State Budget Highlights

Budget summary

Growing the economy
- Queensland’s economy is forecast to strengthen in 2002-03 to 4.5%, again exceeding national growth of 3.3%.
- Business investment is forecast to reach an historical peak of almost $13 billion in real terms.

Creating new jobs
- Queensland is creating jobs much faster than the national average. Over the 12 months to May 2002, Queensland created more than 30% of all jobs created in Australia and almost 80% of national full-time jobs.
- This strong performance is forecast to continue in 2002-03, with year-average growth in employment of 2.5%, or about 43,000 new jobs.
- The unemployment rate is forecast to fall to a year-average 7.3%, the lowest in a decade.

Sound finances
- A net operating surplus of $23 million and a cash surplus of $354 million are budgeted for the General Government sector in 2002-03, with surpluses over the forward estimates period.
- The State’s net worth is expected to continue to grow, reaching $58.5 billion by 30 June 2003.

Building Queensland’s infrastructure
- A capital works program of $4.8 billion will support some 45,100 full-time jobs.

Competitive taxes
- Payroll tax will be reduced to 4.75% from 1 July 2002.
- Queenslanders will be taxed on average $1,321 in 2002-03, significantly lower than the average tax burden in other States and Territories of $1,757 per capita.

Delivering on our priorities

More jobs for Queensland – skills and innovation – the Smart State
- The new Education and Training Reforms for the Future package provides $158.3 million over four years to provide our young people with more opportunities to access high quality education and training.
- The new Queensland BioCapital Fund will invest $100 million in venture capital in biotechnology projects that have potential for high commercial returns for the Smart State.
- The Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative has been funded an additional $10 million over two years.

Safer and more supportive communities
- New funding of $148 million is provided over four years for the delivery of a range of initiatives aimed at achieving better outcomes for children, young people and families. This funding is in addition to the final instalment of funding ($40 million over four years) committed as a result of the Forde Inquiry and brings the Government’s additional funding commitment in this area to $188 million over four years ($42 million in 2002-03).
- An additional 307 police will be appointed across the State.

Community engagement and better quality of life
- The health budget will be allocated approximately $13.3 million for acute inpatient services and up to $7.3 million for improvements to Home and Community Care services.
- More than $150 million is provided for public rental housing and $6.5 million for crisis accommodation.

Valuing the environment
- A further 60 rangers will be employed, as part of the Protecting Our Natural Assets election commitment of $10 million per annum to fund up to 140 new park rangers and improve facilities.

Building Queensland’s regions
- 55.8% of the capital works budget is allocated for outside the Brisbane Statistical Division, reflecting the Government’s strong commitment to the regions.
• 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. For economic and statistical information about your region and the State, contact your local branch of the Office of Economic and Statistical Research.

**Biloela**
QGAP
60 Kariboe Street
Biloela QLD 4715
Phone: 4992 3245
Monday–Friday 9am–4.30pm

**Gladstone**
State Development Centre
33 Goondoon Street
The Old Gladstone Post Office Building
Gladstone QLD 4680
Phone: 4971 2300
Monday–Friday 8:30am–5pm

**Mount Morgan**
QGAP
Mt Morgan Learning Centre (LNQ)
38 Morgan Street
Mt Morgan QLD 4714
Phone: 4938 1359
Monday 11am–7pm
Tuesday & Friday 9am–1pm
Wednesday & Thursday 9am–3pm

**Moura**
QGAP
Marshall & Shirley Streets
Moura QLD 4718
Phone: 4997 2244
Monday–Friday 9am–12pm & 1pm–4.30pm

**Springsure**
QGAP
Eclipse Street
Springsure QLD 4722
Phone: 4984 1433
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9am–4.30pm

**Yeppoon**
QGAP
Yeppoon Courthouse
Normanby Street
Yeppoon QLD 4703
Phone: 4939 5385
Monday–Friday 9am–4.30pm

**Rockhampton**
Central Queensland Regional Communities Office
Community Engagement Division
Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Ground Floor
34 East Street
Rockhampton QLD 4700
Phone: 4938 4472

Office of Economic and Statistical Research
Level 3
State Government Building
209 Bolsover Street
Rockhampton QLD 4700
Phone: 4938 4486
Fax: 4938 4486
Monday–Friday 9am–5pm
www.oesr.qld.gov.au

State Development Centre
6th Floor, Suncorp Metway Building
32-34 East Street
Rockhampton QLD 4700
Phone: 4938 4572
Monday–Friday 8:30am–5pm
Regional Budget Statement 2002-03

• Premier’s Message

The importance of Queensland’s regions to the economic and social life of our State is evident in the Government’s 2002-03 Budget.

In capital works alone, 55.8% of spending is allocated for regions outside the Brisbane Statistical Division. In the Fitzroy region in 2002-03, the Government will spend $518.9 million on capital works, including:

• $193.5 million for transport and main roads, including more than $78 million for Gladstone Port and the Port of Gladstone Access Road;
• almost $55 million towards common-user infrastructure in the Gladstone area to support current and future projects, such as Comalco’s $1.4 billion alumina refinery, and $50 million to assist the development of Australian Magnesium Corporation’s $1.3 billion magnesium processing plant at Stanwell;
• more than $21 million to complete the $101.5 million raising of Awoonga Dam; and
• $4.2 million as part of an $8 million contribution to the Beef Expo in Rockhampton.

