

Wide Bay–Burnett

Valley Rattler Steamtrain, Gympie



Premier's Message

The Queensland Government is firmly committed to strengthening and building the regions which are the foundation of this State. As a Government we are forging a strong, prosperous future and a better quality of life for all Queenslanders.

This second Regional Budget Statement for Wide Bay-Burnett highlights capital works and services in the State Budget 2003-04 that specifically meet the needs of people within the region. This Statement demonstrates a significant investment in the Wide Bay-Burnett region.

This Budget delivers improved and integrated services in the areas of health, families, education, housing and law and order to achieve better outcomes for people in Wide Bay-Burnett. For example, in the past three years, police numbers in the Wide Bay region have been increased by 27 officers.

A highly skilled and educated workforce is integral to our Smart State initiatives in employment creation and economic growth. In 2003-04 the Government will spend more than \$13 million on initiatives that will provide further training and employment opportunities.

Wide Bay-Burnett will benefit from the following infrastructure funding in the State Budget 2003-04:

- \$50.4 million allocated by Tarong Energy for capital expenditure at Tarong Power Station
- \$3.5 million to redevelop the Gympie Hospital
- More than \$49 million for rail manufacturing in Maryborough including CityTrain units, locomotives and continuing the Cairns Tilt Train program
- \$5.66 million to complete the \$14.25 million Maryborough Residential Aged Care Facility at Maryborough Hospital
- \$8.2 million to finalise construction and commissioning of the new 500-bed correctional centre at Maryborough
- \$2.41 million to construct overtaking lanes on the Maryborough - Hervey Bay Road between Phillip Court and Saltwater Creek.

The initiatives contained in this Statement reinforce my Government's commitment to working in partnership with the people of Wide Bay-Burnett to maximise the social, economic and environmental capacity of the Smart State.

Peter Beattie
Premier and Minister for Trade

Wide Bay-Burnett

This Regional Budget Statement outlines key Government spending in the State Budget 2003-04 designed exclusively for the needs of the Wide Bay-Burnett region and its people. As a Government, we recognise the uniqueness and diversity of the regions as the building blocks of this State. In fact, in this Budget we have allocated 62.5% of capital works funding for regions outside the Brisbane Statistical Division.

The Wide Bay-Burnett region covers 52,382 square kilometres, or about 3% of the State. The region is home to 239,746 Queenslanders, including 6.3% of the State's Indigenous population. The region consists of the cities of Bundaberg, Maryborough and Hervey Bay and the shires of Biggenden, Burnett, Cooloola (including the city of Gympie), Eidsvold, Gayndah, Isis, Kilkivan, Kingaroy, Kolan, Miriam Vale, Monto, Mundubbera, Murgon, Nanango, Mt Perry, Tiaro, Wondai and Woocoo. In addition, the region includes the Cherbourg Aboriginal Council.

Wide Bay-Burnett's economy is underpinned by tourism, agriculture and mineral production and the region is the gateway to World Heritage-listed Fraser Island.

Building Queensland's regions

The Queensland Government will continue its partnership with the Wide Bay-Burnett region in 2003-04 to promote regional growth and economic development.

In support of this priority, the Government has allocated a further \$50 million over four years to extend the Regional Centres Program across the State. Benefits for the Wide Bay-Burnett region include:

- \$1.6 million to Bundaberg City Council for stage one of Riverside Parklands

- \$1.15 million to Burnett Shire Council for the Bargara to Burnett Heads Turtle Trail
- \$1.5 million to Hervey Bay City Council for a project to improve accessibility to local services
- \$1.25 million to Maryborough Shire Council to continue the CBD beautification project.

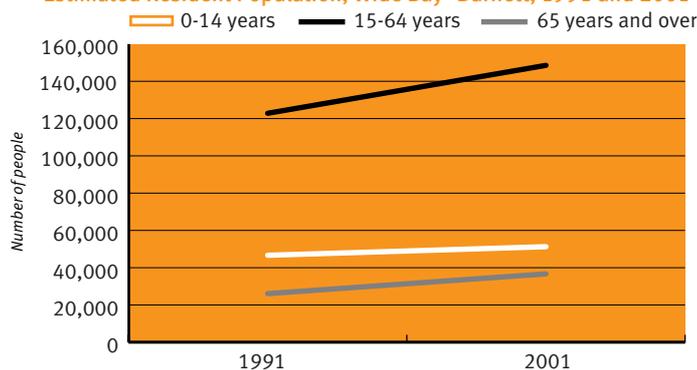
A safe and efficient transport network underpins regional development in the Smart State. In 2003-04, major transport funding in Wide Bay-Burnett includes \$7 million from the National Highway Program to realign two lanes on the Bruce Highway from between Fairbairn Flats and Bariveloe Road in the Miriam Vale Shire.

