

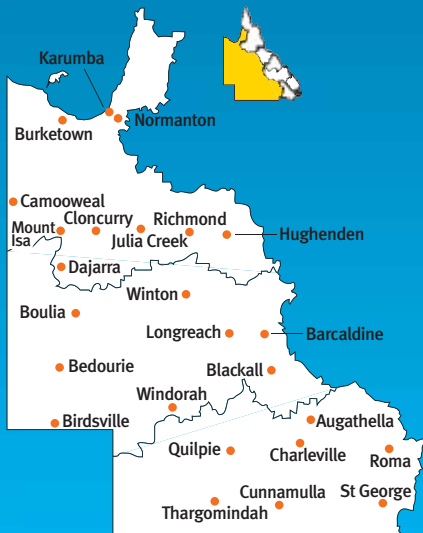


Regional Budget Statement Western Queensland

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 job-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.

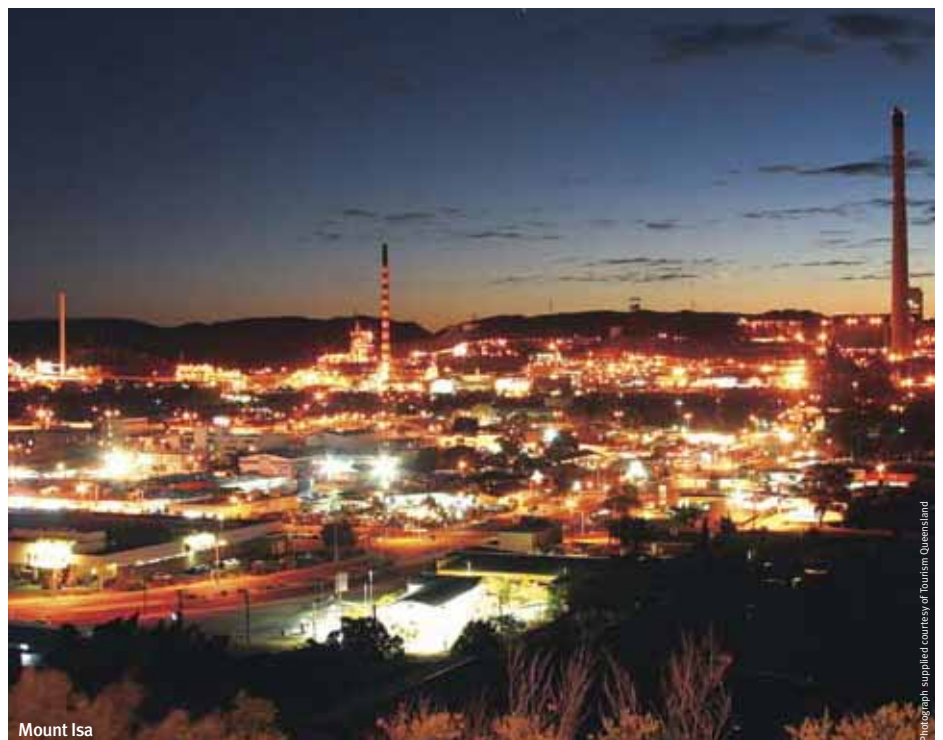
Frontline service delivery is our focus with commitments for police, hospitals and healthcare, ambulance services and teachers – the things we need to keep our communities healthy, safe and growing. The Government is determined to cushion Queenslanders from

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 Western Queensland region.



Andrew Fraser MP
**Treasurer and Minister for Employment
and Economic Development**



Protecting jobs in Western 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.



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



Covering just over 1 million square kilometres or 57.8 per cent of the State, Western Queensland is by far the largest Queensland region – and also our least populous. Home to 1.7 per cent of Queensland’s total population, more than 70,000¹ Queenslanders call Western Queensland home.

Renowned as an agricultural centre, Western Queensland plays host to a wide range of agricultural production, with beef, wool and grain strongholds for the region. Western Queensland’s robust coal mining industry, and oil and gas production also contribute significantly to its economic position.

