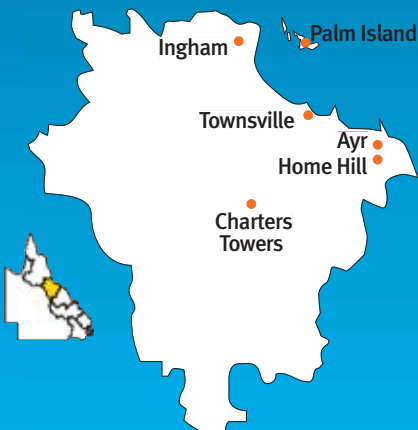


## Regional Budget Statement North Queensland

### State-wide Highlights

The 2009-10 Budget will support and create jobs by continuing the Government's capital works program for roads, schools and hospitals as well delivering new job creation programs and initiatives to expand Queensland's skills base.

- \$3.53 billion for better and safer roads
- \$464.77 million on major hospital developments
- \$301 million to build and renew school facilities through the State Schools of Tomorrow program
- \$101 million for the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative
- 203 new police officers
- 50 new ambulance officers
- 350 new teachers and teacher aides
- 645 new doctors, nurses and allied health professionals
- \$3.06 million for the Support Our Heroes package to support emergency service volunteers and prepare communities for natural disasters
- \$36 million over three years for new tourism campaigns
- \$96 million over five years for new climate change initiatives
- \$50 million over six years for the Great Barrier Reef Protection Package.



As a part of the global economy, Queensland has felt the effects of the global financial and economic crisis. The worst set of global economic circumstances in more than 75 years has resulted in falling revenues and rising unemployment.

That's why the centrepiece of the 2009-10 State Budget is jobs – creating and sustaining jobs, assisting business and industry, and positioning our economy for future growth.

Specific investments in education, employment and training, business and vital industries such as tourism will help create and support jobs for Queenslanders.

The Queensland Government is investing \$18 billion in its jobs-generating building program, with



Anna Bligh MP  
Premier  
and Minister for the Arts

injections of funding for roads, ports, schools, transport and other vital infrastructure.

Frontline service delivery is our focus with commitments for police, hospitals and healthcare, ambulance services and teachers – the things we need to keep our communities healthy, safe and growing. The Government is determined to cushion Queenslanders from

the full impact of the global recession. That means acting now to support the economy and making the long term decisions needed for the future.

Queensland's prosperity and growth is built on the strength of our regions. This document puts on record the Government's commitment to the people and economy of the North Queensland region.



Andrew Fraser MP  
Treasurer and Minister for Employment  
and Economic Development



Townsville Hospital expansion - artist's impression

# Protecting jobs in North Queensland

As the global economic crisis takes hold and Queensland's economic growth rate slows, the Government is committed to protecting the jobs of today and creating the jobs of tomorrow.

The Government's job programs are more important than ever before and will play a crucial role in supporting Queensland workers through these uncertain economic times.

The Government will implement a host of initiatives that will create new jobs and equip our workforce with the skills needed for future recovery.



## **Productivity Places Program**

A \$414 million industry-based program (including \$259 million in Australian Government funding) to deliver almost 150,000 new training places over four years.



## **Tourism Blueprint to Protect Jobs**

A \$37.8 million program to create 1,000 new jobs for new, regionally-focussed tourism market and product development campaigns, and to support the 'drive travel' market.



## **Sustainable Resource Communities**

A \$25 million program to create 500 new jobs over the next 12 months by boosting employment in regional areas affected by the mining downturn.



## **Payroll tax apprentice and trainee incentives**

A \$15 million scheme to assist Queensland businesses that employ apprentices and trainees. In addition to the payroll tax exemption provided for apprentice and trainee wages, businesses will also receive a 25% rebate on payroll tax for other equivalent employees in 2009-10.



## **Queensland Green Army**

A \$57 million program to create 3,000 new jobs over three years by putting an army of unemployed Queenslanders to work to improve our waterways, beaches, national parks and green spaces.

Green Army participants will work on projects of strategic importance to enhance and protect Queensland's natural assets, strengthen the tourism industry and promote increased environmental awareness around the State.

It will create 2,300 jobs through work placements of up to six months and 700 year-long Green Traineeship positions for young, unemployed Queenslanders.

