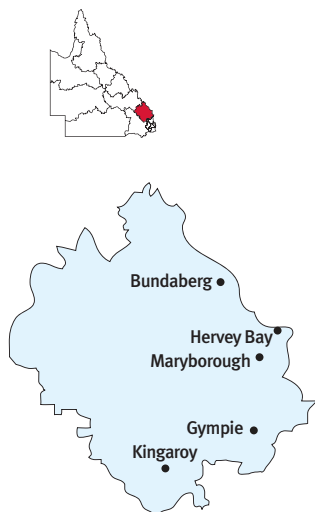


## Regional Budget Statement

# Wide Bay-Burnett

State Budget 2006-07



*The Wide Bay-Burnett region consists of the cities of Bundaberg, Maryborough and Hervey Bay and the shires of Biggenden, Burnett, Cherbourg, Cooloola (including the regional centre of Gympie), Eidsvold, Gayndah, Isis, Kilkivan, Kingaroy, Kolan, Miriam Vale, Monto, Mundubbera, Murgon, Nanango, Perry, Tiara, Wondai and Woocoo.*



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 Wide Bay-Burnett 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 Wide Bay-Burnett region in 2006-07 include:

- \$68.6 million to improve the electricity distribution network and reinforce supply in areas of significant population growth, including Agnes Water and Maryborough/Hervey Bay
- \$57.1 million to construct 15 electric locomotives
- \$26.7 million to support people with disabilities and their carers in the region
- \$7.6 million for intersection improvements on the Bundaberg City Road Network and the construction of the Bundaberg Ring Road and \$5.39 million to duplicate sections of the Maryborough-Hervey Bay Road
- \$6.01 million for community housing programs and services to address crisis, transitional and long-term housing needs and \$5.81 million for new and upgraded public housing
- \$700,000 to replace the police station and \$110,000 to upgrade the fire station at Miriam Vale
- \$379,000 to upgrade special education facilities at Aldridge State High School.

# Wide Bay-Burnett



## Blueprint for the Bush

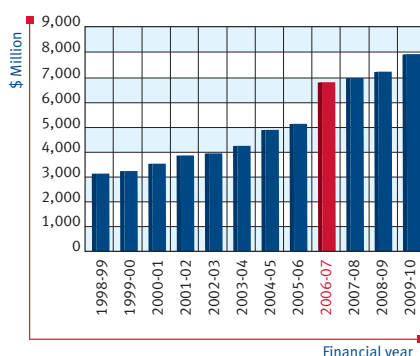
The Queensland Government has developed the Blueprint for the Bush in partnership with AgForce and the Local Government Association of Queensland to enhance the sustainability, liveability and prosperity of rural Queensland. Beginning in 2006-07, the Blueprint commits more than \$150 million over the 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 Wide Bay-Burnett 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 Wide Bay-Burnett region includes:

- \$7.03 million to continue construction of a replacement facility on the Gin Gin Hospital campus to integrate with a privately operated aged care facility
- \$1.6 million, from a State-wide commitment of \$18 million, to support community mental health services by employing additional specialist mental health staff
- \$1.33 million, from a State-wide commitment of \$39 million, for enhanced cardiac services
- \$560,000, from over \$60 million State-wide, toward the treatment and care of cancer patients.

As a result of funding increases for health services, the region will receive an increase of more than 100 staff in the Bundaberg, Fraser Coast, Gympie, North Burnett and South Burnett health service districts.

Covering 3% of the State, the Wide Bay-Burnett region is home to 257,000 Queenslanders. The region's industries are diverse and it is Queensland's largest producer of vegetables and citrus. Tourism makes a significant contribution to the region's economic prosperity, particularly in coastal areas, led by growth in ecotourism activities.

As a Government, we recognise the valuable contribution of Wide Bay-Burnett 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 Wide Bay-Burnett 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 the Wide Bay-Burnett region, this commitment includes:

- \$7.6 million to continue redeveloping and extending Wondai Hospital to create a new 46-bed nursing home, and \$2.4 million to develop a primary health care centre at Wondai
- \$5 million to continue refurbishment of the emergency department at Gympie Hospital
- more than \$1.75 million to non-Government organisations for a range of community health services
- \$1.56 million to continue the upgrade of the Bundaberg Hospital electrical system.

