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 Mackay - Whitsunday 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 Mackay - Whitsunday

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
2011-12 Regional Budget Statement – Mackay-Whitsunday

For more information about Government initiatives in your region, visit www.qld.gov.au/buildingqld

- $7.2 million for kindergartens at Clermont, Eimeo Road, Mackay North, Marian, Queens Beach and Sarina State Schools.
- $19.8 million to continue design of the Port of Abbot Point multi-cargo facility.
- $2.5 million for new job creation programs and to grow a skilled workforce.
- $8.8 million of $30 million to upgrade the Kinchant Dam Spillway.
- $278,000 to refurbish and enhance the Eton irrigation distribution, the Eungella off-takes and the Proserpine water supply.
- $14.9 million to expand and improve social housing.
- $8.2 million to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the Marine Park’s Field Management Program.
- $39.6 million for vocational education and training, including apprenticeships and traineeships.
- $2.5 million to redevelop the Walkerston and replace the Clermont auxiliary fire and rescue stations.

- $3.8 million to upgrade the heritage-listed police facility in Mackay.
- $17.1 million to continue construction of the Mackay Trade Training Centre at the Central Queensland Institute of TAFE.
- $4.5 million towards upgrading the Mackay Showgrounds.

- $50 million to local governments for recovery and reconstruction projects, in partnership with the Australian Government.
- $4.5 million towards upgrading the Mackay Showgrounds.
- $41.3 million to reconstruct sections of the Peak Downs Highway connecting Mackay with the Bowen Basin.
- $40.4 million of $80.7 million to restore pavement to sections of the Bruce Highway through the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday local government areas.

Cost of living support for Queenslanders

Supporting our State’s regions by improving access to and affordability of a range of services:

- $140 million in 2011-12 to reduce the cost of electricity bills by abolishing the Community Ambulance Cover levy.
- $411 million to ensure that regardless of where they live, all Queensland electricity customers of a similar type pay a similar price for electricity.
- $165.9 million for cost of living concessions, to improve affordability of council rates for pensioners and electricity for pensioners and seniors.
- $337.8 million for regional freight and passenger transport subsidies, including bus services in Mackay and the Whitsundays and coach services in Bowen.
- $54.6 million for the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme which assists patients accessing specialist medical services not available within their local area.
- $146.7 million for the School Transport Assistance Scheme to assist students who have to travel long distances to their nearest school.

Key
- Health
- Environment
- Education
- Law and order
- Infrastructure
- Economic Development
- Community
- Disaster response

Disaster response funding

- $50 million to local governments for recovery and reconstruction projects, in partnership with the Australian Government.
- $30 million over two years for ten cyclone shelters, including in Proserpine/Airlie Beach and Mackay/Sarina.
- $41.3 million to reconstruct sections of the Peak Downs Highway connecting Mackay with the Bowen Basin.
- $40.4 million of $80.7 million to restore pavement to sections of the Bruce Highway through the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday local government areas.

$700,000 to complete the $1.3 million redevelopment of the ambulance station at South Mackay.

$278,000 to refurbish and enhance the Eton irrigation distribution, the Eungella off-takes and the Proserpine water supply.

$8.8 million of $30 million to upgrade the Kinchant Dam Spillway.

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