TOOWOOMBA SECOND RANGE CROSSING
The Queensland Budget 2016-17 includes $399.9 million towards the construction of the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing (TSRC), which is due for completion at the end of 2018.

The TSRC is a 41km bypass route north of Toowoomba. At a construction cost of $1.6 billion, funded jointly by the Australian and Queensland Government, it is one of Queensland’s most significant infrastructure projects.

In addition to avoiding up to 18 sets of traffic lights, saving up to 40 minutes in travel time and redirecting trucks and dangerous goods away from Toowoomba’s city streets, construction of the TSRC will support up to 1,800 direct and indirect jobs.

The project has been procured as a Public Private Partnership. Following an interactive bidding process, Nexus Infrastructure was selected as the proponent for the design, construction and maintenance of the TSRC.

DARLING DOWNS
Advancing our economy through job-creating Innovation, Investment and Infrastructure

Regional Action Plan
The Darling Downs remains one of Australia’s most important farming regions, accounting for around a quarter of the State’s agricultural production. The region’s resources industry has experienced significant growth in recent times, which has been a real driver of jobs in engineering, local manufacturing and skills-intensive industries in the region. We know we have more work to do in providing further support to rural producers and communities to ensure they can continue to prosper and innovate.

Specifically, this Budget includes continued funding for the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, supporting jobs and reducing travel times, and:

Rural Assistance and Drought Package
$77.9M to assist rural producers and communities across the State affected by debt and drought.

Education
$23.8M for maintenance and capital works projects for schools.

Health
$810M for the Darling Downs and South West Hospital and Health Services.

$8.3M over four years to fund the Queensland; an Age-Friendly Community Strategy to expand and improve services throughout Queensland.

$1.2B for infrastructure improvements which are estimated to support 3,500 jobs.

$40M for a 12 month boost to the Queensland First Home Owners’ Grant from $15,000 to $20,000 to help young Queenslanders achieve the dream of owning their new first home sooner.

www.budget.qld.gov.au
What the statewide initiatives mean for **DARLING DOWNS**

**Rural Assistance and Drought Package**

$77.9M

to assist rural producers and communities across the State affected by debt and drought. The total funding provided includes: extending existing relief arrangements, pest and weed management, grants of up to $2,500 for primary producers, extending an existing stamp duty exemption for inter-generational transfers of property, more education support for children in drought affected areas, and a new Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority.

**Investment**

$62.7M

including the $40 million Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund to attract business investment from interstate and support local businesses to reinvest, and the $22.7 million Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy to assist small businesses to start, grow and employ locals in Darling Downs. These initiatives further support the $405 million Advance Queensland package.

**Agricultural Innovation**

$4.8M

over four years to implement the Technology Commercialisation Fund, a pilot program under the New Agricultural Economy, which aims to attract private sector capital into government agriculture and food-based research and development, with the aim of increasing the commercialisation of intellectual property.

**Domestic and Family Violence**

$198.2M

over five years to continue implementing the Government’s response to the Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland report. The Government is committed to reducing the devastating effects of domestic and family violence in Queensland.

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The Queensland Government employs 15,069 people on the Darling Downs who support:

- **259,005** hectares of national and regional parks
- **188** State Heritage sites
- **34** hospitals and health facilities
- **22** customer service centres
- **6,116** km of roads
- **1** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnership regional office
- **37** fire stations
- **52** police stations
- **12** courthouses
- **154** schools

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**Toowoomba Grand Central redevelopment and partnership with TAFE**

The Grand Central Shopping Centre in the heart of Toowoomba is undergoing a $500 million redevelopment which will deliver additional employment and consumer choice to local Queenslanders. Owned by the Queensland Government’s investment arm, Queensland Investment Corporation, Grand Central will be expanded to house new discount department stores, new supermarkets and new specialty retailers.

Grand Central has also partnered with TAFE Queensland South West to provide 550 hospitality and retail training places to give locals the skills to take advantage of the job opportunities this expansion will create. The project will create an estimated 1,500 construction jobs and around 1,000 local retail jobs upon completion which is expected to be in early 2017.
Population in the region

2015: 281,329*
2036: 345,000

*people as at 30 June 2015, growing at an annual average rate of 1.3% over the past 10 years

Top 5 industries in the region by number of workers

13.1% Health care and social assistance
9.5% Education and training
9.3% Manufacturing
8.5% Agriculture, forestry and fishing
8.0% Retail trade

Apprentice and trainee rebate for payroll tax claimed by 156 businesses in the region to reinvest $519,000 back into their business in the financial year to April 2016

30,671 businesses in the region in June 2015

1,576 residential dwellings approved for construction in the region in the 12 months ending 31 March 2016

5,441 residential dwellings sold in the region in the 12 months ending 31 December 2015

Agricultural production $3.2B in the region during 2014-15

Infrastructure budget for Darling Downs

59% Transport and Main Roads
30% Energy and Water Supply
4% Queensland Health
3% Education and Training
1% Public Safety Business Agency
2% Other

$1.2B*

*Agency spends are only available for capital purchases, the total infrastructure budget includes capital grants.
The Darling Downs region encompasses the local government areas of Maranoa, Balonne, Goondiwindi, Toowoomba, Western Downs, Southern Downs and part of Lockyer Valley, as well as the major regional centres of Warwick, Roma, Chinchilla and Stanthorpe. The Queensland Government is investing in Darling Downs through a diverse range of projects and initiatives. For a full list of Queensland Budget 2016-17 initiatives, visit www.budget.qld.gov.au

### Key Projects and Initiatives

#### Darling Downs

- **Goondiwindi Solar PV Project**: $5.7 million in 2016-17 out of a $22.1 million total spend to construct additional classrooms and specialist equipment facilities (due for completion in February 2017)

#### Health

- **Bowie Henderson Hospital Patient accommodation**: $9 million in 2016-17 for the upgrade of patient accommodation in Toowoomba

#### Utilities

- **Warrego Highway (Dalby - Jingi Jingi Creek Bridge)**: $39.6 million total spend to widen a bridge and approaches on the highway for completion in August 2016. This project is part of the Warrego Highway Upgrade Package in partnership with the Australian Government.

#### Education

- **Warrego State High School**: $24.6 million in 2016-17 out of a $29 million total spend to construct additional classrooms and specialist equipment facilities (due for completion in December 2018)

#### Government services

- **Warrego Highway, Dalby to Toowoomba widening**: $27 million in 2016-17 out of a $44 million total spend to construct overtaking lanes, due for completion in January 2018. This project is part of the Warrego Highway Upgrade Package in partnership with the Australian Government.

#### Environment and culture

- **Warrego Highway, Toowoomba to Dalby overtaking lanes**: $7 million in 2016-17 out of a $10 million total spend to construct two new bypass routes north of Toowoomba, due for completion in May 2018. This project is part of the Warrego Highway Upgrade Package in partnership with the Australian Government.

### Budget Highlights

- **2016-17 Budget features**

  - **Community wellbeing**
    - $13.1 million in 2016-17 for capital improvements to Tivoli State Secondary College - Stage 2
  - **Education**
    - $126,000 in 2016-17 to expand and improve social housing in the region
    - **Health**
      - $23.7 million in 2016-17 out of a $24.6 million total spend to construct additional classrooms and specialist equipment facilities (due for completion in August 2018)
      - **Utilities**
        - $372,000 in 2016-17 out of a $1.1 million total spend to replace an upgrade of the headquarters (due for completion in June 2016)
    - **Environment and culture**
      - $5.8 million in 2016-17 for capital improvements to Tivoli State Secondary College - Stage 2

### Key Projects and Initiatives

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