



Regional Budget Statement



Queensland State Budget 2007-08

Western Queensland



The 2007-08 State Budget reinforces our Government's commitment to investing in infrastructure and providing services to support the State's strong economy and maximise the quality of life of all Queenslanders.

This Regional Budget Statement highlights Western Queensland's contribution to the State's dynamic economy and presents the Government's key investments in the region for the next financial year.

The Budget maintains the State's strong fiscal position and will underpin continued economic growth substantially above the national average as well as maintaining low unemployment.

The Government's economic achievements have provided the platform for this year's record \$14 billion capital budget. This investment focuses on the Government's key infrastructure priorities of water, transport, energy, health and education. To ensure all Queenslanders can share in the State's economic prosperity, more than 50% of the capital investment is allocated outside Brisbane.

The Budget also ensures continued high quality service provision in all Queensland regions, with key commitments to human capital development, health care, community safety, the environment, community services and jobs creation.

Peter Beattie MP
Premier and Minister for Trade

Anna Bligh MP
Deputy Premier, Treasurer and
Minister for Infrastructure

State Budget highlights for Western Queensland in 2007-08 include:

- \$18.5 million to complete the \$63.4 million upgrade and improvements to the Mount Isa railway line
- \$12.7 million to improve reliability of water supply from the Mount Isa Terminal Reservoir Pump Station
- \$12.2 million for improvements to Mica Creek Power Station
- \$7.85 million in housing grants for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- \$3.9 million to finalise replacing the old Cloncurry Police Station
- \$3.2 million to meet the increasing costs of the Royal Flying Doctor Service
- \$1.5 million to complete the major upgrade for multimedia initiatives at Spinifex State College, Mount Isa.*

* The Australian Government may also contribute to this project.

Western Queensland

Image Courtesy of CS Energy



Mica Creek Power Station

A record investment in economic and social infrastructure

With a growing population and the worst drought in recorded history, the State is facing unprecedented challenges. The 2007-08 Budget signals the Government's commitment to Queensland's sustainable economic development with a record capital works budget of over \$14 billion.

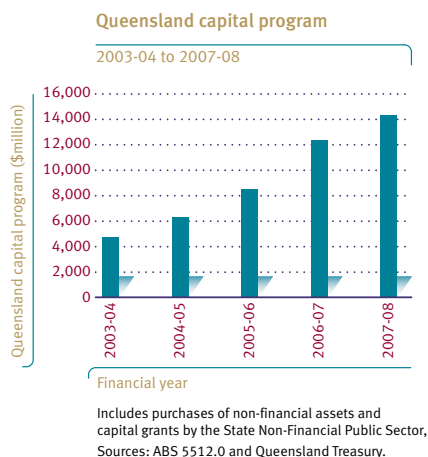
More than half of this capital program will be spent outside Brisbane, on major infrastructure for better transport, water and energy supply for the residents of all regions.

The *Statewide Water Policy* outlines the Government's plan to improve water security and support future economic development in regional Queensland. This policy commits \$222 million for dams and weirs, \$198 million for channels and pipelines and \$31.5 million for investigations and early works on new sources of water supply throughout the State.

The strong State financial position achieved by the Government has enabled us to fund other major infrastructure in regional Queensland such as \$58.3 million towards stages 2 and 3 of the Townsville Ring Road,

\$30.6 million for bridge projects in Mackay, \$134.7 million towards new and continuing airport and seaport works in Cairns, and power supply projects such as the \$12.2 million improvements to the Mica Creek Power Station near Mount Isa, and \$9.4 million to finish new transmission lines from Ross to Townsville South.

In 2007-08 we will also redevelop hospitals in Ingham, Innisfail and Yeppoon, upgrade emergency departments in Rockhampton and Dalby and commence a major upgrade to Bundaberg Hospital.



