As a part of the global economy, Queensland has felt the effects of the global financial and economic crisis. The worst set of global economic circumstances in more than 75 years has resulted in falling revenues and rising unemployment. That's why the centrepiece of the 2009-10 State Budget is jobs – creating and sustaining jobs, assisting business and industry, and positioning our economy for future growth.

Specific investments in education, employment and training, business and vital industries such as tourism will help create and support jobs for Queenslanders.

The Queensland Government is investing $18 billion in its jobs-generating building program, with injections of funding for roads, ports, schools, transport and other vital infrastructure.

Frontline service delivery is our focus with commitments for police, hospitals, ambulance services and teachers – the things we need to keep our communities healthy, safe and growing.

The Government is determined to cushion Queenslanders from the full impact of the global recession. That means acting now to support the economy and making the long term decisions needed for the future.

Queensland’s prosperity and growth is built on the strength of our regions. This document puts on record the Government’s commitment to the people and economy of the Mackay-Whitsunday region.
Protecting jobs in Mackay-Whitsunday

As the global economic crisis takes hold and Queensland’s economic growth rate slows, the Government is committed to protecting the jobs of today and creating the jobs of tomorrow.

The Government’s job programs are more important than ever before and will play a crucial role in supporting Queensland workers through these uncertain economic times.

The Government will implement a host of initiatives that will create new jobs and equip our workforce with the skills needed for future recovery.

**Productivity Places Program**
A $414 million industry-based program (including $259 million in Australian Government funding) to deliver almost 150,000 new training places over four years.

**Tourism Blueprint to Protect Jobs**
A $37.8 million program to create 1,000 new jobs for new, regionally-focussed tourism market and product development campaigns, and to support the ‘drive travel’ market.

**Sustainable Resource Communities**
A $25 million program to create 500 new jobs over the next 12 months by boosting employment in regional areas affected by the mining downturn.

**Payroll tax apprentice and trainee incentives**
A $15 million scheme to assist Queensland businesses that employ apprentices and trainees. In addition to the payroll tax exemption provided for apprentice and trainee wages, businesses will also receive a 25% rebate on payroll tax for other equivalent employees in 2009-10.

**Queensland Green Army**
A $57 million program to create 3,000 new jobs over three years by putting an army of unemployed Queenslanders to work to improve our waterways, beaches, national parks and green spaces.

Green Army participants will work on projects of strategic importance to enhance and protect Queensland’s natural assets, strengthen the tourism industry and promote increased environmental awareness around the State.

It will create 2,300 jobs through work placements of up to six months and 700 year-long Green Traineeship positions for young, unemployed Queenslanders.

For more information about the Green Army, visit www.greenarmy.qld.gov.au.
Covering an area of 90,346 square kilometres or 5.2 per cent of the State, Mackay-Whitsunday is home to almost 4 per cent of Queensland’s total population. Almost 170,0001 Queenslanders now call the Mackay-Whitsunday region home.

This region’s diverse economy includes mining, agribusiness and tourism, and boasts a world-class manufacturing and engineering services sector together with an abundance of high-quality sporting, education and training facilities. The region also boasts four major ports, well-established road and rail transport networks and three major commercial gateways.

The Queensland Government recognises the valuable contribution Mackay-Whitsunday makes to the State’s economic and social development. This Regional Budget Statement highlights the Government’s commitment to get on with the job of supporting the region and its people.


Delivering jobs for Queensland

Jobs are the Government’s number one priority. Faced with challenging global economic conditions, the Government will create and protect jobs to help keep Queensland strong and secure our economic foundations.

In 2009-10, the Government will drive Queensland’s $18 billion building infrastructure program to stimulate growth, create and protect jobs and meet the infrastructure needs of our rapidly growing population.

Key building projects in the Mackay-Whitsunday region include:

- $304.9 million towards the $913 million expansion of Abbot Point Coal Terminal
- $178.3 million towards the $500 million Jilalan Rail Yard upgrade
- $138 million towards construction and improvement of rail tracks in the region
- $55.9 million to establish a new electricity substation at Bowen North and to construct a transmission line to connect it to the existing Strathmore substation
- $32 million to construct a new substation at Glenella to reinforce electricity supply to North Mackay
- $15 million to reinforce electricity supply to the Airlie Beach area
- $4.5 million for infrastructure enhancements at the Port of Mackay
- $4 million towards upgrading Whitsunday Airport.

