



Apple picking, Moonlight Orchard, Stanthorpe

## Regional Budget Statement



## Queensland State Budget 2007-08

# Darling Downs and West Moreton



The 2007-08 State Budget reinforces our Government's commitment to investing in infrastructure and providing services to support the State's strong economy and maximise the quality of life of all Queenslanders.

This Regional Budget Statement highlights the Darling Downs and West Moreton region's contribution to the State's dynamic economy and presents the Government's key investments in the region for the next financial year.

The Budget maintains the State's strong fiscal position and will underpin continued economic growth substantially above the national average as well as maintaining low unemployment.

The Government's economic achievements have provided the platform for this year's record \$14 billion capital budget. This investment focuses on the Government's key infrastructure priorities of water, transport, energy, health and education. To ensure all Queenslanders can share in the State's economic prosperity, more than 50% of the capital investment is allocated outside Brisbane.

The Budget also ensures continued high quality service provision in all Queensland regions, with key commitments to human capital development, health care, community safety, the environment, community services and jobs creation.

Peter Beattie MP  
Premier and Minister for Trade

Anna Bligh MP  
Deputy Premier, Treasurer and  
Minister for Infrastructure

### State Budget highlights for the Darling Downs and West Moreton region in 2007-08 include:

- \$118.3 million to complete and commission the \$1.16 billion Kogan Creek Power Station
- \$19.8 million to redevelop and upgrade hospitals in the region, including upgrading the medical ward at Toowoomba Hospital
- \$18 million for improvements to the New England Highway between Toowoomba and Crows Nest
- \$7.8 million to continue developing the Centre for Advanced Animal Science in Gatton
- \$2 million towards the cost of redeveloping Clive Berghofer Stadium in Toowoomba
- \$1.4 million to replace Oakey Ambulance Station
- \$181,000 for the Dalby Business District Revitalisation Project
- \$6.6 million for upgrading sections of the Roma-Taroom Road.

# Darling Downs and West Moreton



## A record investment in economic and social infrastructure

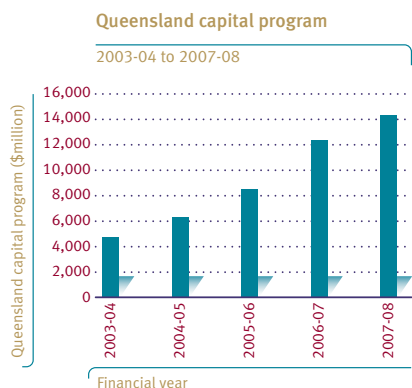
With a growing population and the worst drought in recorded history, South East Queensland is facing unprecedented challenges. The 2007-08 Budget signals the Government's commitment to sustainable economic development with a record capital works budget for Queensland of over \$14 billion.

More than half of this capital program will be spent in South East Queensland on major infrastructure for better transport, energy and water supply as well as better social infrastructure for all residents of the region.

The centrepiece of our commitment to the south east is our \$9 billion Water Grid. The Water Grid connects the major bulk water sources in South East Queensland and comprises the Western Corridor Recycled Water Project (the largest in the Southern Hemisphere), the Gold Coast Desalination Plant at Tugun, the Traveston and Wyaralong Dams, 400 kilometres of pipeline including the Southern Regional Water Pipeline, the Northern and Eastern Pipeline interconnectors and several other significant water projects.

In addition to the Water Grid, the strong State financial position achieved by the Government has enabled us to commit to other major infrastructure including \$691 million allocated to continue the Gateway Arterial Upgrade Project, \$179.7 million (with the Australian Government) to continue the Tugun Bypass and \$133.7 million for works on the Sunshine Motorway.

Redevelopments and upgrades are continuing at key hospitals across the south east, including The Prince Charles, Gold Coast and Toowoomba Hospitals.



Includes purchases of non-financial assets and capital grants by the State Non-Financial Public Sector.  
Sources: ABS 5512.0 and Queensland Treasury.

