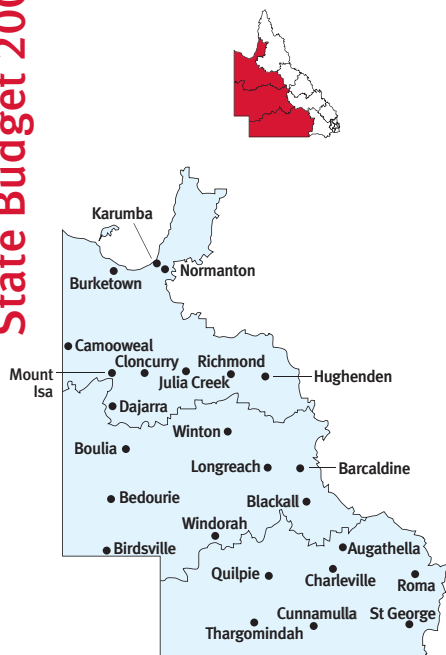


Regional Budget Statement

Western Queensland

State Budget 2006-07



The Western Queensland region includes the city of Mount Isa and the shires of Aramac, Balonne, Barcaldine, Barcoo, Bendemere, Blackall, Booringa, Boulia, Bulloo, Bungil, Burke, Carpentaria, Cloncurry, Diamantina, Doomadgee, Flinders, Ilfracombe, Isisford, Longreach, McKinlay, Mornington, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie, Richmond, Roma, Tambo, Warroo and Winton.



The 2006-07 Budget re-affirms our Government's commitment to strengthening the Smart State's economy and investing in infrastructure and service delivery priorities.

This Regional Budget Statement outlines how we are meeting the needs of Western Queensland residents.

Through the Health Action Plan, we are committing \$9.7 billion in just over five years to build Australia's best health system.

To meet the needs of our growing population, we are investing in State-wide infrastructure, especially in rural Queensland where the Blueprint for the Bush will deliver health, water and transport facilities.

Ensuring the Smart State's future, Prep Year will begin in 2007 to give our children the best education.

We are also continuing our response to residents affected by Cyclone Larry and working towards a brighter future for all Queenslanders.

Peter Beattie MP
Premier of Queensland

Anna Bligh MP
Deputy Premier and Treasurer

State Budget highlights for the Western Queensland region in 2006-07 include:

- \$17.01 million to undertake a range of water supply infrastructure upgrades, including completing Water Pumping Station works and constructing the Mount Isa Terminal Reservoir Pump Station
- \$10.92 million to widen and seal sections of the Flinders Highway, \$1.85 million to improve sections of the Warrego Highway and \$4.97 million to widen sections of the Carnarvon Highway
- \$6.62 million to construct, upgrade and maintain dwellings in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- \$4.5 million to commence paving and sealing the Roma-Taroom Road to support oil and gas development and improve regional community access
- \$1.5 million to progress the three-year Lake Moondarra Pipeline project
- \$1.2 million for the St George water supply upgrade
- \$217,000 to continue upgrading the special education facilities at Sunset State School.

Western Queensland



Blueprint for the Bush

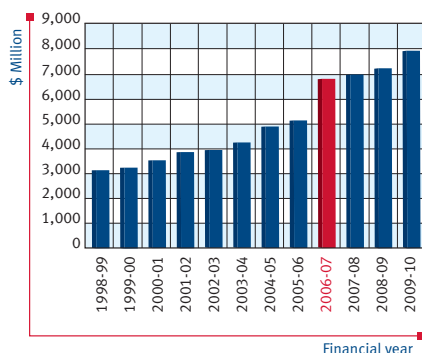
The Queensland Government has developed the Blueprint for the Bush in partnership with AgForce and the Local Government Association of Queensland to enhance the sustainability, liveability and prosperity of rural Queensland. Beginning in 2006-07, the Blueprint commits more than \$150 million over the next four years to a range of initiatives that will assist rural communities. An accompanying *Rural Economic Development and Infrastructure Plan* outlines a range of Government and private sector investment initiatives for rural and regional Queensland.

