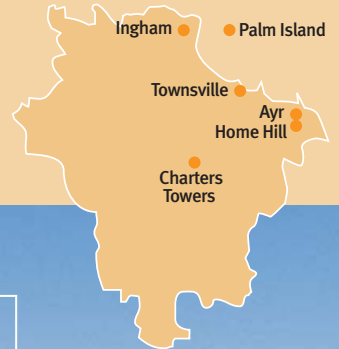


# North Queensland

The Strand, Townsville



## 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 North Queensland highlights capital works and services in the State Budget 2003-04 that specifically meet the needs of people within the region. This Statement demonstrates a significant investment in the North Queensland 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 North Queensland. For example, \$7.62 million is provided to construct a new 70-bed Townsville Residential Aged Care Facility at the Kirwan Campus. Also, the positive outcomes of the Drug Court trial will be continued with \$2.2 million provided in 2003-04.

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 \$7 million on initiatives that will provide further training and employment opportunities.

North Queensland will benefit from the following infrastructure funding in the State Budget 2003-04:

- \$26.88 million in joint State-Commonwealth funding for the Douglas Arterial Road in Townsville
- \$9.92 million to redevelop Ayr Hospital
- \$4.63 million to complete the new Mundingburra Police Station, district and regional offices
- \$243,000 to continue to deliver family support and respite services at Charters Towers.

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

Peter Beattie  
Premier and Minister for Trade

# North Queensland

**This Regional Budget Statement outlines key Government spending in the State Budget 2003-04 designed exclusively for the needs of the North Queensland 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.**

Five percent of Queenslanders, including 10% of Queensland's Indigenous population, live in the North Queensland region. Covering 4.6% of the State, North Queensland includes the cities of Townsville, Thuringowa and Charters Towers, the shires of Burdekin, Dalrymple and Hinchinbrook and the Palm Island Aboriginal Council.

A key contributor to the strong and diverse North Queensland economy is agriculture, particularly sugar and manufacturing, with significant employment also in government administration and defence.

## Building Queensland's regions

The Queensland Government will continue its partnership with the North Queensland 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. The benefits for North Queensland include:

- \$4.5 million to Thuringowa City Council for the Riverway Project

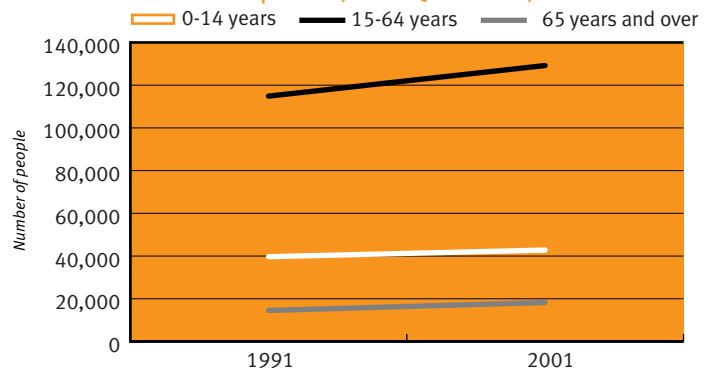
- \$2.78 million to Townsville City Council for a pedestrian and bicycle pathway network
- \$1 million to the Burdekin Shire Council to continue the Ayr/Home Hill Town Centres Revitalisation Project.

A safe and efficient transport network underpins regional development in the Smart State. In North Queensland in 2003-04, major transport funding includes:

- \$9.83 million to construct Hervey's Range Developmental Road to a sealed, two-lane standard from Ella Creek to Gregory Developmental Road and from Riley Creek to Devils Marbles
- \$1.85 million to construct a new Townsville Railway Station
- \$6 million to continue the \$106.55 million upgrade of rail track from Rockhampton - Townsville - Cairns to support services including the new Tilt Train
- \$6.6 million allocated by Townsville Port Authority in 2003-04 toward upgrading the port.

Water is vital for primary industries in North Queensland. In 2003-04, \$669,000 is provided for water infrastructure in the Herbert sugar cane area near Ingham. In addition, SunWater has allocated \$1.95 million for renewals and refurbishment in the Burdekin Water Supply Scheme.

Estimated Resident Population, North Queensland, 1991 and 2001



Source: ABS, Population by Age and Sex, 2001 (3235.0)

Tilt Train set to roll.



We will work with local governments to help deliver reliable water and sewerage services, roads and drainage, including \$1.12 million to provide capital infrastructure for water and sewerage services in the Lower Herbert Region.

An efficient power supply is vital to economic development within the North Queensland region. In 2003-04 major projects include:

- \$105 million allocated by Enertrade for construction of the gas pipeline between Moranbah and Townsville, associated with the North Queensland Power Project
- Approximately \$15 million allocated by Ergon Energy to upgrade substations and \$5.25 million to improve supply in the Townsville area
- \$2.8 million allocated by Ergon Energy to improve reliability of electricity assets in cyclone prone areas, particularly Townsville, Ayr and Home Hill
- \$5.26 million allocated by Powerlink toward Ross-Chalumbin substation to improve reliability of supply and \$6.3 million to establish a substation near Garbutt.