In the Smart State, the focus on regions is about more than infrastructure. This Budget will also boost services in the areas of families, education and law and order.

This statement highlights initiatives within your region that have been developed in response to individual community concerns. It shows the Government is passionate about listening to the community. In fact, we spend more time than any other Government listening to thousands of people at community engagement events such as Community Cabinet and Ministerial Regional Community Forums. We have responded to your call for individual solutions for each community – not a ‘one size fits all’ approach.

The Government is working with you and for you, to build employment and lifestyle opportunities. We are committed to expanding export markets, encouraging value-adding industries and building the regions’ competitive advantages.

This means focusing on a workforce that is more highly skilled, educated and in demand. It also means improving social infrastructure, so community life flourishes.

The Queensland Government is committed to building partnerships with the regions because active communities are central to us achieving the Smart State vision. Together, we can forge a better future for our communities.

Peter Beattie MP
Premier and Minister for Trade

(right) East Street Mall, Rockhampton
The infrastructure and services funded in the 2002-03 State Budget and outlined in this statement demonstrate the Queensland Government’s commitment to working with the Fitzroy region to promote economic development and job creation, stronger community networks and a prosperous future.

The Fitzroy region covers 122,972 square kilometres, or about 7% of the State. It includes the cities of Rockhampton and Gladstone, as well as the shires of Banana, Bauhinia, Calliope, Duaringa, Emerald, Fitzroy, Jericho, Livingstone, Mount Morgan and Peak Downs.

The Fitzroy region is home to about 5% of all Queenslanders and its population is projected to reach 229,244 people by 2021.

The mining, manufacturing and transport and storage industries are the main drivers of the local economy. The region is a major exporter of coal, with more than $2 billion in coal shipped from the Port of Gladstone in 2000-01. In recent years, Fitzroy has attracted several multi-billion dollar industrial and construction engineering projects of national and global significance.

Rockhampton is the beef capital of Queensland and livestock products, including meat and dairy, earn approximately 60% of the region’s agricultural output.

**Introduction**

The infrastructure and services funded in the 2002-03 State Budget and outlined in this statement demonstrate the Queensland Government’s commitment to working with the Fitzroy region to promote economic development and job creation, stronger community networks and a prosperous future.

The Fitzroy region covers 122,972 square kilometres, or about 7% of the State. It includes the cities of Rockhampton and Gladstone, as well as the shires of Banana, Bauhinia, Calliope, Duaringa, Emerald, Fitzroy, Jericho, Livingstone, Mount Morgan and Peak Downs.

The Fitzroy region is home to about 5% of all Queenslanders and its population is projected to reach 229,244 people by 2021.

The mining, manufacturing and transport and storage industries are the main drivers of the local economy. The region is a major exporter of coal, with more than $2 billion in coal shipped from the Port of Gladstone in 2000-01. In recent years, Fitzroy has attracted several multi-billion dollar industrial and construction engineering projects of national and global significance.

Rockhampton is the beef capital of Queensland and livestock products, including meat and dairy, earn approximately 60% of the region’s agricultural output.

**Building Queensland’s regions**

The Government is working with Queenslanders in the Fitzroy region to drive economic development and ensure that the region prospers. This partnership has led to the development of strategies to support and manage growth in the region. In 2002-03, we will provide:

- $2 million for the Development Strategy and Master Plan for the Gladstone State Development Area; and
- $250,000 to continue the Central Queensland: A New Millennium Regional Planning Project, including a website to enable local councils to share planning data.

To add value to the region’s traditional industries, almost $55 million is allocated in 2002-03 towards providing common-user infrastructure in the Gladstone area to support Comalco’s proposed $1.4 billion alumina refinery at Yarwun and other future projects. This is part of a $150 million commitment.

The Government will also provide $400,000 to promote the Capricorn and Gladstone areas to tourists. We will also contribute $8 million, including $4.2 million in 2002-03, to Beef Expo, which will encourage tourism in the region and enhance Rockhampton’s position as the State’s beef capital.
A safe and efficient transport network promotes industry competitiveness and economic development. Major transport projects in Fitzroy in 2002-03 include:

- more than $78 million for Gladstone Port, including funding for a third berth to increase coal export capacity and the new Gladstone Port Access Road;
- $7.5 million for work on the Dawson and Capricorn Highways;
- $6 million for the $9 million rail spur line to the Stanwell Industrial Park for Australian Magnesium Corporation; and
- $1.5 million to continue upgrading rail track on the Rockhampton to Townsville line.

A reliable energy supply is critical to growth and the Government’s energy corporations will invest significantly in the region in 2002-03:

- Stanwell Corporation will spend $20.3 million for improvements to its coal-fired base load power station.
- Powerlink Queensland has allocated $23.2 million for the Gladstone South 132kV substation rebuild and the Stanwell transmission line.
- Ergon Energy will join with Livingstone Shire Council to remove overhead power lines from Yeppoon’s foreshore and place them underground. Ergon has also allocated $4.3 million to ensure supply in Calliope and Theodore and to improve telecommunications infrastructure in Rockhampton.