Western Queensland is rich in history. The birthplace of both Qantas and Waltzing Matilda, the region covers almost 60% of the State and is home to 75,493 Queenslanders. In an area four times the size of the United Kingdom, agriculture, mining, oil and gas help build the region's economic strength.

As a Government, we recognise the valuable contribution of Western Queensland to the Smart State's economy. With over 50% of the budgeted infrastructure investment outside Brisbane, this Regional Budget Statement for Western Queensland highlights the Government's commitment to the region and its people.

Improving health care and strengthening services to the community

An investment in healthy lifestyles is an investment in our future. System reform is underway to provide safe, sustainable and accountable services to give Queenslanders access to the best possible treatment and care. Across the State, the Government will provide:

- \$215.4 million to improve recruitment, retention and preparation of the health workforce
- \$25.4 million to meet the increasing costs of aeromedical and inter-facility transfers and retrievals
- \$20.1 million to enhance the clinical education and training of new doctors and nurses.

In 2007-08, spending on healthy living, health care, hospitals and other infrastructure in Western Queensland will include:

- \$6.5 million to build the new \$10.5 million health staff accommodation facility in Roma
- \$3.2 million to meet the increasing costs of the Royal Flying Doctor Service
- \$1.8 million to replace Roma Ambulance Station and Area Office
- \$882,000 to complete the \$1 million Blackall Private Practice Clinic.

Western Queensland will also benefit from increased funding of almost \$50 million for the Queensland Ambulance Service to meet growing demand for services. This includes funding for an additional 250 ambulance officers and the upgrade of critical ambulance equipment and facilities across the State, and is on top of the more than 220 extra staff employed in 2006-07.

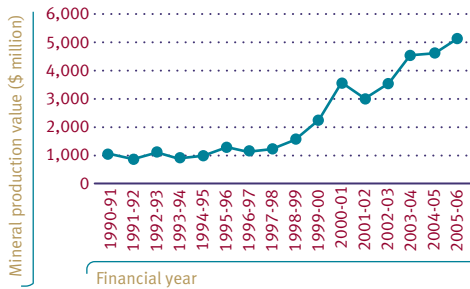
The Birdsville Races



Image courtesy of Wirrarrri Visitor Information Centre

Value of mineral production

(\$ million), 1990-91 to 2005-06



Source: Department of Mines and Energy (unpublished data).

The Government is continuing its support for frail older people, people with a disability and their carers with commitments in Western Queensland including:

- \$5.5 million for the Home and Community Care initiative to provide personal care, home maintenance and modification, meals, respite care, transport and community-based nursing services for frail older people and young people with moderate to severe disabilities
- \$800,000 to support people with a disability and their families through a range of programs
- \$200,000 to support families and carers of people with a disability through short-term and time-limited respite.

We are providing ongoing housing and housing-related services to support low-income families and individuals in Western Queensland in 2007-08, including:

- \$7.85 million in housing grants for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- \$6.4 million for public housing, community, crisis, transitional and long-term housing needs.

Initiatives to encourage healthy, active individuals and communities in the region include:

- \$1.24 million to redevelop the Longreach Aquatic Centre
- \$155,000 to St George State High School to construct a clubhouse.

Realising the Smart State through education, skills and innovation

Queensland is already enjoying a strong national and international reputation for education, skills and innovation. We are maintaining our enviable economic climate, prosperity and quality of life by making a serious commitment to education, innovation and skills.

To equip teachers for modern teaching environments, the Government will invest \$70 million over four years to provide State school and TAFE teachers with computers. Funding will start with \$10 million in 2007-08 and increase to \$20 million per year thereafter.

Our investment in Western Queensland's contribution to the Smart State will also include:

- \$31.2 million for vocational education and training
- a share in \$4.3 million as part of the ongoing \$48 million Queensland Tourism Strategy
- \$1.5 million to complete the major upgrade of multimedia initiatives at Spinifex State College, Mount Isa*
- a share in an additional \$1.25 million for the Queensland Music Festival to expand its program to more regional centres, including Winton, Longreach and Mount Isa
- \$740,000 to replace the amenities block at Doomadgee State School*
- \$400,000 to replace the amenities block at Muttaborra State School.*

* The Australian Government may also contribute to these projects.

