

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.

Beaudesert

QGAP

Centre 9

William Street

Beaudesert QLD 4285

Phone: 5541 3755

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
9am–4.30pm

Wednesday 10am–4:30pm

Beenleigh

SEQ South Regional Communities Office
Community Engagement Division
Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Unit 2, Post Office Plaza

Main Street

Beenleigh QLD 4207

Phone: 3287 8541

Brisbane

Office of Economic and Statistical Research

Level 16

61 Mary Street

Brisbane QLD 4000

Phone: 3224 5326

Monday–Friday 9am–4.30pm

www.oesr.qld.gov.au

Gold Coast

State Development Centre

26 Marine Parade

Southport QLD 4215

Phone: 5591 5977

Monday–Friday 8:30am–5pm



South 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 South Coast region. Initiatives in the South Coast include:

- \$38.7 million towards the \$120 million Gold Coast Convention Centre;
- \$23.5 million for a new preschool, primary school, secondary school and special education facility at Coomera West, opening in 2003; and
- \$7 million towards the \$18 million redevelopment of the Tallebudgera Outdoor Recreational Centre.

We will also provide \$120 million as the Queensland Government's contribution to planning and commencing construction of the Pacific Highway Tugun bypass.

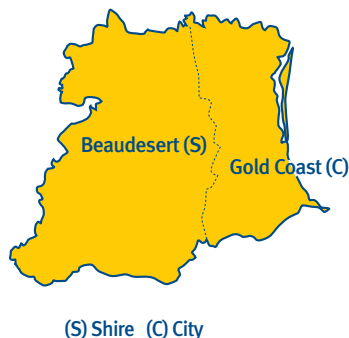
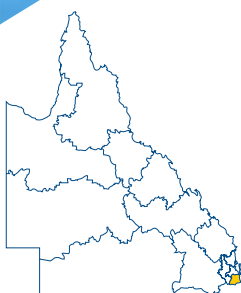
In the Smart State, the focus on regions is about more than infrastructure. This Budget will boost services in the areas of families, education and law and order. For example, we will continue the pilot of Drug Courts at Beenleigh and Southport to get people off drugs and reduce crime.

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





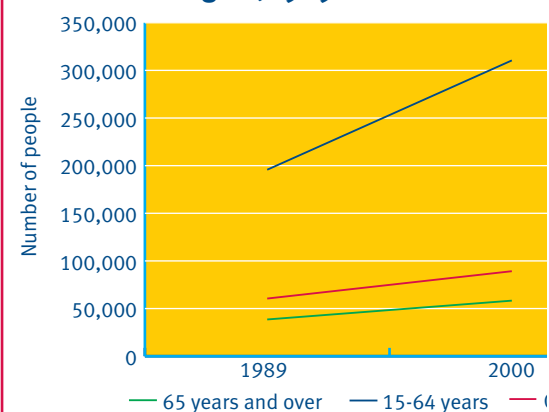
• Introduction

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 people in the South Coast region to promote economic development and job creation, stronger community networks and a prosperous future.

This region of world-famous beaches and sub-tropical hinterland includes Gold Coast city, including Beenleigh, and Beaudesert shire. The South Coast region is home to about 13% 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 almost two-thirds to more than 770,000 people.

Retail trade, property and business services, and manufacturing are the major providers of employment in the region. Tourism also contributes significantly to the economy, taking more than \$300 million a year in accommodation alone.

Estimated resident population, South 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 South 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 South Coast, matched by the South East Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils.

One of the most significant developments in the South Coast region is the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, costing approximately \$120 million. The Government has allocated \$38.7 million in 2002-03, as part of its total commitment of \$102.3 million to the project, which is jointly funded with Jupiters Limited. The Centre will enhance the Gold Coast's status as a premier tourist destination and stimulate economic activity, creating more than 3,000 jobs during construction and about 1,500 when operational.

Tourism is a major driver of the local economy and one of the main events on the tourism calendar is the Honda Indy 300. The Government will provide \$11.2 million towards the 2003 event. We will also provide ongoing funding of \$200,000 to the Gold Coast Tourism Bureau to market the region.

A safe and efficient transport network promotes industry competitiveness and economic development. We will provide \$120 million as part of the Queensland Government's contribution to commencing the Pacific Motorway bypass of Tugun, subject to planning and environmental approvals and funding agreement with the Commonwealth Government. Other major transport projects in the South Coast region include:

- \$11.4 million for duplication and bridge upgrading work on the Brisbane–Beenleigh Road, at a total cost of \$20.5 million;



- \$5.6 million to complete the Stoney Camp Road interchange on the Mt Lindesay Highway; and
- \$3.6 million towards the \$8.5 million upgrade of the Nerang–Broadbeach Road between Nerang and Goodings Corner.

Other projects include:

- almost \$1 million towards implementing the Nerang CBD Master Plan, including revitalising the streetscape and civic places;
- \$616,000 for reliable water and sewerage services at Beaudesert and on the Gold Coast; and
- \$249,000 for the Southern Points Promenade from Point Danger to Greenmount.

Government-owned Energex has allocated more than \$35.9 million to enhance energy supply and maintain growth in the region. Powerlink will spend \$11.8 million to establish transmission lines at Molendinar.

• 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.