For more information about the Green Army, visit [www.greenarmy.qld.gov.au](http://www.greenarmy.qld.gov.au).



Photograph supplied courtesy of the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation



*Covering an area of 80,038 square kilometres or 4.6 per cent of the State, North Queensland is home to more than 5 per cent of Queensland's total population. In fact, in excess of 220,000<sup>1</sup> Queenslanders now call North Queensland home.*

*Manufacturing, mining, agriculture, defence, construction, tourism and transport are all important contributors to North Queensland's broad-based economy. The region's export interests are well-supported by air, road, rail and sea networks in Townsville.*

*The Queensland Government recognises the valuable contribution North Queensland makes to the State's economic and social development. This Regional Budget Statement highlights the Government's commitment to get on with the job of supporting the region and its people.*

1 Population data as at 30 June 2008, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Population Growth (cat. no. 3218.0).

## **Delivering jobs for Queensland**

Jobs are the Government's number one priority. Faced with challenging global economic conditions, the Government will create and protect jobs to help keep Queensland strong and secure our economic foundations.

In 2009-10, the Government will drive Queensland's \$18 billion building infrastructure program to stimulate growth, create and protect jobs and meet the infrastructure needs of our rapidly growing population.

Key building projects in North Queensland include:

- \$110.5 million for an electricity transmission line between the Strathmore and Ross substations
- \$70.2 million to expand the capacity of the Townsville Youth Detention Centre by 48 beds
- \$28 million to construct two new substations to reinforce electricity supply to Townsville
- \$20.9 million for the \$187.5 million upgrade of Queensland Rail's coal electric locomotive fleet
- \$13 million to redevelop the Clare electricity substation
- \$11.8 million to construct, upgrade and maintain rental units in Indigenous communities, including the completion of 10 new rental units. This is part of the Government's \$1.447 billion capital expenditure program to expand and improve social housing across the State
- \$10.37 million for improvements to the Port of Townsville
- \$8 million to improve electricity supply at the Black River zone substation
- \$5 million for underground power lines in cyclone-prone areas.

As well as protecting jobs now, the Government is preparing for the future. By developing the skills base of Queensland workers, supporting emerging industries, building on traditional

strengths, and attracting investment and innovation, Queensland will be well positioned to lead Australia through the period of recovery and beyond.

In 2009-10, other job-generating investments in North Queensland include:

- \$56.5 million for vocational education and training activities
- \$22 million to complete the development of a \$35.4 million specialist trade campus in Townsville
- \$3.74 million to create 560 jobs for young people and those disadvantaged in the labour market through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative, which includes Queensland's Green Army
- \$2.5 million (\$12.5 million over five years) for the staging of the inaugural Dunlop Townsville 400 V8 Supercar event, which is estimated to generate up to 180 jobs during the staging of the event and deliver an estimated annual economic benefit of \$10 million
- \$2 million to continue the \$17 million stage two redevelopment of the Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE. This is North Queensland's largest apprentice and vocational education training provider.

## **Investing in our health**

To make Queenslanders Australia's healthiest people, the Government is investing in healthy lifestyles, hospitals and other frontline health services to ensure Queenslanders receive the best possible healthcare when illness strikes.

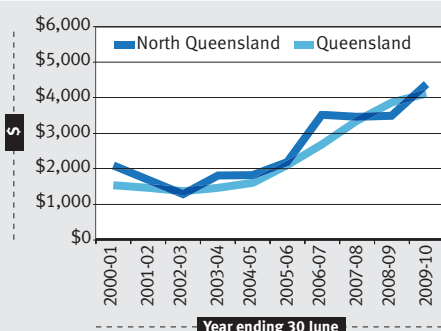
During the next three years, the Queensland Government aims to employ more than 3,500 additional doctors, nurses and allied health professionals across the State. In addition, \$7.9 million will be spent to train and recruit fully accredited nurse practitioners to reduce emergency department waiting times.



# North Queensland Regional Budget Statement



## Capital investment per capita 2000-01 to 2009-10



Source: ABS Regional Population Growth, Australia and New Zealand, Cat no. 3218.0

In 2009-10, the Government will also provide funding for the following State-wide initiatives:

- \$464.77 million towards major hospital capital works
- \$30 million to expand the Surgery Connect program to deliver additional elective surgery procedures
- \$1 million additional funding for new maternity services under the Mums and Bubs program to provide one-on-one midwifery support in Charters Towers and other locations across the State.

