

Wide Bay-Burnett

Regional Budget Statement



Queensland is experiencing the most sustained period of economic and population growth in its history.

In shaping the 2008-09 Budget, the Government has chosen to build tomorrow's Queensland today.

The State's prosperity is generating unprecedented demand for housing, healthcare, schools, transport, other essential services and vital infrastructure throughout Queensland's regions.

The Budget delivers massive injections of funding to our public hospitals and healthcare system. It funds the biggest capital works program in the State's history.



Anna Bligh MP
Premier

It increases services to the regions and delivers vital long-term social and economic infrastructure for the benefit of all Queenslanders.



A centrepiece of this Budget is tax cuts to help Queenslanders purchase their first home.

Queensland's success is built on the success of our regions, from the fast-paced expansion of the south-east corner to the agricultural heartlands, the booming hubs of mining activity and the vibrant growth of coastal areas.

This document sets out the Government's investment commitment to address the changing needs of the Wide Bay-Burnett region.

Andrew Fraser MP
Treasurer

State-wide Highlights

Key priorities of the 2008-09 Budget are congestion management, housing affordability, delivering on the Health Action Plan and strengthened community services.

- Tax savings of up to \$9,500 for first homebuyers
- Full abolition of mortgage duty from 1 July 2008
- Record 17% increase in health spending
- Increased rebates and tax breaks for older Queenslanders
- 200 new police officers
- 250 new ambulance officers and 145 new vehicles
- 270 new teachers
- \$100 million boost for school maintenance over two years through the Tomorrow's Schools initiative
- \$20 million for ClimateSmart Home Services
- \$20 million increase to develop community sport and recreation facilities
- \$5.9 million boost to support front-line child protection workers

Wide Bay-Burnett



Every five years the Census provides a snapshot of Australian society. It measures many characteristics including our age and



birthplace, language spoken and religion, if we need assistance to perform everyday activities or to participate in community life and the work we do (paid or unpaid) and how we get there.

What did the 2006 Census reveal about **your** community? Take a look below for a snapshot of life in the Wide Bay-Burnett region.

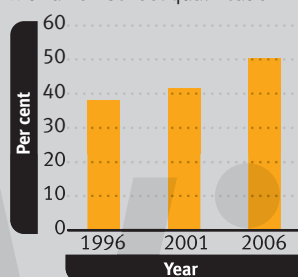
The work we do

Engineers, nurses, carers, sales representatives, urban and regional planners, electricians, boat repairers – Wide Bay-Burnett residents work in a diverse range of jobs. Census data shows 12.7% of people living in the Wide Bay-Burnett region are employed in the retail trade industry, while the healthcare and social assistance industry accounts for 11.1%. Agriculture, forestry and fishing (10.3%) manufacturing (9.8%), and construction (9%) are the other major employment industries in this growing region.

Our qualifications

Strong population growth in the Wide Bay-Burnett region has brought with it an increase in the number of skilled workers. Just over 50%¹ of people living in our region now hold 'beyond'² school qualifications – a 12.5 percentage point increase compared to 1996 Census results (see graph). Of these qualifications, 15.4% are degree or higher, 11% are advanced diploma or diploma and 43.6% are certificate level. Just over 30% of Wide Bay-Burnett residents who identified with having a 'beyond' school qualification did not indicate the level of education received.

Beyond school qualifications
% of persons 15 years and over with a non-school qualification



How much we earn

We've certainly noticed an increase in the cost of living over the years, and as it rises so too does our income. At the time of the 1996 Census, the median weekly household income for the Wide Bay-Burnett region was \$438. In 2006 the median weekly income for households in our region was \$621 – that's almost 42% more than we earned 10 years earlier³.

¹ Aged 15 years and over with a usual residence in the Wide Bay-Burnett region at the time of the 2006 Census.

² 'Beyond' school qualification referred to as non-school qualifications in Census data.

³ Based on 2006 Census data.

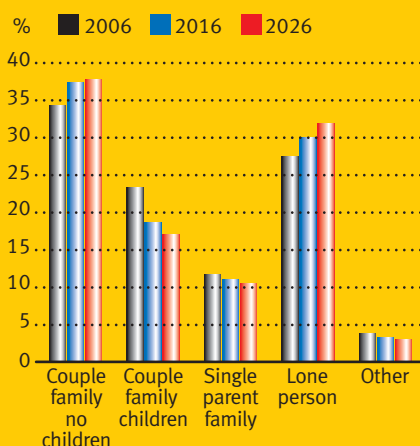
Household projections

Families come in all shapes and sizes and between now and 2026 we can expect to see a lot more of them. But what type of family will occupy most Queensland homes? For the last decade most Queensland households have consisted of couples with children. However household projections forecast that, over the next decade and beyond, the make-up of homes throughout our State will dramatically change.