The Wide Bay-Burnett region will also benefit from a range of State-wide commitments including:

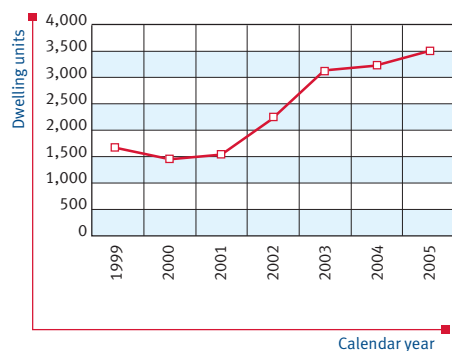
- \$70 million for new health technology equipment

## Hervey Bay Whale Festival



## Building approvals

residential dwelling units, 1999 to 2005



Source: ABS Building Approvals, Queensland, (8731.3)

- \$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.

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
- \$700,000 to purchase land for a potential Auxiliary Station to service Agnes Water and the town of Seventeen Seventy
- \$110,000 to upgrade the Miriam Vale Fire Station.

The Government is continuing its support for people with disabilities and their carers with a \$26.7 million commitment in Wide Bay-Burnett including:

- \$8.83 million for community organisations to support individuals with a disability and their families
- \$4.39 million to assist adults with a disability to maintain the living arrangements of their choice and participate in the community

- \$2.87 million 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 the services provided by community groups in Wide Bay-Burnett with funding of \$8.8 million. This includes: \$575,000 for child care facilities and services; \$481,000 to establish Youth Justice Services in Bundaberg and Cherbourg; \$340,000 toward domestic and family violence prevention; and \$256,000 for early intervention and family support services.

We are providing ongoing housing and housing-related services to support low-income families and individuals in Wide Bay-Burnett in 2006-07, including:

- \$6.01 million for community housing programs and services to address crisis, transitional and long-term housing needs
- \$5.81 million for new and upgraded public housing
- \$3.24 million for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing rental program and \$3.24 million in grants to construct, upgrade and maintain dwellings in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

## 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 in Wide Bay-Burnett include:

- \$1.19 million to continue support for the sugar industry through the Sugar Industry Innovation Fund
- \$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.

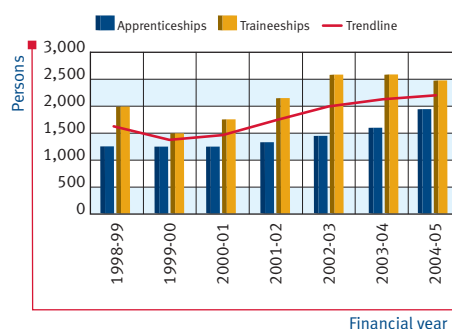
In 2006-07, \$4.6 million is allocated in Wide Bay-Burnett for school capital works including:

- \$1.96 million investment in school maintenance including \$556,000 of High Priority Maintenance program works
- \$1.49 million to continue electrical upgrades across a number of schools including Pialba State School
- \$767,000 to upgrade the administration areas of Blackbutt State School and Gympie South State School
- \$379,000 to upgrade special education facilities at Aldridge State High School.

In 2006-07, we will provide \$2.9 million to complete facility upgrades at the Hervey Bay and Bundaberg campuses of the Wide Bay Institute of TAFE.

## Participation in post secondary education, apprenticeships and traineeships

1998-99 to 2004-05



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

## 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 in care with complex and extreme needs
- \$7.6 million for an extra 50 front-line staff and to attract and retain child protection staff in regional, rural and remote 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.



## 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 67 schools offering Prep Year in the Wide Bay-Burnett region.



## Virgin Blue launches in Hervey Bay



Image courtesy of Virgin Blue

Following an upgrade to the Hervey Bay Airport, the award-winning airline Virgin Blue is now boosting Queensland tourism by jetting tourists in and out of the picturesque Fraser Coast.

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

- \$2 million over the next two years to upgrade the Maryborough Courthouse
- \$700,000 to replace the police station at Miriam Vale.

## Managing urban growth and building Queensland's regions

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

- \$80 million to construct 24 three-car passenger carriages for Queensland Rail Citytrain services and \$57.1 million to construct 15 electric locomotives

- \$7.6 million for intersection improvements on the Bundaberg City Road Network and the construction of the Bundaberg Ring Road
- \$5.39 million to duplicate sections of the Maryborough-Hervey Bay Road.

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

- \$77.7 million in maintenance and improvements to the Tarong and Tarong North Power stations
- \$68.6 million to improve the distribution network and reinforce supply in areas of significant population growth, including Agnes Water and Maryborough/Hervey Bay.

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

- \$12.83 million State-wide as part of the Water Reform — Continuity of Supply initiative
- \$4.1 million to refurbish infrastructure in the Barker Barambah, Boyne River, Bundaberg, Mary River, Three Moon Creek and Upper Burnett areas.