In 2009-10, individuals and families in North Queensland will also benefit from the following treatment and healthcare initiatives aimed at maintaining healthy, strong communities:

- \$39.4 million for the \$332.8 million expansion of the Townsville Hospital to provide additional beds, operating theatres and expanded support services for the people of North Queensland. Total project funding includes \$250 million from the Australian Government's Health and Hospitals Fund
- \$14.83 million to support people with a disability
- \$10.61 million for the Home and Community Care initiative
- \$7 million as part of a \$14 million program to establish the Australian Tropical Science and Innovation Precinct in Townsville
- \$5.9 million towards \$19.45 million in funding under the Smart Futures Fund to establish the Queensland Tropical Health Alliance in Townsville. This infrastructure funding will help Queensland become an

## Fostering innovation

\$40,000 to James Cook University to develop work-ready skills and enhanced employment prospects for science and engineering graduates. This internship program will see third-year science and engineering students defer their studies for one semester to complete a six-month industry placement.

internationally-recognised leader in tropical disease research

- \$4.85 million to improve community sport and recreation facilities
- \$3.8 million to complete the \$41.4 million Ingham Hospital redevelopment, which will provide acute and community-based health services, and staff accommodation
- \$3 million (a total of \$34 million over three years) to expand the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Townsville Hospital
- \$1.4 million to help Queenslanders remain in their own homes or in the private rental market
- \$171,000 for chronic disease Indigenous health funding in Charters Towers. This will support the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
- \$98,000 for non-government organisations in Charters Towers to employ chronic disease health workers in the areas of nutrition, physical activity, alcohol, child health, and sexual and reproductive health
- \$75,000 in funding for Townsville to support a State-wide hearing screening program for babies born in private hospitals, paediatric audiology diagnostic and treatment services, the North Queensland Hearing Health program and the cochlear implant program.

## Renewable energy and the environment

The Queensland Government is committed to the fight against climate change and reducing Queensland's carbon footprint by one-third by 2020. Across the State, the Government is investing an additional \$95.83 million over five years in new climate change initiatives, including \$15.6 million for disaster management, \$15 million for the ClimateSmart Business Service, \$8 million for the Energy Efficiency Retrofit program, \$4.5 million to extend the Rural Water Use Efficiency initiative, and \$52.7 million on energy conservation and demand management initiatives.

The Government will also create new green jobs by investing in emerging industries and renewable energy projects, such as the Solar Hot Water Program. This program will provide up to 200,000 Queensland homes with solar hot



### Townsville Ring Road

The Queensland Government remains committed to investing in infrastructure in North Queensland to support and create jobs, and meet the region's growing infrastructure needs. In 2009-10, \$9.6 million in joint Queensland-Australian Government funding will be invested towards the \$110 million duplication of the Douglas Arterial section of the Townsville Ring Road (pictured).

water or heat pump systems at a fraction of the normal price.

Other initiatives aimed at protecting North Queensland's natural environment include:

- \$3.86 million as part of a \$33.3 million grant to the Townsville City Council for the Townsville and Thuringowa water supply upgrade project
- \$2.7 million to replace the Bowen River Fishway at a total cost of \$4.09 million
- \$1.5 million as part of a \$2 million grant to the Hinchinbrook Shire Council for the Tyto Wetlands Centre
- \$250,000 from the Innovation Skills Fund to investigate the effect of climate change on the Great Barrier Reef.

## Better and safer roads

The Government's \$3.53 billion road building program plans for growth by creating and sustaining Queensland jobs, improving road safety and quality, reducing congestion, and continuing to connect people and places around the State.