We will work with local governments to help deliver reliable water and sewage services. For example, \$24,000 is allocated for capital infrastructure for works related to water and sewage for Gayndah Shire Council.

Other projects funded across various parts of the region include:

- \$8.72 million to establish and maintain softwood plantations on State-owned land
- \$5.1 million to expand the hardwood plantation estate in the region, further strengthening the future growth potential of the regional timber industry

Estimated Resident Population, Wide Bay-Burnett, 1991 and 2001



Source: ABS, Population by Age and Sex, 2001 (3235.0)

Fraser Island



- Share of \$25 million provided statewide for a range of programs, activities and research to help Queensland's primary producers manage for drought.

Ergon Energy has allocated \$31.65 million for a range of works in the region.

Water and its efficient use is a key requirement of industry in the Wide Bay-Burnett region. We will provide \$60.48 million for the Burnett Water Infrastructure Project.

In 2003-04, Bundaberg District Tourism Development Bureau and South Burnett Local Government Association Inc are each allocated \$50,000 to facilitate delivery of business support services in Eidsvold, Monto, Mundubbera, Kilkivan, Murgon, Wondai, Kingaroy and Nanango Shires.

More jobs for Queensland – skills and innovation – the Smart State

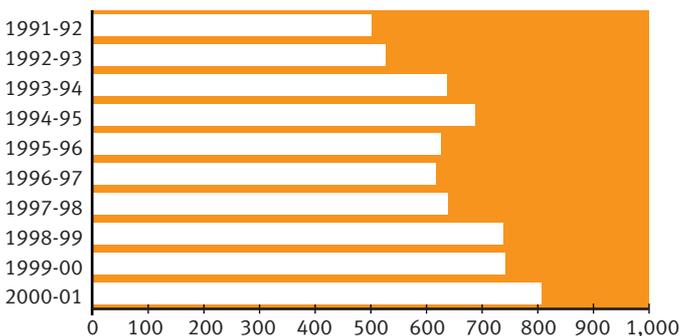
High standards of training and education are the foundation of our efforts to position Queensland as the Smart State.

Through the *Breaking the Unemployment Cycle* initiative, the Government will continue to support the region's young job seekers, the long-term unemployed and disadvantaged job seekers, with \$8.5 million allocated to help create 1,090 jobs across the region.

To ensure a high standard of TAFE facilities in the region, the following spending is allocated:

- \$565,000 in joint State-Commonwealth funding for Wide Bay Institute of TAFE to continue the development of information and communication technology infrastructure
- \$4.33 million provided by the Commonwealth Government to continue the consolidation of the Wide Bay Institute of TAFE - Maryborough to a single site located on Nagel Street, including construction of a new engineering facility.

Gross Value of Agricultural Production (\$ million)
Wide Bay-Burnett, Queensland, 1991-92 to 2000-01



Source: ABS, Agriculture, Queensland (unpublished data)

Tarong Energy



Queensland power generation

School facilities ensure we have the infrastructure in place to deliver a high standard of education to our young people. In 2003-04, \$850,000 is provided for a new administration block at Agnes

Water State School. To maintain existing educational facilities within the region, we will provide \$662,000 for the Triple R program, which will provide repainting, reticulation and re-roofing enhancements to local schools, including:

- Repainting at Two Mile State School, Moffatdale State School and Cordalba State School
- Roofing at Eidsvold State School and Maryborough State High School.

Safer and more supportive communities

The Government is committed to working in partnership with the Wide Bay-Burnett region to achieve a safe and supportive community environment.

Community safety in Wide Bay-Burnett will be enhanced by spending on policing and the justice system, including:

- \$1.2 million to complete the second stage of the extension of Hervey Bay police station
- \$390,000 for a 14-officer Tactical Crime Squad, which will target known crime hotspots with an emphasis on property crime and possession and supply of drug offences
- \$455,000 for a new police station at Rainbow Beach and replacement police station at Childers
- \$530,000 to construct a women's shelter to provide crisis accommodation for women at Bundaberg.

State Budget Highlights

Budget summary

Creating new jobs

- In 2002-03, an estimated 55,000 new jobs were created in Queensland, accounting for almost a quarter of all new jobs in Australia.
- Queensland's year-average unemployment rate is expected to fall to 7% in 2002-03, its lowest level for 13 years.

