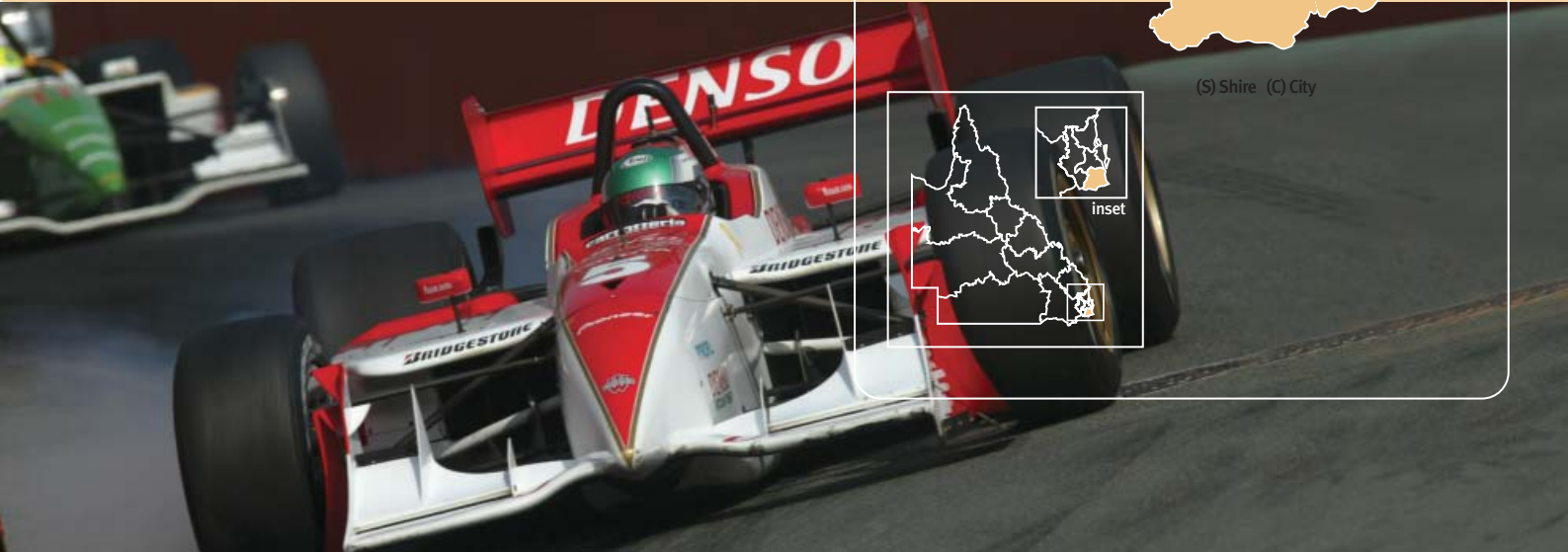


South Coast Region

Indy Car Racing



(S) Shire (C) City



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 the South Coast region 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 South Coast 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 on the South Coast. For example, we will provide \$3.1 million to continue the Drug Court pilot at Beenleigh and Southport.

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 \$6 million on initiatives that will provide further training and employment opportunities.

The South Coast will benefit from the following funding in the State Budget 2003-04:

- \$64.39 million to complete the \$102.25 million Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre
- \$25 million for planning and to start construction of the joint State-Commonwealth Government funded Tugun bypass on the Pacific Motorway
- \$10.8 million to help stage the Lexmark Indy 300 on the Gold Coast
- \$10.47 million for Somerset Drive State School
- Funding to provide 46 additional police officers in the Gold Coast District, making a total of 80 new police over three years
- \$1.2 million to Beaudesert Shire Council for planning and redevelopment of the Beaudesert Arts and Cultural Centre.

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

Peter Beattie
Premier and Minister for Trade

South Coast R

This Regional Budget Statement outlines key Government spending in the State Budget 2003-04 designed exclusively for the needs of the South Coast Queensland region and its people.

As a Government, we recognise the uniqueness and diversity of the regions which form the Smart State. In the State Budget 2003-04 we will spend \$2.7 billion on capital works in South East Queensland, including the South Coast region.

The South Coast region is home to 494,085 people or 13.3% of the State's population. The population is projected to grow to 699,019 by 2016.

The region consists of Gold Coast City (including Beenleigh) and Beaudesert Shire. Tourism is a key driver of the regional economy with other regional economic activities including manufacturing, retail trade, property and business services.