A key centre in Queensland's expanding wine industry, the Darling Downs and West Moreton region covers almost 6% of the State and is home to 282,298 Queenslanders. Livestock, broadacre crops and horticulture, as well as commerce, education, tourism, oil, gas and minerals join the wine industry in the region's diverse economic base.

As a Government, we recognise the valuable contribution of the Darling Downs and West Moreton region to the Smart State's economy. With over 50% of the budgeted infrastructure investment outside Brisbane, this Regional Budget Statement for the Darling Downs and West Moreton highlights the Government's commitment to the region and its people.

## Improving health care and strengthening services to the community

An investment in healthy lifestyles is an investment in our future. System reform is underway to provide safe, sustainable and accountable services to give Queenslanders access to the best possible treatment and care. Across the State, the Government will provide:

- \$215.4 million to improve recruitment, retention and preparation of the health workforce
- \$25.4 million to meet the increasing costs of aeromedical and inter-facility transfers and retrievals
- \$20.1 million to enhance the clinical education and training of new doctors and nurses.

In 2007-08, spending on healthy living, health care, hospitals and other infrastructure in the Darling Downs and West Moreton region will include:

- \$19.8 million to redevelop and upgrade hospitals in the region, including upgrading the medical ward at Toowoomba Hospital
- \$1.4 million to replace Oakey Ambulance Station.

The Darling Downs and West Moreton region will also benefit from increased funding of almost \$50 million for the Queensland Ambulance Service to meet growing demand for services. This includes funding for an additional 250 ambulance officers and the upgrade of critical ambulance equipment and facilities across the State, and is on top of the more than 220 extra staff employed in 2006-07.

## Polocrosse World Cup, Warwick

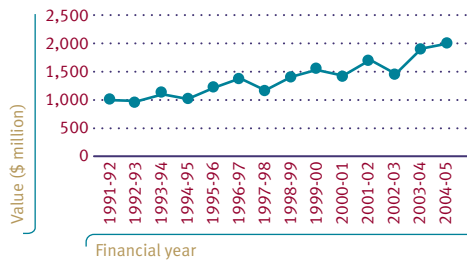


Image courtesy of [www.sportingimages.com.au](http://www.sportingimages.com.au)



## Agricultural production

value (\$ million), Darling Downs, 1991-92 to 2004-05



Financial year

Note: This graph is based on data for the Darling Downs Statistical Division and not the Darling Downs and West Moreton region.

Source: ABS, Agriculture, Queensland (unpublished data).

The Government is continuing its support for frail older people, people with a disability and their carers with commitments in the Darling Downs and West Moreton region including:

- \$11.6 million for the Home and Community Care initiative to provide personal care, home maintenance and modification, meals, respite care, transport and community-based nursing services for frail older people and young people with moderate-to-severe disabilities
- \$9.2 million to support people with a disability and their families through a range of programs
- \$1.5 million for accommodation specifically tailored to meet the needs of people with a disability.

We are providing ongoing housing and housing-related services to support low-income families and individuals in the Darling Downs and West Moreton region in 2007-08, including \$12.8 million for public housing, community, crisis, transitional and long-term housing needs.

Initiatives to encourage healthy, active individuals and communities in the region include:

- \$2 million towards the cost of redeveloping Clive Berghofer Stadium
- \$136,000 to construct Stage 3 of the Highfields Outdoor Sports Centre.

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

Queensland is already enjoying a strong national and international reputation for education, skills and innovation. We are maintaining our enviable economic climate, prosperity and quality of life by making a serious commitment to education, innovation and skills.

To equip teachers for modern teaching environments, the Government will invest \$70 million over four years to provide State school and TAFE teachers with computers. Funding will start with \$10 million in 2007-08 and increase to \$20 million per year thereafter.

Our investment in Darling Downs and West Moreton's contribution to the Smart State will also include:

- \$68.6 million for vocational education and training
- \$7.8 million to continue developing the Centre for Advanced Animal Science in Gatton
- \$6.1 million for a specialist block and amenities at Lockyer District State High School\*
- \$1.5 million for a four-space general learning area block at Fernvale State School\*
- a share in an additional \$1.25 million for the Queensland Music Festival to expand its program to more regional centres, including Toowoomba and Jimbour
- \$450,000 for an additional amenities block at Minden State School.\*

\*The Australian Government may also contribute to these projects.