Queenslanders enjoy a lifestyle with a high level of community participation in a range of sporting activities. In the Wide Bay-Burnett region, \$2.3 million is allocated to projects, including: \$1.5 million to develop an aquatic centre at Bundaberg; \$100,000 as part of \$420,000 in sporting facilities grants for Hervey Bay to install multi-sport field lighting; and \$100,000 to upgrade four tennis courts and install new fencing at Gympie.

## Protecting the environment for a sustainable future

The natural and cultural heritage of Wide Bay-Burnett 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
- \$2.76 million to enhance national and conservation parks in the region.

## Growing a diverse economy and creating jobs

Launched in March 2006, the \$1 billion *Queensland Skills Plan* is the Government's strategy for responding to skills shortages across Queensland. This strategy aims to ensure the vocational education and training sector meets the skills challenges facing the Wide Bay-Burnett region.

In 2006-07, the plan will deliver:

- \$659,000 for new trade apprenticeships as part of a \$3.3 million plan to provide 850 extra training places in the region by 2010
- \$737,000 for new Certificate IV and above training places as part of a \$5.16 million plan to provide 700 additional training places in the region by 2010
- a new Skilling Solutions Queensland centre in Bundaberg which will provide face-to-face advice to Queenslanders on training and career opportunities.

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

- \$10.63 million State-wide to collect data to support mineral exploration and investment in Queensland as part of the four-year Smart Exploration Program
- \$6 million State-wide for the 14 Regional Tourism Offices and six Convention Bureaus to promote Queensland's tourism industry, with an extra \$1 million for destination marketing and development
- \$991,000 to protect our agricultural industry through continued biosecurity programs, including Citrus Canker control.

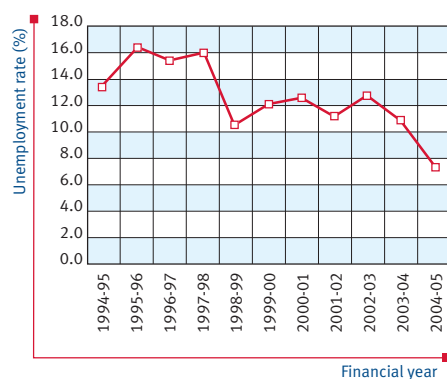
## Delivering responsive government

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 identify strategies which meet local needs.

### Unemployment rate<sup>a</sup>

1994-95 to 2004-05



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

(a) Data based on un-smoothed series

# 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

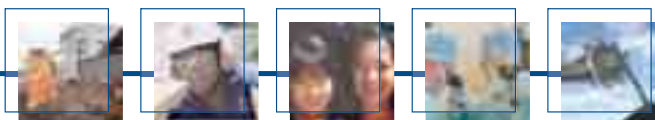
- A record \$1 billion will be invested over five years in Queensland's education system, directed at planning, modernising and refurbishing school facilities across the State.
- The \$1 billion *Queensland Skills Plan* sets out initiatives to transform and modernise the State's vocational education 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

## **Agnes Water**

### **QGAP Office**

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 Office**

69 Hart Street  
Blackbutt QLD 4306  
Telephone 4163 0030  
Facsimile 4163 0436  
Opening hours:  
Monday to Friday –  
8am to 12pm and 1pm to 4:30pm

## **Eidsvold**

### **QGAP Office**

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

## **Kilkivan**

### **QGAP Office**

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

## **Monto**

### **QGAP Office**

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

## **Mundubbera**

### **QGAP Office**

51 Lyons Street  
Mundubbera QLD 4626  
Telephone 4165 5400  
Facsimile 4165 4810  
Opening hours:  
Monday to Friday –  
8:30am to 5pm

## **Murgon**

### **QGAP Office**

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

## **Pialba (Hervey Bay)**

### **Department of Communities – Wide Bay - Burnett Regional Office**

Level 1, Brenden Hansen Building  
50-54 Main Street  
Pialba QLD 4655  
Telephone 4197 7900  
Facsimile 4124 1495  
Opening hours:  
Monday to Friday –  
8:30am to 5pm

## **Gympie**

### **Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water**

Government Office Building  
27 O'Connell Street  
Gympie QLD 4570  
Telephone 5480 6208  
Facsimile 5482 9278  
Opening hours:  
Monday to Friday –  
8:30am to 4:30pm

## **Bundaberg**

### **State Development Centre**

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

## **Maryborough**

### **State Development Centre**

Level 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 4:30pm

## **Pialba (Hervey Bay)**

### **State Development Centre**

Brenden Hansen Building  
50-54 Main Street  
Pialba QLD 4655  
Telephone 4125 9270  
Facsimile 4125 9279  
Opening hours:  
Monday to Friday –  
8:30am 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