Building Queensland's regions

The Queensland Government will continue its partnership with the South Coast 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 South Coast include \$1.4 million to the Gold Coast City Council for the Logan River Parklands Project, including proposed recreation areas and facilities such as fishing pontoons.

A safe and efficient transport network underpins economic activity within the region. We will provide \$4.85 million to improve the Nerang - Broadbeach Road between Goodings Corner and Ross Street and \$3.54 million to complete the Stoney Camp Road interchange on the Mount Lindesay Highway.

For future industry development, the Aurundel Industrial Park development will ensure industrial land is available in the South Coast region.

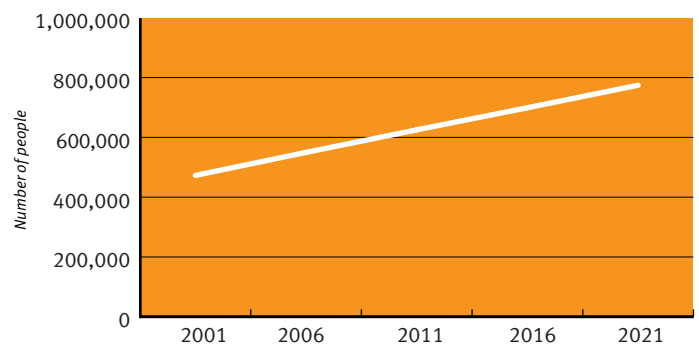
In 2003-04, \$221,000 funding is provided to the Gold Coast Tourism Bureau to continue marketing locations within the region to holiday-makers.

To fulfil the increasing demands for power and deliver an improved level of reliability of supply in the South Coast region, Energex has allocated:

- \$9.31 million for the Coomera substation
- \$3.53 million to commence a \$14 million project to establish an electricity distribution feeder between Molendinar and Southport.

Stanwell Corporation will invest \$10.8 million in its co-generation plant at Rocky Point Sugar Mill.

Population Projections, South Coast, 2001 to 2021



Source: Department of Local Government & Planning, Population Trends and Prospects, 2001

Aerial view of Surfers Paradise



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, with \$6 million allocated to help create 1,160 jobs across the region.

In addition, the South Coast region will benefit from \$610,000 provided by the Commonwealth Government and allocated to continue development of information and communication technology infrastructure at Gold Coast Institute of TAFE.

School facilities ensure we have the infrastructure in place to deliver a high standard of education to our young people. To maintain existing educational facilities within the region, we will provide \$15 million for additional stages at Flagstone State Community College, Pacific Pines State High School, Upper Coomera State College and Varsity College. We are allocating \$919,000 for the Triple R program, which provides repainting, reticulation and re-roofing enhancements to local schools.

Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre



(Photo courtesy of Jupiters Limited)

The Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre will provide a world-class, multi-functional convention and exhibition centre on the Gold Coast.