Throughout our State an ageing population, declining fertility rates among younger couples, and baby boomers becoming 'empty nesters' will result in the number of couples without children and lone person households taking over as the most common types.

Take a look to the right to see how households in the Wide Bay-Burnett region are likely to change between now and 2026.

Wide Bay-Burnett
Household composition



Source: Data are based on medium series projections and are sourced from Department of Infrastructure and Planning, Population, Information and Forecasting Unit, Household projections Queensland Local Government Areas 2007.

The national Census telling it like it is

Covering an area of 52,377 square kilometres or around 3% of the State, Wide Bay-Burnett is home to 6.6% of Queensland's total population. Almost 276,000¹ Queenslanders now call our region home – that's 2.4% more than the year before².

Boasting national parks, pristine beaches, a range of tourism, educational, sporting, cultural, leisure, arts and recreation facilities and opportunities, this growing region is sought after for its unique environment and enviable and sustainable lifestyle. Add to this a diverse and vibrant economy that's close to the business and career opportunities of the State's south-east corner and you can see why more and more people are choosing this region in which to work, live and play.

The Queensland Government recognises the role Wide Bay-Burnett has played in increasing our State's prosperity and sustaining its economic and social growth.

This Regional Budget Statement highlights the Government's commitment to the region and its people.

¹ Population data as at 30 June 2007, Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Regional Population Growth* (cat no 3218.0).

² Population data as at 30 June 2006, Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Regional Population Growth* (cat no 3218.0).



Holden Maryborough Technology Challenge

An educational experience out of the ordinary. Students of all ages and from all over Queensland can put the *pedal to the metal* at one of Queensland's premier youth events. Human-powered vehicles, dragsters, pushcarts, solar cars and boats – there's something for racing enthusiasts of all kinds at this event.

Photograph supplied courtesy of the Fraser Coast Regional Council

Healthy individuals and communities

We are committed to improving and sustaining the health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders by investing in infrastructure and services that will strengthen our public health system, promote healthier lifestyles and enhance confidence and safety in our communities.

As part of the Government's continued commitment to meet the growing needs of the community, in 2008-09 spending on health and emergency services infrastructure in the Wide Bay-Burnett region will include:

- \$6.7 million towards a \$41.1 million expansion of Bundaberg Hospital
- \$2 million to increase mental health bed capacity at Bundaberg
- \$1 million of the \$17.5 million over three years to improve oral health facilities at Bundaberg and Hervey Bay
- replacement and refurbishment of health facilities at Biggenden and Mount Perry as part of the \$35.5 million (over three years) Rural Enhancement Program.

Initiatives in Wide Bay-Burnett to enhance community safety through police and emergency services infrastructure projects include:

- \$3.1 million to construct the \$8 million replacement 24-hour police station and watchhouse at Murgon
- \$1.3 million of the \$2 million to replace the ambulance station at Murgon.

The Government will continue its support for those in our community who are most vulnerable with commitments for the Wide Bay-Burnett region in 2008-09 including:

- \$17.6 million for the Home and Community Care initiative
- \$10.9 million to support people with a disability through a range of programs
- \$2.2 million over four years to establish new residential care facilities to accommodate young people with complex and extreme behaviours
- \$2.2 million to complete an innovative housing project in Maryborough for people with intellectual disabilities with high support needs

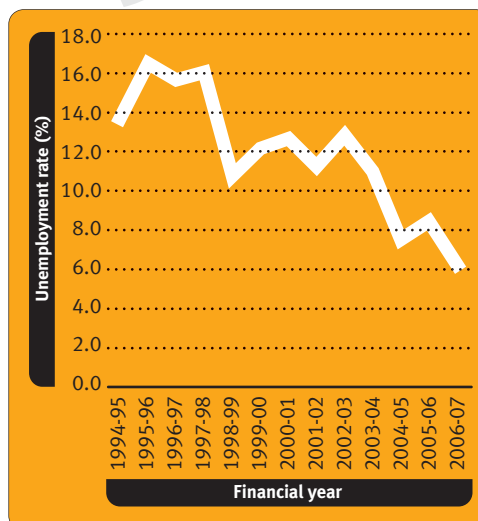
- \$1.7 million to deliver community support services
- \$1.6 million for short-term and time-limited respite support for families of people with a disability
- \$1.3 million over four years to establish additional out-of-home care placements for children in care
- \$1 million to redevelop the Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre.

