



# Wide Bay-Burnett



## Premier's Message

My Government is continuing our investment to ensure a positive future for all Queenslanders.

We are committed to work with all to ensure we create opportunities for our regions and to continue building on the Smart State's strong and stable foundations.

This Regional Budget Statement outlines the Government's ongoing investment in the Wide Bay-Burnett region and its delivery on key election commitments for 2004-05.

The Government is meeting the needs of the people of Wide Bay-Burnett through these initiatives and by improving services, especially in the areas of health, employment, education and child safety.

In 2004-05, our Smart State initiatives in education and training will enable the region to harness the creativity and talent within the community. This Statement demonstrates a significant commitment to a strong and prosperous Wide Bay-Burnett region.

My Government will work with the people of Wide Bay-Burnett to continue creating opportunities for all Queenslanders to grow and enjoy a better quality of life.

## Delivering on our election commitments for the Wide Bay-Burnett region, the 2004-05 State Budget highlights include:

- Burnett Water Infrastructure Project funding of \$115.1 million
- \$650,000 towards a \$1.85 million project to construct an overtaking lane between the cane railway crossing and Logging Creek on the Isis Highway between Bundaberg and Childers
- \$3.2 million provided as part of \$33 million over three years for the Queensland Government's State Sugar Industry Reform Package
- \$2 million for 50 housing units for singles in Hervey Bay and Gympie
- \$369,000 for nine new ambulance paramedics
- \$1.33 million, including \$104,000 for fit out, for upgrades at Kawungan State School
- \$100,000, including \$9,000 for fit out, for upgrades at Kepnock State High School
- \$700,000, including \$63,000 for fit out, for library upgrades at Agnes Waters State School
- \$79,000 to construct a roundabout at Alice and Charles Streets, Hervey Bay
- \$600,000 to repair the Burnett River Bridge on the Bundaberg to Gin Gin Road.



# Wide Bay-Burnett

**This Regional Budget Statement for Wide Bay-Burnett outlines the Government's State Budget 2004-05 spending commitment to this region and its people. As a Government, we recognise the regions' valuable contributions to making Queensland the Smart State and home for over 3.8 million people. In this Budget we have allocated 60% of capital works funding for regions outside Brisbane.**

The Wide Bay-Burnett region covers 3% of the State. It is home to 239,992 Queenslanders and growing at the rate of 1.9% per year. Some areas within the region are growing at more than 3% per year. This region has a large diversity of industries and it is Queensland's largest producer of vegetables and citrus. Nearly 74% of the region is occupied by agricultural establishments. These are concentrated in the inland areas of the region. The coastal areas are favoured by a significant retired population. Tourism is also a significant feature, particularly the coastal areas, and has become a profitable industry for Wide Bay-Burnett, led by growth in ecotourism activities.

## Improving health care and strengthening services to the community

We are committed to providing better hospitals, services and health care for all Queenslanders. Our commitment to improving the standard and accessibility of hospital and health services in Wide Bay-Burnett includes spending in 2004-05 on key initiatives such as:

- \$10 million for a 96 bed residential aged care facility at Maryborough Hospital
- \$2.7 as part of total funding of \$8.6 million for a 46 bed aged care facility at Wondai
- \$2.51 million for a new clinical services building, including operating theatre, and to upgrade the emergency department at Gympie Hospital
- \$2 million to construct a new integrated health and aged care facility at Gin Gin
- \$300,000 to construct new hospital staff accommodation at Murgon/Nanango

- \$100,000 as part of total funding of \$3.2 million to improve Hervey Bay Hospital.

We have committed \$35.9 million over the next three years to recruit an extra 240 paramedics across Queensland. In 2004-05, \$369,000 will provide nine new life saving ambulance paramedics in Wide Bay-Burnett.

We are working to support low-income families and individuals through providing housing and housing related services. Spending in this region in 2004-05 includes \$6.59 million for new construction, upgrades and maintenance of public housing including \$3.8 million for the construction of new houses.