The Queensland Government recognises the valuable contribution Western 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 Western Queensland include:

- \$37.3 million to expand and improve social housing including building 67 new rental units in Indigenous communities. This is part of the Government’s \$1.447 billion program to expand and improve social housing across the State
- \$32.4 million to improve the Mica Creek Power Station
- \$8 million to reinforce the electricity bulk supply point at Roma
- \$2.5 million to complete the upgrade and replacement of the Lake Moondarra to Mount Isa Terminal Reservoir pipeline.

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 the Western Queensland region include

- \$20.5 million for vocational education and training activities
- \$3.47 million to create 470 jobs for young people and those disadvantaged in the labour market through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative, which includes Queensland’s Green Army
- \$760,000 for marketing the Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre, and providing landholder support services to build economic capacity and opportunities in the region
- \$260,000 for rural service access initiatives in towns including Aramac, Muttaborra, Normanton and Thargomindah.

Investing in our health

To make Queenslanders Australia’s healthiest people the Government is investing in healthy lifestyles, hospitals and

Western Queensland Regional Budget Statement

other frontline health services to ensure Queenslanders receive the best possible healthcare when illness strikes.

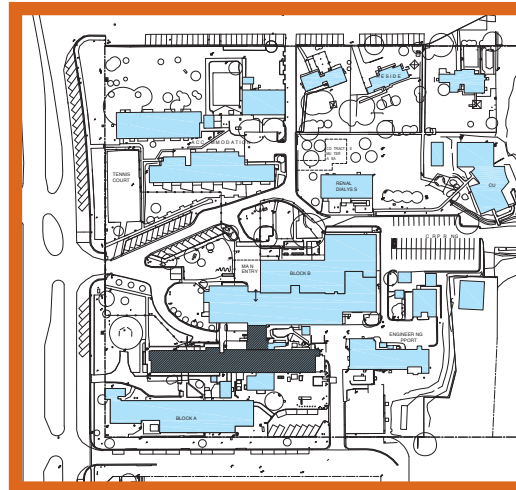
During the next three years, the Queensland Government aims to employ more than 3,500 additional doctors, nurses and allied health professionals across the State. In addition, \$7.9 million will be spent to train and recruit fully accredited nurse practitioners to reduce emergency department waiting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

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 for the expansion of 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 Longreach and other locations across the State
- \$900,000 for newborn and family drop-in clinics to provide specialist advice to new parents in Longreach, Mount Isa and other locations across the State. This is part of the Universal Postnatal Contact Service program.

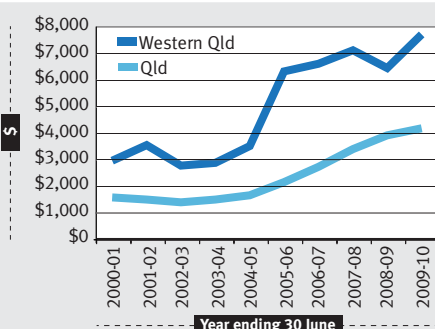
In 2009-10, individuals and families in Western Queensland will also benefit from the following treatment and healthcare initiatives aimed at maintaining healthy, strong communities:

- \$25.4 million for the \$65.2 million redevelopment of the Mount Isa Health Campus
- \$6.35 million for the Home and Community Care initiative
- \$2.65 million to upgrade medical staff accommodation and construct accommodation for renal dialysis patients in Mount Isa, funded as part of the Sustainable Resource Communities initiative
- \$1.42 million to support homeless people or people at risk of becoming homeless



- \$1.17 million to support individuals with a disability
- \$1 million to help Queenslanders remain in their own homes or in the private rental market
- \$803,936 to deliver Community Patrol and Men's Support Services
- \$775,506 to support victims of domestic violence
- \$504,451 to support young people who misuse or are at risk of misusing volatile substances, who are homeless and have complex needs
- \$378,000 for chronic disease Indigenous health funding in Murweh. This will support the implementation of the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
- \$374,000 to improve community sport and recreation facilities
- \$176,000 to deliver primary and secondary health care services in Diamantina
- \$80,000 to the Bush Nurses Association for nursing and basic primary health care services in the McKinlay region.