The Western Queensland region will benefit from State-wide initiatives such as:

- \$47 million for natural resource management projects to support sustainable land management and environmental protection practices, tackle pests and weeds, and effectively manage water resources
- \$30 million to strengthen rural communities, which will include grants to non-Government organisations and local governments
- \$20 million to maintain and upgrade housing for Indigenous people
- \$5 million for rural airport upgrades
- \$4.5 million for new regional planning initiatives
- \$1.8 million for online access in public libraries
- \$1 million for local governments to assess rural infrastructure needs.

Building a better health system

Queensland health budget
1998-99 to 2009-10



Source: Queensland Treasury

The Government is reforming the Queensland health system. The 2005 Action Plan marked a new start with the biggest single injection of funding in the State's history. In 2006-07, the health budget of \$6.65 billion represents a 24% increase over the 2005-06 Budget. Increased health expenditure within the Western Queensland region includes:

- \$880,000 to complete the Blackall Private Practice Clinic
- \$675,000, from a State-wide commitment of \$39 million, for enhanced cardiac services
- \$307,000, from a State-wide commitment of \$18 million, to support community mental health services by employing additional specialist mental health staff.

As a result of funding increases for health services, the region will receive an increase of more than 75 staff in the Central West, Charleville, Charters Towers, Mt Isa, Roma and Cape York health service districts.

Covering almost 60% of the State, the Western Queensland region is home to 75,000 Queenslanders. This vast region covers more than 1 million square kilometres — four times the size of the United Kingdom — and is primarily an agricultural area. Mining, oil and gas are also key contributors to Western Queensland's economic strength.

As a Government, we recognise the valuable contribution of Western Queensland to the Smart State's economy. With nearly 60% of the Government's 2006-07 capital expenditure allocated outside the Brisbane area, this Regional Budget Statement for Western Queensland highlights the Government's commitment to the region and its people.

Improving health care and strengthening services to the community

We are committed to providing better hospitals, services and health care for all Queenslanders. Within Western Queensland, this commitment includes:

- \$1.4 million to complete construction of a 40-bed nursing home in Roma
- more than \$500,000 to non-Government organisations for a range of community health services.

The Western Queensland region will also benefit from a range of State-wide commitments including:

- \$70 million for new health technology equipment
- \$69.3 million to meet the increasing cost of providing existing health services
- \$25.4 million in increased funding for workforce training and recruitment initiatives for medical, nursing and allied health staff
- \$12.3 million to improve access and meet growing demand for renal services.

The Mount Isa Rodeo

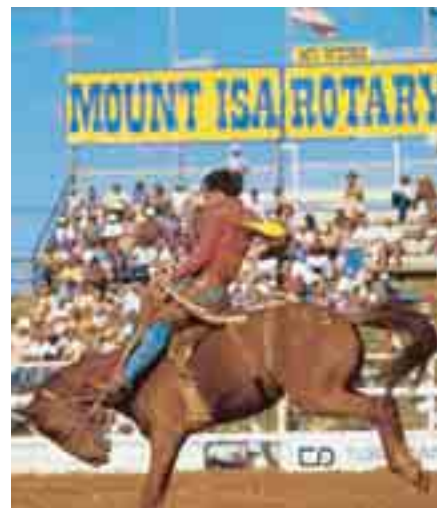
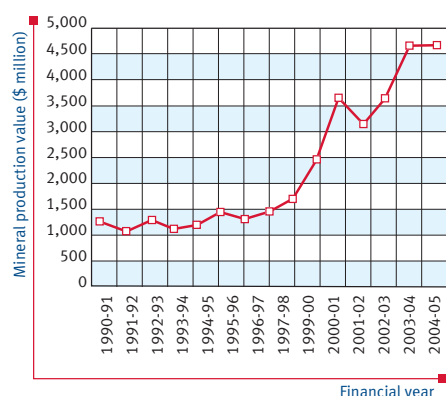


Image courtesy of Tourism Queensland

Value of mineral production

(\$ million), 1990-91 to 2004-05



Source: Department of Natural Resources and Mines (unpublished data)

Expenditure on new and upgraded emergency facilities and staffing includes:

- \$9 million as part of a \$35.3 million three-year commitment to recruit 144 new ambulance officers across Queensland
- \$816,000 to complete the replacement ambulance station at Aramac.