We have committed \$18.57 million to support people with disabilities and their carers in this region. This includes \$3.09 million to assist adults with a disability and \$1.38 million to support school leavers with a disability make the transition from school to adult life. Approximately \$823,000 is provided for respite care.

## Realising the Smart State through education, skills and innovation

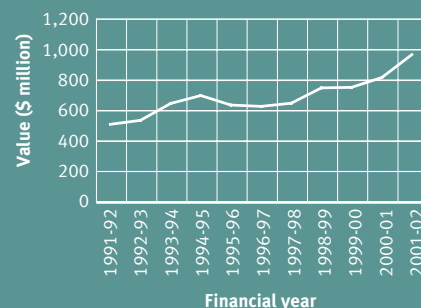
Participation in the Smart State means we encourage and reward ideas, innovation, entrepreneurship and hard work across all sectors of the Queensland community, industry and Government.

We are investing in school infrastructure across Wide Bay-Burnett for the benefit of the region's young people and their education. In 2004-05, funding includes:

- \$931,000, including \$84,000 for fit out, to upgrade special education facilities in Aldridge, Hervey Bay and Kingaroy State High Schools

Gross value of agricultural production (\$ million)

Wide Bay-Burnett, Queensland, 1991-92 to 2001-02



Source: ABS, Agriculture, Queensland (unpublished data)

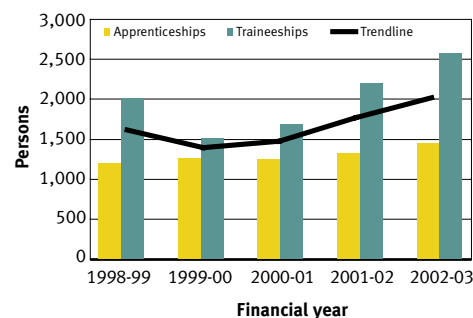
- \$1.4 million, including \$126,000 for fit out, to upgrade library facilities at Agnes Waters and Kalkie State Schools
- \$1.35 million for approximately 12 new classrooms across the region.

This is in addition to the \$1.65 million provided for the Triple R program, which will provide repainting, reticulation and re-roofing for 54 local schools, including repainting at Avoca and Bargara State Schools.

We are promoting lifelong learning and skilling the workforce to meet the needs of industries central to the Smart State vision and Queensland's economic growth.

Participation in apprenticeships and traineeships

Wide Bay-Burnett, Queensland, 1998-99 to 2002-03



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



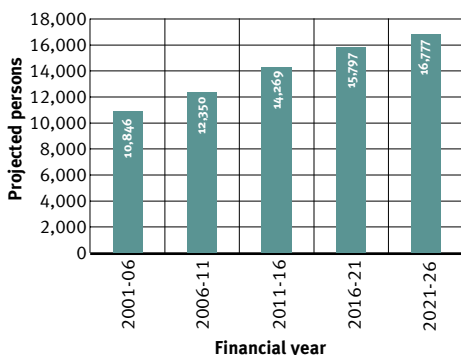


shires of Biggenden, Burnett,  
Miriam Vale, Monto, Mundubbera,  
Maryborough Aboriginal Council.



#### Projected migration into regions

Wide Bay-Burnett, Queensland, 2001-06 to 2021-26



Source: Queensland Government Population Projections 2003 (unpublished data)

- \$465,000 as part of the State's \$485,000 contribution to the \$2.49 million Bert Hinkler Aviation Museum.

The Queensland Events Regional Events Program will be bolstered with an extra \$1.4 million a year, expanding the program to \$2.4 million a year for the next two years and including two new innovative schemes.

We are also assisting the community to hold sporting and cultural events. In Wide Bay-Burnett this includes funding of \$25,000 to help promote cycling adventure tourism and \$25,000 for the Childers Multicultural Festival.

