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 to the Greater Brisbane region 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.

Government services in Greater Brisbane

Smart Service Queensland  
State Emergency Service  
13 Health  
Every Dollar Counts concessions website

For Government services call 13 13 04 or visit www.qld.gov.au
Telephone: 132 500
Telephone: 13 43 25 84
www.communityservices.qld.gov.au/community/concessions/

For more information about the 2011-12 State Budget: www.budget.qld.gov.au
Cost of living support for Queenslanders

Supporting Queenslanders by improving access to and affordability of a range of services:

- **$140 million** to reduce the cost of electricity bills by abolishing the Community Ambulance Cover levy.
- **$165.9 million** for cost of living concessions, to improve affordability of council rates for pensioners and electricity for pensioners and seniors.
- **$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.
- **$1.073 billion** to subsidise public transport costs for trains, buses and ferries across South East Queensland.
- **$37.6 million** in travel assistance to help students with disabilities access school programs to meet their individual needs.

Disaster response funding

- **$137.3 million** to local governments for recovery and reconstruction projects, in partnership with the Australian Government.
- **$120 million** towards the $385 million upgrade of Port Connect, including a three kilometre extension from the Gateway Motorway to Pritchard Street.
- **$3.4 million** to continue planning for a new fire station at Brassall and a replacement fire station at Ripley to replace the existing Ipswich fire station.

Key

- Health
- Environment
- Education
- Law and order
- Infrastructure
- Community
- Disaster response