Western Queensland

Over the 2011 summer, Queensland experienced State-wide devastation from natural disasters.

The floods and Cyclone Yasi saw 100 per cent of Queensland local government areas declared disaster affected and triggered the largest rebuilding and recovery operation ever undertaken in this state.

The 2011-12 Budget fosters that recovery, while also providing relief for families. My Government’s decision to abolish the ambulance levy will provide immediate relief for families doing it tough.

There is also a new $140 million Queensland Building Boost, to stimulate the housing sector and make it more attractive for people to purchase their first home. We will also implement reforms to our education system by moving Year 7 into high school, enabling our children to get full benefit from the new Australian Curriculum. This Budget invests a record amount in events funding - an $85.8 million boost over five years - to help Queensland attract major events and drive up tourism numbers. This is a Budget built on strength of spirit that will restore long-term social and economic prosperity to the Western Queensland region and right across the State.

On track for recovery from the global financial crisis, Queensland’s economy was instead faced with the worst floods in 100 years and Cyclone Yasi.

Mines were flooded, crops destroyed and communities were isolated. Some of our key export partners, too, were hit by natural disasters.

The 2011-12 State Budget faces those challenges head-on, reprioritising our needs and maintaining our sights on prosperity and a return to surplus.

It will also chart our course back to the front of the economic pack, with growth in 2011-12 to outpace the other states and the nation.

Our prosperity is in our regions – our mineral-rich centres, our tourism and heritage hotspots, and our business, industry and agriculture hubs.

This Government will maintain its focus on economic reform and jobs generation.

Our infrastructure investment will clock in at $15 billion - more than Western Australia and more than Victoria. The program will support almost 93,000 jobs.

The 2011-12 State Budget will strengthen Queensland’s economy and deliver on our commitment to protect Queensland jobs.

Government services in Western Queensland

Smart Service Queensland
State Emergency Service
13 Health

For Government services call 13 13 04 or visit www.qld.gov.au
Telephone: 132 500
Telephone: 13 43 25 84

Every Dollar Counts concessions website www.communityservices.qld.gov.au/community/concessions/
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For more information about Government initiatives in your region, visit www.qld.gov.au/buildingqld

**Disaster response funding**

- **$108.4 million** to local governments for recovery and reconstruction projects, in partnership with the Australian Government.
- **$125 million** for reconstruction works on sections of the Warrego and Landsborough Highways.
- **$1.3 million** to support community recovery and rebuild community cohesion.
- **$21 million** to repair the Wills Developmental Road between Julia Creek and Burketown.
- **$22.4 million** to expand and improve social housing.
- **$4.2 million** for new job creation programs and to grow a skilled workforce.

**Cost of living support for Queenslanders**

Supporting our State’s regions by improving access to and affordability of a range of services:

- **$140 million** to reduce the cost of electricity bills by abolishing the Community Ambulance Cover levy.
- **$411 million** to ensure that regardless of where they live, all Queensland electricity customers of a similar type pay a similar price for electricity.
- **$165.9 million** for cost of living concessions, to improve affordability of council rates for pensioners and electricity for pensioners and seniors.
- **$337.8 million** for regional freight and passenger transport subsidies, including air services in Mount Isa, Charleville and Longreach and coach services in Charters Towers and Cunnamulla.
- **$54.6 million** for the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme which assists patients accessing specialist medical services not available within their local area.
- **$146.7 million** for the School Transport Assistance Scheme to assist students who have to travel long distances to their nearest school.