## Protecting our children and enhancing community safety

Strong, healthy young lives today mean safe, supportive communities tomorrow.

Although significant progress has been made to reform Queensland's child protection system, it remains a key priority of this Government.

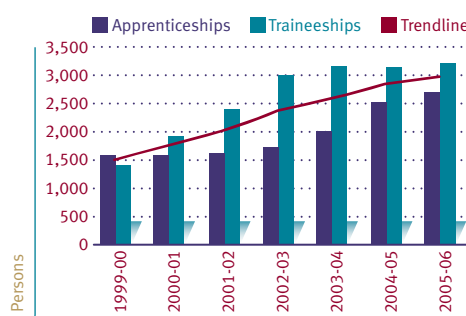
We are continuing the most significant reform agenda in Queensland's child protection history with a record operating budget of \$551.3 million, triple the amount spent before the Crime and Misconduct Commission Inquiry, and a \$36.4 million State-wide capital program which includes \$1.2 million for developing a residential care facility to address placement needs on the Darling Downs.

The Darling Downs and West Moreton region will also benefit from a State-wide allocation of \$49.2 million over four years for additional front-line staff.

In 2007-08, \$7.55 million will be provided across Queensland to continue to implement the Early Years Strategy to enhance services and support for children up to eight years old and their families for community-based early childhood services.

## Participation in post-secondary education, apprenticeships & traineeships

1999-00 to 2005-06



Financial year

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

This will include building four new Early Years Centres around the State. \$12.2 million will also be provided to establish early childhood education and care services through acquiring and refurbishing six decommissioned pre-school sites.

In 2007-08, other initiatives in the Darling Downs and West Moreton region include:

- \$2.5 million to support homeless and at-risk people
- \$1.9 million for community support and youth development services.

Community safety will also be enhanced through a major funding boost to the State's police service. An extra 200 officers will be employed in 2007-08 across the State, which will bring the total number of sworn officers employed in Queensland to 9,928 by October 2008. This again meets our election 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 the Darling Downs and West Moreton region in 2007-08, including \$3.45 million for preliminary development of a prison precinct near Gatton.

Funding for emergency services initiatives in the Darling Downs and West Moreton region includes:

- \$950,000 to replace Goondiwindi and Highfields Auxiliary Fire Stations
- \$500,000 to redevelop Toowoomba's Kitchener Road Fire Station.

## Managing urban growth and building Queensland's regions

As part of Australia's fastest growing area, the Darling Downs and West Moreton region depends on planned, integrated infrastructure, water and transport networks to achieve sustainable economic and urban growth.

In 2007-08, our commitments to Darling Downs and West Moreton's growth include:

- \$118.3 million to complete and commission the \$1.16 billion Kogan Creek Power Station
- \$40.1 million to construct a new power transmission line between Middle Ridge and Greenbank Substations
- \$18 million for improvements to the New England Highway between Toowoomba and Crows Nest
- \$10.6 million for improvements to Ruthven Street in Toowoomba
- \$6.6 million for upgrading sections of the Roma-Taroom Road
- \$1.6 million for safety-enhancing stabilisation of the Toowoomba Range railway line and new railway signalling equipment at Toowoomba
- \$1.25 million for the Arts and Cultural Centre in Gatton Shire (under the Q150 program)
- \$181,000 for the Dalby Business District Revitalisation Project.

## Protecting the environment for a sustainable future

To safeguard our heritage for future generations, the region will share in \$18 million across the State for acquiring rainforest and green land to enhance biodiversity.

The region will benefit from the following State-wide initiatives:

- \$81 million for the South East Queensland Home WaterWise Rebate Scheme to help residents install water-saving devices in their homes
- \$20 million in additional funding for the Vegetation Management Structural Adjustment Package
- \$18 million to complete water resource planning across the State
- \$1.5 million to encourage irrigators to adopt more efficient water use practices.