Building infrastructure

Planning and delivering the infrastructure needed to provide essential and efficient services to our rapidly growing communities – now and in the future – is one of our key priorities. For many regions, growing populations have resulted in higher demand for energy. The Government's commitment to the Wide Bay-Burnett region in 2008-09 to secure and enhance the reliability of energy supply in 2008-09 includes

- \$121.6 million for maintenance and improvements to the Tarong and Tarong North power stations

Unemployment rate^(a) 1994-95 to 2006-07



(a) Data based on un-smoothed series.
Source: DEEWR, *Small Area Labour Markets – Australia*.

- \$86.1 million to develop coal resources at Kunioon to supply Tarong
- \$48.1 million for new substations at Woolooga, Bundaberg and Hervey Bay.

Regional development

Regional development is at the heart of Queensland's economic future and the Government is laying the foundation for future economic growth and prosperity for all Queenslanders by responding to the growth needs of the region.

Water management is a critical issue for Queensland and the Government is making historic levels of investment in essential water and sewerage infrastructure to meet the needs of Queensland communities.

In 2008-09, the Government will invest in the following initiatives to improve the reliability and supply of water services in the Wide Bay-Burnett region:

- \$2.5 million for the Burgowan raw water main project
- \$2.3 million to upgrade the Borumba dam spillway
- \$800,000 for the Blackbutt Sewerage Scheme Effluent Re-Use project.

The Government will also commit to a range of other key infrastructure investments in the region including:

- \$630,000 for the Childers Sludge Management project
- \$380,000 to complete the Sandy Hook (Burnett River) new four-lane boat ramp
- \$296,000 of \$546,000 for a new two-lane boat ramp at Gatakers Landing
- \$127,000 to reconstruct a four-lane boat ramp at Queen Street on the north bank of the Burnett River at Bundaberg.

Economic growth

Queensland's economic growth is supported by rising productivity and increasing labour force participation. The Government remains committed to expanding the productive capacity of the Queensland economy through initiatives that develop infrastructure, promote education and training, and facilitate research and innovation.

In 2008-09, the Government will continue to maximise workforce participation opportunities in the Wide Bay-Burnett region by investing:

- \$47.1 million to provide over 3.5 million hours of vocational education and training, including \$800,000 to provide additional trades training places in the region as part of the Queensland Skills Plan
- \$4.7 million to provide employment and training assistance for 471 people.

Other initiatives to stimulate economic growth in the region include:

- \$34.5 million to continue construction on the Bundaberg Ring Road
- \$24 million to widen the Bruce Highway in Gympie to four lanes between Kidgell Street and Pine Street
- \$10.7 million to widen the Maryborough-Hervey Bay Road between north of Dundowan and the Pialba-Burrum Heads Road, south of Pialba
- \$8 million to duplicate the Maryborough-Hervey Bay Road from two to four lanes between Torbanlea Turnoff and Dundowan Road, south of Pialba

- \$6.1 million to widen the Maryborough-Hervey Bay Road, between Torbanlea turnoff and McNally Street
- \$6 million to construct a bridge across the Burnett River to the Port of Bundaberg.

Closing the gap with Indigenous communities

The Queensland Government, in partnership with the Australian Government, is committed to closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians through innovative programs such as \$3.6 million in grants to 42 Community Justice Groups to empower Indigenous communities to tackle social and justice issues.

The Government is also investing in the health, safety and wellbeing of Indigenous communities through a range of measures including:

- \$3.9 million for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Rental Program to build, purchase or upgrade homes and purchase land for future homes
- \$1.8 million in grants to build, upgrade and maintain homes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities



Helping Queenslanders under financial pressure

With household budgets under increasing stress from rising interest rates, higher rents and mounting grocery and fuel prices, the Government is committed to taking the pressure off Queensland families.

Each year the Government offers relief to many Queenslanders through discounts, rebates and subsidies to help improve their access to, and meet the cost of, a range of services including discounted rail and taxi fares, reduced car registration costs, exemption from the community ambulance levy and cheaper electricity bills. In 2008-09 these concessions are estimated to have a total value of around \$1 billion.

However the Queensland Government recognises more and more families are 'doing it tough' and is acting on its commitment to help Queenslanders make ends meet.

On top of the existing concessions, the 2008-09 State Budget sees the implementation of a major housing affordability strategy that will provide relief for Queenslanders who are buying or renting their homes.

The Government will also spend \$570 million in 2008-09 in further relief as it tackles the rising cost of fuel by ensuring all Queenslanders receive the full 8.354 cents per litre fuel subsidy.