The Government is continuing its support for people with disabilities and their carers with a \$1.82 million commitment in Western Queensland including:

- \$915,000 for community organisations to support individuals with a disability and their families
- \$264,000 to assist adults with a disability to maintain the living arrangements of their choice and participate in the community
- \$161,000 to provide short term and limited respite support for families, carers and people with a disability.

In 2006-07, the Government continues its support for services provided by community groups in Western Queensland with funding of \$9.61 million. This includes: \$1.49 million for early intervention and family support services; \$1.11 million toward domestic and family violence prevention; and \$740,000 for child care facilities and services.

We are providing ongoing housing and housing-related services to support low-income families and individuals in Western Queensland in 2006-07 including:

- \$6.62 million to construct, upgrade and maintain dwellings in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and \$3.37 million in grants for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing rental program
- \$2.77 million for community housing programs and services to address crisis, transitional and long-term housing needs
- \$1.7 million for new and upgraded public housing and to purchase land for future construction.

Realising the Smart State through education, skills and innovation

The Government continues to drive economic growth by utilising innovation and skills through its *Smart Queensland: Smart State Strategy 2005-2015*. In 2006-07, initiatives include \$150,000 State-wide to continue the Science on Saturday program to encourage children to understand the importance of science and take an interest in science as a possible future career.

We are committed to providing high-quality education facilities to support Queensland's growing population. In 2006-07, \$1.85 million is allocated to Western Queensland for school capital works including:

- \$760,000 investment in school maintenance including \$225,000 of High Priority Maintenance program works
- \$532,000 to Barcaldine State School to continue developing covered multi-purpose courts
- \$429,000 to the Senior Campus at Mount Isa's Spinifex State College to continue a major upgrade to support multi-media initiatives with a total project cost of \$1.65 million
- \$217,000 to continue upgrading the special education facilities at Sunset State School.

Protecting our children and enhancing community safety

The Government continues to implement significant reforms to improve the child protection system. A record \$503.1 million, up almost 28% since last year, will be spent in 2006-07 to protect our children.

The region will benefit from a range of State-wide initiatives including:

- \$15.6 million to continue to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Recognised Entities
- \$10 million for non-Government partners to deliver extra alternative care places for children with complex needs
- \$7.6 million for an extra 50 front-line staff and to attract and retain child protection staff particularly in regional, rural and remote areas.

This is supported by a capital program of \$39.7 million for 2006-07 which includes:

- \$18.2 million to continue to upgrade and expand Child Safety offices across the State
- \$450,000 to support service delivery hubs to be established in the Mount Isa and Gulf areas.

The region will also benefit from an additional \$1.3 million to enhance local child protection responses in several remote Indigenous communities in the Mount Isa and Gulf areas.

We are also investing in major funding initiatives to boost our police service, with the number of police officers across Queensland reaching 9,728 by September 2007 through the creation of an extra 350 police officer positions. This will more than meet the Government's commitment to maintain police numbers at or above the national average police-to-population ratio.

The Government is providing funding for services and infrastructure to enhance community safety in Western Queensland. Key projects for 2006-07 include:

- \$1.2 million to replace the Longreach police barracks with two twin-unit dwellings (stage two of the Longreach redevelopment project)
- \$500,000 to construct a new police residence in Cloncurry.

