



Q1 and Gold Coast skyline

Regional Budget Statement



Queensland State Budget 2007-08

South Coast



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 South Coast 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.

Peter Beattie MP
Premier and Minister for Trade

Anna Bligh MP
Deputy Premier, Treasurer and
Minister for Infrastructure

State Budget highlights for the South Coast region in 2007-08 include:

- \$179.7 million in Queensland and Australian Government funding to continue the \$543 million (Queensland Government contribution \$423 million) Tugun Bypass
- \$31.1 million for the Queensland Academy for Health Sciences*
- \$30.2 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
- \$22.8 million for public housing, community, crisis, transitional and long-term housing needs
- \$14.9 million to commence constructing the \$40 million extension of the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre
- \$14.5 million to progress the new \$1.23 billion Gold Coast University Hospital
- \$1.9 million to replace Mount Tamborine Ambulance Station.

* The Australian Government may also contribute to this project.

South Coast

Image courtesy of Gold Coast Desalination Alliance



Gold Coast Desalination Project

A record investment in economic and social infrastructure

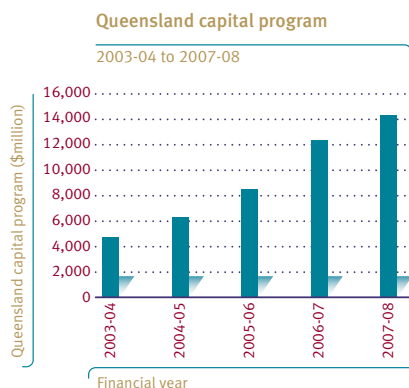
With a growing population and the worst drought in recorded history, South East Queensland is facing unprecedented challenges. The 2007-08 Budget signals the Government's commitment to sustainable economic development with a record capital works budget for Queensland of over \$14 billion.

More than half of this capital program will be spent in South East Queensland on major infrastructure for better transport, energy and water supply as well as better social infrastructure for all residents of the region.

The centrepiece of our commitment to the south east is our \$9 billion Water Grid. The Water Grid connects the major bulk water sources in South East Queensland and comprises the Western Corridor Recycled Water Project (the largest in the Southern Hemisphere), the Gold Coast Desalination Plant at Tugun, the Traveston and Wyaralong Dams, 400 kilometres of pipeline including the Southern Regional Water Pipeline, the Northern and Eastern Pipeline interconnectors and several other significant water projects.

In addition to the Water Grid, the strong State financial position achieved by the Government has enabled us to commit to other major infrastructure including \$691 million allocated to continue the Gateway Arterial Upgrade Project, \$179.7 million (with the Australian Government) to continue the Tugun Bypass and \$133.7 million for works on the Sunshine Motorway.

Redevelopments and upgrades are continuing at key hospitals across the south east, including The Prince Charles, Gold Coast and Toowoomba Hospitals.



Includes purchases of non-financial assets and capital grants by the State Non-Financial Public Sector, Sources: ABS 5512.0 and Queensland Treasury.

Close to world-class beaches and the business and career opportunities of the south-east corner, Queensland's South Coast is an attractive destination to work, live and relax. This unique mix hosts a diverse economy which includes retail trade, property and business services and tourism. Covering just 0.2% of the State, the South Coast region is home to 559,160 Queenslanders.

As a Government, we recognise the valuable contribution of the South Coast to the Smart State's economy.

With over 50% of the budgeted infrastructure investment outside Brisbane, this Regional Budget Statement for the South Coast 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 South Coast region will include:

- Over \$63.4 million to expand services and wards and complete the emergency department and intensive care unit at the Robina campus of Gold Coast Hospital
- \$14.5 million to progress the new \$1.23 billion Gold Coast University Hospital
- \$1.9 million to replace Mount Tamborine Ambulance Station.

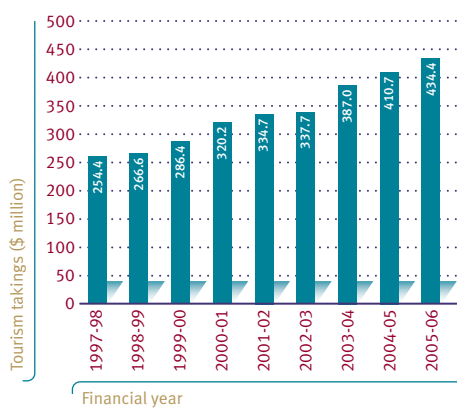
The South Coast region will also benefit from increased funding of almost \$50 million for the Queensland Ambulance Service to meet growing demand for services. This includes funding for an additional 250 ambulance officers and the upgrade of critical ambulance equipment and facilities across the State,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

Skilled Park Stadium at Robina



Tourism

takings (\$ million), 1997-98 to 2005-06



Source: ABS, Tourist Accommodation, Queensland (8635.3.40.001 and 8635.3).