- \$800,000 State-wide for initiatives to enhance Indigenous agribusiness development
- \$600,000 for the Safe Haven initiative in Cherbourg for young people affected by family and domestic violence in Indigenous communities
- the employment of four Indigenous Employment and Training Support Officers to support trainees and maximise employment opportunities for Indigenous job seekers.

Housing affordability

The Government is committed to improving housing affordability for those Queenslanders hardest hit by the current economic environment.

In addition to the substantial tax relief to be introduced by the Government in 2008-09 for first home buyers, low-income families and individuals in the Wide Bay-Burnett region will receive housing services and support in 2008-09 in the form of:

- \$14.2 million to construct, purchase and upgrade public housing and to purchase land for future public housing involving purchasing or completing 38 homes and commencing the construction of a further 30 homes
- \$4 million for community housing programs and services to address crisis and long-term housing needs.

Education and early childhood development

Giving every child every chance to learn in the best possible environment is a priority for the Government. This is reflected in our 2008-09 commitment to the Wide Bay-Burnett region of an additional \$4.2 million for maintenance programs and in excess of \$3.8 million in capital works investment in schools, including:

- \$2 million over two years to redevelop the former Nanango preschool as an early childhood education and care facility
- \$930,000 for a music block at Yarrilee State School
- \$300,000 to complete additional amenities at St Helens State School
- \$200,000 for additional amenities at Bundaberg North State High School
- \$200,000 for additional amenities at Gin Gin State High School
- \$115,000 to subsidise an outdoor learning space at Gayndah State School.

Prevention and early intervention

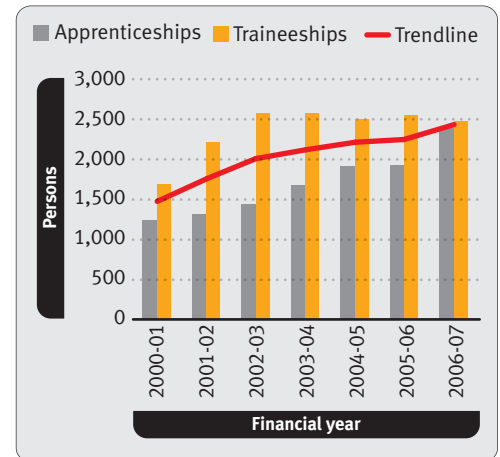
The Queensland Government is focused on developing and supporting prevention and early intervention strategies or initiatives that are targeted to disadvantaged areas, individuals and/or population groups.

In the Wide Bay-Burnett region the Government will commit:

- \$1.2 million for youth development services to build independent living skills
- \$900,000 to support families, including early intervention programs to improve the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children and their families
- \$800,000 over four years for a Family Intervention Service which will strengthen child protection services by providing direct support to families in their own home.

Participation in post-secondary education, apprenticeships and traineeships

2000-01 to 2006-07



Source: DETA, Apprenticeships and traineeships, (unpublished data).

Managing climate change and protecting the environment

The Government is committed to minimising harm to the environment by using and promoting modern and effective environmental management techniques. In Wide Bay-Burnett, this commitment will include:

- \$788,000 for the Cooloola Great Walk
- \$355,000 to replace the amenities block at the Waddy Point campground, Great Sandy National Park
- \$354,000 to replace the waste treatment system at the Waddy Point Ranger Base, Great Sandy National Park.

In 2008-09 the Government has allocated \$30 million for new climate change initiatives from the proceeds of Queensland Climate Change Fund. The first major initiative of the Climate Change Fund will be the ClimateSmart Home Service which will provide Queenslanders with tools to monitor and reduce their energy use to deliver savings in household electricity costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



Bundaberg Ring Road

The Queensland Government remains committed to stimulating economic growth in the Wide Bay-Burnett region through a range of infrastructure investments. In 2008-09 \$34.5 million will help construct the Bundaberg Ring Road.

Queensland State Budget Highlights 2008–09

Budget summary

Strong economic growth maintains record low unemployment

- Economic growth in Queensland is forecast to strengthen to 4¼% in 2008-09, outstripping the nation for the 13th year in a row.
- With jobs growth again outpacing the nation, the unemployment rate is estimated to fall to a 34-year low of 3¾% in 2007-08 and remain there in 2008-09, taking it below the national rate for the fifth consecutive year.

Strong finances

- A General Government operating surplus of \$809 million is forecast in 2008-09.
- The State's net worth is budgeted to grow from \$123 billion at 30 June 2008 to over \$140 billion by 30 June 2012 – reflecting Queensland's position of holding the strongest balance sheet in the nation.
- Interest expenses in the General Government sector is budgeted at just 1.5% of revenue in 2008-09.