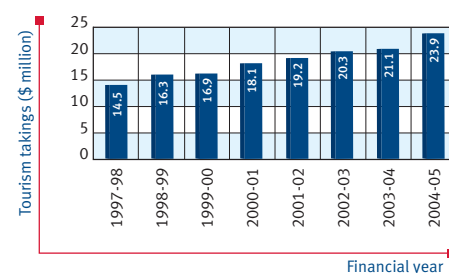


Get set for Prep

Preparatory Year will be available at all State schools from 2007 to help Queensland kids make a smooth transition to Year 1. Replacing preschool, it will lay the foundation for success at school by developing a positive approach to learning; independence and confidence; thinking, problem-solving and language skills; physical abilities; and early literacy and numeracy. To prepare for the intake of eager young students, the Queensland Government is undertaking one of the largest building programs in education history. Across the State, \$106 million will be spent on building and upgrading classrooms and other facilities, with 124 schools offering Prep Year in the Western Queensland region.

Tourism

takings (\$ million), 1997-98 to 2004-05



Source: ABS, Tourist Accommodation, Queensland (8635.3.40.001 and 8635.3)

The Harry Redford Cattle Drive



Riders saddle-up for the annual Harry Redford Cattle Drive where they will experience an authentic outback cattle drive.

Managing urban growth and building Queensland's regions

Efficient and integrated transport networks are essential for the ongoing development of regional Queensland. In Western Queensland, major transport infrastructure initiatives include:

- \$18.23 million to install concrete rail sleepers between Hughenden and Mount Isa
- \$14.52 million to upgrade sections of the Burke Developmental Road
- \$10.92 million to widen and seal sections of the Flinders Highway between Torrens Creek and Jardine Valley
- \$4.97 million to widen sections of the Carnarvon Highway
- \$4.5 million to commence paving and sealing the Roma-Taroom Road to support oil and gas development and improve regional community access
- \$2.27 million to pave, seal and widen sections of the Wills Developmental Road
- \$1.85 million to improve sections of the Warrego Highway between Miles and Charleville.

The Government continues to ensure a reliable energy supply through its investment in the electricity network in 2006-07 including:

- \$22 million for improvements and overhauls to the Mica Creek power station by CS Energy
- \$8.9 million by Ergon Energy for network improvements including developing a larger geothermal power station at Birdsville.

The Government is also managing the State's water resources and ensuring a continuing water supply through a range of initiatives including:

- \$17.01 million to undertake a range of water supply infrastructure upgrades, including completing Water Pumping Station works and constructing the Mount Isa Terminal Reservoir Pump Station
- \$12.83 million State-wide as part of the Water Reform — Continuity of Supply initiative
- \$1.5 million to progress the three-year Lake Moondarra Pipeline project
- \$1.2 million for the St George water supply upgrade, sewerage treatment and effluent re-use
- \$353,000 to refurbish infrastructure in the Julius, Maranoa River and St George areas.

Queenslanders enjoy a lifestyle with a high level of community participation in a range of sporting activities. In the Western Queensland region, \$1.1 million is allocated to projects including: \$454,495 to construct a 25-metre swimming pool and amenities at Dirranbandi; \$322,500 to construct an aquatic facility at Burketown; and \$62,248 to construct two new tennis courts at Mount Isa.

Protecting the environment for a sustainable future

The natural and cultural heritage of Western Queensland is valued by all Queenslanders. To reflect this, we are committing:

- \$12.8 million State-wide to complete the implementation of the new vegetation management framework
- \$24,000 to continue redeveloping the day use area in the Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park.

Growing a diverse economy and creating jobs

Launched in March 2006, the \$1 billion *Queensland Skills Plan* is our Government's

strategy for responding to skills shortages across Queensland. This strategy will ensure the vocational education and training sector meets the skills challenges facing the Western Queensland region. In 2006-07, the plan will deliver:

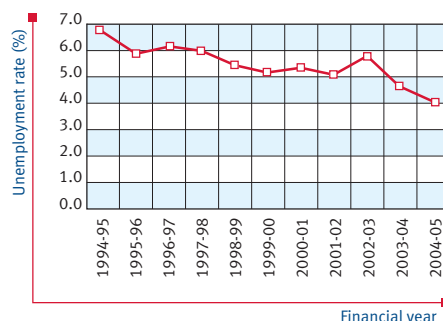
- \$333,000 for new trade apprenticeships as part of our \$2.85 million plan to provide 430 extra training places in the region by 2010
- \$372,000 for new Certificate IV and above training places as part of our \$2.61 million plan to provide 230 additional training places in the region by 2010.