As well as protecting jobs now, the Government is preparing for the future. By developing the skills base of Queensland workers, supporting emerging industries, building on traditional strengths, and attracting investment and innovation, Queensland will be well positioned to lead Australia through the period of recovery and beyond.

In 2009-10, other job-generating investments in the Mackay-Whitsunday region include:

- $33.4 million for vocational education and training activities
- $12 million to continue the $46.1 million development of a specialist trade campus in Mackay
- $2.21 million to create 360 jobs for young people and those disadvantaged in the labour market through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative, which includes Queensland’s Green Army.

Investing in our health

To make Queenslanders Australia’s healthiest people, the Government is investing in healthy lifestyles, hospitals and other frontline health services to ensure Queenslanders receive the best possible healthcare when illness strikes.

During the next three years, the Queensland Government aims to employ more than 3,500 additional doctors, nurses and allied health professionals across the State. In addition, $7.9 million will be spent to train and recruit fully accredited nurse practitioners to reduce emergency department waiting times.
In 2009-10, the Government will also provide funding for the following State-wide initiatives:

- $464.77 million towards major hospital capital works
- $30 million for the expansion of the Surgery Connect program to deliver additional elective surgery procedures
- $1 million additional funding for new maternity services under the Mums and Bubs program to provide one-on-one midwifery support in Proserpine and other locations across the State
- $900,000 for newborn and family drop-in clinics to provide specialist advice to new parents in Proserpine and other locations across the State. This is part of the Universal Postnatal Contact Service program.

In 2009-10, individuals and families in the Mackay-Whitsunday region will also benefit from the following treatment and healthcare initiatives aimed at maintaining healthy, strong communities:

- $61 million to continue the $405.6 million Mackay Base Hospital redevelopment, which will provide more operating theatres, a dedicated coronary care unit and a larger intensive care unit
- $7.75 million for the Home and Community Care initiative
- $5.75 million to support people with a disability
- $3.82 million to improve community sport and recreation facilities
- $2.78 million to support the homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless
- $1.2 million to help Queenslanders remain in their homes or in the private rental market
- $587,000 to support victims of domestic violence
- $560,000 to complete the Middlesmore Community Health Centre Extension, funded as part of the Sustainable Resource Communities initiative
- $297,000 to provide specialist counselling services for families with complex or special needs
- $194,000 for non-government organisations to employ chronic disease health workers to provide a variety of screening services in the areas of nutrition, physical activity, alcohol, child health, and sexual and reproductive health
- $169,000 to support implementation of the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

### Renewable energy and the environment

The Queensland Government is committed to the fight against climate change and reducing Queensland’s carbon footprint by one-third by 2020. Across the State, the Government is investing an additional $95.83 million over five years in new climate change initiatives, including $15.6 million for disaster management, $15 million for the ClimateSmart Business Service, $5 million for the Energy Efficiency Retrofit program, $4.5 million to extend the Rural Water Use Efficiency initiative, and $52.7 million on energy conservation and demand management initiatives.

The Government will also create new green jobs by investing in emerging industries and renewable energy projects, such as the Solar Hot Water Program. This program will provide up to 200,000 Queensland homes with solar hot water or heat pump systems at a fraction of the normal price.

Other initiatives aimed at protecting the Mackay-Whitsunday region’s natural environment include:

- $468,000 as part of a $936,000 grant to Whitsunday Regional Council for a Historical Foreshore Plaza, the Catalina Commemorative Area and the Sinclair Soundshell
- $456,000 to improve facilities at Eungella National Park
- $410,000 to complete the Whitsunday Islands Great Walk in the Whitsunday National Park
- $43,560 as part of an $87,000 grant to Isaac Regional Council for a Water Loss Management System.

### Better and safer roads

The Government’s $3.53 billion road building program plans for growth by creating and sustaining Queensland jobs, improving road safety and quality, reducing congestion, and continuing to connect people and places around the State.