The Government is continuing its support for frail older people, people with a disability and their carers with commitments in the South Coast region including:

- \$30.2 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
- \$11.6 million to support people with a disability and their families through a range of programs
- \$2.6 million for non-government organisations to establish new services for people with high and complex disability support needs, address rising costs of service provision and prepare for quality audits under the Disability Sector Quality System.

We are providing ongoing housing and housing-related services to support low-income families and individuals in the South Coast region in 2007-08, including:

- \$22.8 million for public housing, community, crisis, transitional and long-term housing needs
- \$19.72 million for affordable rental accommodation.

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 South Coast region's contribution to the Smart State will also include:

- \$112.8 million for vocational education and training
- \$31.1 million for the Queensland Academy for Health Sciences*
- \$14.1 million to finish constructing the new West Pacific Pines State School (to open in 2008)*
- \$9.3 million to finish constructing the new Northern Coomera State School (to open in 2008)*
- a share in \$4.3 million as part of the ongoing \$48 million Queensland Tourism Strategy.

* 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 developing a residential care facility to address placement needs on the Gold Coast and completing the Nerang Child Safety Service Centre.

The South Coast region will also benefit from a State-wide allocation of \$49.2 million over four years for additional front-line staff.

In 2007-08, \$7.55 million will be provided across Queensland to continue to implement the Early Years Strategy to enhance services and support for children up to eight years old and their families for community-based early childhood services. This will include building four new Early Years Centres around the State. \$12.2 million will also be provided to establish early childhood education and care services through acquiring and refurbishing six decommissioned pre-school sites.

In 2007-08, other initiatives in the South Coast region include \$5.5 million to support homeless and at-risk people.

Community safety will also be enhanced through a major funding boost to the State's police service. An extra 200 officers will

be employed in 2007-08 across the State, which will bring the total number of sworn officers employed in Queensland to 9,928 by October 2008. This again meets our election commitment to maintain police numbers at or above the national average police-to-population ratio.

The Government is providing funding for services and infrastructure to enhance community safety in the South Coast region in 2007-08, including \$6 million towards constructing new police stations at Surfers Paradise and Reedy Creek, and the Coomera district headquarters.

Funding for emergency services initiatives in the South Coast region includes \$400,000 to replace the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Beenleigh Community Safety Unit.

Tugun Bypass



Managing urban growth and building Queensland's regions

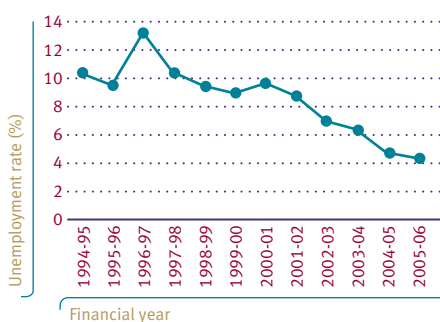
As part of Australia's fastest growing area, the South Coast region depends on planned, integrated infrastructure, water and transport networks to achieve sustainable economic and urban growth.

In 2007-08, our commitments to the South Coast region's growth include:

- \$179.7 million in Queensland and Australian Government funding to continue the \$543 million (Queensland Government contribution \$423 million) Tugun Bypass
- \$63.9 million towards upgrades, new substations, new cabling and other essential power infrastructure
- \$53.7 million to continue constructing the \$160 million Skilled Park Stadium at Robina
- \$17.9 million to continue widening sections of Hope Island Road to four lanes
- \$14.9 million to commence constructing the \$40 million extension of the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre
- \$12.7 million for bus lanes and other high-occupancy vehicle priority and congestion reducing measures on the Gold Coast
- \$11.5 million to complete widening sections of the Gold Coast Highway to four lanes

Unemployment rate(a)

1994-95 to 2005-06



(a) Data based on un-smoothed series.

Source: DEWRSB - Small Area Labour Markets. (QRSIS database maintained by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR)).

- \$6.45 million to redevelop Southport Broadwater Parklands (under the Q150 program)
- \$2 million to develop the Smart State Water Research Facility at Griffith University's Gold Coast campus.