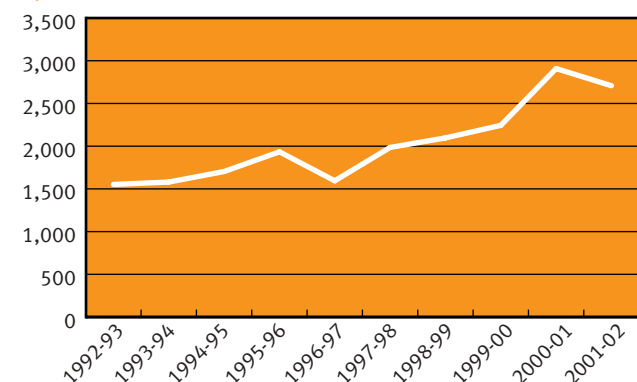
Other funding provided for the North Queensland region includes:

- \$2.62 million for management of the Museum of Tropical Queensland in Townsville
- \$221,000 for Townsville Enterprise Limited to continue marketing locations within the region as tourist destinations.

## 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.

Exports from the Port of Townsville (\$ million), 1992-93 to 2001-02



Source: ABS Foreign Trade (unpublished data)

## Greenvale Community Hall



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 \$5.7 million allocated to help create 870 jobs across the region.

In 2003-04, an additional \$141,000 is allocated to deliver training to Indigenous people in regional and remote locations.

School facilities ensure we have the infrastructure in place to deliver a high standard of education to our young people. In 2003-04, we will provide:

- \$1.23 million in North Queensland for the Triple R program, which provides repainting, reticulation and re-roofing enhancements to schools
- \$1 million for new classrooms at Annandale State School.

## Safer and more supportive communities

The Government is committed to working in partnership with the North Queensland region to achieve a safe and supportive community environment.

Community safety in North Queensland will be enhanced by spending on policing and the justice system including:

- An additional \$3.89 million in 2003-04 to fund the 66 additional officers appointed to the region over the past three years, including 10 new officers in 2003-04
- \$800,000 to provide alternative accommodation to police watchhouses for people who have been detained for public drunkenness
- \$2.84 million to replace the police station and watchhouse on Palm Island
- \$150,000 to construct the new Ravenswood Police Station.



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

- \$300,000 to extend and refurbish Wulguru Fire Station
- \$150,000 towards a new Ayr Ambulance Station
- \$3.9 million to continue the redevelopment of the 24-bed Cleveland Youth Detention Centre, which will provide both rehabilitative opportunities for young people and a safe and secure facility.

### 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, \$2.53 million is allocated to continue community renewal activities at Rasmussen and Vincent.

The following funding maintains the Government’s focus on working jointly with Indigenous communities to achieve a better quality of life:

- \$7.24 million for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing in North Queensland
- \$2 million to the Palm Island Council toward the cost of providing local government services
- \$792,000 for Palm Island Community Renewal, focusing on development of amenities, including a youth facility.

Health and family services are vital to forging a better quality of life and a bright future for all Queenslanders. In 2003-04, we will continue to deliver a range of home and community care services in North Queensland. Highlights of funding for health and families include:

- \$2.6 million to consolidate community health and community-based mental health services through upgraded facilities at North Ward and Kirwan
- \$129,000 for foster care and relative care support
- \$85,000 to deliver free evidence-based parenting programs, through urban, rural and remote Community Child Health Centres and a number of complementary non-government agencies.

In 2003-04, \$630,000 is allocated for a group home at Charters Towers for people with a disability who have high support needs.



**Burdekin River Reef Initiative to restore water quality**

To provide a high standard of sport and recreation facilities and improve the wellbeing and lifestyle of North Queensland people, the following projects are being undertaken in partnership with local government and community organisations:

- \$496,000 to extend the existing Rasmussen Police Citizens’ Youth Club, incorporating an additional activity space
- \$213,000 to construct a clubhouse facility incorporating an activity space at Kirwan
- \$73,000 to install lighting at the Fairford Road Soccer Complex at Ingham
- \$75,000 to construct shade over a bowling green at Mundingburra.

### Valuing the environment

Queensland’s natural and cultural heritage will be protected for the benefit of all Queenslanders. Highlights in environmental funding in the North Queensland region include:

- A further \$1 million for the Burdekin Rangelands Reef Initiative to develop an integrated approach to catchment management and development activities in the Burdekin catchment
- \$100,000 to the Association of Marine Park Tourist Operators to eradicate crown-of-thorns starfish infestations from important Great Barrier Reef tourist locations, funded jointly with the Commonwealth.

To improve the health of our natural resources and ensure their sustainable use, \$724,000 is allocated for the National Action Plan on Salinity and Water Quality, jointly funded with the Commonwealth Government. Through this plan, communities and governments will work together to prevent, stabilise or reverse dryland salinity and improve water quality.

# 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 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>% 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

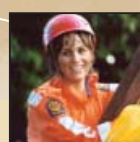
- As the second year of a \$188 million four-year initiatives package, \$32 million will help generate better outcomes for families and children.
- The Queensland Ambulance Service will employ an extra 110 officers statewide, and will commence or complete 17 replacement and four new stations.
- The number 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.

## Townsville

### Office of Economic and Statistical Research

Level 1  
State Government Building  
Cnr Walker & Stanley Streets  
Townsville QLD 4810  
Phone: 4760 7650  
Monday–Friday 9.00am–5.00pm

### Department of the Premier and Cabinet, North Queensland Regional Office

Level 10  
Suncorp-Metway Building  
61 Sturt Street  
Townsville QLD 4810  
Phone: 4760 7416  
Monday–Friday 8.30am–5.00pm

## State Development Centre

Floor 1, Enterprise House  
Cnr The Strand and Sir Leslie  
Thiess Drive  
Townsville QLD 4810  
Phone: 4799 7068  
Monday–Friday 8:30am–5.00pm

Regional Budget Statement – State Budget 2003-04  
[www.budget.qld.gov.au](http://www.budget.qld.gov.au)