In 2009-10, the Government’s commitment to improve road quality and safety in the Mackay-Whitsunday region will include:

- $37.6 million to construct the $148 million Forgan Bridge and approaches on Barnes Creek Road, due for completion in 2010-11
- $8.7 million in Australian Government funding for the $33.3 million ‘four-laning’ of the Bruce Highway southern approaches to Mackay, between Temples Lane and Farellys Lane, due for completion in 2011-12
- $8 million to complete the $20 million construction of the Joint Levee Road in North Mackay
- $6.9 million to complete the $7.2 million replacement of the Twelve Mile Creek bridge and upgrade the approaches on the Oxford Downs-Sarina Road
- $4.6 million to build overtaking lanes and safer intersections on the Peak Downs Highway near Nebo between Cut Creek and Retreat Creek. This project will equate to 38 full-time jobs and will significantly bolster the $7.5 million upgrade already underway.
Promoting education and early childhood development

The Queensland Government is focussed on ensuring every Queensland child has access to high-quality education. The emphasis will be on the essentials of literacy, numeracy and science, as well as major infrastructure investment to provide first-rate teaching and learning environments, and generate employment opportunities.

In 2009-10, the Queensland Government will provide $301 million to continue the State Schools of Tomorrow program to improve and build new facilities in some of Queensland’s oldest schools.

As part of the Government’s commitment to universal access to a quality early childhood education, joint Queensland and Australian Government funding of $15.4 million under the Early Childhood Reform National Partnership will be provided in 2009-10 for the establishment of kindergarten infrastructure on 15 State school sites with 240 new or extra kindergarten services to be running by 2014.

The Government will further invest in the Mackay-Whitsunday region with $6.3 million in joint Queensland and Australian Government funding to construct a $7.8 million combined trade training school and industry trade centre for Mackay North State School.

Improving emergency services

Over the past year, Queensland has experienced devastating floods, cyclones and torrential storms. The Government’s investment in emergency services will help make Queensland communities safer, provide quality emergency relief services, and create and sustain jobs.

In 2009-10, individuals and families across Queensland will benefit from:

- $57.03 million for new and upgraded police stations and facilities
- $22.2 million for nine new or improved urban fire and rescue stations, and improvements to emergency service facilities
- $20.93 million for 150 new ambulance vehicles, including 140 replacement vehicles and 10 additional vehicles
- $19.25 million for 20 new or redeveloped ambulance facilities
- $14.8 million for 57 new or replacement urban and rural fire and rescue appliances
- $1.84 million ($7.34 million over four years) to increase safety for rural firefighters under the $12.98 million Support our Heroes package
- $1.22 million ($5.64 million over five years) for vehicles, flood boats and trailers for the State Emergency Service under the $12.98 million Support our Heroes package.

The Mackay-Whitsunday region will also benefit from the following initiatives aimed at improving emergency services:

- $1.19 million to construct and upgrade a State Emergency Service facility and ambulance station at Moranbah
- $100,000 to complete a vital upgrade to the Eimeo Surf Lifesaving Club.

Get on board with Q150 celebrations

Queensland has come a long way since its birth as a separate colony 150 years ago. To celebrate this milestone, the Government is bringing Queenslanders together to honour the importance of our people, places and stories in shaping our great State.

With more than 480 community events and 91 social, historic and community legacy infrastructure projects happening around the State, there’s something for everyone to enjoy – including the historic Q150 Steam Train and travelling Q150 Shed.

To find out more about Q150 celebrations in the Mackay-Whitsunday region and across Queensland, visit the Q150 website at www.q150.qld.gov.au
Budget summary

Internationally Australia is a standout performer; Queensland to remain ahead of the nation

- Queensland’s economy is expected to expand by ½% in 2008-09, compared with no growth in the Australian economy.
- The State economy is forecast to experience a slightly milder contraction than the national average in 2009-10.
- Year-average employment growth is forecast to be 1¼% in 2010-11, compared with ½% over the year to June quarter 2011 for Australia as a whole.
- Queensland’s year-average unemployment rate is forecast to peak at 7½% in 2010-11, compared with a peak in the national rate of 8½% in June quarter 2011.

