

Mackay-Whitsunday

Airlie Beach Lagoon, Airlie Beach



Premier's Message

The Queensland Government is firmly committed to strengthening and building the regions which are the foundation of this State. As a Government we are forging a strong, prosperous future and a better quality of life for all Queenslanders.

This second Regional Budget Statement for Mackay-Whitsunday highlights capital works and services in the State Budget 2003-04 that specifically meet the needs of people within the region. This Statement signifies a significant investment in the Mackay-Whitsunday region.

This Budget delivers improved and integrated services in the areas of health, families, education, housing and law and order to achieve better outcomes for people in Mackay-Whitsunday. For example, we will fund 10 residential treatment beds in Mackay to provide alcohol and drug rehabilitation services within the region.

A highly skilled and educated workforce is integral to our Smart State initiatives in employment creation and economic growth.

In 2003-04 the Government will spend more than \$5 million on initiatives that will provide further training and employment opportunities.

Mackay-Whitsunday will benefit from the following infrastructure funding in the State Budget 2003-04:

- \$76.84 million to construct and electrify the rail spur to Hail Creek mine
- \$8.42 million toward the \$11.4 million Mackay Courthouse extension and refurbishment
- \$5 million for a multipurpose centre in Mackay, as part of a total Government contribution of up to \$38 million
- \$1.25 million to provide two world-class walking tracks — the Mackay Highlands Great Walk and the Whitsundays Great Walk.

The initiatives contained in this Statement reinforce my Government's commitment to working in partnership with the people of Mackay-Whitsunday to maximise the social, economic and environmental capacity of the Smart State.

Peter Beattie
Premier and Minister for Trade

Mackay-Whits

This Regional Budget Statement outlines key Government spending in the State Budget 2003-04 designed exclusively for the needs of the Mackay-Whitsunday region and its people. As a Government, we recognise the uniqueness and diversity of the regions as the building blocks of this State. In fact, in this Budget we have allocated 62.5% of capital works funding to regions outside the Brisbane Statistical Division.

Mackay-Whitsunday, covering an area of 90,340 square kilometres, has the largest population of South Sea Islander people in Australia. The region is home to 3.8% of Queenslanders, including 4.2% of the State's Indigenous population. The region includes Mackay City and the shires of Belyando, Broadsound, Bowen, Mirani, Nebo, Sarina and Whitsunday.

Significant contributors to the region's economy are the coalmining and manufacturing industries, agriculture (particularly sugar) and tourism. The region includes the coalmining belt of the Bowen Basin and accounts for almost half of the State's total value of black coal production.

Building Queensland's regions

The Queensland Government will continue its partnership with the Mackay-Whitsunday region in 2003-04 to promote regional growth and economic development.

In support of this priority, the Government has allocated a further \$50 million over four years to extend the Regional Centres Program across the State.

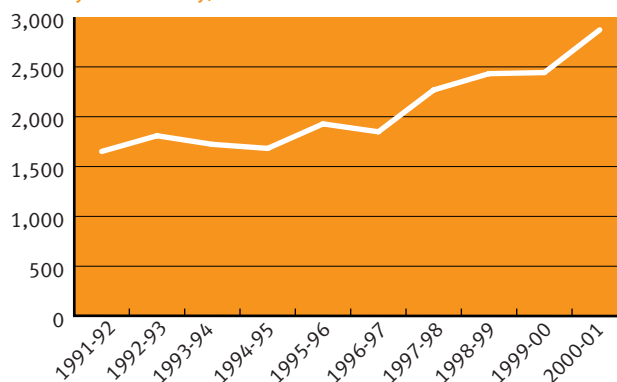
Benefits for the Mackay-Whitsunday region include:

- \$1 million to Whitsunday Shire Council for streetscape and traffic calming of Airlie Beach's main street, Shute Harbour Road and the Esplanade
- \$1.5 million to Mackay City Council to complete the northern development of the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens.

A safe and efficient transport network underpins regional development in the Smart State. In Mackay-Whitsunday major transport projects include:

- \$3.69 million to complete improvements to the Wallmans and Eimeo Road intersections on Mackay - Bucasia Road
- \$1.94 million to widen the existing pavement on the Peak Downs Highway between Stockyard and Spring Creeks
- \$6.85 million for ports at Hay Point and Mackay, including Mackay Airport.

Value of Mineral Production (\$ million), Mackay-Whitsunday, 1991-92 to 2000-01



Source: Department of Natural Resources and Mines (unpublished data)

Tilt Train set to roll.



