as the Smart State with a strategy that supports a diversified economy through investment in traditional and new industries.

On the North Coast, we will provide \$200,000 for the development of the Innovation Centre – Sunshine Coast Technology Incubator to assist early stage companies to develop and grow. The Commonwealth and Maroochy Shire Council are also contributing to this initiative.

Investment in new industries creates 21st century jobs. This is fundamental to the Government's top priority of creating and maintaining employment for Queenslanders.

The lynchpin of our approach is the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative. In the North Coast region, it's anticipated that approximately \$5.5 million will be spent in 2002-03 on employment programs targeted at the long-term unemployed, mature-age job seekers, trainees and apprentices, young people, including young offenders, prisoners ready for release and Indigenous people.

Investing in the Smart State means investing in training and education.

To support training in the North Coast region, \$13.05 million is allocated for the Cooloola Sunshine Institute of TAFE, including:

- expanding and redeveloping the Mooloolaba campus;
- Arts and Environmental Studies at Tewantin campus;
- new tourism and hospitality facilities; and
- improving the Information Technology Platform.

Education is vital for helping children to reach their full potential. This Budget provides \$158.3 million over four years state-wide to fund an innovative package of education and training reforms for the future.

In 2002-03, the North Coast region will share in:

- an additional \$22.7 million for information and communication technologies (ICT) in classrooms and ICT training for teachers; and
- 382 additional teachers to provide for growth and

other needs, including 158 teachers as part of the Government's election commitment to employ 800 additional teachers over four years.

Highlights in education funding for the region include:

- \$2.7 million for Stage 1 of the new \$15 million Chancellor State High School;
- \$2.7 million to modernise Caboolture State High School;
- \$1.3 million to modernise Nambour State High School and for four new classrooms;
- \$891,000 for four new classrooms at Currimundi Special School;
- \$810,000 for work at Elimbah State School;
- \$651,000 to modernise Maroochy State High School;
- \$586,000 for a new canteen, amenities and covered play area at Glass House Mountains State School;
- \$324,000 for six new classrooms at Mountain Creek State High School;
- \$324,000 for work at Noosaville State School;
- \$240,000 for the New Basics initiative at Burnside, Chevallum, Eudlo, Glenview, Mapleton, Montville, Mooloolah, Palmwoods and Woombye State Schools, Nambour Special School and Nambour, Mountain Creek and Burnside State High Schools; and
- \$86,000 each for Caloundra State High School and Nambour State School for their Learning and Development Centres to assist gifted and talented students to reach their potential.

To enhance life-long learning opportunities, \$1.6 million has been allocated to public libraries in the region.

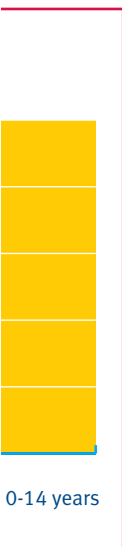
• Safer and more supportive communities

Queenslanders want to live in communities where they are protected from harm and where they are treated with fairness and dignity.

Families are the foundation of our communities and to support them, we are this year funding a package of \$188 million over four years (\$42 million in 2002-03) for delivery of a range of initiatives aimed at achieving better outcomes for children, young people and families. This comprises new funding of \$148 million over four years, in addition to the final instalment of funding (\$40 million over four years) committed as a result of the Forde Inquiry. This funding will be allocated across all regions of the State.

Smarter policing and crime prevention are vital for ensuring our communities are safe.

A new Community Conferencing Service will be introduced at Caboolture and on the Sunshine Coast. The Service brings together young offenders and their families, the victim of the offence, and their supporters. Together they



0-14 years

(right) each Boardwalk (far right) Bruce Highway upgrade

agree on the most suitable way to repair the damage caused to the victim.

We will maintain our commitment to Urban and Community Renewal Programs in areas of need, in partnership with the Commonwealth and local governments. In 2002-03, we will fund:

- \$2 million for Deception Bay, including upgrading 50 dwellings; and
- \$330,000 for a youth action project in Caboolture.

The replacement police station at Eumundi will be opened early in 2002-03 and we will spend \$400,000 to plan a new courthouse at Caloundra adjacent to the police station and hospital.

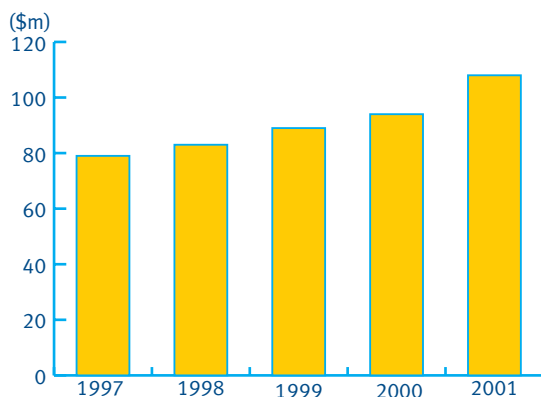
• Community engagement and a better quality of life

All Queenslanders are encouraged to take part in the rich cultural, social and economic life of the State. The Queensland Government is working to ensure equality of opportunity and equitable access to high standards of health, housing and family services through greater participation in the choices made by Government.

To support the health and well-being of individuals and the community in the North Coast region, in 2002-03 we will spend:

- \$5.3 million to continue the \$26 million redevelopment of the Nambour Hospital and \$800,000 for a five bed high dependency unit at the hospital's Mental Health Unit;
- \$1.3 million for Home Assist Secure Schemes to assist elderly people in the region to remain in their own homes longer, with improved safety, independence and quality of life; and
- \$440,000 to develop four multi-purpose sports ovals and lighting at the Sunshine Sports complex at Kawana.

Takings from accommodation, North Coast Region, 1997 to 2001



Source: ABS, Tourist Accommodation, Queensland (8635.3)



Services for people with a disability and their families will be boosted through:

- \$500,000 to build group accommodation in the Caboolture area for people with a disability who have high support needs;
- approximately \$340,000 for new and enhanced family support and respite services in the Caboolture area; and
- \$160,000 to improve disabled access to rail services in the Maroochy and Caloundra areas.

Local shows play an important role in bringing together communities in regional Queensland. Under the Showground Subsidy Scheme, \$129,000 is provided for showground improvements in the Caboolture, Maroochy and Caloundra areas.

To enable regional Queenslanders to have greater participation in Government decision-making, a Community Engagement Division has been formed in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. The Division maintains the Regional Communities program comprising a network of regional offices, including one in Nambour.

• Valuing the environment

Queensland is Australia's most naturally diverse State and the Government is committed to protecting our environment and its biodiversity for current and future generations.

To protect the natural assets of the North Coast region, two new rangers will be appointed to parks in Noosa and Maleny in 2002-03. Other initiatives include:

- \$937,000 to upgrade the Bribie Island, Glass House Mountains, Great Sandy, Noosa, Mapleton Falls, Kondalilla and Mooloolah River National Parks and Kenilworth Forest Reserve;
- \$606,000 to investigate opportunities for developing a Great Walk of Queensland in the Maroochy and Caloundra areas, as part of a \$10 million state-wide initiative;
- \$198,000 to fund voluntary acquisitions of environmentally sensitive coastal and riparian land; and
- \$150,000 to provide young people with valuable job skills while working to upgrade facilities at Bribie Island.