#### Protecting the environment for a sustainable future

The natural and cultural heritage of Wide Bay-Burnett is valued by all Queenslanders. We will improve management practices to ensure its ongoing protection with approximately \$115,000 of funding for pest management and improved fire management. The region will also benefit from \$2.31 million State-wide to enhance water resource monitoring programs.

To help ensure the safe use of managed natural areas, \$1.26 million will be spent to maintain and upgrade access and facilities. This includes \$400,000 for visitor facilities within Cooloola Great Sandy National Park and \$52,000 for upgrades to the Barkers Creek walking track in the Bunya Mountains National Park.

#### Growing a diverse economy and creating jobs

The Government continues to work in partnership with the people of Wide Bay-Burnett to build the region's social and economic strengths. The Wide Bay-Burnett region will receive around \$8.02 million to create an estimated 855 jobs in 2004-05 through the Government's Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative. This includes \$3.9 million allocated to community employment programs and \$4.12 million for apprenticeship and traineeship incentives to provide jobs in crucial, skills-shortage industries and the public sector.

The Wide Bay-Burnett region is also experiencing change in key industries, one of which is the sugar industry. Producers will benefit from:

- \$33 million over three years for Queensland Government's State Sugar Industry Reform Package, which will result in more profitable and sustainable farms
- transfer duty relief of up to \$7 million over three years for intergenerational gifting of cane farms

#### Bundy Thunder



The Bundy Thunder event is a weekend of powerboat racing complemented by visits to schools by drivers and boats, a street parade and official welcome. The event has been held in Bundaberg each year since the inaugural Bundy Thunder event in 2000 and is supported by Queensland Event's regional program.

- transfer duty relief of up to \$5 million over two years to assist cane farmers to purchase adjoining farms to improve efficiency and productivity in the industry.

Other specific benefits in the region in 2004-05 include:

- approximately \$6.2 million for expanding the region's hardwood and softwood plantations
- \$2 million State-wide over four years to develop and commence implementation of a wine industry development strategy and promote the industry to national and international markets
- \$71,000 to develop new mandarin cultivars to support the ongoing profitability of the citrus industry in the region.

#### Cairns Tilt Train



Innovative alliance contracting techniques between QR and EDI Rail were used to deliver the Cairns Tilt Train. The Tilt Train was designed, manufactured, tested and commissioned at Maryborough, Queensland.

Photography supplied courtesy of EDI Rail

#### Delivering responsive government

The Government continues to engage with local communities and businesses to better coordinate service delivery and identify solutions to local issues, including through the regular Ministerial Regional Community Forums and Community Cabinets.

## Budget summary

### Sustained economic growth and strong employment conditions

- Queensland is expected to continue to outperform the rest of Australia in both 2003-04 and 2004-05 with economic growth of 4% and 4¼%.
- Employment growth remains substantially higher than the rest of Australia, with growth of 2¼% forecast for 2004-05.
- The State's year-average unemployment rate is 6¼%, the lowest level in more than two decades.

### Strong finances

- A General Government net operating surplus of \$646 million and a cash surplus of \$1.059 billion are forecast in 2004-05, following a record estimated actual net operating surplus of \$2.374 billion for 2003-04.
- The State's net worth is budgeted to grow from \$69.4 billion at 30 June 2004, to in excess of \$80 billion by 30 June 2008.

### Competitive taxes

- Queensland's competitive tax status has been maintained, with taxpayers in other States and Territories paying on average 27% more state tax than Queenslanders in 2004-05.
- From 1 August 2004, credit card duty will be abolished and the general insurance duty rate will be reduced from 8.5% to 7.5%. In addition, debits tax will be abolished from 1 July 2005.
- From 1 August 2004, the threshold for the principal place of residence transfer duty concession will be increased from \$250,000 to \$300,000, providing home buyers with a saving of up to \$1,250.

## Delivering on our priorities

### Improving health care and strengthening services to the community

- The Budget includes \$90 million over three years to cut elective surgery waiting lists.
- An additional \$220 million over four years is provided to support people with a disability, their families and carers.

