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.
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](chart.png)
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.

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, Brigelow, 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.
The development of the $7.5 million Centre of Excellence in Engineered Fibre Composites at the University of Southern Queensland in Toowoomba is allocated $3 million.

**Safer and more supportive communities**

The Government is committed to working in partnership with the Darling Downs and West Moreton region to achieve a safe and supportive community environment.

Community safety in Darling Downs and West Moreton will be enhanced by spending on policing, including $142,000 to continue Toowoomba’s Tactical Crime Squad, which targets known crime hotspots with the emphasis on property crime and possession and supply of drugs offences.

In addition, $200,000 will be spent to expand community conferencing services, which bring together those most affected by offences committed by young people.

**Community engagement and a better quality of life**

We are working to provide equality of opportunity and equitable access to education, health, housing and family services.

In 2003-04 we have provided $15.05 million for public and community housing projects in Darling Downs and West Moreton, including $4.84 million for new constructions.

Health services are vital to forging a better quality of life and a bright future for all Queenslanders. Key funding for health and families in 2003-04 includes:

- $2.1 million to complete the $3.5 million Delivered Energy Service, a cost-efficient energy system for the Toowoomba Health Services District
- $66,000 to reconnect children with family and community
- $417,000 to provide mental health services in the region.

We are committed to providing a high standard of sport and recreation facilities and improving the wellbeing and lifestyle of people in Darling Downs and West Moreton. In partnership with local government and community organisations, we will spend:

- $66,000 for Ballandean Soccer Club Inc at Stanthorpe to construct a multipurpose hall and change rooms
- $64,000 to install lighting in support of hockey in Toowoomba
- $67,000 to develop fields and a running track at Bulldog Park in Chinchilla

- $61,000 to install shade cover over a bowling green at Tara
- $8,000 for Summit Bowls Club Inc at Stanthorpe to upgrade the playing surface and replace lawn bowls ditch boards.

We will work in partnership with local government to meet art and cultural needs, and will provide $182,000 to redevelop the Boonah District Cultural Centre and $250,000 to develop the Taroom Cultural Centre.

**Valuing the environment**

Queensland’s natural and cultural heritage will be protected for the benefit of all Queenslanders. Highlights in environmental funding in the Darling Downs and West Moreton region include:

- $35,000 to design and construct a lookout platform at Crows Nest Falls Lookout in Crows Nest National Park
- $116,000 to reinstate the Junction Walking Track at Girraween National Park
- $50,000 for vegetation mapping in the Brigalow Belt bioregion to determine areas of high conservation value and support vegetation management plans.

To improve the health of our natural resources and ensure their sustainable use, $1.89 million is allocated in Darling Downs and West Moreton for the National Action Plan on Salinity and Water Quality, jointly funded with the Commonwealth Government. Through the national action plan, communities and governments will work together to prevent, stabilise or reverse dryland salinity and improve water quality.
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 3¼% 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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boonah</td>
<td>70 High Street, Boonah QLD 4310</td>
<td>5463 2165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crows Nest</td>
<td>16 Charlotte Street, Crow’s Nest QLD 4355</td>
<td>4698 2985</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goombungee</td>
<td>89 Mocatta Street, Goombungee QLD 4354</td>
<td>4696 5985</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inglewood</td>
<td>25 Albert Street, Inglewood QLD 4387</td>
<td>4652 1310</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jandowae</td>
<td>Community &amp; Cultural Centre, Cnr George &amp; High Streets, Jandowae QLD 4410</td>
<td>4668 5488</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kalbar</td>
<td>78 George Street, Kalbar QLD 4309</td>
<td>5463 7777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laidley</td>
<td>Spicer Street, Laidley QLD 4341</td>
<td>5466 8814</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lowood</td>
<td>Cnr Michel &amp; Main Streets, Lowood QLD 4311</td>
<td>5426 2007</td>
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<td>Miles</td>
<td>32 Constance Street, Miles QLD 4415</td>
<td>4627 1177</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stanthorpe</td>
<td>51 Marsh Street, Stanthorpe QLD 4380</td>
<td>4681 4965</td>
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<td>Tara</td>
<td>19 Fry Street, Tara QLD 4421</td>
<td>4665 3130</td>
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<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>32 Cadell Street, Texas QLD 4385</td>
<td>4653 1251</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toowoomba</td>
<td>State Development Centre, 4 Little Street, Toowoomba QLD 4350</td>
<td>4698 9800</td>
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<td>Wandoan</td>
<td>11 Lawton Street, Wandoan QLD 4419</td>
<td>4627 5400</td>
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Regional Budget Statement – State Budget 2003-04
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