Sunday

Cape Hillsborough

To position the region to take advantage of economic development opportunities, we will provide the following infrastructure:

- \$19.59 million to construct a rail deviation for the Coppabella mine
- \$4 million to improve coal fleet capacity.

In 2003-04, \$9.27 million is allocated to complete relocation of the Coppabella Infrastructure Corridor, south of the proposed Coppabella South coalmine. The mine will create employment for 108 people when operational.

An efficient and consistent power supply is critical. In 2003-04 Ergon Energy has allocated \$1.7 million to improve the reliability of electricity assets in cyclone prone areas, particularly Bowen, the Pioneer Valley, Sarina and Proserpine.

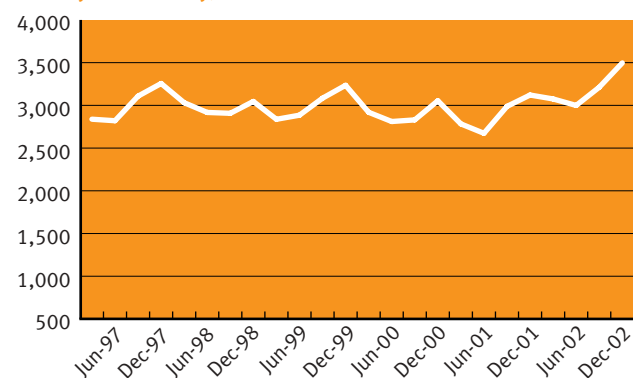
The region will benefit from a share of \$25 million provided statewide for drought assistance and drought recovery activities.

We will work with local governments to provide the following:

- \$116,000 to provide reliable water supply and sewerage services at Pinnacle for Mirani Shire Council
- \$217,000 for Mirani Shire Council and \$189,000 for Sarina Shire Council to help restore local government assets damaged by flooding in 2002.

Bowen Shire Council and Mackay Tourism and Development Bureau will each be provided with \$50,000 to improve the delivery of business support services in Bowen, Whitsunday, Belyando, Nebo and Broadsound Shires. The Mackay/Whitsunday Regional Economic Development Corporation is allocated \$250,000 to foster regional economic development, through funding support for key industry and economic development projects. Delivery of government services and information to people in rural areas will continue with \$290,000 for the Queensland Government Agent Program.

**Employed Persons, Tourist Establishments
Mackay-Whitsunday, March 1997 to December 2002**



Source: ABS, Tourist Accommodation, Queensland (8635.3.40.001)

Tourism Whitsundays and Mackay Tourism and Development Bureau will each be provided with \$221,000 to continue marketing locations within the region to holiday-makers.



More jobs for Queensland – skills and innovation – the Smart State

High standards of training and education are the foundation of our efforts to position Queensland as the Smart State.

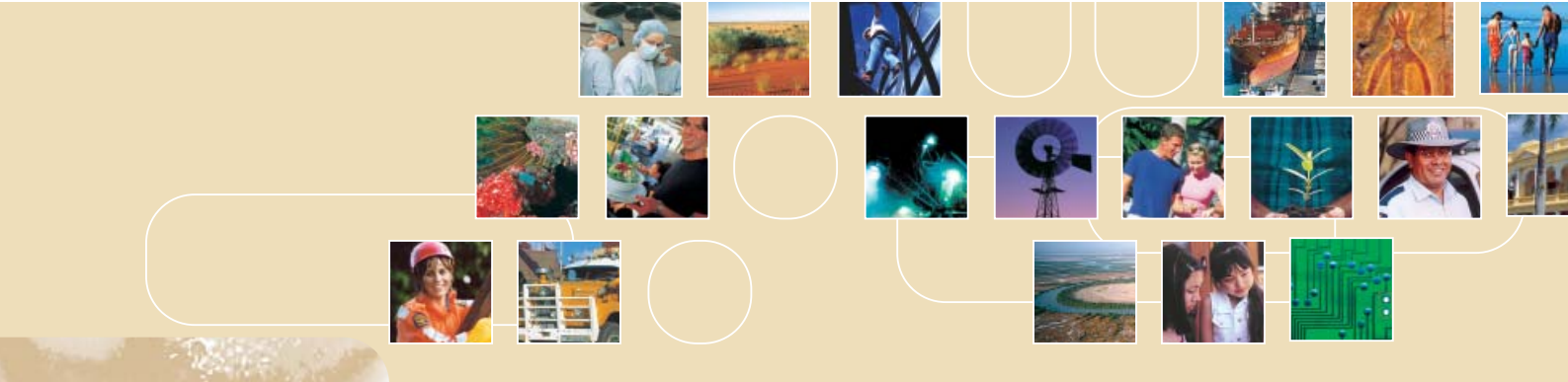
Through the *Breaking the Unemployment Cycle* initiative, the Government will continue to support the region's young job seekers, the long-term unemployed and disadvantaged job seekers, with \$4.1 million allocated to help create 530 jobs across the region.