Other Government initiatives to create and protect jobs in the region include:

- \$10.63 million State-wide, as part of the four-year Smart Exploration Program, to collect data to support mineral exploration and investment in Queensland
- \$6 million State-wide for 14 Regional Tourism Offices and six Convention Bureaus State-wide to promote Queensland's tourism industry, with an extra \$1 million for destination marketing and development
- \$2.16 million to protect our agricultural industry through continued biosecurity programs.

Unemployment rate^a

1994-95 to 2004-05



Source: DEWRB - Small Area Labour Markets. (QRSIS database maintained by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR))

(a) Data based on un-smoothed series

Delivering responsive government

The Government's continuing commitment to restore public trust and accountability in the Queensland public health system includes \$7.7 million to establish a new Health Quality and Complaints Commission.

Through initiatives such as regular Ministerial Regional Community Forums and Community Cabinets, the Queensland Government engages with local communities, businesses and other government agencies to ensure better co-ordination of services and to respond to local needs.

Budget Highlights 2006-07

Budget summary

Stronger economic growth maintains low unemployment

- Queensland's economic growth is forecast to strengthen to 4¼% in 2006-07 and exceed growth in the rest of Australia for the 11th consecutive year.
- Employment growth is expected to exceed the rest of Australia in 2005-06 and 2006-07 at 3% and 2½% respectively.
- As a result, Queensland's year-average unemployment rate is forecast to remain at 5% – around the 30-year low, and slightly below the national rate (5¼%).

Strong finances

- The expected 2005-06 operating result of \$2.853 billion reflects the strength of the economy and investment markets.
- A General Government operating surplus of \$245 million is forecast in 2006-07.
- Moderating surpluses reflect significant capital investment, implementation of the Health Action Plan and commitments in other key service delivery areas, and the impact of a range of State tax abolition and relief measures.
- The State's net worth is budgeted to grow from around \$96 billion at 30 June 2006 to over \$107 billion by 30 June 2010.

Competitive taxes

- Queensland maintains its tax competitiveness, with Queenslanders to pay an average of 15% less State tax than taxpayers in other states and territories in 2006-07.
- Queensland's competitiveness has been enhanced through a range of tax measures in the 2006-07 Budget.

Delivering on our priorities

Improving health care and strengthening services to the community

- As part of the Queensland Government's commitment to the Health Action Plan, an investment of almost \$6.4 billion in just over five years was announced in 2005 to relieve pressure on health services delivered across the State. Through the 2006-07 State Budget, funding for Queensland Health will grow by \$9.7 billion over the five years.
- Increased recurrent funding of \$128 million and \$6 million in capital funding will be invested over four years to enhance disability services in Queensland.
- More than \$21 million is committed over the next three years to help fight obesity.

Protecting our children and enhancing community safety

- Additional funding of \$133.2 million will be invested over four years to enhance child protection services, including \$28.1 million in 2006-07.
- The Government is providing funding for an additional 350 sworn police officers across the State by September 2007, bringing the total number of sworn officers to 9,728 and meeting the Government's commitment to maintain police numbers at or above the national average police-to-population ratio.
- An additional \$35.3 million is provided over three years to recruit 144 additional ambulance officers and \$12.4 million over four years to improve ambulance call response times at communication centres.

Realising the Smart State through education, skills and innovation

- A record \$1 billion will be invested over five years in Queensland's education system, directed at planning, modernising and refurbishing school facilities across the State.
- The \$1 billion *Queensland Skills Plan* sets out initiatives to transform and modernise the State's vocational education and training system.
- Further funding of \$11.8 million is allocated over three years to develop a joint animal research facility with The University of Queensland.