In 2009-10, the Government's commitment to improve road quality and safety in North Queensland will include:

- \$47.3 million in joint Queensland-Australian Government funding to continue constructing



# Queensland State Budget 2009–10

the \$190 million Townsville Port Access Road, due for completion in 2011-12

- \$11 million to complete a new two-lane road on Abbott Street between Oonoonba Road and River Boulevard, Fairfield Waters
- \$10.7 million in joint Queensland-Australian Government funding to continue the \$43.8 million upgrade of the Burdekin River Bridge on the Bruce Highway between Bowen and Ayr, due for completion in 2013-14
- \$10.5 million to widen the Gregory Developmental Road, south of Bluff Downs Road, at a total cost of \$13.6 million
- \$9.6 million in joint Queensland-Australian Government funding to duplicate the Douglas Arterial section of the Townsville Ring Road, at a total cost of \$110 million
- \$6.3 million to widen the Gregory Developmental Road, north of One Mile Gin Creek, at a total cost of \$9.7 million.

## Promoting education and early childhood development

The Queensland Government is focussed on ensuring every Queensland child has access to high-quality education. The emphasis will be on the essentials of literacy, numeracy and science, as well as major infrastructure investment to provide first-rate teaching and learning environments, and generate employment opportunities.

In 2009-10, the Queensland Government will provide \$301 million to continue the State Schools of Tomorrow program to improve and build new facilities in some of Queensland's oldest schools.

As part of the Government's commitment to universal access to a quality early childhood education, joint Queensland and Australian Government funding of \$15.4 million under the Early Childhood Reform National Partnership will be provided in 2009-10 for the establishment of kindergarten infrastructure on 15 State school sites with 240 new or extra kindergarten services to be running by 2014.

The Government will further invest in North Queensland with the following initiatives aimed at promoting education and early childhood development:

- \$1.8 million to construct a school industry trade centre at Heatley Secondary College
- \$900,000 to construct a new learning block at Oonoonba State School
- \$798,000 to complete a \$2.3 million early childhood education centre in Ayr
- \$276,000 to complete the multipurpose courts development at Pimlico State High School.

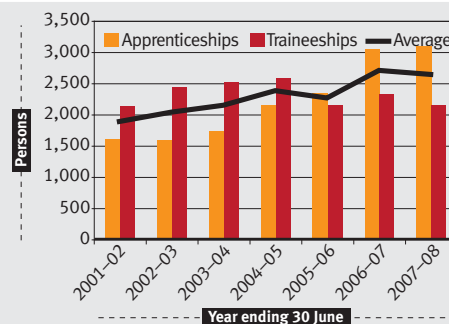
## Improving emergency services

During the past year, Queensland has experienced devastating floods, cyclones and torrential storms. The Government's investment in emergency services will help make Queensland communities safer, provide quality emergency relief services, and create and sustain jobs.

In 2009-10, individuals and families across Queensland will benefit from:

- \$57.03 million for new and upgraded police stations and facilities
- \$22.2 million for nine new or improved urban fire and rescue stations, and improvements to emergency service facilities

## Participation in post-secondary education Apprenticeships and traineeships, 2001-02 to 2007-08



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

- \$20.93 million for 150 new ambulance vehicles, including 140 replacement vehicles and 10 additional vehicles
- \$19.25 million for 20 new or redeveloped ambulance facilities
- \$14.8 million for 57 new or replacement urban and rural fire and rescue appliances
- \$1.84 million (\$7.34 million over four years) to increase safety for rural firefighters under the \$12.98 million Support our Heroes package
- \$1.22 million (\$5.64 million over five years) for vehicles, flood boats and trailers for the State Emergency Service under the \$12.98 million Support our Heroes package.

North Queensland will also benefit from \$1.92 million for the new \$3.46 million Palm Island emergency facility.



## Get on board with Q150 celebrations

Queensland has come a long way since its birth as a separate colony 150 years ago. To celebrate this milestone, the Government is bringing Queenslanders together to honour the importance of our people, places and stories in shaping our great State.

With more than 480 community events and 91 social, historic and community legacy infrastructure projects happening around the State, there's something for everyone to enjoy – including the historic Q150 Steam Train and travelling Q150 Shed.

To find out more about Q150 celebrations in the North Queensland region and across Queensland, visit the Q150 website at [www.q150.qld.gov.au](http://www.q150.qld.gov.au)



# Queensland State Budget Highlights 2009–10

## Budget summary

Internationally Australia is a standout performer; Queensland to remain ahead of the nation

- Queensland's economy is expected to expand by  $\frac{1}{2}\%$  in 2008-09, compared with no growth in the Australian economy.
- The State economy is forecast to experience a slightly milder contraction than the national average in 2009-10.
- Year-average employment growth is forecast to be  $1\frac{1}{4}\%$  in 2010-11, compared with  $\frac{1}{2}\%$  over the year to June quarter 2011 for Australia as a whole.
- Queensland's year-average unemployment rate is forecast to peak at  $7\frac{1}{4}\%$  in 2010-11, compared with a peak in the national rate of  $8\frac{1}{2}\%$  in June quarter 2011.