In addition, Mackay-Whitsunday will benefit from \$1 million allocated to the region for the statewide Central Queensland Training and Employment Strategy, which aims to meet training requirements to encourage significant light metal projects in Central Queensland.

School facilities ensure we have the infrastructure in place to deliver a high standard of education to our young people. Education in the Mackay-Whitsunday region will benefit from \$430,000 to complete an upgrade of Mackay North State High School and \$260,000 for new toilets at Alligator Creek State School.

In 2003-04, \$777,000 is provided in Mackay-Whitsunday for the Triple R program, which provides repainting, reticulation and re-roofing enhancements to schools, including:

- repainting at Clermont State High School and repainting at Moranbah East State School
- repainting at Coppabella and Nebo State Schools
- repainting at Scottville, St Lawrence and Eton North State Schools
- repainting and re-roofing at Alligator Creek and Sarina State Schools.



Safer and more supportive communities

The Government is committed to working in partnership with the Mackay-Whitsunday region to promote a safe and supportive community environment.

Development of the following centres will support delivery of emergency services in the region:

- \$1.85 million to construct a joint North Mackay fire and ambulance emergency services complex
- \$150,000 to purchase land for a new Airlie Beach fire station
- \$929,000 to purchase land and replace the South Mackay Ambulance Station and \$200,000 to replace the Calen Ambulance Station.

Community safety will be enhanced by spending on policing and crime prevention, including \$193,000 to continue the work of the 14 officer Tactical Crime Squad, which targets known crime hotspots with an emphasis on property crime and possession and supply of drugs offences. In addition, \$2.17 million is provided to construct a new 24-hour police station at North Mackay.

The region will benefit from \$200,000 for community conferencing services which bring together those most affected by offences committed by young people.

Community engagement and a better quality of life

As a Government, we are working to provide equitable access to housing, health and family services.

In 2003-04, \$1.04 million is allocated for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing, including the upgrade of nine rental units. Additionally, \$2.88 million is allocated to construct 30 units for public housing accommodation.

Highlights in funding for health and families include:

- \$1.48 million to continue improvements to the consultation area for specialist outpatients plus refurbishment of selected areas at the Mackay Hospital
- \$75,000 to provide free evidence-based parenting programs
- \$50,000 to upgrade Bowen Hospital's telecommunication system
- \$76,000 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family support services.



Art Space Gallery, Mackay

To provide a high standard of sport and recreation facilities and improve the wellbeing and lifestyle of Mackay-Whitsunday people, we will spend:

- \$6,000 for Bowen Turf Club Inc to offset training facilities maintenance costs
- \$52,000 to install retractable shade over a green for lawn bowls in Moranbah
- \$75,000 to construct an indoor sport and recreation facility at Moranbah
- \$66,000 to upgrade the lawn bowls surface from grass to carpet at South Mackay
- \$75,000 to develop a new field and install irrigation at Beaconsfield.

Local economic activity will be increased with funding of \$15,000 for the Bowen Fishing Classic and \$10,000 for the Surf Life Saving Queensland North Australian Championship.

Valuing the environment

Queensland's natural and cultural heritage will be protected for the benefit of all Queenslanders. Highlights in environmental funding in the Mackay-Whitsunday region include:

- \$100,000 to the Association of Marine Park Tourist Operators to eradicate crown-of-thorns starfish infestations from locations on the Great Barrier Reef
- \$463,000 for a range of capital works on parks and forests, including \$307,000 to implement the Broken River Master Plan at Eungella National Park and \$58,000 to upgrade the walking track at Finch Hatton
- \$50,000 for vegetation mapping in the Brigalow Belt Bioregion to determine areas of high conservation value and support vegetation management plans.

State Budget Highlights

Budget summary

Creating new jobs

- In 2002-03, an estimated 55,000 new jobs were created in Queensland, accounting for almost a quarter of all new jobs in Australia.
- Queensland's year-average unemployment rate is expected to fall to 7% in 2002-03, its lowest level for 13 years.

