



## 'BACK TO WORK'

**\$100M** to support up to **8,000 jobs** across regional Queensland



Employer support payments of up to \$10,000 to hire and keep a regional Queenslander employed for 12 months or more, including disadvantaged jobseekers such as mature aged workers, young people, members of drought affected farm households and other priority job seekers. Payments increase to \$15,000 for hiring long-term unemployed regional Queenslanders.



Eligible employees will also have access to job readiness payments to help them start their new job. This may include training, purchasing new equipment and uniforms or gaining or renewing trade licenses.



Back to Work Navigation Teams who know the local economy will help local employers looking to fill jobs. They will connect jobseekers to jobs or further skills training and apprentice pathways.

**2,000** **JOBS**

estimated to be supported by the infrastructure program

## OUTBACK QUEENSLAND

Advancing our economy through job-creating Innovation, Investment and Infrastructure

### Regional Action Plan

The vast Outback Queensland region covers around one million square kilometres of wide open spaces, treasured natural resources and vibrant communities in western Queensland. The Outback Queensland region continues to contribute significantly to the State's economy through its strong agricultural and resources-based industries, as well as developing opportunities in tourism and other service-orientated industries. We know we have more work to do, in the face of widespread drought and the scaling down of some mining operations, to create more employment opportunities and foster new and emerging industries. Specifically, this Budget includes our Back to Work package, creating regional jobs and:



### Rural Assistance and Drought Package

**\$77.9M**

to assist rural producers and communities across the State affected by debt and drought.



### Health

**\$2.2B\***

to provide residents of Outback Queensland with quality health care.

*\*Includes the total funding for the North West, Townsville, Central West, South West, Cairns and Hinterland and Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Services.*



### Infrastructure

**\$620.7M**

for infrastructure improvements which are estimated to support 2,000 jobs.

**\$6.3M** in 2016-17 for maintenance and capital works projects for schools.

**\$22.7M** over three years for the Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy to make Queensland the place for small business to start, grow and employ.

**\$4.8M** over four years to implement the Technology Commercialisation Fund to help develop the New Agricultural Economy.

[www.budget.qld.gov.au](http://www.budget.qld.gov.au)

# What the statewide initiatives mean for **OUTBACK QUEENSLAND**



## Rural Assistance and Drought Package

**\$77.9M**

to assist rural producers and communities across the State affected by debt and drought.

The total funding provided includes: extending existing relief arrangements, pest and weed management, grants of up to \$2,500 for primary producers, extending an existing stamp duty exemption for inter-generational transfers of property, more education support for children in drought affected areas, and a new Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority.



## Agricultural Innovation

**\$4.8M**

to implement the Technology Commercialisation Fund, a pilot program under the New Agricultural Economy, which aims to attract private sector capital into government agriculture and food based research and development, with the aim of increasing the commercialisation of intellectual property.



## Investment

**\$62.7M**

including the \$40 million Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund to attract business investment from interstate and support local businesses to reinvest, and the \$22.7 million Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy to assist small businesses to start, grow and employ locals in Outback Queensland. These initiatives further support the \$405 million Advance Queensland package.



## Domestic and Family Violence

**\$198.2M**

over five years to continue implementing the Government's response to the *Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland* report. The Government is committed to reducing the devastating effects of domestic and family violence in Queensland.

The Queensland Government employs 7,244 people in Outback Queensland who support:

**3,630,950** hectares of national and regional parks

**75** State Heritage sites

**37** hospitals and health facilities

**26** customer service centres

**10,915** km of roads

**3** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnership regional offices

**17** fire stations

**48** police stations

**16** courthouses

**58** schools



## Western Roads Upgrade Project

The Queensland Government has established a \$40 million Western Roads Upgrade Program (WRUP) to support economic development and job sustainability in western Queensland. Delivered over 2015-16 and 2016-17, the WRUP will provide targeted road network upgrades in western Queensland, and focus on road widening and sealing to improve efficiency, safety, and reduce maintenance costs.