### Realising the Smart State through education, skills and innovation

- The three year, \$1 billion, SmartVET strategy will introduce a number of new training initiatives and the expansion of high priority programs.
- Funding is provided for the Education and Training Reforms for the Future package including more than \$135 million in 2004-05 and rising to more than \$307 million in 2006-07.

### Protecting our children and enhancing community safety

- Full implementation of child safety reforms will involve additional funding of at least \$214 million per annum by 2006-07.
- Funding of \$35.9 million over three years will employ 240 additional paramedics to address growth in demand, maintain emergency response times and improve services.

### Managing urban growth and building Queensland's regions

- Capital spending will be boosted to over \$6 billion, the first time the capital works program has exceeded that benchmark.
- An additional \$200 million is allocated over four years for the Busway network and \$571 million over four years for a new Arterial Roads Infrastructure Package.

### Protecting the environment for a sustainable future

- An additional \$75 million is allocated over four years, beyond the existing \$75 million commitment, to end the broadscale clearing of remnant native vegetation in Queensland by 2006.
- Funding of \$12.5 million is provided over three years for the acquisition of the strategic parcels of land of high conservation value to add to the protected estate in Cape York and the Daintree.

### Growing a diverse economy and creating jobs

- The Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative will be extended for another three years at a cost of up to \$278 million.
- A \$20 million State contribution is provided towards construction of the \$60 million Queensland Brain Research facility, located at the University.

# Government services in your region

For information on government services and activities in your region contact the primary contact offices listed below or visit the Government gateway at [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au)

## Agnes Water

### QGAP

3 Captain Cook Drive  
Agnes Water QLD 4677  
Telephone 4902 1555  
Facsimile 4902 1599  
Opening hours:  
Monday to Friday – 9am to 4:30pm

## Blackbutt

### QGAP

69 Hart Street  
Blackbutt QLD 4306  
Telephone 4163 0030  
Facsimile 4163 0436  
Opening hours:  
Monday to Friday – 8am to 4:30pm

## Eidsvold

### QGAP

32 Moreton Street  
Eidsvold QLD 4627  
Telephone 4165 1063  
Facsimile 4165 7244  
Opening hours:  
Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 4:30pm

## Kilkivan

### QGAP

26 Bligh Street  
Kilkivan QLD 4600  
Telephone 5484 1068  
Facsimile 5484 1390  
Opening hours:  
Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 4:30pm

## Monto

### QGAP

53 Newton Street  
Monto QLD 4630  
Telephone 4166 1350  
Facsimile 4166 1047  
Opening hours:  
Monday to Friday – 9am to 4:30pm

## Mundubbera

### QGAP

51 Lyons Street  
Mundubbera QLD 4626  
Telephone 4165 4948  
Facsimile 4165 4810  
Opening hours:  
Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 5pm

## Murgon

### QGAP

48 Stephens Street West  
Murgon QLD 4605  
Telephone 4168 1801  
Facsimile 4168 1669  
Opening hours:  
Monday to Friday – 9am to 4:30pm

## Pialba

### State Development and Innovation Centre

Brenden Hansen Building  
Main Street,  
Pialba QLD 4655  
Telephone 4125 9270  
Facsimile 4125 9279  
Opening hours:  
Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 5pm

## Maryborough

### State Development and Innovation Centre

Floor 2  
Ergon Energy Building  
97-99 Adelaide Street  
Maryborough QLD 4650  
Telephone 4121 1780  
Facsimile 4123 1874  
Opening hours:  
Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 5pm

## Bundaberg

### State Development and Innovation Centre

205 Bourbong Street  
Bundaberg QLD 4670  
Telephone 4151 9700  
Facsimile 4151 9711  
Opening hours:  
Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 5pm.

### Department of Communities Regional Communities Engagement

Level 1  
46 Quay Street  
Bundaberg QLD 4670  
Telephone 4151 9751  
Facsimile 4151 9750  
Opening hours:  
Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 5pm