Capital investment per capita
2000-01 to 2009-10



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

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

Mount Isa Health Campus redevelopment

The Queensland Government is committed to making Queenslanders Australia's healthiest people by investing in healthcare, health services and hospitals. In 2009-10, the Government will invest \$25.4 million towards the \$65.2 million Mount Isa Health Campus redevelopment (pictured).



Images supplied courtesy of Project Service, North Queensland

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

Other initiatives aimed at promoting renewable energy and protecting Western Queensland's natural environment include:

- \$9 million for a new geothermal plant at Birdsville
- \$1.8 million for the Boodjamulla Management Base redevelopment at Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park
- \$501,000 to complete the Diamantina Homestead Complex upgrade in the Diamantina National Park
- \$280,000 to upgrade boundary fencing in the Idalia National Park.

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 Western Queensland will include:

- \$5.3 million to complete the \$29.7 million paving and sealing of sections of the Roma-Taroom Road, north-east of Roma
- \$4.9 million to upgrade the Box Creek and Holy Joe Creek floodways on the Flinders Highway
- \$4.5 million to complete the \$14.4 million sealing of the Aramac-Torrens Creek Road, south of Torrens Creek
- \$4.5 million to pave and seal a 15-kilometre section of the Wills Developmental Road, north of Gregory
- \$4.4 million to complete \$8.8 million of works on the Flinders Highway at Jardine Valley, west of Charters Towers.

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 Western Queensland with the following initiatives aimed at promoting education and early childhood development:

- refurbishment of existing facilities at Doomadgee and Mornington Island as part of the \$36.1 million Bound for Success pre-prep capital works program
- \$3.4 million in Australian Government funding to begin constructing a \$4.5 million trade training centre at the Senior Campus of Spinifex State College in Mount Isa
- \$2.1 million in Australian Government funding to begin constructing a \$2.8 million trade training centre at Longreach State High School
- \$1.5 million in Australian Government funding to begin constructing a \$2 million trade training centre at Charleville State High School.

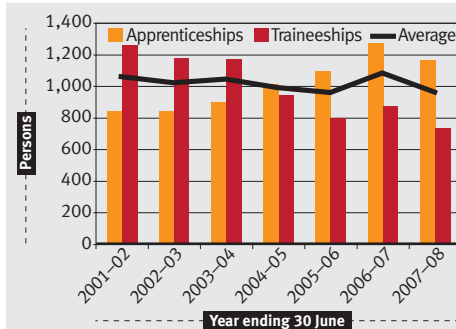
Improving emergency services

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
- \$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

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



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

- \$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.

Western Queensland will also benefit from \$1.51 million to complete the refurbishment of the Charleville Watchhouse. This is part of a \$6 million project which included the replacement of the Charleville Police Station.



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 Western Queensland region and across Queensland, visit the Q150 website at 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 Western Queensland

Aramac

QGAP

Gordon Street
Aramac QLD 4726
Telephone: 4651 3014
Facsimile: 4651 3000
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 9am to 1pm
then 2pm to 4:45pm

Augathella

QGAP

Augathella Visitors Centre
98 Main Street
Augathella QLD 4477
Telephone: 4654 5007
Facsimile: 4654 5009
Opening hours: Monday
to Thursday – 9:30am to
3:30pm; Friday – 9:30am
to 4pm

Barcaldine

QGAP

Barcaldine Court House
Ash Street
Barcaldine QLD 4725
Telephone: 4651 1191
Facsimile: 4651 2021
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 9am to
4:30pm

Bedourie

QGAP

Police Station
Merri Street
Bedourie QLD 4829
Telephone: 4746 1128
Facsimile: 4746 1266
Opening hours: Monday,
Friday – 8:30am to
12:30pm then 1pm to
5pm

Birdsville

QGAP

Police Station
MacDonald Street
Birdsville QLD 4482
Telephone: 4656 3310
Facsimile: 4656 3312
Opening hours: Monday,
Wednesday, Thursday,
Friday – 9am to 1pm;
Tuesday closed

