Darling Downs has a total population of 279,801* which is expected to reach 365,000 by 2036.

* persons as at 30 June 2014 growing at an annual average rate of 1.4% over the past 10 years

Agricultural production $3.18 billion 2012-13

1,922 residential buildings approved for construction in the 12 months ending 31 March 2015

6,088 residential dwellings sold in the 12 months ending 31 December 2014

30,643 businesses in Darling Downs in 2013-14

Top 5 Industries by number of workers

- Retail trade: 10.8%
- Health care and social assistance: 10.4%
- Education and training: 8.8%
- Manufacturing: 9.2%
- Transport, postal and warehousing: 7.7%

6,270 km of roads

1 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnership regional office
37 fire stations
577 police officers
12 courthouses

The Queensland Government employs 14,810 people in Darling Downs and they support:

- 2,493 km² of national and regional parks
- 181 state heritage sites
- 25 hospitals and health facilities
- 21 customer service centres
- 6,270 km of roads

For more details visit www.budget.qld.gov.au

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Jobs now, jobs for the future for Darling Downs

The Darling Downs region encompasses the local government areas of Maranoa, Balonne, Goondiwindi, Toowoomba, Western Downs, Southern Downs and part of Lockyer Valley, as well as the major regional towns of Warwick, Roma, Chinchilla and Stanthorpe.

Statewide Initiatives

- **Drought relief**
  - $45 million of $52.1 million over four years for the Drought Assistance Package including $4.1 million for rebates for land rental and waiving the water license fee for struggling landholders and lessees.

- **Controlling feral animals**
  - $5 million over three years to control wild dog and cat populations to protect Queensland’s agriculture.

- **Resilient communities**
  - $40 million to establish the Community Resilience Fund to help local governments protect the infrastructure of communities vulnerable to natural disasters.

- **Enhancing Regional Hospitals**
  - $20.6 million statewide to commence a $580 million Enhancing Regional Hospitals Program, including Roma Hospital.

Darling Downs Initiatives

- **Children’s literacy**
  - $308,000 of $1.2 million over four years to public libraries to support parents in their child’s (0-5) literacy development.

- **Kogan Creek Power Station**
  - $48.7 million for Kogan Creek Power Station to support reliability and efficiency of power supply.

- **Social housing**
  - $19 million to expand and improve social housing.

- **Disaster relief and recovery**
  - $53.7 million, in partnership with the Australian Government, for local government recovery and reconstruction projects.

- **Sustainable agriculture and water quality**
  - $1.6 million for agricultural productivity, water quality, weed and feral animal control, $970,000 to protect and enhance agriculture through pest and weed control, $230,000 to help irrigators achieve more productive on-farm water use.

- **Research and development**
  - $2 million over two years to upgrade Hermitage Research Facility at Warwick to improve its grains research outcomes.

- **Elderly parent carers**
  - $100,000 of $1 million over three years for the Elderly Parent Carer Innovation Trial, for older parents with adult sons and daughters with disabilities.

- **Schools capital works**
  - $4.1 million of $15.7 million over two years for new school facilities.

- **Cobb & Co Museum**
  - $150,000 for educational programs at the Cobb & Co Museum, including the Have a go! Festival.

- **Glen Niven Dam**
  - $1 million to upgrade Glen Niven Dam.

- **Roma fire and rescue**
  - $600,000 of $3.6 million over two years to upgrade Roma’s auxiliary fire and rescue station.

- **Drought support for stock routes**
  - $210,000 for stock owners during periods of drought, including upgrades of priority windmills, water tanks, dams, troughs and other infrastructure.

- **Warrego Highway works**
  - $107.8 million, in partnership with the Australian Government, for Warrego Highway improvements to the west of Toowoomba, including duplication and improved intersections.

- **Roma Hospital**
  - $180 million Enhancing to commence a new hospital.

- **Regional Hospitals**
  - $45 million of $52.1 million over three years, in partnership with the Australian Government, for Toowoomba and Chinchilla.

- **MRI service at Toowoomba**
  - $9.6 million to establish an MRI service at Toowoomba Hospital.

- **Dalby-Kogan Road**
  - $11.4 million to widen the road and undertake bridge replacement.

- **Chinchilla-Tarra Road**
  - $13.9 million to widen the road and undertake bridge replacement.

- **MRI for Toowoomba**
  - $321 million of $1.606 billion over three years, in partnership with the Australian Government, for a new MRI service at Toowoomba Hospital.

- **Toowoomba Second Range Crossing**
  - State funding of $321 million of $1.606 billion over three years, in partnership with the Australian Government.