Protecting the environment for a sustainable future

The South Coast region is under particular pressure from population growth and urban development. To safeguard our cultural and natural environment for future generations, the region will share in \$18 million across the State for acquiring rainforest and green land to enhance biodiversity.

The region will benefit from the following State-wide initiatives:

- \$81 million for the South East Queensland Home WaterWise Rebate Scheme to help residents install water-saving devices in their homes
- \$20 million in additional funding for the Vegetation Management Structural Adjustment Package
- \$18 million to complete water resource planning across the State
- \$1.5 million to encourage irrigators to use more efficient practices.

In the South Coast region, we are also committing:

- \$2.9 million to continue the Tweed River Sand Bypassing project
- \$750,000 for the Gold Coast Hinterland Great Walk at Lamington National Park.

Growing a diverse economy and creating jobs

A healthy, diverse economy like Queensland's needs a skilled workforce. Our record low unemployment raises the challenge of skills shortages.

In 2007-08, the State Government will continue to implement the *Queensland Skills Plan*, a \$1 billion strategy to respond to skills shortages across the State.

Gold Coast Titans



©Action Photographics 2007

We are matching the supply of skilled labour to industry's and the economy's needs in the South Coast region by allocating \$5.7 million for the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative to assist 914 Queenslanders who are disadvantaged in the labour market.

In 2007-08, the South Coast region's primary industries will benefit from State-wide commitments of:

- \$160 million for industry development and trade services
- \$82.5 million for Biosecurity Queensland
- \$31.2 million for fisheries management.

Delivering responsive government

Governments exist to deliver services, and a responsive government improves service delivery by delivering on its commitments and involving people in decision making.

The State Government has committed \$12 million to implement the first stage of the Local Government Reform Program. This is the most historic reform of local government in the last 100 years and will deliver a more efficient and financially sustainable system of local government for all Queensland communities.

We are committed to delivering a government for everybody, no matter where they live in Queensland. In 2007, our 100th Community Cabinet was held in Atherton, continuing the commitment we gave in 1998 to community consultation and taking government to the people. Over the years, around 50,000 people have taken advantage of this opportunity. In 2007-08, Queenslanders will again be able to stay in touch with their Government through regular Community Cabinet functions and Ministerial Regional Community Forums.

Services for people and communities

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 resourced 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 Highlights 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

Beaudesert

QGAP

Centre 9, William Street
Beaudesert QLD 4285
Telephone 5542 9400
Facsimile 5542 9450
Opening Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,
Friday - 9am to 4.30pm
Wednesday 10am to 4.30pm

Beenleigh

Department of Natural Resources and Water

32 Tansey Street
Beenleigh QLD 4207
Telephone 3884 8020
Facsimile 3884 8079
Opening Hours: Monday
to Friday - 8.30am to 4.30pm

Beenleigh

State Development Centre

96 George Street
Beenleigh QLD 4207
Telephone 3287 8585
Facsimile 3287 8589
Opening Hours: Monday
to Friday - 8.30 to 5pm

Robina

Department of Natural Resources and Water

Level 1, APVC Building
14 Edgewater Court
Robina QLD 4226
Telephone 5583 1700
Facsimile 5583 1744
Opening Hours: Monday
to Friday - 8.30am to 4.30pm

Gold Coast

Department of Communities

Level 1, APVC Building
198 Robina Town Centre Drive
Robina QLD 4226
Telephone 5583 4400
Facsimile 5583 4429
Opening Hours: Monday
to Friday - 8.30am to 5pm

Gold Coast

State Development Centre

Ground Floor, 26 Marine Parade
Southport QLD 4215
Telephone 5583 7599
Facsimile 5583 7591
Opening Hours: Monday
to Friday - 8.30am to 5pm

Ipswich

Department of Communities - Moreton Regional Office

(services Beaudesert Shire residents)
5-7 Wharf Street
Ipswich QLD 4305
Telephone 3280 1777
Facsimile 3280 1962
Opening Hours: Monday
to Friday - 8.30am to 5pm

Brisbane

Office of Urban Management

Level 4, Executive Annexe
102 George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000
Telephone 1800 021 818
Facsimile 3235 4563
Opening Hours: Monday
to Friday - 9am to 5pm

South Coast region



The South Coast region consists of Gold Coast City (including Beenleigh) and Beaudesert Shire.

Preparatory Year enquiries

Telephone 1300 650 220
Facsimile 3247 3988

Queensland Water Commission

Telephone 1300 789 906

13 HEALTH

Telephone 13 43 25 84

Smart Service Queensland

For information on all other
Government services call 13 13 04
www.qld.gov.au