Protecting our children and enhancing community safety

Strong, healthy young lives today mean safe, supportive communities tomorrow.

Although significant progress has been made to reform Queensland's child protection system, it remains a key priority of this Government.

We are continuing the most significant reform agenda in Queensland's child protection history with a record operating budget of \$551.3 million, triple the amount spent before the Crime and Misconduct Commission Inquiry, and a \$36.4 million State-wide capital program. This includes \$930,000 to strengthen child protection services in indigenous communities through establishing a residential care facility at Doomadgee.

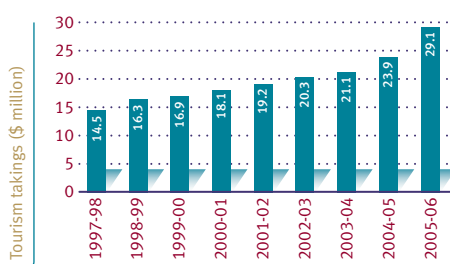
Western Queensland will also benefit from a State-wide allocation of \$49.2 million over four years for additional front-line staff.

In 2007-08, \$7.55 million will be provided across Queensland to continue to implement the Early Years Strategy to enhance services and support for children up to eight years old and their families for community-based early childhood services. This will include building four new Early Years Centres around the State. \$12.2 million will also be provided to establish early childhood education and care services through acquiring and refurbishing six decommissioned pre-school sites.

In 2007-08, other initiatives in Western Queensland include:

Tourism

takings (\$ million), 1997-98 to 2005-06



Financial year

Source: ABS, Tourist Accommodation, Queensland (8635.3.40.001 and 8635.3).

- \$3.5 million to support homeless and at-risk people
- \$4.4 million for community support and youth development services.

Community safety will also be enhanced through a major funding boost to the State's police service. An extra 200 officers will be employed in 2007-08 across the State, which will bring the total number of sworn officers employed in Queensland to 9,928 by October 2008. This again meets our election commitment to maintain police numbers at or above the national average police-to-population ratio.

The Government is providing funding for services and infrastructure to enhance community safety in Western Queensland in 2007-08, including:

- \$3.9 million to finalise replacing the old Cloncurry Police Station
- \$1.5 million towards replacing the Charleville District Police Headquarters and watchhouse, as well as upgrading the existing station
- \$1.1 million to refurbish Longreach Police Station.

Funding for emergency services initiatives in Western Queensland includes \$600,000 to replace Bollon Auxiliary Fire Station.

Managing urban growth and building Queensland's regions

State-wide infrastructure development, water, regional job creation and integrated transport networks are critical to Queensland's growth. To ensure that Western Queenslanders continue to contribute to and benefit from our economic success story, our commitment will include:

- \$18.5 million to complete the \$63.4 million upgrade and improvements to the Mount Isa railway line
- \$12.7 million to improve reliability of water supply from the Mount Isa Terminal Reservoir Pump Station
- \$12.2 million for improvements to Mica Creek Power Station
- \$9 million to finish widening sections of the Burke Developmental Road between Cloncurry and Normanton
- \$8.3 million to continue the State-wide Smart Mining-Future Prosperity Program to stimulate investment in exploration
- \$5.9 million to upgrade the Flinders Highway at Jardine Valley between Charters Towers and Hughenden
- \$5.8 million for upgrading sections of Roma-Taroom Road
- \$1.7 million to replace components of the Lake Moondarra Pipeline.

Protecting the environment for a sustainable future

Western Queensland's cultural and natural environment is unique and fragile, and protecting it makes both social and economic sense. To safeguard our heritage for future generations, the region will share in \$18 million across the State for acquiring

rainforest and green land to enhance biodiversity.