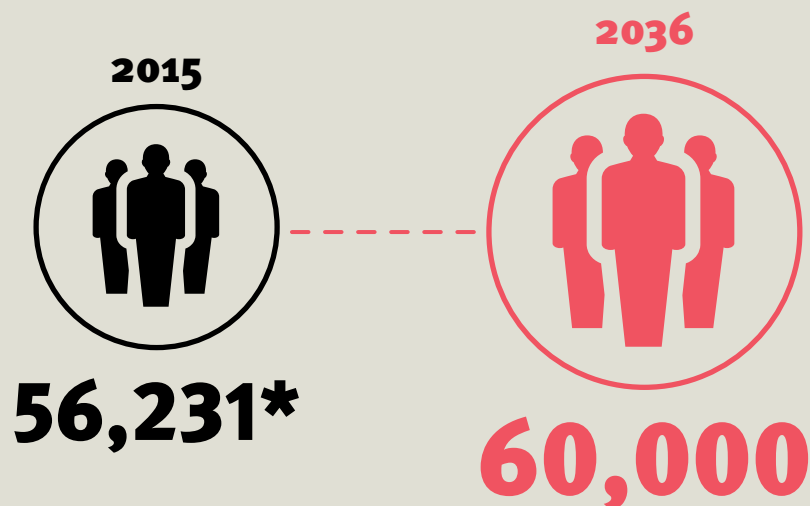
The WRUP will assist in stabilising the economic circumstances faced by western Queensland communities by providing a sustainable pipeline of investment to support workforces.

Works are currently or will soon be underway in local government areas across Central West, South West, North West and Far North regions of the State.

# Economic Snapshot

## OUTBACK QUEENSLAND

### Population in the region



\*people as at 30 June 2015, growing at an annual average rate of 0.4% over the past 10 years

Apprentice and trainee rebate for payroll tax claimed by **24** businesses in the region to reinvest **\$51,000** back into their business

in the financial year to April 2016

**5,752** businesses in the region in June 2015



### Top 5 industries in the region by number of workers

**16.5%**  
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries

**15.6%**  
Mining

**9.6%**  
Public administration and safety

**9.0%**  
Health care and social assistance

**7.9%**  
Retail trade

**51** residential dwellings approved for construction in the region



in the 12 months ending 31 March 2016

**421** residential dwellings sold in the region



in the 12 months ending 31 December 2015

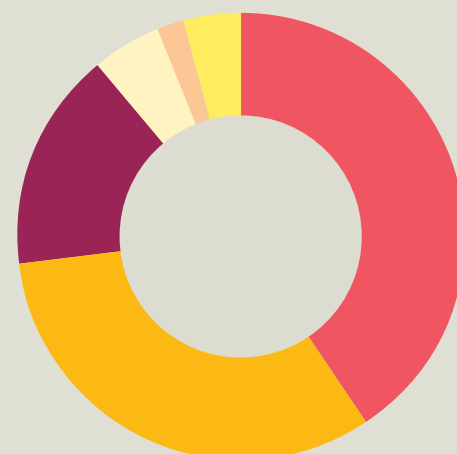
Agricultural production **\$1.9B** in the region during 2014-15



### Infrastructure budget for Outback Queensland

- 41% Energy and Water Supply
- 33% Transport and Main Roads
- 16% Housing and Public Works
- 5% Queensland Health
- 2% Public Safety Business Agency
- 3% Other

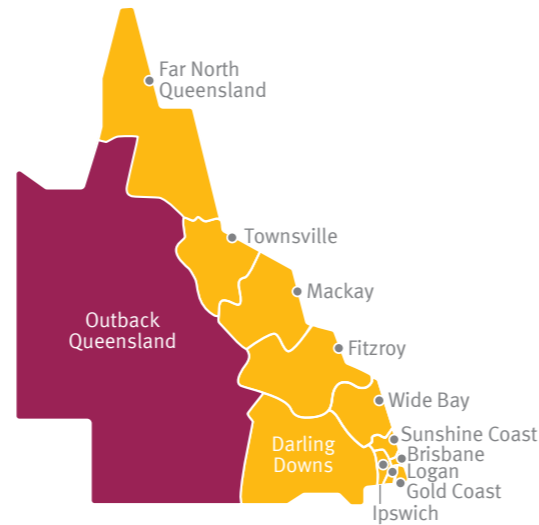
\*Agency spends are only available for capital purchases, the total infrastructure budget includes capital grants.










