

Darling Downs & West Moreton

Main Range National Park, Warwick



Premier's Message

The Queensland Government is firmly committed to strengthening and building the regions which are the foundation of this State. As a Government we are forging a strong, prosperous future and a better quality of life for all Queenslanders.

This second Regional Budget Statement for Darling Downs and West Moreton highlights capital works and services in the State Budget 2003-04 that specifically meet the needs of people within the region. This Statement demonstrates a significant investment in the Darling Downs and West Moreton region. For example, \$6.07 million will complete stage one and commence stages two and three of the Toowoomba Police Station, watchhouse and district and regional offices.

This Budget delivers improved and integrated services in the areas of health, families, education, housing and law and order to achieve better outcomes for people in Darling Downs and West Moreton.

A highly skilled and educated workforce is integral to our Smart State initiatives in employment creation and economic growth.

In 2003-04 the Government will spend more than \$9 million on initiatives that will provide further training and employment opportunities.

The Darling Downs and West Moreton will benefit from the following funding in the State Budget 2003-04:

- \$23.28 million allocated by Ergon Energy to augment electricity supply to Goondiwindi
- \$18.46 million in National Highway funding for duplication of the Gatton Bypass and planning for the Toowoomba Bypass on the Warrego Highway
- \$500,000 to replace the Boonah Ambulance Station and \$195,000 to replace the Chinchilla Ambulance Station
- \$244,000 for new family support and respite services at Boonah.

The initiatives contained in this Statement reinforce my Government's commitment to working in partnership with the people of Darling Downs and West Moreton to maximise the social, economic and environmental capacity of the Smart State.

Darling Downs an

This Regional Budget Statement outlines key Government spending in the State Budget 2003-04 designed exclusively for the needs of the Darling Downs and West Moreton region and its people. As a Government, we recognise the uniqueness and diversity of the regions as the building blocks of this State. In fact, in this Budget we have allocated 62.5% of capital works funding for regions outside the Brisbane Statistical Division.

The Darling Downs and West Moreton region, which covers almost 6% of the State, is home to 265,374 Queenslanders. The 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.

Agricultural production is a significant contributor to the regional economy, including crops and livestock disposal and products.

Building Queensland's regions

The Queensland Government will continue its partnership with the Darling Downs and West Moreton region in 2003-04 to promote regional growth and economic development.

In support of this priority, the Government has allocated a further \$50 million over four years to extend the Regional Centres Program across the State.

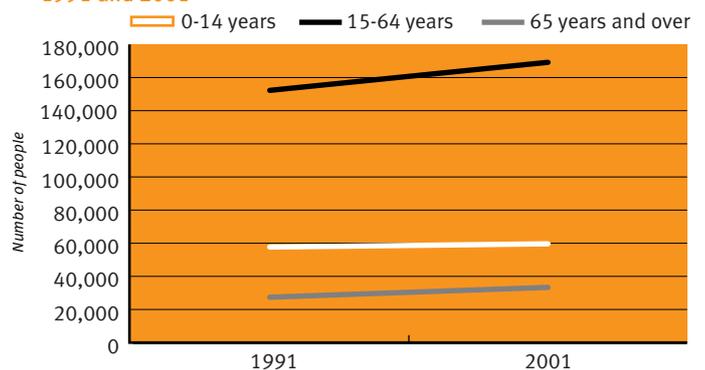
Benefits for the Darling Downs and West Moreton region include:

- \$1.25 million to Toowoomba City Council for stage three of the West Creek Corridor
- \$1 million to the Warwick Shire Council for stage two of the CBD revitalisation project
- \$300,000 to Gatton Shire Council for the Gatton to University of Queensland (Gatton Campus) Cycleway and \$233,200 to refurbish the Gatton Shire Hall.

The region will benefit from a share of \$25 million provided statewide to provide drought assistance and drought recovery activities. In support of the region's cotton industry, we will spend \$400,000 for research into Fusarium wilt. In 2003-04, \$293,000 is allocated to continue the Eastern Farming Systems Project to create sustainable field crop farming systems.

A safe and efficient transport network underpins regional development in the Smart State. In Darling Downs and West Moreton, major transport funding includes \$3.07 million for road and drainage grants to local government.