The region will benefit from the following State-wide initiatives:

- \$18 million to complete water resource planning across the State
- \$10 million to help residents install water-saving devices in their homes
- \$10 million for rebates on fixed water charges for irrigators impacted by the drought
- \$2.3 million to fund capacity development officers for the Native Title Support Program.

In Western Queensland, we are also committing:

- \$1 million for the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, a joint Australian and Queensland Government commitment to secure reliable water supplies for homes, industry and the environment
- \$951,000 for capital works in parks and forests across the region including \$145,000 for accommodation at Idalia National Park.

Growing a diverse economy and creating jobs

A healthy, diverse economy like Queensland's needs a skilled workforce. Our record low unemployment raises the challenge of skills shortages.

In 2007-08, the State Government will continue to implement the *Queensland Skills Plan*, a \$1 billion strategy to respond to skills shortages across the State.

We are matching the supply of skilled labour to industry's and the economy's needs in Western Queensland by allocating \$2.7 million for the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative to assist 467 Queenslanders who are disadvantaged in the labour market.

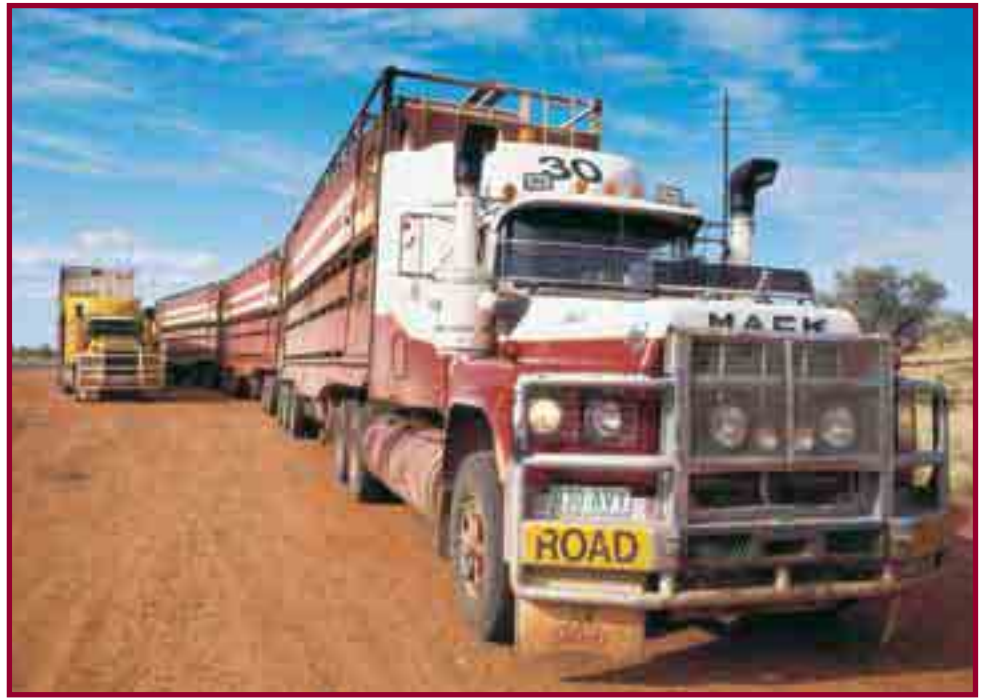


Image Courtesy of Tourism Queensland

In 2007-08, Western Queensland's primary industries will benefit from State-wide commitments of:

- \$160 million for industry development and trade services
- \$82.5 million for Biosecurity Queensland
- \$31.2 million for fisheries management.

Delivering responsive government

Governments exist to deliver services, and a responsive government improves service delivery by delivering on its commitments and involving people in decision making.

The State Government has committed \$12 million to implement the first stage of the Local Government Reform Program. This is the most historic reform of local government in the last 100 years and will deliver a more efficient and financially sustainable system

of local government for all Queensland communities.

