The 2007-08 State Budget reinforces our Government’s commitment to investing in infrastructure and providing services to support the State’s strong economy and maximise the quality of life of all Queenslanders.

This Regional Budget Statement highlights the Mackay–Whitsunday region’s contribution to the State’s dynamic economy and presents the Government’s key investments in the region for the next financial year.

The Budget maintains the State’s strong fiscal position and will underpin continued economic growth substantially above the national average as well as maintaining low unemployment.

The Government’s economic achievements have provided the platform for this year’s record $14 billion capital budget. This investment focuses on the Government’s key infrastructure priorities of water, transport, energy, health and education. To ensure all Queenslanders can share in the State’s economic prosperity, more than 50% of the capital investment is allocated outside Brisbane.

The Budget also ensures continued high quality service provision in all Queensland regions, with key commitments to human capital development, health care, community safety, the environment, community services and jobs creation.

State Budget highlights for the Mackay-Whitsunday region in 2007-08 include:

- $133.7 million to construct power transmission lines between Nebo and Broadsound, and Strathmore and Pioneer Valley
- $49.9 million to duplicate track between Broadlea and Wotonga rail sidings and improve the overhead electrical system on the Goonyella coal rail network
- $33.5 million to develop a convention precinct and redevelop the adjacent central business district in Mackay
- $30.6 million to construct the Hospital Bridge and approaches and duplicate the Forgan Bridge and approaches in Mackay
- $10.5 million to replace Whitsunday Police Station and watchhouse and provide a new residence for the officer in charge
- $9.4 million to develop SkillsTech Australia’s specialist trade campus in Mackay.
Its natural beauty, historic country towns and tropical lifestyle have made the Mackay-Whitsunday region one of Australia’s premier tourist destinations. Covering 5.2% of the State and home to 151,572 Queenslanders, the region is also one of Queensland’s main sugar regions. Coal mining and cattle production add to a diverse and growing economy.

As a Government, we recognise the valuable contribution of Mackay-Whitsunday to the Smart State’s economy. With over 50% of the budgeted infrastructure investment outside Brisbane, this Regional Budget Statement for Mackay-Whitsunday highlights the Government’s commitment to the region and its people.

Improving health care and strengthening services to the community

An investment in healthy lifestyles is an investment in our future. System reform is underway to provide safe, sustainable and accountable services to give Queenslanders access to the best possible treatment and care. Across the State, the Government will provide:

- $215.4 million to improve recruitment, retention and preparation of the health workforce
- $25.4 million to meet the increasing costs of aeromedical and inter-facility transfers and retrievals
- $20.1 million to enhance the clinical education and training of new doctors and nurses.

In 2007-08, spending on healthy living, health care, hospitals and other infrastructure in the Mackay-Whitsunday region will include:

- $2.7 million to build a community-based rehabilitation facility in Mackay
- $1.35 million to replace Clermont Ambulance Station
- $500,000 to complete the $1.7 million Mackay Hospital Annex.

The Mackay-Whitsunday region will also benefit from increased funding of almost $50 million for the Queensland Ambulance Service to meet growing demand for services. This includes funding for an additional 250 ambulance officers and the upgrade of critical ambulance equipment and facilities across the State, and is on top of the more than 220 extra staff employed in 2006-07.

The Port of Abbot Point

A record investment in economic and social infrastructure

With a growing population and the worst drought in recorded history, the State is facing unprecedented challenges. The 2007-08 Budget signals the Government’s commitment to Queensland’s sustainable economic development with a record capital works budget of over $14 billion.

More than half of this capital program will be spent outside Brisbane, on major infrastructure for better transport, water and energy supply for the residents of all regions.

The Statewide Water Policy outlines the Government’s plan to improve water security and support future economic development in regional Queensland. This policy commits $222 million for dams and weirs, $198 million for channels and pipelines and $31.5 million for investigations and early works on new sources of water supply throughout the State.

The strong State financial position achieved by the Government has enabled us to fund other major infrastructure in regional Queensland such as $58.3 million towards stages 2 and 3 of the Townsville Ring Road, $30.6 million for bridge projects in Mackay, $134.7 million towards new and continuing airport and seaport works in Cairns, and power supply projects such as the $12.2 million improvements to the Mica Creek Power Station near Mount Isa, and $9.4 million to finish new transmission lines from Ross to Townsville South.

In 2007-08 we will also redevelop hospitals in Ingham, Innisfail and Yeppoon, upgrade emergency departments in Rockhampton and Dalby and commence a major upgrade to Bundaberg Hospital.

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In 2007-08 we will also redevelop hospitals in Ingham, Innisfail and Yeppoon, upgrade emergency departments in Rockhampton and Dalby and commence a major upgrade to Bundaberg Hospital.