Estimated Resident Population, Darling Downs and West Moreton, 1991 and 2001



Source: ABS, Population by Age and Sex, 2001 (3235.0)

Polocrosse World Cup



Darling Downs West Moreton

An efficient power supply is vital to economic development within the region. Significant projects include:

- \$8.58 million allocated by Energex to upgrade electricity supply, including \$6.3 million to rebuild the substation and reinforce distribution equipment at Postman's Ridge in Gatton Shire
- \$5.76 million allocated by Tarong Energy toward a new generator transformer and major overhaul of Wivenhoe power station.

People in the Darling Downs and West Moreton region will benefit from \$497,000 to continue the work of the Queensland Government Agent Program, which ensures delivery of Government services and information to people in rural areas. Business support services in the region will be assisted by:

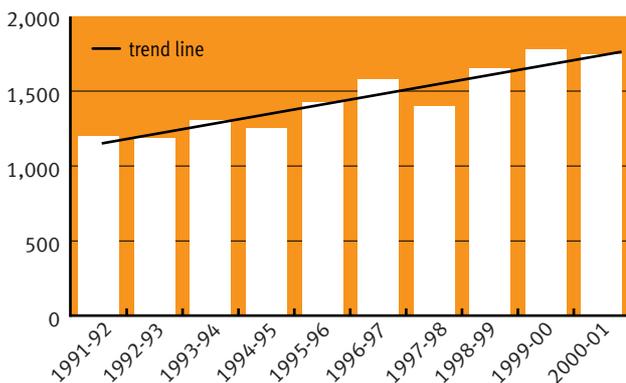
- \$50,000 to Chinchilla Economic and Tourism Development Association
- \$52,000 each to Goondiwindi District Promotions Inc and Maranoa Rural Management Centre Inc
- \$60,000 to the South West Regional Economic Development Association.

The South West Regional Economic Development Association is allocated \$100,000 to advance economic development in the region through funding support for key industry and economic development initiatives.

Other major funding provided in the region includes:

- \$1.7 million for the proposed industrial estate at Charlton and Wellcamp, in partnership with local government
- \$572,000 to manage the Cobb & Co Museum at Toowoomba
- \$100,000 to continue the upgrade of the Dalby airstrip.

Gross Value of Agricultural Production (\$ million)
Darling Downs and West Moreton, Queensland, 1991-92 to 2000-01



Source: ABS, Agriculture, Queensland (unpublished data)

Gospel Music Festival



More jobs for Queensland – skills and innovation – the Smart State

High standards of training and education are the foundation of our efforts to position Queensland as the Smart State.

Through the *Breaking the Unemployment Cycle* initiative, the Government will continue to support the region's young job seekers, with \$5.6 million allocated to help create 800 jobs across the region.

In addition, \$2.98 million provided by the Commonwealth Government is allocated to consolidate the Toowoomba sites of Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE in Bridge Street.

School facilities ensure we have the infrastructure in place to deliver a high standard of education to our young people. Education in the Darling Downs and West Moreton region will benefit from \$4.73 million for work at schools including:

- \$811,000 for a range of works at Highfields State School
- \$900,000 to repair and replace the secondary school building at Taroom State School
- \$370,000 for the provision of a relocatable home economics block at Allora State School
- \$105,000 to upgrade the special education unit and provide access for people with a disability to the library at Warwick State High School.

To maintain existing educational facilities within the region, \$1.42 million is allocated for the Triple R program, which provides repainting, reticulation and re-roofing enhancements to local schools including Biddeston, Bell, Brigalow, Dalby and Moore State Schools, and Centenary Heights, Lockyer District, and Toowoomba State High Schools.

We will provide \$400,000 towards the \$1.3 million Centre for Rural and Regional Innovation Queensland at Gatton. Developed in partnership with the University of Queensland, the Centre provides work, business and community-based development courses.

State Budget Highlights

Budget summary

Creating new jobs

- In 2002-03, an estimated 55,000 new jobs were created in Queensland, accounting for almost a quarter of all new jobs in Australia.
- Queensland's year-average unemployment rate is expected to fall to 7% in 2002-03, its lowest level for 13 years.

Growing the economy

- Queensland's economic outlook is strong. Solid growth of 4% is forecast for 2003-04, exceeding the 3¹/₄% forecast nationally.
- Growth in household consumption and business investment is forecast to exceed national performance in 2003-04.

Strong finances

- A General Government net operating surplus of \$153 million and a cash surplus of \$152 million are forecast in 2003-04.
- The State's net worth is budgeted to grow from \$58.7 billion at 30 June 2003, to \$60.3 billion by 30 June 2004 and to \$67 billion by 30 June 2007.