Protecting the environment for a sustainable future

- As part of the Blueprint for the Bush, additional funding of \$11 million over three years is provided to improve the management of high-risk weeds and pest animals across Queensland.
- Additional funding of \$20 million is provided in 2006-07 to acquire properties within South East Queensland to increase green space. The land will be added to the protected estate.

Managing urban growth and building Queensland's regions

- Estimated capital spending is more than \$10 billion in 2006-07, an increase of 23% on estimated actual 2005-06 outlays. Almost 60% of this will be spent outside the Brisbane area. This spending will support around 73,700 full-time jobs in Queensland.
- More than \$150 million is provided for additional initiatives across rural and regional Queensland over the next four years as part of Blueprint for the Bush.



Government services in your region

Aramac QGAP Office

44 Gordon Street
Aramac QLD 4726
Telephone 4651 3014
Facsimile 4651 3323
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday – 9am to
1pm and 2pm to 4:45pm

Augathella QGAP Office

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 Office

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

Bedourie QGAP Office

Bedourie Police Station
Merri Street
Bedourie QLD 4829
Telephone 4746 1128
Facsimile 4746 1266
Opening hours: Monday and
Wednesday – 9am to 12pm;
Tuesday and Thursday – 2pm
to 5pm; Friday – 9am to 1pm

Birdsville QGAP Office

Birdsville Police Station
McDonald Street
Birdsville QLD 4482
Telephone 4656 3310
Facsimile 4656 3312
Opening hours:
Monday and Thursday – 1pm
to 4pm; Tuesday – 10am to
2pm; Wednesday and Friday
– 10am to 1pm

Blackall QGAP Office

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

Boulia QGAP Office

Boulia Police Station
Herbert Street
Boulia QLD 4829
Telephone 4746 3043
Facsimile 4746 3338
Opening hours:
Monday to Thursday
– 8:30am to 12:30pm

Camooweal QGAP Office

29 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 Office

5 Stockyard Street
Cunnamulla QLD 4490
Telephone 4655 1131
Facsimile 4655 1687
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday – 9am to
1pm and 2pm to 5pm

Dirranbandi QGAP Office

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

Hughenden QGAP Office

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

Injune QGAP Office

c/- Injune Library
Hutton Street
Injune QLD 4454
Telephone 4626 1546
Facsimile 4626 1099
Opening hours: Monday and
Tuesday – 1:30pm to 5pm;
Wednesday – 9am to 1pm;
Thursday – 11:30am to 5pm;
Friday – 11am to 5pm

Isisford QGAP Office

Isisford Police Station
St Mary Street
Isisford QLD 4731
Telephone 4658 8153
Facsimile 4658 8183
Opening hours: Wednesday
and Friday – 9am to 5pm

Julia Creek QGAP Office

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

Jundah QGAP Office

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

Mitchell QGAP Office

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

Normanton QGAP Office

Haig Street
Normanton QLD 4890
Telephone 4745 1177
Facsimile 4745 1393
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday – 9am to
1pm and 2pm to 4:45pm

Richmond QGAP Office

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

St George QGAP Office

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

Surat QGAP Office

72 Burrows Street
Surat QLD 4417
Telephone 4626 5046
Facsimile 4626 5507
Opening hours: Monday to
Thursday – 1pm to 4:30pm;
Friday – 10:30pm to 12pm
and 12:30pm to 5:30pm

Thargomindah QGAP Office

Thargomindah Police Station
Dowling Street
Thargomindah QLD 4492
Telephone 4655 3291
Facsimile 4655 3224
Opening hours: Monday,
Tuesday, Wednesday and
Friday – 10am to 1pm;
Thursday – 9am to 1pm

Windorah QGAP Office

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

Winton QGAP Office

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

Mount Isa State Development Centre

75 Camooweal Street
Mount Isa QLD 4825
Telephone 4747 2144
Facsimile 4747 2166
Opening hours: Monday to
Friday – 9am to 5pm

Preparatory Year enquiries

Telephone 1300 650 220
Facsimile 3247 3988

13 HEALTH

Telephone 13 43 25 84

Smart Service Queensland

For information on all other
Government services call 13 13 04