In the Darling Downs and West Moreton region, we are also committing \$3.2 million for the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality – a joint Australian and Queensland Government commitment to secure reliable water supplies for homes, industry and the environment.

## Growing a diverse economy and creating jobs

A healthy, diverse economy like Queensland's needs a skilled workforce. Our record low unemployment raises the challenge of shortages of skilled labour.

In 2007-08, the State Government will continue to implement the *Queensland Skills Plan*, a \$1 billion strategy to respond to skills shortages across the State.

We are matching the supply of skilled labour to industry's and the economy's needs in the Darling Downs and West Moreton region with \$3.96 million for the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative to assist 728 Queenslanders who are disadvantaged in the labour market.

## Jondaryan Woolshed, Jondaryan



Image courtesy of Tourism Queensland

In 2007-08, the region's primary industries will benefit from State-wide commitments of:

- \$160 million for industry development and trade services
- \$82.5 million for Biosecurity Queensland
- \$31.2 million for fisheries management.

## Delivering responsive government

Governments exist to deliver services, and a responsive government improves services by delivering on its commitments and involving people in decision making.

The State Government has committed \$12 million to implement the first stage of the Local Government Reform Program. This is the most historic reform of local

government in the last 100 years and will deliver a more efficient and financially sustainable system of local government for all Queensland communities.

We are committed to delivering a government for everybody, no matter where they live in Queensland. In 2007, our 100th Community Cabinet was held in Atherton, continuing the commitment we gave in 1998 to community consultation and taking government to the people. Over the years, around 50,000 people have taken advantage of this opportunity. In 2007-08, Queenslanders will again be able to stay in touch with their Government through regular Community Cabinet functions and Ministerial Regional Community Forums.

## Services for people and communities

The Government's investment in human capital and social services is improving access to quality education, health care, mental health, child safety, disability, and public housing services throughout Queensland.

Up to 192 additional teachers and teacher aides will be funded in 2007-08 to meet State school enrolment growth. An education and training capital works program of \$562.8 million will enhance learning environments for Queensland students. The transformation of the State's vocational training system continues with a \$118 million allocation. \$10 million will be provided in 2007-08 to commence a \$70

million four-year program to provide State school and TAFE teachers with computers.

Health system reform and service improvements will be resourced with \$7.45 billion in 2007-08 including \$602.8 million for better clinical training for the health workforce and electronic information sharing between service providers. Critical hospital and building works have been allocated an additional \$371 million over four years. Almost \$50 million extra has been allocated to meet the growing demand for ambulance services across the State.

Over \$528 million over four years will be directed at improving mental health services. A greater investment of \$374 million over four years follows last year's commitment of \$128 million over four years for expanding and modernising services to people with a disability.

The most significant reforms to Queensland's child protection system are continuing in 2007-08 with the largest-ever operating budget of \$551.3 million. Housing assistance will reach \$719 million in 2007-08.



# Budget Highlights 2007–08

## Budget summary

### Strong economic growth maintains low unemployment

- Queensland's economic growth is forecast to remain strong at 5% in 2007-08 and exceed growth in the rest of Australia for the 12th consecutive year.
- Employment growth is expected to exceed the rest of Australia in 2006-07 and 2007-08 at 4¾% and 3% respectively.
- As a result, Queensland's year-average unemployment rate is forecast to fall to a 33-year low of 4% in the current financial year and remain there in 2007-08.

### Strong finances

- The expected 2006-07 operating result of \$2.393 billion reflects the strength of the economy and investment markets.
- A General Government operating surplus of \$268 million is forecast in 2007-08.
- Moderate surpluses over the forward estimates reflect implementation of election commitments and other service enhancements across key service delivery agencies, as well as costs associated with the Government's significant capital investment.