**\$620.7M\***

## Job-creating innovation, investment and infrastructure for **OUTBACK QUEENSLAND**

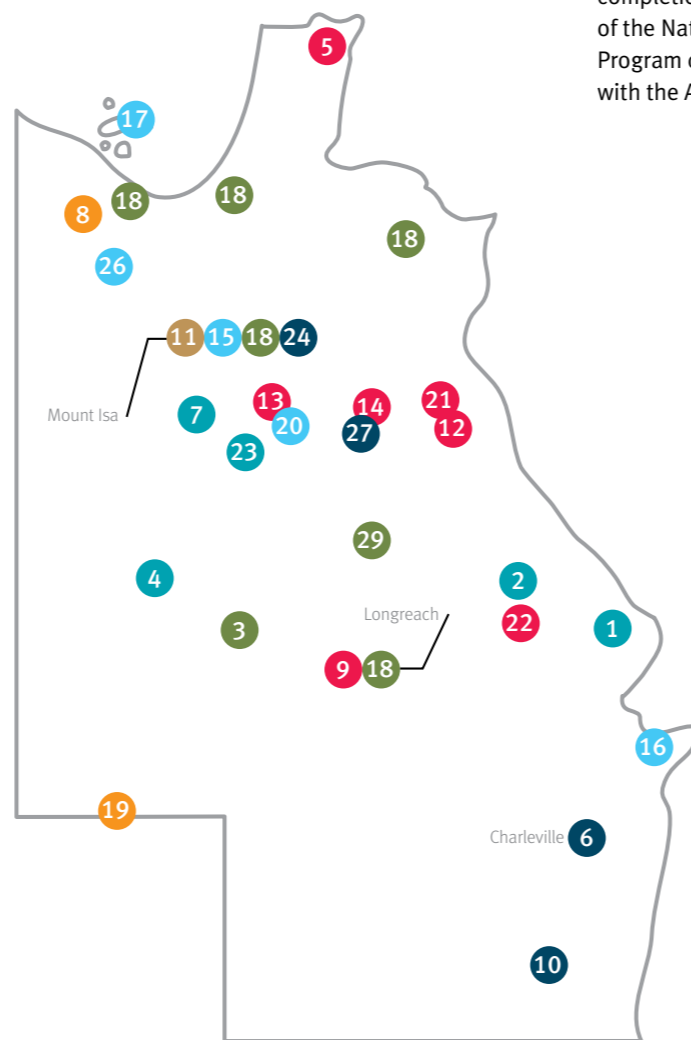
The Outback region encompasses 22 local government areas and the major regional centres of Mount Isa, Charleville, Longreach and Barcaldine. The Queensland Government is investing in the Outback Queensland region through a diverse range of projects and initiatives. For a full list of Queensland Budget 2016-17 initiatives, visit [www.budget.qld.gov.au](http://www.budget.qld.gov.au)



**Key**

-  Community wellbeing
-  Utilities
-  Health
-  Education
-  Transport and roads
-  Justice and safety
-  Government services
-  Recreation and culture

- 1** Alpha Hospital and Collocated Emergency Services Project  
\$1.2 million in 2016-17 out of a \$17.5 million total spend for the hospital and collocated emergency services pilot project.
- 2** Aramac Primary Health Care Centre redevelopment  
\$2.2 million in 2016-17 out of a \$2.7 million total spend for the replacement of the existing primary health care facility.
- 3** Astrebla Downs National Park Ranger accommodation replacement  
\$380,000 in 2016-17 out of a \$400,000 total spend to replace the existing accommodation and kitchen and living area dongas with new units and install a skillion shelter to protect from the weather which will significantly increase the useful life of new dongas.
- 4** Boulia Community Hospital refurbishment  
\$300,000 in 2016-17 out of a \$2 million total spend to improve service delivery and disabled access.
- 5** Cape York regional package  
\$54.2 million in 2016-17 out of a \$260.5 million total spend to upgrade priority transport infrastructure, due for completion in December 2018. This package is being undertaken in partnership with the Australian Government.
- 6** Charleville Auxiliary Fire and Rescue Station replacement  
\$1.3 million in 2016-17 out of a \$2.5 million total spend to replace the station.
- 7** Cloncurry Alan Ticehurst building refurbishment  
\$909,000 in 2016-17 to refurbish the building.
- 8** Doomadgee water reticulation system upgrade  
\$1.8 million in 2016-17 out of a \$3.8 million total spend in partnership with Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council to complete the water reticulation system upgrade.
- 9** Cramsie - Muttaborra Road, Longreach, paving and sealing  
\$1.2 million in 2016-17 out of a \$1.9 million total spend to pave and seal a section of the road, due for completion in September 2016.
- 10** Cunnamulla Auxiliary Fire and Rescue Station replacement  
\$1.8 million in 2016-17 out of a \$2 million total spend to replace the station.
- 11** Arthur Peterson Diversionary Centre upgrade program  
\$330,000 in 2016-17 to upgrade the centre in Mount Isa to meet growing service demands for safe food preparation, enhanced client security and external shading of the outdoor dining area.



**12** Flinders Highway strengthening and widening – Hughenden to Richmond  
\$6.6 million out of a \$7.1 million total spend for pavement widening on the highway, due for completion in April 2017 – part of the National Highway Upgrade Program delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.