## Challenging fiscal environment

- A deteriorating global and domestic economic environment has significantly impacted Queensland's finances.
- Since the 2008-09 Budget, \$15 billion over 4 years has been knocked off the State's key revenue sources (GST, taxes and royalties).
- As a result, Queensland is forecasting a General Government operating deficit in 2009-10 and across the forward estimates.
- The Government is committed to returning the Budget to surplus and lowering the State's debt levels and, consequently, has implemented around \$5.4 billion worth (over four years) of measures aimed at improving Queensland's fiscal position.
- The Government has undertaken steps to repair the State's finances for the longer term, charting a course back to surplus by 2016-17.

## Investing in infrastructure to sustain jobs

- The Government's key objective is to continue to invest in infrastructure to sustain jobs while the current economic circumstances prevail.
- The 2009-10 capital program is forecast to be \$18.2 billion which is expected to support 127,000 full-time jobs.
- In 2009-10 there will be capital outlays of \$7.307 billion for transport and main roads, \$1.447 billion for housing and homelessness services, \$1.837 billion for education and training, \$1.296 billion for health, and \$1.121 billion for water.

## Delivering for Queensland

In 2009-10, the Government will provide \$20.3 million for intensive teaching of Year 3 and 5 students who are not meeting national literacy and numeracy standards.

The Budget will also provide for an additional 350 teachers and teacher aides to meet enrolment growth.

Queensland Health's budget will grow to \$9.037 billion in 2009-10, an 8.2% increase on the previous year.

An additional \$30 million will be provided for Surgery Connect to provide treatment opportunities for patients currently waiting longer for surgery than is clinically recommended.

The 2009-10 Budget will see funding provided for an additional 50 ambulance officers, 150 new ambulances, 20 new or redeveloped ambulance facilities, nine new or improved urban fire and rescue stations, 23 new or replacement urban fire and rescue appliances and 34 new or replacement rural fire appliances.



# Government services in North Queensland

## Ayr

### Department of Environment and Resource Management – Business Centre

Little Drysdale Street

Ayr QLD 4807

Telephone: 4761 2250

Facsimile: 4761 2211

Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 4:30pm

## Charters Towers

### Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries

1-5 Prior Street

Charters Towers QLD 4820

Telephone: 4761 5151

Facsimile: 4761 5172

Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 5pm

## Townsville

### Department of Communities – North Queensland Region

Level 10, Suncorp Plaza Building

61 Sturt Street

Townsville QLD 4810

Telephone: 4799 5533

Facsimile: 4799 5570

Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 5pm

## Townsville

### Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

Enterprise House

The Strand and Sir Leslie Thiess Drive

Townsville QLD 4810

Telephone: 4799 7490

Facsimile: 4799 7069

Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 5pm

## Townsville

### Department of Environment and Resource Management – Business Centre

Level 3, State Government Building

187-209 Stanley Street

Townsville QLD 4810

Telephone: 4799 7200

Facsimile: 4799 7125

Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 4:30pm

## Townsville

### Office of Economic and Statistical Research

Level 1, State Government Building

Cnr Walker and Stanley Streets

Townsville QLD 4810

Telephone: 4760 7650

Facsimile: 4760 7651

Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 9am to 4:30pm

## Townsville

### Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries – Townsville Regional Office

180-202 River Boulevard

Oonoonba QLD 4811

Telephone: 4722 2688

Facsimile: 4778 2970

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 or visit [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au)

### State Emergency Service

Telephone: 132 500

### 13 Health

Telephone: 13 43 25 84

### Green Army

Find out more or register your interest in joining the Green Army by calling 1800 249 215 (Monday to Friday – 8am to 6pm) or online at [www.greenarmy.qld.gov.au](http://www.greenarmy.qld.gov.au)

### Rapid Response Team

A hotline (1800 035 749) is available for retrenched workers who require information about Federal and State Government assistance