Growing the economy

- Queensland's economic outlook is strong. Solid growth of 4% is forecast for 2003-04, exceeding the 3¹/₄% forecast nationally.
- Growth in household consumption and business investment is forecast to exceed national performance in 2003-04.

Strong finances

- A General Government net operating surplus of \$153 million and a cash surplus of \$152 million are forecast in 2003-04.
- The State's net worth is budgeted to grow from \$58.7 billion at 30 June 2003, to \$60.3 billion by 30 June 2004 and to \$67 billion by 30 June 2007.

Competitive taxes

- Taxpayers in other States and Territories will pay on average 28% more tax than Queenslanders.
- As a result of the land tax relief in this Budget, more than 13,500 land holders will not be liable for land tax in 2003-04.

Delivering on our priorities

Building Queensland's regions

- Capital spending will be boosted to \$5.3 billion in 2003-04, supporting some 44,500 full-time jobs with a total of 62.5% of capital works funding spent outside the Brisbane Statistical Division.
- The Regional Centres Program will receive \$50 million over four years to help local governments deliver infrastructure and community facilities.

More jobs for Queensland – skills and innovation – the Smart State

- The Budget includes \$100 million over 4 years for a package of measures to increase the effectiveness of public and private research and development.
- The Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative will be extended with an extra \$255 million over 3 years from 2004-05, plus an additional \$3.8 million to employ 300 public sector apprentices.
- Funding is provided for an extra 636 teachers in schools from 2004.

Safer and more supportive communities

- As the second year of a \$188 million four-year initiatives package, \$32 million will help generate better outcomes for families and children.
- The Queensland Ambulance Service will employ an extra 110 officers statewide, and will commence or complete 17 replacement and four new stations.
- The number of police officers will increase by approximately 300 in 2003-04 as the Police Service progresses towards the achievement of 9,100 officers by 2005.

Community engagement and a better quality of life

- There is an additional \$2.6 billion over 4 years for Health (including Commonwealth and State funding), compared to the 2002-03 Health Budget, including additional investment and service enhancements in acute hospital care, elective surgery, home and community care and mental health.
- An additional \$290.5 million in State funding is provided over four years to Disability Services Queensland including \$200 million to implement Funding Reform Project initiatives.

Valuing the environment

- As part of a \$150 million Commonwealth-State tree clearing reduction package, the State will provide an additional \$75 million over five years.



Government services in your region

For information on Government services in your region, contact the following offices of the Queensland Government Agent Program (QGAP), Department of State Development or Regional Communities.

Cannonvale

QGAP

Shops 5-7
11 Island Drive
Cannonvale QLD 4802
Phone: 4948 2981
Monday–Friday 9.00am–4.30pm
(opens 9.30am Wednesday)

Clermont

QGAP

44 Daintree Street
Clermont QLD 4721
Phone: 4983 1233
Monday–Friday 9.00am–4.30pm

Collinsville

QGAP

64 Sonoma Street
Collinsville QLD 4804
Phone: 4785 5567
Monday–Friday 9.00am–12.30pm and
2.00pm–4.30pm

Mackay

Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Mackay/Whitsunday Regional Office

Level 2
Day and Night Pharmacy Building
67-69 Sydney Street
Mackay QLD 4740
Phone: 4967 1022
Monday–Friday 8.30am–5.00pm

State Development Centre

Level 2, Post Office Square
67-69 Sydney Street
Mackay QLD 4740
Phone: 4967 1099
Monday–Friday 8:30am–5.00pm

Middlemount

QGAP

Middlemount Shopping Centre
Middlemount QLD 4746
Phone: 4985 7255
Monday–Friday 8.20am–12.00pm and
12.45pm–4.45pm

Moranbah

QGAP

21 Griffin Street
Moranbah QLD 4744
Phone: 4941 7633
Monday–Friday 9.00am–4.30pm

Sarina

QGAP

Broad Street
Sarina QLD 4737
Phone: 4956 1820
Monday–Friday 9.00am–4.30pm

Mirani

QGAP

20 Victoria Street
Mirani QLD 4754
Phone: 4959 1842
Monday–Friday 8.00am–4.30pm

Rockhampton

Office of Economic and Statistical Research

Level 3
State Government Building
209 Bolsover Street
Rockhampton QLD 4700
Phone: 4938 4486
Monday–Friday 9.00am–5.00pm

Regional Budget Statement – State Budget 2003-04
www.budget.qld.gov.au

