Queensland Budget 2015–16
Regional Budget Statement
Economic Snapshot Outback Queensland

Outback Queensland has a total population of 88,424* which is expected to reach 100,000 by 2036
* persons as at 30 June 2014 growing at an annual average rate of 0.8% over the past 10 years

Agricultural production $1.612 billion 2012-13

198 residential buildings approved for construction in 12 months ending 31 March 2015

775 residential dwellings sold in 12 months ending 31 December 2014

7,283 businesses in Outback QLD in 2013-14

Infrastructure improvement budget
- 26% Transport and Main Roads
- 26% Energy and Water
- 21% Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
- 17% Housing and Public Works
- 5% Health
- 5% Other

775 residential dwellings sold in 12 months ending 31 December 2014

7,283 businesses in Outback QLD in 2013-14

For further information please see the Far North Queensland Regional Budget Statement 2015-16.
Jobs now, jobs for the future for Outback Queensland

The Outback Queensland region encompasses 22 local government areas and the major regional towns of Mount Isa, Charleville, Longreach and Barcaldine.

Statewide Initiatives

- **Rural jobs**
  - $5.1 million over three years for a Rural Job Agency, working in conjunction with industry.

- **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.

- **Food and Fibre Plan**
  - $8.1 million over three years, in addition to internal funding of $5.1 million, to implement the Government’s Food and Fibre Plan to ensure the growth of a productive and prosperous food and fibre sector in Queensland and to actively address the challenges facing primary producers.

- **Drought relief**
  - $45 million of $52.1 million over four years for the Drought Assistance Package.

- **Indigenous land and sea rangers**
  - $8.1 million for the Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program to protect the region’s environmental and Indigenous cultural heritage.

- **Disaster relief and recovery**
  - $155.5 million, in partnership with the Australian Government, for local government recovery and reconstruction projects.

- **Building our Regions-Regional Infrastructure Fund**
  - $300 million over two years for critical infrastructure projects in regional Queensland.

Outback Queensland Initiatives

- **Croc management**
  - $140 million of $345 million over two years to continue crocodile management through a balance of community safety and crocodile conservation approaches.

- **Backing Indigenous arts**
  - $1.1 million for a network of Indigenous Art Centres and artists’ access to space, training, education and enterprise development.

- **Mica Creek Power Station**
  - $11.8 million for operations at Mica Creek Power Station.

- **Thursday Island police**
  - $800,000 to complete the $3.3 million upgrade of Thursday Island police station and watchhouse.

- **Homelessness**
  - $9.1 million for specialist homelessness services.

- **Social housing**
  - $173.5 million to expand and improve social housing in partnership with the Australian Government.

- **Geophysics research**
  - $2.1 million to acquire regional geophysical data from across north-west Queensland.

- **Sustainable agriculture and water quality**
  - $720,000 to target pests and weeds, improve water quality and promote and enhance sustainable agriculture in the Mitchell Grass Downs.

- **Sustainable grazing, pest management**
  - $1.6 million to improve grazing management over 3.3 million hectares in FNQ’s tropical savannah lands, and to control rubber vine and belpheuge bush in the Gulf region.

- **Drought support for stock routes**
  - $470,000 for stock owners during drought, including upgrades of priority windmills, water tanks, dams, troughs and other infrastructure.

- **Tropical health and medicine**
  - $3.3 million of $63.1 million to James Cook University to establish a campus of the Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine on Thursday Island.

- **Cape York transport**
  - $55.3 million of $260.5 million, in partnership with the Australian Government to upgrade priority transport infrastructure on Cape York Peninsula, due for completion in 2017.

- **Outback Way upgrades**
  - $12.1 million of $34.5 million over 2 years, in partnership with the Australian Government and local councils, to seal and upgrade sections of the Outback Way and other roads, due for completion in 2017.

- **Cunnamulla fire and rescue**
  - $350,000 towards a $1.5 million replacement auxiliary fire and rescue station at Cunnamulla, due for completion in 2017.

- **Alpha health services**
  - $14.4 million to continue the $17.5 million Alpha Community Hospital and Co-located Essential Services project.

- **Queensland Agricultural Training College improvements**
  - $5.4 million to upgrade infrastructure at the Longreach Pastoral College and the Emerald Agricultural College.

- **Western roads upgrade program**
  - $40 million over two years for a major program of road upgrades. Highlights include: Mitchell Highway (Barrieing to Cunnamulla), Wilfs Developmental Road (Jula Creek to Burkettown), Diamantina Developmental Road (Charleville to Quilpie) and Concoury to Dajarmo Road.

- **Lake Eyre Basin**
  - $187,000 for projects to protect the Lake Eyre Basin.