Blackall

QGAP

Shamrock Street
Blackall QLD 4472
Telephone: 4657 4233
Facsimile: 4657 4908
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 9am to
4:30pm

Boulia

QGAP

Police Station
Herbert Street
Boulia QLD 4829
Telephone: 4746 3043
Facsimile: 4746 3338
Opening hours: Monday,
Tuesday, Thursday,
Friday – 9am to 1pm;
Wednesday closed

Camooweal

QGAP

Barkly Street
Camooweal QLD 4828
Telephone: 4748 2025
Facsimile: 4748 2026
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 9am to 5pm;
Saturday – 9am to 12pm

Cunnamulla

QGAP

5 Stockyard Street
Cunnamulla QLD 4490
Telephone: 4655 1331
Facsimile: 4655 1422
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 9am to
4:30pm

Dirranbandi

QGAP

35-37 Railway Street
Dirranbandi QLD 4486
Telephone: 4625 8411
Facsimile: 4625 8433
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 10am to
12:30pm then 1:30pm
to 4pm

Hughenden

QGAP

65 Brodie Street
Hughenden QLD 4821
Telephone: 4741 1735
Facsimile: 4741 1412
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 8:30am to
4:30pm
Phone will be answered
from 8am

Injune

QGAP

Hutton Street
Injune QLD 4454
Telephone: 4626 0504
Facsimile: 4626 0590
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 8:30am
to 12pm then 1pm to
4:30pm

Isisford

QGAP

Isisford Police Station
St Mary Street
Isisford QLD 4731
Telephone: 4658 8153
Facsimile: 4658 8183
Opening hours:
Wednesday, Thursday –
8am to 12pm then 1pm
to 5pm

Julia Creek

QGAP

14 Burke Street
Julia Creek QLD 4823
Telephone: 4746 7162
Facsimile: 4746 7338
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 9am to 12pm
then 1:30pm to 4:30pm

Jundah

QGAP

Police Station
Dickson Street
Jundah QLD 4736
Telephone: 4658 6193
Facsimile: 4658 6180
Opening hours: Monday,
Wednesday – 9am to
1:30pm; Friday – 9am
to 12:30pm then 1pm to
4:30pm

Mitchell

QGAP

Cnr Mary and Dublin
Streets
Mitchell QLD 4465
Telephone: 4623 1106
Facsimile: 4623 1510
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 9am to
12:30pm then 1:30pm to
4:30pm

Normanton

QGAP

Haig Street
Normanton QLD 4890
Telephone: 4745 1177
Facsimile: 4745 1393
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 9am to
4:45pm

Quilpie

QGAP

Court House
Buln Buln Street
Quilpie QLD 4480
Telephone: 4656 1266
Facsimile: 4656 1442
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 8:30am to
4:30pm

Richmond

QGAP

Goldring Street
Richmond QLD 4822
Telephone: 4741 3227
Facsimile: 4741 3721
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 9am to
12:30pm then 1:30pm to
4:30pm

St George

QGAP

The Terrace
St George QLD 4487
Telephone: 4625 3266
Facsimile: 4625 3180
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 9am to
4:30pm

Surat

QGAP

62 Burrowes Street
Surat QLD 4417
Telephone: 4626 5523
Facsimile: 4626 5256
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 9am to
4:30pm

Thargomindah

QGAP

Police Station
Dowling Street
Thargomindah QLD 4492
Telephone: 4655 3291
Facsimile: 4655 3224
Opening hours: Monday
to Thursday – 8am to
12pm

Windorah

QGAP

Police Station
Victoria Street
Windorah QLD 4481
Telephone: 4656 3171
Facsimile: 4656 3172
Opening hours: Monday,
Wednesday – 8am to
11am; Tuesday, Thursday
– 2pm to 5pm; Friday –
8am to 12pm

Winton

QGAP

Winton Courthouse
59 Vindex Street
Winton QLD 4735
Telephone: 4657 1536
Facsimile: 4657 1583
Opening hours: Monday
to Friday – 8:30am to
4pm

Other services

Smart Service Queensland

For information on
all other Government
services call 13 13 04
or visit 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

Rapid Response Team

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