Competitive taxes

- Taxpayers in other States and Territories will pay on average 28% more tax than Queenslanders.
- As a result of the land tax relief in this Budget, more than 13,500 land holders will not be liable for land tax in 2003-04.

Delivering on our priorities

Building Queensland's regions

- Capital spending will be boosted to \$5.3 billion in 2003-04, supporting some 44,500 full-time jobs with a total of 62.5% of capital works funding spent outside the Brisbane Statistical Division.
- The Regional Centres Program will receive \$50 million over four years to help local governments deliver infrastructure and community facilities.

More jobs for Queensland – skills and innovation – the Smart State

- The Budget includes \$100 million over 4 years for a package of measures to increase the effectiveness of public and private research and development.
- The Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative will be extended with an extra \$255 million over 3 years from 2004-05, plus an additional \$3.8 million to employ 300 public sector apprentices.
- Funding is provided for an extra 636 teachers in schools from 2004.

Safer and more supportive communities

- As the second year of a \$188 million four-year initiatives package, \$32 million will help generate better outcomes for families and children.
- The Queensland Ambulance Service will employ an extra 110 officers statewide, and will commence or complete 17 replacement and four new stations.
- The number of police officers will increase by approximately 300 in 2003-04 as the Police Service progresses towards the achievement of 9,100 officers by 2005.

Community engagement and a better quality of life

- There is an additional \$2.6 billion over 4 years for Health (including Commonwealth and State funding), compared to the 2002-03 Health Budget, including additional investment and service enhancements in acute hospital care, elective surgery, home and community care and mental health.
- An additional \$290.5 million in State funding is provided over four years to Disability Services Queensland including \$200 million to implement Funding Reform Project initiatives.

Valuing the environment

- As part of a \$150 million Commonwealth-State tree clearing reduction package, the State will provide an additional \$75 million over five years.



Government services in your region

For information on Government services in your region, contact the following offices of the Queensland Government Agent Program (QGAP), Department of State Development or Regional Communities.

Boonah

QGAP

70 High Street
Boonah QLD 4310
Phone: 5463 2165
Monday–Friday 8.30am–4.45pm

Crows Nest

QGAP

16 Charlotte Street
Crow's Nest QLD 4355
Phone: 4698 2985
Monday–Friday 9.30am–4.30pm

Goombungee

QGAP

89 Mocatta Street
Goombungee QLD 4354
Phone: 4696 5985
Monday–Friday 8.30am–4.00pm

Inglewood

QGAP

25 Albert Street
Inglewood QLD 4387
Phone: 4652 1310
Monday–Thursday 9.30am–2.30pm
Friday 10.00am–12.00pm and
2.00pm–5.00pm

Jandowae

QGAP

Community & Cultural Centre
Cnr George & High Streets
Jandowae QLD 4410
Phone: 4668 5488
Monday–Friday 9.00am–4.00pm

Kalbar

QGAP

78 George Street
Kalbar QLD 4309
Phone: 5463 7777
Tuesday–Friday 12.00pm–4.00pm
Saturday 9.00am–12.00pm

Laidley

QGAP

Spicer Street
Laidley QLD 4341
Phone: 5466 8814
Monday–Friday 8.30am–4.30pm

Lowood

QGAP

Cnr Michel & Main Streets
Lowood QLD 4311
Phone: 5426 2007
Monday–Friday 9.00am–4.30pm

Miles

QGAP

32 Constance Street
Miles QLD 4415
Phone: 4627 1177
Monday–Friday 9.00am–4.30pm

Stanthorpe

QGAP

51 Marsh Street
Stanthorpe QLD 4380
Phone: 4681 4965
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8.30am–4:00pm
Wednesday 9.30am–4.00pm

Tara

QGAP

19 Fry Street
Tara QLD 4421
Phone: 4665 3130
Monday–Friday
9.00am–12.00pm and 1.00pm–4.00pm

Texas

QGAP

32 Cadell Street
Texas QLD 4385
Phone: 4653 1251
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9.00am–1.00pm and 2.00pm–5.00pm
Thursday 9.00am–1.00pm

Toowoomba

State Development Centre

4 Little Street
Toowoomba QLD 4350
Phone: 4698 9800
Monday–Friday 8.30am–5.00pm

Wandoan

QGAP

11 Lawton Street
Wandoan QLD 4419
Phone: 4627 5400
Monday–Friday 9.00am–4.30pm