### Competitive taxes

- Queensland maintains its competitive tax status, with taxpayers in other states and territories to pay an average of \$131 more state tax each than Queenslanders in 2007-08. With the Fuel Subsidy Scheme in place, Queensland taxpayers are on average \$257 per capita better off than taxpayers in other states and territories.
- The Government continues its commitment to ongoing reform of the State tax system, with net tax cuts of \$49 million in 2007-08 as a result of Budget measures. These include a land tax relief package from 1 July 2007 and a 50% cut to mortgage duty from 1 January 2008. Vehicle registration duty will move to a cylinder-based model from 1 January 2008.

## Delivering on our priorities

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

- \$528.8 million over four years to improve hospital and community-based mental health services in Queensland.
- Increased recurrent funding of almost \$50 million for the Queensland Ambulance Service to meet growing demand for services. This includes funding for an additional 250 ambulance officers and the upgrade of critical ambulance equipment and facilities across the State, and is on top of the more than 220 extra staff employed in 2006-07.
- A housing assistance package of \$719.3 million in 2007-08.
- An additional \$237.4 million in recurrent funding and \$136.7 million in capital funding over four years to enhance disability services.

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

- Funding for up to 192 additional teachers and teacher aides to meet state school enrolment growth.
- An education and training capital works program of \$562.8 million in 2007-08 to help provide quality learning environments for Queensland state school and TAFE students.
- \$10 million to commence a \$70 million four-year program to provide state school and TAFE teachers with computers.

### Protecting our children and enhancing community safety

- Additional recurrent funding of \$58.7 million and capital funding of \$13.6 million will be invested over four years to enhance child protection services.
- An additional 200 sworn police positions across the State will bring the total number of sworn officers to 9,928 by October 2008 – above the national average police-to-population ratio.

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

- Estimated capital spending is more than \$14 billion in 2007-08, an increase of 15.6% on estimated actual 2006-07 outlays. Over 50% of this will be spent outside Brisbane. This spending will support some 101,000 full-time jobs in Queensland.
- The Government will invest \$2.5 billion in water infrastructure in 2007-08, including \$354.9 million to progress two new dams in South East Queensland and \$1.18 billion to continue designing and building the Western Corridor Recycled Water Project.

### Protecting the environment for a sustainable future

- Up to \$100.8 million in 2007-08 for the WaterWise rebate schemes to help Queenslanders make their homes and gardens more water efficient.

### Growing a diverse economy and creating jobs

- Capital funding of \$300 million towards clean coal technologies, including funding for a feasibility study into the use of advanced carbon capture and storage technology to achieve near-zero electricity generation emissions.
- A \$100 million extension to the Innovation Building Fund for infrastructure to support strategic research and development.



# Government services in your region

## Boonah QGAP

70 High Street  
Boonah QLD 4310  
Telephone 5463 2165  
Facsimile 5463 2167  
Opening Hours: Monday to  
Friday - 8.30am to 4.30pm

## Crows Nest QGAP

16 Charlotte Street  
Crows Nest QLD 4355  
Telephone 4698 2985  
Facsimile 4698 2800  
Opening Hours: Monday to  
Friday - 9.30am to 4.30pm

## Dalby

### Department of Natural Resources and Water

Ergon Energy Building  
30 Marble Street  
Dalby QLD 4405  
Telephone 4669 9599  
Facsimile 4662 5310  
Opening Hours: Monday to  
Friday - 8.30am to 4.30pm

## Goondiwindi

### Department of Natural Resources and Water

24-26 McLean Street  
Goondiwindi QLD 4390  
Telephone 4671 6100  
Facsimile 4671 6163  
Opening Hours: Monday to  
Friday - 8.30am to 4.30pm

## Goombungee

### QGAP

80 Mocatta Street  
Goombungee QLD 4354  
Telephone 4696 5985  
Facsimile 4696 7940  
Opening Hours:  
Monday, Wednesday  
and Friday - 9am to 1pm  
Tuesday and Thursday -  
12pm to 4pm