The Mackay Festival of Arts
The Government is continuing its support for frail older people, people with a disability and their carers with commitments in the Mackay-Whitsunday region including:

- $6.4 million for the Home and Community Care initiative to provide personal care, home maintenance and modification, meals, respite care, transport and community-based nursing services for frail older people and young people with moderate-to-severe disabilities
- $4.4 million to support people with a disability and their families through a range of programs
- $1.1 million to help families care for family members with a disability and provide short-term and time-limited respite support.

We are providing ongoing housing and housing-related services to support low-income families and individuals in the Mackay-Whitsunday region in 2007-08, including $10.3 million for public housing, community, crisis, transitional and long-term housing needs.

Initiatives to encourage healthy, active individuals and communities in the region also include $1.5 million to construct an indoor multipurpose sport and recreation facility at Dysart.

Realising the Smart State through education, skills and innovation

Queensland is already enjoying a strong national and international reputation for education, skills and innovation. We are maintaining our enviable economic climate, prosperity and quality of life by making a serious commitment to education, innovation and skills.

To equip teachers for modern teaching environments, the Government will invest $70 million over four years to provide State school and TAFE teachers with computers. Funding will start with $10 million in 2007-08 and increase to $20 million per year thereafter.

Our investment in the Mackay-Whitsunday region’s contribution to the Smart State will also include:

- $39.9 million for vocational education and training
- $9.4 million to develop SkillsTech Australia’s specialist trade campus in Mackay
- a share in $4.3 million as part of the ongoing $48 million Queensland Tourism Strategy
- a share in an additional $1.25 million for the Queensland Music Festival to expand its program to more regional centres, including Mackay and Moranbah
- $550,000 for a replacement amenities block at Mackay North State School*
- $350,000 for an additional amenities block at Homebush State School.*

* The Australian Government may also contribute to these projects.

Protecting our children and enhancing community safety

Strong, healthy young lives today mean safe, supportive communities tomorrow. Although significant progress has been made to reform Queensland’s child protection system, it remains a key priority of this Government.

We are continuing the most significant reform agenda in Queensland’s child protection history with a record operating budget of $551.3 million, triple the amount spent before the Crime and Misconduct Commission Inquiry, and a $36.4 million State-wide capital program which includes $1.2 million for the development of a residential care facility in Mackay.

The Government is providing funding for services and infrastructure to enhance community safety in the Mackay-Whitsunday region in 2007-08, including:

- $10.5 million to replace Whitsunday Police Station and watchhouse and provide a new residence for the officer in charge
- $450,000 to complete and operate the new work camp for women at Bowen.

Managing urban growth and building Queensland’s regions

State-wide infrastructure development, water, regional job creation and integrated transport networks are critical to Queensland’s growth. To ensure that Queenslanders in the Mackay-Whitsunday region continue to contribute to and benefit from our economic success, our commitment will include:

- $133.7 million to construct power transmission lines between Nebo and Broadsound, and Strathmore and Pioneer Valley
- $49.9 million to duplicate track between Broadlea and Wotonga rail sidings and improve the overhead electrical system on the Goonyella coal rail network
- $33.5 million to develop a convention precinct and redevelop the adjacent central business district in Mackay
- $30.6 million to construct the Hospital Bridge and approaches and duplicate...
The Government’s investment in human capital and social services is improving access to quality education, health care, mental health, child safety, disability, and public housing services throughout Queensland.

Up to 192 additional teachers and teacher aides will be funded in 2007-08 to meet State school enrolment growth. An education and training capital works program of $562.8 million will enhance learning environments for Queensland students. The transformation of the State’s vocational training system continues with a $118 million allocation. $10 million will be provided in 2007-08 to commence a $70 million four-year program to provide State school and TAFE teachers with computers.

Health system reform and service improvements will be sourced with $7.45 billion in 2007-08 including $602.8 million for better clinical training for the health workforce and electronic information sharing between service providers. Critical hospital and building works have been allocated an additional $371 million over four years. Almost $50 million extra has been allocated to meet the growing demand for ambulance services across the State.

Over $528 million over four years will be directed at improving mental health services. A greater investment of $374 million over four years follows last year’s commitment of $128 million over four years for expanding and modernising services to people with a disability.

The most significant reforms to Queensland’s child protection system are continuing in 2007-08 with the largest-ever operating budget of $551.3 million. Housing assistance will reach $719 million in 2007-08.
Budget summary

Strong economic growth maintains low unemployment

- Queensland’s economic growth is forecast to remain strong at 5% in 2007-08 and exceed growth in the rest of Australia for the 12th consecutive year.
- Employment growth is expected to exceed the rest of Australia in 2006-07 and 2007-08 at 4¾% and 3% respectively.
- As a result, Queensland’s year-average unemployment rate is forecast to fall to a 33-year low of 4% in the current financial year and remain there in 2007-08.