Investment in new industries creates 21st century jobs. Our support for the expansion of the Warner Roadshow Movie World Studios will help create an estimated 2,500 new jobs.

We are also developing and implementing labour market programs that create new opportunities and improve workforce skills for current and future needs.

The lynchpin of this approach is the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiatives. In the South Coast region, it's anticipated that approximately \$6.7 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.

In 2001, there were 77,978 young people in primary or secondary schools in the region and the Government is committed to helping them reach their full potential through education. 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 South 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 and training funding for the region include:

- \$23.9 million for a new preschool, primary school, secondary school and special education facility at Coomera West, opening in 2003;
- \$8.2 million for Stage 3 of Varsity College at Robina;
- \$3.9 million for facilities at the Pacific Pines State School and State High School;
- \$3.1 million for the new \$3.8 million Bonogin State School, opening in 2003;
- \$887,000 for two new classrooms at Helensvale, four new classrooms at Palm Beach-Currumbin State High School and four new classrooms at Mudgeeraba Special School;
- \$497,000 to continue the development of an Information Technology Platform at the Gold Coast Institute of TAFE;
- more than \$285,000 for the Learning and Development Centre (Technology) at Burleigh Heads State School;
- \$200,000 for Helensvale State High School, which is one of eight Technology, Maths and Science Centres of Excellence across Queensland; and
- \$165,000 for the New Basics initiative at Eagleby State School, Helensvale State High School and Varsity College to equip students with critical thinking, problem solving and lifelong learning skills.

To provide enhanced life-long learning opportunities, \$1.6 million has been allocated for public libraries in the South Coast region.

• Safer and more supportive communities

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. To assist this focus, 69 additional police officers will be appointed in the Gold Coast area over the next three years.

We have allocated \$4.8 million in 2002-03 to continue the pilot of Drug Courts in South East Queensland at Beenleigh, Southport and Ipswich Magistrates Courts. The pilot was established in June 2000 and has been extended to December 2003. The Drug Courts enable drug-addicted offenders who commit non-violent crimes to be diverted out of the jail system and into intensive rehabilitation programs. The aim is to get people off drugs and reduce crime.

We will maintain our commitment to Urban and Community Renewal Programs in areas of need, working with the Commonwealth and local governments. In 2002-03, \$2.4 million is allocated for Eagleby, including upgrading 53 dwellings and improving the Eagleby Public Pool.

Other projects include:

- \$2.1 million to complete the \$3.2 million replacement fire station at Surfers Paradise; and
- \$730,000 for improvements to the Southport courthouse.

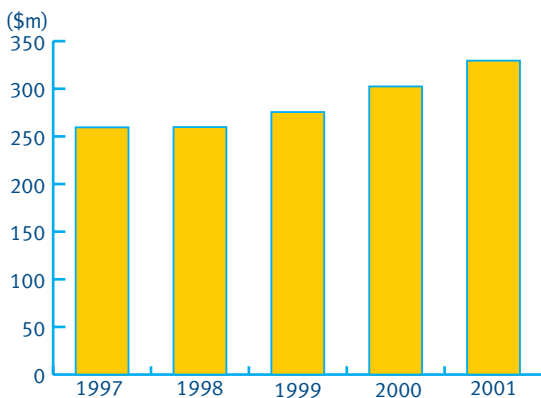
• Community engagement and a better quality of life

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 South Coast region, in 2002-03 we will spend:

- \$7 million towards the \$18 million redevelopment of the Tallebudgera Outdoor Recreation Centre;
- \$1.5 million to purchase and upgrade mental health facilities at Southport for the Gold Coast Hospital. This follows the \$54 million upgrade of the hospital;
- \$1.4 million to develop a world-class equestrian centre at Carrara and \$75,000 for extensions to the Southport Gymnastics Club, in partnership with Gold Coast City Council; and
- \$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.

Takings from accommodation, South Coast region, 1997 to 2001



Source: ABS, Tourist Accommodation, Queensland (8635.3)



Services for people with a disability and their families will be boosted with approximately \$600,000 provided for new and enhanced family support and respite services on the Gold Coast and at Beenleigh.

To support a vibrant arts sector and improve access to cultural activities in the region, we will provide a further \$1.4 million for extensions to the Gold Coast Arts Centre.

Local shows play an important role in bringing together communities in regional Queensland. This Budget provides \$55,000 under the Showground Subsidy Scheme for showground improvements in Beaudesert, Parklands and Tamborine Mountain.

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 Beenleigh.

• 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.

In line with the Government's push for cleaner, green energy, the Government-owned Stanwell Corporation has allocated \$9 million to the co-generation plant at Rocky Point Sugar Mill. The \$63 million project will be fully completed in late 2002 and will generate enough electricity to power more than 18,000 average homes.

To protect the natural assets of the South Coast region and promote sustainable development, this Budget provides:

- \$2.15 million to relieve sand build-up at the Tweed River entrance and to replenish Gold Coast beaches. Gold Coast City Council is also providing \$2.15 million, with New South Wales matching Queensland's total funding of \$4.3 million;
- \$894,000 to upgrade Burleigh Heads, Lamington, Springbrook and Tamborine National Parks and Fleays Wildlife Park; and
- \$486,000 to investigate opportunities for developing a Great Walk of Queensland in the Gold Coast area, as part of a \$10 million statewide initiative.