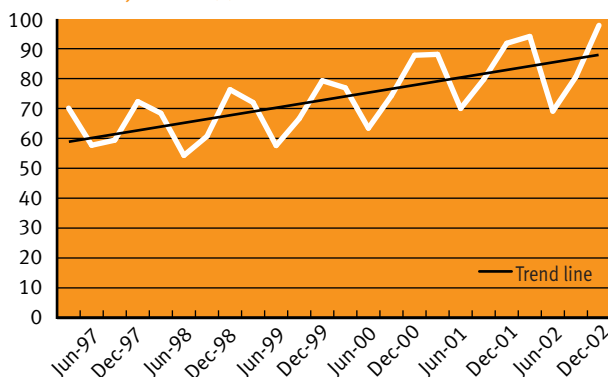
Safer and more supportive communities

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

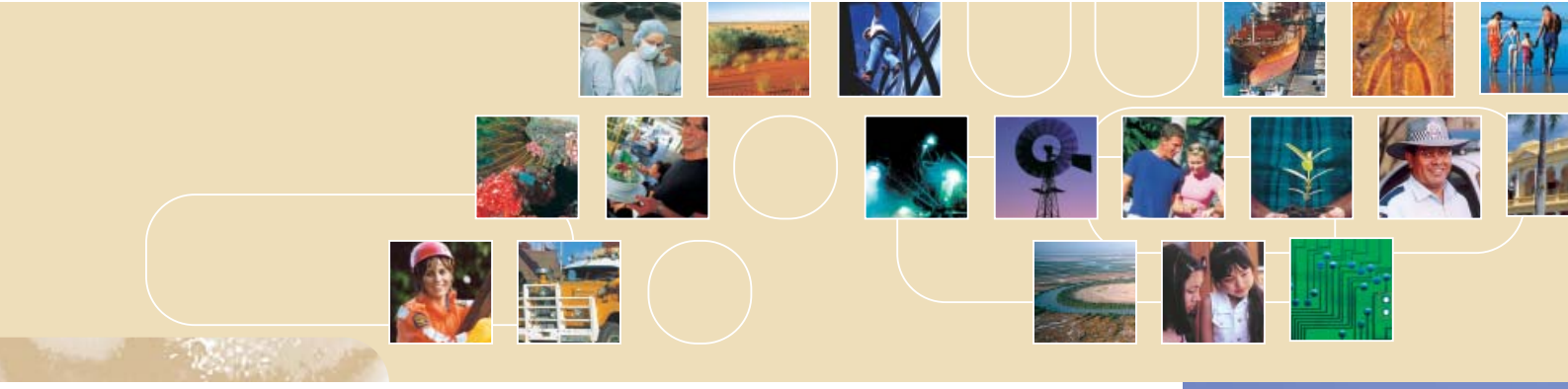
Community safety will be enhanced by spending on policing and crime prevention, including \$234,000 to continue the work of the Tactical Crime Squad, which targets known crime hotspots with the emphasis on property crime and possession and supply of drugs offences. In 2003-04, \$100,000 has also been allocated to refurbish the Southport Police Station.

Emergency services in the region will benefit from \$50,000 to refurbish the Southport Fire Station.

Takings from Accommodation, Tourist Establishments (\$ million)
South Coast, March 1997 to December 2002



Source: ABS, Tourist Accommodation, Queensland (8635.3.40.001)



Community engagement and a better quality of life

We are working to provide equality of opportunity and equitable access to education, health, housing and family services.

In 2003-04, \$23.27 million is allocated for a range of public and community housing initiatives to ensure high standards of housing are available for people in the South Coast region. In 2003-04, \$1.8 million is allocated to continue community renewal activities at Eagleby.

Health services are vital to forging a better quality of life and a bright future for all Queenslanders. In 2003-04, \$1.26 million is provided to refurbish the acute mental health ward at Gold Coast Hospital. To support families within the region, we will continue to deliver programs in Beaudesert Shire and Gold Coast City to provide free evidence-based parenting programs and support to young parents and young pregnant women. We are providing \$537,000 for new and enhanced respite and family support services in Beenleigh and the Gold Coast.

To provide a high standard of sport and recreation facilities in the region, we will spend the following in partnership with local government and community organisations:

- \$7 million to complete the redevelopment of the Tallebudgera Outdoor Recreation Centre
- \$931,000 to construct a 25-metre, 10-lane swimming pool and redevelop the existing pool complex at Nerang
- \$470,000 to construct a baseball field at Tallebudgera
- \$537,000 to construct a new surf lifesaving clubhouse at Miami.

Working with local government, we will provide \$567,000 toward the Nerang Library relocation and \$497,000 toward development of the Southport Library.



Tallebudgera Leisure Centre

Valuing the environment

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

- \$1.1 million for a range of works to national park and state forest areas
- \$30,000 to accelerate vegetation mapping of the Southeast Queensland Bioregion to determine areas of high conservation value and support vegetation management plans.

As part of the Great Walks of Queensland Initiative, \$471,000 will develop the world-class Gold Coast Hinterland Great Walk in Lamington National Park. The walk will offer a new and exciting way to explore the region's valuable assets and provide future economic and commercial opportunities for the South Coast region.

In 2003-04, \$2.6 million is allocated to the Tweed River Sand Bypass Project, in partnership with the Gold Coast City Council and New South Wales Government. This project aims to restore and maintain the southern Gold Coast beaches for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

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.

Beaudesert

QGAP

Centre 9
William Street
Beaudesert QLD 4285
Phone: 5541 3755
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
9.00am–4.30pm
Wednesday 10.00am–4.30pm

Beenleigh

Department of the Premier and Cabinet, SEQ South Regional Office

Unit 2, Post Office Plaza
Main Street
Beenleigh QLD 4207
Phone: 3287 8551
Monday–Friday 8.30am–5.00pm

Brisbane

Office of Economic and Statistical Research

Level 16
61 Mary Street
Brisbane QLD 4000
Phone: 3224 5326
Monday–Friday 9.00am–5.00pm

Gold Coast

State Development Centre

26 Marine Parade
Southport QLD 4215
Phone: 5591 5977
Monday–Friday 8.30am–5.00pm

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