Competitive taxes

- Queensland maintains its competitive tax status, with taxpayers in other states and territories to pay an average of \$274 more state tax each than Queenslanders in 2008-09.
- The 2008-09 Budget provides tax relief to make housing more affordable. From 1 July 2008, the home and first home transfer duty concession thresholds will be increased from \$320,000 to \$350,000. The first home concession threshold will be further increased from 1 September so that no transfer duty will be payable on a first home valued up to \$500,000.
- Mortgage duty will be abolished in full from 1 July 2008 – another saving to those taking out home loans.
- There are also land tax cuts, including specific measures to benefit Queensland's elderly such as exempting aged-care facilities.
- While already having the nation's lowest pay-roll tax rate, further relief will benefit 6,800 businesses in Queensland.

Delivering for Queensland

The 2008-09 State Budget delivers a massive boost to health, with a record Budget allocation of \$8.352 billion.

The Budget funds new hospitals and upgrades at locations across the State. Areas of increasing demand such as emergency departments and birthing services are a key focus.

There is a \$100 million boost to school maintenance to deliver a record program for the next two years – part of the \$6 billion Budget allocation to the Department of Education and Training. This funding includes 270 new teachers and teacher aides to meet enrolment growth and 4,250 additional trade training places to help address skills shortages.

To boost front-line services, 200 new police and 250 new ambulance officers are funded. The Budget also provides for 145 new ambulance vehicles as part of a record emergency services allocation.

A new \$20 million ClimateSmart Home Service will assist Queensland households to meet the challenges of climate change.

An increase in the electricity rebate and other tax breaks will assist older Queenslanders.

With tax cuts to assist Queenslanders break into home ownership, this is a Budget focussed on the future and delivering the front-line services a growing state needs.

Government services in Wide Bay-Burnett

Agnes Water

QGAP

3 Captain Cook Drive
Agnes Water QLD 4677

E-Mail agneswater.qgap@qld.gov.au

Telephone 4902 1555

Facsimile 4902 1599

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 9am to 4.30pm

Blackbutt

QGAP

69 Hart Street
Blackbutt QLD 4306

E-Mail blackbutt.qgap@qld.gov.au

Telephone 4163 0030

Facsimile 4163 0436

Opening Hours:
Monday to Friday – 9am to 3.30
Closed lunch 12 - 1pm

Bundaberg

Department of Communities – Wide Bay-Burnett Regional Office

Level 1
46 Quay Street
Bundaberg QLD 4670

Telephone 4151 9748

Facsimile 4151 9750

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 5pm

Bundaberg

Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry

205 Bourbong Street
Bundaberg QLD 4670

Telephone 4151 9700

Facsimile 4151 9711

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 5pm

Eidsvold

QGAP

32 Moreton Street
Eidsvold QLD 4627

E-Mail eidsvold.qgap@qld.gov.au

Telephone 4165 1063

Facsimile 4165 1486

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 4.00pm

Kilkivan

QGAP

26 Bligh Street
Kilkivan QLD 4600

E-Mail kilkivan.qgap@qld.gov.au

Telephone 5484 1068

Facsimile 5484 1390

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 4.30pm

Kingaroy

Department of Natural Resources and Water

Shop 2 16 Alford Street
Kingaroy QLD 4610

Telephone 4160 4200

Facsimile 4162 4450

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 4.30pm

Maryborough

Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry

319 – 325 Kent Street
Maryborough QLD 4650

Telephone 4121 1780

Facsimile 4123 1874

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 5pm

Monto

QGAP

53 Newton Street
Monto QLD 4630

Telephone 4166 1350

Facsimile 4166 1047

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 9.00am to 4.30pm

Mundubbera

QGAP

51 Lyons Street
Mundubbera QLD 4626

E-Mail comcentre@mundubbera.qld.gov.au

Telephone 4165 5444

Facsimile 4165 4810

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 5pm (Wed open 9.30am)

Murgon

QGAP

48 Stephens Street West
Murgon QLD 4605

E-Mail
courthouse.murgon@justice.qld.gov.au

Telephone 4168 1801

Facsimile 4168 1669

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 9am to 4.30pm

Pialba (Hervey Bay)

Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry

Brenden Hansen Building
50-54 Main Street
Pialba QLD 4655

Telephone 4125 9270

Facsimile 4125 9279

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 4.30pm

Other services

Smart Service Queensland

For information on all other Government services call 13 13 04 www.qld.gov.au

State Emergency Service

Telephone 132 500

Queensland Water Commission

Telephone 1300 789 906

13 HEALTH

Telephone 13 43 25 84

