Over the 2011 summer, Queensland experienced State-wide devastation from natural disasters. The floods and Cyclone Yasi saw 100 per cent of Queensland local government areas declared disaster affected and triggered the largest rebuilding and recovery operation ever undertaken in this state.

The 2011-12 Budget fosters that recovery, while also providing relief for families. My Government’s decision to abolish the ambulance levy will provide immediate relief for families doing it tough.

There is also a new $140 million Queensland Building Boost, to stimulate the housing sector and make it more attractive for people to purchase their first home.

We will also implement reforms to our education system by moving Year 7 into high school, enabling our children to get full benefit from the new Australian Curriculum. This Budget invests a record amount in events funding - an $85.8 million boost over five years - to help Queensland attract major events and drive up tourism numbers.

This is a Budget built on strength of spirit that will restore long-term social and economic prosperity on the Gold Coast and right across the State.

On track for recovery from the global financial crisis, Queensland’s economy was instead faced with the worst floods in 100 years and Cyclone Yasi.

Mines were flooded, crops destroyed and communities were isolated. Some of our key export partners, too, were hit by natural disasters.

The 2011-12 State Budget faces those challenges head-on, reprioritising our needs and maintaining our sights on prosperity and a return to surplus.

It will also chart our course back to the front of the economic pack, with growth in 2011-12 to outpace the other states and the nation.

Our prosperity is in our regions - our mineral-rich centres, our tourism and heritage hotspots, and our business, industry and agriculture hubs.

This Government will maintain its focus on economic reform and jobs generation.

Our infrastructure investment will clock in at $15 billion - more than Western Australia and more than Victoria. The program will support almost 93,000 jobs.

The 2011-12 State Budget will strengthen Queensland’s economy and deliver on our commitment to protect Queensland jobs.

A better education system for our children

• $328 million over four years for State schools for building works to move Year 7 to secondary school in 2015
• $50 million in 2011-12 for the State School Investment Program

Investing in services

• A record health budget of $11.05 billion
• More police, to meet our commitment to deliver 600 officers this term, and 50 new ambulance officers

A greener Queensland

• $75 million to support investment in solar power energy generation
• $60 million to the end of next year for ClimateSmart Home Services – reducing households bills and carbon emissions

For more information about the 2011-12 State Budget: www.budget.qld.gov.au
$165.9 million for cost of living concessions, to improve affordability of council rates for pensioners and seniors.

$140 million to reduce the cost of electricity bills by abolishing the Community Ambulance Cover levy.

$141.5 million for vocational education and training, including apprenticeships and traineeships.

$3.8 million for new job creation programs and to grow a skilled workforce.

$25 million towards the $244.1 million upgrade of the Mount Lindesay Highway between Rosia Road and Chambers Flat Road.

$3.8 million to provide cost of living concessions to pensioners for South East Queensland water costs. In 2011-12, the subsidy will increase by $20, to $120 per annum.

$123 million for kindergartens at Beaudesert, Canungra, Coomera, Coomera Springs, Eagleby South, Elanora, Highland Reserve, Logan Village, Mount Warren Park, Norfolk Village, Palm Beach and Waterford State Schools.

$175.3 million of $1.195 billion for the Gold Coast Rapid Transit System, a light rail project from Southport to Broadbeach, funded by the Australian, State and Local Governments and delivered as a public private partnership.

$159.7 million towards the $421.6 million upgrade of the Pacific Motorway between Springwood South and Daisy Hill, in partnership with the Australian Government.

$25 million of $1.762 billion to complete the new Gold Coast University Hospital, due to open in 2012.

$17.5 million to provide cost of living concessions to pensioners for South East Queensland water costs. In 2011-12, the subsidy will increase by $20, to $120 per annum.

$10 million to local governments for recovery and reconstruction projects, in partnership with the Australian Government.

$20 million of $132 million to widen the $244.1 million upgrade of the Mount Lindesay Highway between Rosia Road and Chambers Flat Road.

$500,000 to refurbish the Burleigh Heads Police Complex.

$1.5 million to construct a new Police Beat at Burleigh Heads.

$80.2 million of $158 million to widen the Pacific Motorway from four to six lanes, between Nerang and Stewart Road, in partnership with the Australian Government.

$20 million to support community recovery and rebuild community cohesion.

$90,000 to support community recovery and rebuild community cohesion.

$3.8 million for the Robina Health Precinct, providing ambulatory and community health services.

$3.8 million to complete the Robina Hospital, due for completion in 2012.

$1.5 million for cost of living concessions to pensioners for South East Queensland water costs. In 2011-12, the subsidy will increase by $20, to $120 per annum.

$2.5 million to complete the new ambulance station at Coomera.

$3.8 million to provide cost of living concessions to pensioners for South East Queensland water costs. In 2011-12, the subsidy will increase by $20, to $120 per annum.

$1.073 billion for kindergartens at Beaudesert, Canungra, Coomera, Coomera Springs, Eagleby South, Elanora, Highland Reserve, Logan Village, Mount Warren Park, Norfolk Village, Palm Beach and Waterford State Schools.

$18.9 million for the Robina Health Precinct, providing ambulatory and community health services.

$1.5 million to construct a new Police Beat at Burleigh Heads.

$59.9 million to complete the Robina Hospital, due for completion in 2012.

$6.5 million towards staging the Gold Coast 600.

$1.7 million to support local community sports, including $288,750 to construct six netball courts at Jimboomba Park.

$435.6 million of $1.762 billion to continue constructing the new Gold Coast University Hospital, due to open in 2012.

$1.073 billion for kindergartens at Beaudesert, Canungra, Coomera, Coomera Springs, Eagleby South, Elanora, Highland Reserve, Logan Village, Mount Warren Park, Norfolk Village, Palm Beach and Waterford State Schools.

$12.3 million for kindergartens at Beaudesert, Canungra, Coomera, Coomera Springs, Eagleby South, Elanora, Highland Reserve, Logan Village, Mount Warren Park, Norfolk Village, Palm Beach and Waterford State Schools.

$30.3 million to complete the $394.8 million upgrade of the $244.1 million upgrade of the Mount Lindesay Highway between Rosia Road and Chambers Flat Road.

$1.7 million to support local community sports, including $288,750 to construct six netball courts at Jimboomba Park.

$158 million for the Hinze Dam.

$25 million of $1.762 billion to complete the new Gold Coast University Hospital, due to open in 2012.

$10,000 of $1.8 million to commence replacement of the auxiliary fire and rescue station at Mt Tamborine.

$2.5 million to complete the new ambulance station at Coomera.

$1.5 million to construct a new Police Beat at Burleigh Heads.

$500,000 to refurbish the Burleigh Heads Police Complex.

$2.5 million to complete the new ambulance station at Coomera.

$1.7 million to support local community sports, including $288,750 to construct six netball courts at Jimboomba Park.

$3.8 million for new job creation programs and to grow a skilled workforce.

$6.5 million towards staging the Gold Coast 600.

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$25 million of $132 million to widen the $244.1 million upgrade of the Mount Lindesay Highway between Rosia Road and Chambers Flat Road.

$1.7 million to support local community sports, including $288,750 to construct six netball courts at Jimboomba Park.

$15.8 million to widen the Pacific Motorway from four to six lanes, between Nerang and Stewart Road, in partnership with the Australian Government.

$1.8 million to complete the new ambulance station at Coomera.

$2.5 million to complete the new ambulance station at Coomera.