Challenging fiscal environment

- A deteriorating global and domestic economic environment has significantly impacted Queensland’s finances.
- Since the 2008-09 Budget, $15 billion over 4 years has been knocked off the State’s key revenue sources (GST, taxes and royalties).
- As a result, Queensland is forecasting a General Government operating deficit in 2009-10 and across the forward estimates.
- The Government is committed to returning the Budget to surplus and lowering the State’s debt levels and, consequently, has implemented around $5.4 billion worth (over four years) of measures aimed at improving Queensland’s fiscal position.
- The Government has undertaken steps to repair the State’s finances for the longer term, charting a course back to surplus by 2016-17.

Investing in infrastructure to sustain jobs

- The Government’s key objective is to continue to invest in infrastructure to sustain jobs while the current economic circumstances prevail.
- The 2009-10 capital program is forecast to be $18.2 billion which is expected to support 127,000 full-time jobs.
- In 2009-10 there will be capital outlays of $7.307 billion for transport and main roads, $1.447 billion for housing and homelessness services, $1.837 billion for education and training, $1.296 billion for health, and $1.121 billion for water.
Government services in Mackay-Whitsunday

Cannonvale
QGAP
Shops 5-7, 11 Island Drive
Cannonvale QLD 4802
Telephone: 4948 2981
Facsimile: 4948 2899
Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday – 9am to 4:30pm; Wednesday – 9:30am to 4:30pm

Clermont
QGAP
44 Daintree Street
Clermont QLD 4721
Telephone: 4983 1233
Facsimile: 4983 3164
Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 9am to 4:30pm

Collinsville
QGAP
64 Sonoma Street
Collinsville QLD 4804
Telephone: 4785 5567
Facsimile: 4785 5789
Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 9am to 12:30pm then 2pm to 4:30pm

Mackay
Department of Communities – Mackay-Whitsunday Regional Office
Level 2, Healthpoint Pharmacy Building
67-69 Sydney Street
Mackay QLD 4740
Telephone: 4967 4420
Facsimile: 4967 4425
Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 5pm

Mackay
Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation
Post Office Square
Level 2, 2 Sydney Street
Mackay QLD 4740
Telephone: 4967 1022
Facsimile: 4967 4447
Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 5pm

Mackay
Department of Environment and Resource Management – Business Centre
22-30 Wood Street
Mackay QLD 4740
Telephone: 4967 0820
Facsimile: 4957 4005
Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 4:30pm

Mackay
Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries
30 Tennyson Street
Mackay QLD 4740
Telephone: 4944 7800
Facsimile: 4944 7811
Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 5pm

Middlemount
QGAP
Middlemount Shopping Centre
Middlemount QLD 4746
Telephone: 4985 7255
Facsimile: 4981 2888
Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 8:20am to 12pm then 12-4:55pm to 4:45pm

Mirani
QGAP
20 Victoria Street
Mirani QLD 4754
Telephone: 4959 1842
Facsimile: 4959 1275
Opening hours QGAP: Monday to Friday – 9am to 3pm Opening hours Council: Monday to Friday – 8am to 4:30pm

Moranbah
QGAP
21 Griffin Street
Moranbah QLD 4744
Telephone: 4941 7633
Facsimile: 4941 5743
Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday – 9am to 4:30pm; Thursday – 9am to 6pm

Sarina
QGAP
Broad Street
Sarina QLD 4737
Telephone: 4956 1820
Facsimile: 4943 1009
Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 9am to 12:30pm then 1:30pm to 4:30pm

Other services
Smart Service Queensland
For information on all other Government services call 13 13 04 or visit www.qld.gov.au
State Emergency Service
Telephone: 132 500
13 Health
Telephone: 13 43 25 84
Green Army
Find out more or register your interest in joining the Green Army by calling 1800 249 215 (Monday to Friday – 8am to 6pm) or online at www.greenarmy.qld.gov.au
Rapid Response Team
A hotline (1800 035 749) is available for retrenched workers who require information about Federal and State Government assistance

www.budget.qld.gov.au