Water, and its efficient use, is vital for the development of the Fitzroy region. Funding in 2002-03 includes:

- more than $21 million to complete the $101.5 million Awoonga Dam raising project; and
- $8.6 million for water and sewerage infrastructure.

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

The Government is positioning Queensland as the Smart State with a strategy that supports a diversified economy through investment in traditional and new industries. Construction of the Australian Magnesium Corporation’s $1.3 billion magnesium processing plant at Stanwell is due to commence later this year. The Government will provide $50 million in 2002-03 as part of an assistance package for the plant, which will be the largest in the world and make Queensland an international centre for light metal production.

In addition, Stanwell Corporation is allocating $30.1 million towards installing shared plant with AMC for the supply of power, steam, water and other services. Over the next 15 years, the plant is expected to stimulate $4.5 billion of investment, employ at least 2,000 people and create a further 5,000 indirect jobs in the region.

Fitzroy will also share in $30,000 to improve the competitiveness of the heavy engineering and steel fabrication sector.

To ensure our workers have the skills required for major projects such as these, the Government has established the $2 million Central Queensland Training Strategy to provide responsive employment and training programs. Through the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiatives, it’s anticipated that $7.5 million will be spent in Fitzroy for employment programs targeted at the long-term unemployed, mature-age job seekers, trainees and apprentices, young people and Indigenous people.

Investing in the Smart State means investing in education and training. This Budget provides $158.3 million over four years state-wide to fund an innovative package of education and training reforms for the future.

In 2002-03, Fitzroy will share in the allocation of:

- an additional $22.7 million for information and communication technologies (ICT) in classrooms and ICT training for teachers; and
- 382 additional teachers to provide for growth and other needs, including 158 teachers as part of the Government’s election commitment to employ 800 additional teachers over four years.

Education and training funding for the region includes:

- $1.5 million to complete a student centre and performing arts block at Tannum Sands State High School and $372,000 for the Cawarral State School administration and library upgrade;
- $622,000 for improvements to the Central Queensland Institute of TAFE;
- $320,000 for two new classrooms at Calliope State School and $289,000 to complete the $2.8 million Gladstone State High School renewal project;
- $285,715 for the Learning and Development Centres (Technology) at Warraburra State School and $86,000 to support gifted and talented students at Denison State School; and
- $130,000 for the New Basics initiative at Gladstone State High School and State Schools at Biloela, Goovigen, Jambin, Mt Murchison, Prospect Creek and Thangool to equip students with critical thinking, problem solving and lifelong learning skills.

### Safer and more supportive communities

Families are the foundation of our communities and to support them, we are this year funding a package of $188 million over four years ($62 million in 2002-03) for delivery of a range of initiatives aimed at achieving better outcomes for children, young people and families. This comprises new funding of $148 million over four years, in addition to the final instalment of funding ($40 million over four years) committed as a result of the Forde Inquiry. This funding will be allocated across all regions of the State.

Smarter policing and crime prevention are vital for ensuring our communities are safe. Over the next three years, an additional 30 police will be appointed to the Rockhampton District.
A Tactical Crime Squad with seven officers will commence operations in Rockhampton in July 2002 to target crime hotspots and drug offenders. Extensions to the Tannum Sands police station will be completed in the coming year. Work will commence on the Boyne Island ambulance station and residence and the joint Emergency Services Centre in Yeppoon will be completed.

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

All Queenslanders are encouraged to take part in the rich cultural, social and economic life of the State. The Queensland Government is working to ensure equality of opportunity and equitable access to high standards of health, housing and family services through greater participation in the choices made by Government.

The Government is improving the health of Queenslanders in the Fitzroy region through:

- the completion of the $26.2 million redevelopment of Rockhampton Hospital;
- a new multi-purpose health services facility at Springsure;
- the implementation of the Better Health Outcomes Project in Rockhampton and Woorabinda;
- a new primary health centre at Boyne Valley; and
- new funding of $514,000 for mental health and forensic services.

The Government has allocated more than $13 million for housing projects in Fitzroy in 2002-03. We will also fund $532,000 for Home Assist Secure Schemes to allow elderly people in the region to remain in their own homes longer, with improved safety and quality of life.

Fitzroy residents will also benefit from the Government’s ongoing commitment to screen all windows and doors of dwellings in the Dengue Fever Zone.

**Valuing the environment**

Queensland is Australia’s most naturally diverse State and the Government is committed to protecting our environment and its biodiversity for current and future generations.

Fourteen new rangers will be employed in the Rockhampton, Gladstone, Duaringa and Emerald areas. The $100,000 Gladstone Airshed Modelling project will establish six monitoring stations to predict the air quality impacts from industries proposing to locate at Gladstone.

Facilities in Mount Etna Caves, Blackdown Tableland and Capricorn Coast National Parks will be upgraded with funding of $345,000.