We are committed to delivering a government for everybody, no matter where they live in Queensland. In 2007, our 100th Community Cabinet was held in Atherton, continuing the commitment we gave in 1998 to community consultation and taking government to the people. Over the years, around 50,000 people have taken advantage of this opportunity. In 2007-08, Queenslanders will again be able to stay in touch with their Government through regular Community Cabinet functions and Ministerial Regional Community Forums.

To further improve service delivery in Western Queensland, we are committing \$2.6 million for the Central West, North West and South West Regional Planning Projects under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*.

Services for people and communities

The Government's investment in human capital and social services is improving access to quality education, health care, mental health, child safety, disability, and public housing services throughout Queensland.

Up to 192 additional teachers and teacher aides will be funded in 2007-08 to meet State school enrolment growth. An education and training capital works program of \$562.8 million will enhance learning environments for Queensland students. The transformation of the State's vocational training system continues with a \$118 million allocation. \$10 million will be provided in 2007-08 to commence a \$70

million four-year program to provide State school and TAFE teachers with computers.

Health system reform and service improvements will be resourced with \$7.45 billion in 2007-08 including \$602.8 million for better clinical training for the health workforce and electronic information sharing between service providers. Critical hospital and building works have been allocated an additional \$371 million over four years. Almost \$50 million extra has been allocated to meet the growing demand for ambulance services across the State.

Over \$528 million over four years will be directed at improving mental health services. A greater investment of \$374 million over four years follows last year's commitment of \$128 million over four years for expanding and modernising services to people with a disability.

The most significant reforms to Queensland's child protection system are continuing in 2007-08 with the largest-ever operating budget of \$551.3 million. Housing assistance will reach \$719 million in 2007-08.



Image courtesy of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (Qld section)

Budget Highlights 2007–08

Budget summary

Strong economic growth maintains low unemployment

- Queensland's economic growth is forecast to remain strong at 5% in 2007-08 and exceed growth in the rest of Australia for the 12th consecutive year.
- Employment growth is expected to exceed the rest of Australia in 2006-07 and 2007-08 at 4¾% and 3% respectively.
- As a result, Queensland's year-average unemployment rate is forecast to fall to a 33-year low of 4% in the current financial year and remain there in 2007-08.

Strong finances

- The expected 2006-07 operating result of \$2.393 billion reflects the strength of the economy and investment markets.
- A General Government operating surplus of \$268 million is forecast in 2007-08.
- Moderate surpluses over the forward estimates reflect implementation of election commitments and other service enhancements across key service delivery agencies, as well as costs associated with the Government's significant capital investment.

Competitive taxes

- Queensland maintains its competitive tax status, with taxpayers in other states and territories to pay an average of \$131 more state tax each than Queenslanders in 2007-08. With the Fuel Subsidy Scheme in place, Queensland taxpayers are on average \$257 per capita better off than taxpayers in other states and territories.
- The Government continues its commitment to ongoing reform of the State tax system, with net tax cuts of \$49 million in 2007-08 as a result of Budget measures. These include a land tax relief package from 1 July 2007 and a 50% cut to mortgage duty from 1 January 2008. Vehicle registration duty will move to a cylinder-based model from 1 January 2008.

Delivering on our priorities

Improving health care and strengthening services to the community

- \$528.8 million over four years to improve hospital and community-based mental health services in Queensland.
- Increased recurrent funding of almost \$50 million for the Queensland Ambulance Service to meet growing demand for services. This includes funding for an additional 250 ambulance officers and the upgrade of critical ambulance equipment and facilities across the State, and is on top of the more than 220 extra staff employed in 2006-07.
- A housing assistance package of \$719.3 million in 2007-08.
- An additional \$237.4 million in recurrent funding and \$136.7 million in capital funding over four years to enhance disability services.