## Inglewood QGAP

25 Albert Street  
Inglewood QLD 4387  
Telephone 4652 1310  
Facsimile 4652 2964  
Opening Hours: Monday to  
Thursday - 9.30am to 1.30pm  
and 2pm to 3pm Friday - 9.30am  
to 1.30pm and 2pm to 4pm

## Jandowae

### QGAP

Community and Cultural Centre  
Cnr George & High Streets  
Jandowae QLD 4410  
Telephone 4668 5488  
Facsimile 4668 5842  
Opening Hours: Monday to  
Friday - 9am to 4pm

## Kalbar

### QGAP

78 George Street  
Kalbar QLD 4309  
Telephone 5463 7777  
Facsimile 5463 7888  
Opening Hours: Tuesday to  
Friday - 12pm to 4pm

## Laidley

### QGAP

Spicer Street, Laidley QLD 4341  
Telephone 5466 8814  
Facsimile 5466 8860  
Opening Hours: Monday to  
Friday - 8am to 5pm

## Lowood

### QGAP

Cnr Michel & Main Streets  
Lowood QLD 4311  
Telephone 5426 2007  
Facsimile 5426 1816  
Opening Hours: Monday to  
Friday - 9am to 5pm

## Miles

### QGAP

32 Constance Street  
Miles QLD 4415  
Telephone 4627 1177  
Facsimile 4627 1341  
Opening Hours: Monday to  
Friday - 9am to 4.30pm

## Stanthorpe QGAP

51 Marsh Street  
Stanthorpe QLD 4380  
Telephone 4681 4965  
Facsimile 4681 4971  
Opening Hours:  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday  
and Friday - 8.30am to 4pm  
Wednesday - 9.30am to 4pm

## Tara

### QGAP

19 Fry Street  
Tara QLD 4421  
Telephone 4665 3130  
Facsimile 4665 3460  
Opening Hours: Monday to  
Friday - 9am to 1pm and  
2pm to 4pm

## Texas

### QGAP

32 Cadell Street  
Texas QLD 4385  
Telephone 4653 1251  
Facsimile 4653 1265  
Opening Hours:  
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday  
and Friday - 9.30am to 1pm  
and 2pm to 5pm

## Wandoan

### QGAP

11 Lawton Street  
Wandoan QLD 4419  
Telephone 4627 5400  
Facsimile 4627 5400  
Opening Hours: Monday  
to Friday - 9am to 4.30pm

## Ipswich

### Department of Communities - Moreton Regional Office

(services Boonah, Laidley,  
Gatton & Esk Shire residents)  
5-7 Wharf Street  
Ipswich QLD 4305  
Telephone 3280 1777  
Facsimile 3280 1962  
Opening Hours: Monday  
to Friday - 8.30am to 5pm

## Toowoomba

### Department of Communities - Darling Downs South West Queensland Regional Office

Level 6, Condamine Centre  
Bell Street Mall  
Toowoomba QLD 4350  
Telephone 4699 4222  
Facsimile 4638 1169  
Opening Hours: Monday to  
Friday - 8.30am to 5pm

## Toowoomba

### State Development Centre

Downs Business Centre  
4 Little Street  
Toowoomba QLD 4350  
Telephone 4698 9800  
Facsimile 4638 2139  
Opening Hours: Monday to  
Friday - 8.30am to 5pm

## Darling Downs and West Moreton region



*The Darling Downs and West Moreton region consists of Toowoomba City and the towns of Dalby and Goondiwindi. It also includes the shires of Boonah, Cambooya, Chinchilla, Clifton, Crows Nest, Esk, Gatton, Inglewood, Jondaryan, Laidley, Millmerran, Murilla, Pittsworth, Rosalie, Stanthorpe, Tara, Taroom, Waggamba, Wambo and Warwick.*

## Preparatory Year enquiries

Telephone 1300 650 220  
Facsimile 3247 3988

## Queensland Water Commission

Telephone 1300 789 906

## 13 HEALTH

Telephone 13 43 25 84

## Smart Service Queensland

For information on all other  
Government services call 13 13 04  
[www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au)