**13** Flinders Highway strengthening and widening – Julia Creek to Cloncurry  
\$4 million in 2016-17 out of a \$6 million total spend on pavement widening on the highway, due for completion in April 2017 – part of the National Highway Upgrade Program delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.

**14** Flinders Highway strengthening and widening – Richmond to Julia Creek  
\$8.6 million in 2016-17 out of a \$10.7 million total spend on pavement widening, due for completion in January 2017 – part of the National Highway Upgrade Program delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.

**15** Future Resources Program – Mount Isa Geophysics Initiative  
\$1.8 million in 2016-17 to implement regional geophysical data acquisition across North West Queensland.

**16** Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative (Phase 4)  
\$7.1 million in 2016-17 out of a \$12.1 million total spend to achieve a sustainable and ongoing groundwater management system. This includes improvement in water pressure within aquifers that support high value springs through the rehabilitation of old bores legally operating in an uncontrolled state and the replacement of legally operating bore drains with pipelines. This project is undertaken in partnership with the Australian Government.

**17** Gununa Jetty and Barge Landing Redevelopment Project – Stage 1  
\$1.2 million in 2016-17 out of a \$3.6 million total spend to redevelop the Gununa Jetty and barge landing including replacement of the existing jetty in partnership with Mornington Shire Council and the private sector.

**18** Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program  
\$3.6 million in 2016-17 for Indigenous rangers to protect environmental and Indigenous cultural heritage values in Longreach, Mount Isa, Normanton, Burketown and Georgetown as part of the \$9.6 million program.

**19** Birdsville isolated system renewables  
\$4.5 million in 2016-17 out of a \$12.9 million total spend to provide geothermal generation for Birdsville.

**20** Julia Creek Community and Cultural Precinct Upgrade Project  
\$2.2 million in 2016-17 in partnership with private industry and McKinlay Shire Council to upgrade the precinct.

**21** Hann Highway – Sealing Hughenden to The Lynd  
\$4 million in 2016-17 out of a \$19.9 million total spend to progress the bitumen sealing of the Hann Highway (Kennedy Development Road), as part of the Northern Australia initiative.

**22** Landsborough Highway pavement improvements – Blackall to Barcaldine  
\$5 million in 2016-17 out of a \$12.5 million total spend to rehabilitate and widen various sections of the highway, due for completion in March 2018 – part of the National Highway Upgrade Program delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.

**23** McKinlay Multi-purpose Health Service refurbishment and expansion  
\$60,000 in 2017-18 out of a \$5 million total spend to refurbish critical infrastructure and extend aged care environments.

**24** Mount Isa permanent Fire and Rescue Station upgrade  
\$1 million in 2016-17 to upgrade the station.

**25** Natural disaster relief and recovery arrangements  
\$121.5 million in 2016-17 for local government recovery and reconstruction projects in partnership with the Australian Government.

**26** Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management Investment Program  
\$600,000 in 2016-17 to improve water quality in the Thompson River and Galilee Basin, and an innovative approach to prickly acacia control in the Mitchell Grass Downs through the use of unmanned aerial vehicles.

**27** Richmond Auxiliary Fire and Rescue Station upgrade  
\$1 million in 2016-17 to upgrade the station.

**28** School maintenance and capital works program  
\$6.3 million in 2016-17 to fund maintenance and capital works for schools in the Outback Queensland region.

**29** Waltzing Matilda Centre reconstruction  
\$840,000 in 2016-17 out of a \$17.6 million total spend to assist Winton Shire Council reconstruct the centre which is central to the identity of the Winton community and is a cornerstone of the local tourist industry. This initiative is jointly funded in partnership with the Local and the Australian Government.

**30** Western Queensland tourist and culturally significant sites access  
\$3 million in 2016-17 out of a \$10 million total spend to upgrade road access to tourist and culturally significant sites in western Queensland, due for completion mid-2018.

**31** Wild dog control  
\$1.3 million in 2016-17 as part of a \$5 million program over three years, with contributions from local governments, to improve the management of wild dogs in western Queensland where fencing is not economical.

**32** Western Roads Upgrade Program  
\$32.4 million in 2016-17 out of a \$40 million total spend to provide targeted road network upgrades focusing on road widening and sealing, within western Queensland local government areas, due for completion in June 2017.

**33** Country Racing Support Program  
\$6 million in 2016-17 out of a \$21 million total spend to offset the amended prize money structure for country racing, enhancing the sustainability of country racing across Queensland.

**34** Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme  
Outback Queensland will benefit from additional funding of \$30 million per year from 2017-18 to 2019-20 for works on local government transport infrastructure. This funding takes the total allocation for this initiative to \$70 million per year.