Darling Downs and West Moreton

Over the 2011 summer, Queensland experienced State-wide devastation from natural disasters.

The floods and Cyclone Yasi saw 100 per cent of Queensland local government areas declared disaster affected and triggered the largest rebuilding and recovery operation ever undertaken in this state.

The 2011-12 Budget fosters that recovery, while also providing relief for families. My Government’s decision to abolish the ambulance levy will provide immediate relief for families doing it tough.

There is also a new $140 million Queensland Building Boost, to stimulate the housing sector and make it more attractive for people to purchase their first home.

We will also implement reforms to our education system by moving Year 7 into high school, enabling our children to get full benefit from the new Australian Curriculum. This Budget invests a record amount in events funding - an $85.8 million boost over five years - to help Queensland attract major events and drive up tourism numbers. This is a Budget built on strength of spirit that will restore long-term social and economic prosperity to the Darling Downs-West Moreton region and right across the State.

On track for recovery from the global financial crisis, Queensland’s economy was instead faced with the worst floods in 100 years and Cyclone Yasi.

Mines were flooded, crops destroyed and communities were isolated. Some of our key export partners, too, were hit by natural disasters.

The 2011-12 State Budget faces those challenges head-on, reprioritising our needs and maintaining our sights on prosperity and a return to surplus.

It will also chart our course back to the front of the economic pack, with growth in 2011-12 to outpace the other states and the nation.

Our prosperity is in our regions - our mineral-rich centres, our tourism and heritage hotspots, and our business, industry and agriculture hubs.

This Government will maintain its focus on economic reform and jobs generation.

Our infrastructure investment will clock in at $15 billion - more than Western Australia and more than Victoria. The program will support almost 93,000 jobs.

The 2011-12 State Budget will strengthen Queensland’s economy and deliver on our commitment to protect Queensland jobs.

Government services in Darling Downs and West Moreton

Smart Service Queensland
State Emergency Service
13 Health
Every Dollar Counts concessions website

For Government services call 13 13 04 or visit www.qld.gov.au
Telephone: 132 500
Telephone: 13 43 25 84

www.communityservices.qld.gov.au/community/concessions/

For more information about the 2011-12 State Budget: www.budget.qld.gov.au
$4.4 million for the Surat Basin resources trade infrastructure project at Miles State High School.

$100,000 to commence early works to replace the ambulance station and relief quarters at Tara.

$3.7 million to widen and seal a section of the New England Highway from Munro Road to Pioneer Road.

$3.2 million for kindergartens at Crows Nest, Gabbinbar and Hatton Vale State Schools.

$70,000 to relocate the Dandabah workshop and compound to the Conservation Park adjacent to the Bunya Mountains National Park.

$2 million to commence refurbishment of Dalby State High School.

$5.5 million of $27.5 million to replace runouts and recondition the Dalby to Rosewood rail line.

$4.4 million to complete rehabilitation of the Lockyer Creek Bridge and culverts on the Warrego Highway at Helidon.

$8 million of $96 million to duplicate lanes from Nugents Pinch Road to west of Charlton, on the Warrego Highway.

$33.7 million to complete stage one of the southern Queensland Correctional Centre Precinct at Gatton due to open in 2012.

$202.6 million to local governments for recovery and reconstruction projects, in partnership with the Australian Government, including to repair the Jellicoe Street Bridge in Toowoomba and to reconstruct Flagstone Creek Road and Left hand Branch Road in the Lockyer Valley.

$981,000 of $2 million for faster emergency care at Toowoomba Hospital, in partnership with the Australian Government.

$500,000 annual funding to support the new National Carriage Factory at the Cobb+Co Museum in Toowoomba.

$8 million to upgrade the Gatton-Esk Road between the Warrego Highway and the former Esk Shire boundary.

$10.9 million to reconstruct the Mt Sylvia Road in the Lockyer Valley.

$2.1 million to support community recovery and rebuild community cohesion.

$25 million to reconstruct sections of the Warrego Highway between Macalister and Warra.

$2 million for the School Transport Assistance Scheme to assist students who have to travel long distances to their nearest school.

Cost of living support for Queenslanders

$140 million to reduce the cost of electricity bills by abolishing the Community Ambulance Cover levy.

$411 million to ensure that regardless of where they live, all Queensland electricity customers of a similar type pay a similar price for electricity.

$165.9 million for cost of living concessions, to improve affordability of council rates for pensioners and electricity for pensioners and seniors.

$337.8 million for regional freight and passenger transport subsidies, including air services in Toowoomba and bus services in Toowoomba and Warwick.

$54.6 million for the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme which assists patients accessing specialist medical services not available within their local area.

$146.7 million for the School Transport Assistance Scheme to assist students who have to travel long distances to their nearest school.