Realising the Smart State through education, skills and innovation

- Funding for up to 192 additional teachers and teacher aides to meet state school enrolment growth.
- An education and training capital works program of \$562.8 million in 2007-08 to help provide quality learning environments for Queensland State school and TAFE students.
- \$10 million to commence a \$70 million four-year program to provide State school and TAFE teachers with computers.

Protecting our children and enhancing community safety

- Additional recurrent funding of \$58.7 million and capital funding of \$13.6 million will be invested over four years to enhance child protection services.
- An additional 200 sworn police positions across the State will bring the total number of sworn officers to 9,928 by October 2008 – above the national average police-to-population ratio.

Managing urban growth and building Queensland's regions

- Estimated capital spending is more than \$14 billion in 2007-08, an increase of 15.6% on estimated actual 2006-07 outlays. Over 50% of this will be spent outside Brisbane. This spending will support some 101,000 full-time jobs in Queensland.
- The Government will invest \$2.5 billion in water infrastructure in 2007-08, including \$354.9 million to progress two new dams in South East Queensland and \$1.18 billion to continue designing and building the Western Corridor Recycled Water Project.

Protecting the environment for a sustainable future

- Up to \$100.8 million in 2007-08 for the WaterWise rebate schemes to help Queenslanders make their homes and gardens more water efficient.

Growing a diverse economy and creating jobs

- Capital funding of \$300 million towards clean coal technologies, including funding for a feasibility study into the use of advanced carbon capture and storage technology to achieve near-zero electricity generation emissions.
- A \$100 million extension to the Innovation Building Fund for infrastructure to support strategic research and development.

Government services in your region

Aramac

QGAP

44 Gordon Street
Aramac QLD 4726
Telephone 4651 3014
Facsimile 4651 3323
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday
- 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 4.45pm

Augathella

QGAP

Augathella Visitors' Centre
98 Main Street
Augathella QLD 4477
Telephone 4654 5007
Facsimile 4654 5009
Opening Hours: Monday to
Thursday - 9.30am to 3.30pm
Friday - 9.30am to 4pm

Barcaldine

QGAP

Barcaldine Court House
65 Ash Street
Barcaldine QLD 4725
Telephone 4651 1191
Facsimile 4651 2021
Opening Hours: Monday
to Friday - 9am to 4.30pm

Bedourie

QGAP

Bedourie Police Station
Merri Street, Bedourie QLD 4829
Telephone 4746 1128
Facsimile 4746 1266
Opening Hours: Monday
to Friday - 8am to 4pm

Birdsville

QGAP

Birdsville Police Station
MacDonald Street
Birdsville QLD 4482
Telephone 4656 3310
Facsimile 4656 3312
Opening Hours: Monday
to Thursday - 9am to 1pm

Blackall

QGAP

Shamrock Street
Blackall QLD 4472
Telephone 4657 4233
Facsimile 4657 4908
Opening Hours: Monday
to Friday - 9am to 4.30pm

Boulia

QGAP

Boulia Police Station
Herbert Street
Boulia QLD 4829
Telephone 4746 3043
Facsimile 4746 3338
Opening Hours: Monday to
Thursday - 8.30am to 12.30pm

Camooweal

QGAP

29 Barkly Street
Camooweal QLD 4828
Telephone 4748 2025
Facsimile 4748 2026
Opening Hours: Monday
to Friday - 9am to 5pm
Saturday - 9am to 12pm

Cunnamulla

QGAP

5 Stockyard Street
Cunnamulla QLD 4490
Telephone 4655 1131
Facsimile 4655 1687
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday-
9am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm

Dirranbandi

QGAP

35-37 Railway Street
Dirranbandi QLD 4486
Telephone 4625 8411
Facsimile 4625 8433
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday -
10am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm 4pm

Hughenden

QGAP

65 Brodie Street
Hughenden QLD 4821
Telephone 4741 1735
Facsimile 4741 1412
Opening Hours: Monday
to Friday - 8.30am to 4.30pm