Strong finances

- The expected 2006-07 operating result of $2.393 billion reflects the strength of the economy and investment markets.
- A General Government operating surplus of $268 million is forecast in 2007-08.
- Moderate surpluses over the forward estimates reflect implementation of election commitments and other service enhancements across key service delivery agencies, as well as costs associated with the Government’s significant capital investment.

Competitive taxes

- Queensland maintains its competitive tax status, with taxpayers in other states and territories to pay an average of $131 more state tax each than Queenslanders in 2007-08. With the Fuel Subsidy Scheme in place, Queensland taxpayers are on average $257 per capita better off than taxpayers in other states and territories.
- The Government continues its commitment to ongoing reform of the State tax system, with net tax cuts of $49 million in 2007-08 as a result of Budget measures. These include a land tax relief package from 1 July 2007 and a 50% cut to mortgage duty from 1 January 2008. Vehicle registration duty will move to a cylinder-based model from 1 January 2008.

Delivering on our priorities

Improving health care and strengthening services to the community

- $528.8 million over four years to improve hospital and community-based mental health services in Queensland.
- Increased recurrent funding of almost $50 million for the Queensland Ambulance Service to meet growing demand for services. This includes funding for an additional 250 ambulance officers and the upgrade of critical ambulance equipment and facilities across the State, and is on top of the more than 220 extra staff employed in 2006-07.
- A housing assistance package of $719.3 million in 2007-08.
- An additional $237.4 million in recurrent funding and $136.7 million in capital funding over four years to enhance disability services.

Realising the Smart State through education, skills and innovation

- Funding for up to 192 additional teachers and teacher aides to meet state school enrolment growth.
- An education and training capital works program of $562.8 million in 2007-08 to help provide quality learning environments for Queensland state school and TAFE students.
- $10 million to commence a $70 million four-year program to provide state school and TAFE teachers with computers.

Protecting our children and enhancing community safety

- Additional recurrent funding of $58.7 million and capital funding of $13.6 million will be invested over four years to enhance child protection services.
- An additional 200 sworn police positions across the State will bring the total number of sworn officers to 9,928 by October 2008 – above the national average police-to-population ratio.

Managing urban growth and building Queensland’s regions

- Estimated capital spending is more than $14 billion in 2007-08, an increase of 15.6% on estimated actual 2006-07 outlays. Over 50% of this will be spent outside Brisbane. This spending will support some 101,000 full-time jobs in Queensland.
- The Government will invest $2.5 billion in water infrastructure in 2007-08, including $354.9 million to progress two new dams in South East Queensland and $1.18 billion to continue designing and building the Western Corridor Recycled Water Project.

Protecting the environment for a sustainable future

- Up to $100.8 million in 2007-08 for the WaterWise rebate schemes to help Queenslanders make their homes and gardens more water efficient.

Growing a diverse economy and creating jobs

- Capital funding of $300 million towards clean coal technologies, including funding for a feasibility study into the use of advanced carbon capture and storage technology to achieve near-zero electricity generation emissions.
- A $100 million extension to the Innovation Building Fund for infrastructure to support strategic research and development.
### Government services in your region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Facsimile</th>
<th>Opening Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cannonvale</td>
<td>Shops 5-7, 11 Island Drive, Cannonvale QLD 4802</td>
<td>4948 2981</td>
<td>4968 2899</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday - 9am to 4.30pm, Wednesday - 9.30am to 4.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clermont</td>
<td>44 Daintree Street, Clermont QLD 4721</td>
<td>4983 1233</td>
<td>4983 3164</td>
<td>Monday to Friday - 9am to 4.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collinsville</td>
<td>64 Sonoma Street, Collinsville QLD 4804</td>
<td>4785 5567</td>
<td>4785 5789</td>
<td>Monday to Friday - 9am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 4.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middlemount</td>
<td>Broadsound Shire Council, Middlemount Shopping Centre, Middlemount QLD 4746</td>
<td>4985 7255</td>
<td>4981 2888</td>
<td>Monday to Friday - 8.20am to 12pm and 12.45pm to 4.45pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirani</td>
<td>20 Victoria Street, Mirani QLD 4754</td>
<td>4959 1842</td>
<td>4959 1275</td>
<td>Monday to Friday - 9am to 3pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moranbah</td>
<td>21 Griffin Street, Moranbah QLD 4744</td>
<td>4941 7633</td>
<td>4941 5743</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - 9am to 4.30pm, Thursday - 9am to 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarina</td>
<td>Broad Street, Sarina QLD 4737</td>
<td>4956 1820</td>
<td>4943 1009</td>
<td>Monday to Friday - 9am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackay</td>
<td>Department of Communities - Mackay-Whitsunday Regional Office, Level 2, Healthpoint Pharmacy Building, 67-69 Sydney Street, Mackay QLD 4740</td>
<td>4967 4420</td>
<td>4967 4425</td>
<td>Monday to Friday - 8.30am to 5pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Smart Service Queensland**

For information on all other Government services call 13 13 04

www.qld.gov.au