Injune

QGAP

c/ - Injune Library
Hutton Street, Injune QLD 4454
Telephone 4626 1546
Facsimile 4626 1099
Opening Hours: Monday and
Tuesday - 1.30pm to 5pm;
Wednesday - 9am to 1pm;
Thursday - 11.30am to 5pm;
Friday - 11am to 5pm

Isisford

QGAP

Isisford Police Station
St Mary Street, Isisford QLD 4731
Telephone 4658 8153
Facsimile 4658 8183
Opening Hours: Wednesday
and Thursday - 9am to 5pm

Julia Creek

QGAP

Burke Street
Julia Creek QLD 4823
Telephone 4746 7162
Facsimile 4746 7338
Opening Hours: Monday
to Friday - 9am to 12.30pm
and 1.30pm to 4.30pm

Jundah

QGAP

Jundah Police Station
Dickson Street, Jundah QLD 4736
Telephone 4658 6193
Facsimile 4658 6180
Opening Hours: Monday and
Wednesday - 9am to 1.30pm
Friday - 9am to 4.30pm

Mitchell

QGAP

Cnr Mary and Dublin Streets
Mitchell QLD 4465
Telephone 4623 1106
Facsimile 4623 1510
Opening Hours: Monday to
Friday - 9am to 12.30pm
and 1.30pm to 4.30pm

Normanton

QGAP

24 Haig Street
Normanton QLD 4890
Telephone 4745 1177
Facsimile 4745 1393
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday
- 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 4.45pm

Richmond

QGAP

Goldring Street
Richmond QLD 4822
Telephone 4741 3227
Facsimile 4741 3721
Opening Hours: Monday
to Friday - 9am to 12.30pm
and 1.30pm to 4.30pm

St George

QGAP

The Terrace
St George QLD 4487
Telephone 4625 3266
Facsimile 4625 3180
Opening Hours: Monday
to Friday - 9am to 4.30pm

Surat

QGAP

72 Burrows Street
Surat QLD 4417
Telephone 4626 5523
Facsimile 4626 5507
Opening Hours: Monday
to Friday - 9am to 4.30pm

Thargomindah

QGAP

Thargomindah Police Station
Dowling Street
Thargomindah QLD 4492
Telephone 4655 3291
Facsimile 4655 3224
Opening Hours: Monday - 9am
to 3pm; Wednesday and
Thursday - 9am to 2pm

Windorah

QGAP

Windorah Police Station
Cnr Maryborough
& Victoria Streets
Windorah QLD 4481
Telephone 4656 3171
Facsimile 4656 3172
Opening Hours: Monday and
Wednesday - 8am to 11am;
Tuesday and Thursday - 2pm to
5pm; Friday - 8am to 12pm

Winton

QGAP

Winton Courthouse
59 Vindex Street
Winton QLD 4735
Telephone 4657 1536
Facsimile 4657 1583
Opening Hours: Monday
to Friday - 8.30am to 4.00pm

Mount Isa

State Development Centre

75 Camooweal Street
Mount Isa QLD 4825
Telephone 4747 2144
Facsimile 4747 2166
Opening Hours: Monday
to Friday - 8.30am to 5pm

Western Queensland region



The Western Queensland region includes the city of Mount Isa and the shires of Aramac, Balonne, Barcaldine, Barcoo, Bendemere, Blackall, Booringa, Boulia, Bulloo, Bungil, Burke, Carpentaria, Cloncurry, Diamantina, Doomadgee, Flinders, Ilfracombe, Isisford, Longreach, McKinlay, Mornington, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie, Richmond, Roma, Tambo, Warroo and Winton.

Preparatory Year enquiries

Telephone 1300 650 220
Facsimile 3247 3988

Queensland Water Commission

Telephone 1300 789 906

13 HEALTH

Telephone 13 43 25 84

Smart Service Queensland

For information on all other
Government services call 13 13 04
www.qld.gov.au