Growing the economy

- Queensland's economic outlook is strong. Solid growth of 4% is forecast for 2003-04, exceeding the 3¹/₄% forecast nationally.
- Growth in household consumption and business investment is forecast to exceed national performance in 2003-04.

Strong finances

- A General Government net operating surplus of \$153 million and a cash surplus of \$152 million are forecast in 2003-04.
- The State's net worth is budgeted to grow from \$58.7 billion at 30 June 2003, to \$60.3 billion by 30 June 2004 and to \$67 billion by 30 June 2007.

Competitive taxes

- Taxpayers in other States and Territories will pay on average 28% more tax than Queenslanders.
- As a result of the land tax relief in this Budget, more than 13,500 land holders will not be liable for land tax in 2003-04.

Delivering on our priorities

Building Queensland's regions

- Capital spending will be boosted to \$5.3 billion in 2003-04, supporting some 44,500 full-time jobs with a total of 62.5% of capital works funding spent outside the Brisbane Statistical Division.
- The Regional Centres Program will receive \$50 million over four years to help local governments deliver infrastructure and community facilities.

More jobs for Queensland – skills and innovation – the Smart State

- The Budget includes \$100 million over 4 years for a package of measures to increase the effectiveness of public and private research and development.
- The Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative will be extended with an extra \$255 million over 3 years from 2004-05, plus an additional \$3.8 million to employ 300 public sector apprentices.
- Funding is provided for an extra 636 teachers in schools from 2004.

Safer and more supportive communities

- As the second year of a \$188 million four-year initiatives package, \$32 million will help generate better outcomes for families and children.
- The Queensland Ambulance Service will employ an extra 110 officers statewide, and will commence or complete 17 replacement and four new stations.
- The number of police officers will increase by approximately 300 in 2003-04 as the Police Service progresses towards the achievement of 9,100 officers by 2005.

Community engagement and a better quality of life

- There is an additional \$2.6 billion over 4 years for Health (including Commonwealth and State funding), compared to the 2002-03 Health Budget, including additional investment and service enhancements in acute hospital care, elective surgery, home and community care and mental health.
- An additional \$290.5 million in State funding is provided over four years to Disability Services Queensland including \$200 million to implement Funding Reform Project initiatives.

Valuing the environment

- As part of a \$150 million Commonwealth-State tree clearing reduction package, the State will provide an additional \$75 million over five years.



Government services in your region

For information on Government services in your region, contact the following offices of the Queensland Government Agent Program (QGAP), Department of State Development or Regional Communities.

Agnes Water

QGAP

3 Captain Cook Drive
Agnes Water QLD 4677
Phone: 4902 1555
Monday–Friday 9.00am–4.30pm

Blackbutt

QGAP

69 Hart Street
Blackbutt QLD 4306
Phone: 4163 0030
Monday–Friday 8.00am–12.00pm and
1.00pm–4.30pm

Bundaberg

Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Wide Bay Regional Office

16 Quay Street
Bundaberg QLD 4670
Phone: 4151 9748
Monday–Friday 8.30am–5.00pm

State Development Centre

205 Bourbong Street
Bundaberg QLD 4670
Phone: 4151 9700
Monday–Friday 8:30am–5.00pm

Eidsvold

QGAP

32 Moreton Street
Eidsvold QLD 4627
Phone: 4165 1063
Monday–Friday 8.30am–4.30pm

Hervey Bay

State Development Centre

Brendan Hansen Building
Main Street
Pialba QLD 4655
Phone: 4125 9270
Monday–Friday 8:30am–5.00pm

Kilkivan

QGAP

26 Bligh Street
Kilkivan QLD 4600
Phone: 5484 1068
Monday–Friday 8.30am–4.30pm

Maryborough

State Development Centre

Floor 2, Ergon Energy Building
97-99 Adelaide Street
Maryborough QLD 4650
Phone: 4121 1780
Monday–Friday 8:30am–5pm

Monto

QGAP

53 Newton Street
Monto QLD 4630
Phone: 4166 1350
Monday–Friday 9.00am–4.30pm

Mundubbera

QGAP

51 Lyons Street
Mundubbera QLD 4626
Phone: 4165 4948
Monday–Friday 8.30am–5.00pm

Murgon

QGAP

48 Stephens Street West
Murgon QLD 4605
Phone: 4168 1801
Monday–Friday 9.00am–4.30pm

Regional Budget statement – State Budget 2003-04
www.budget.qld.gov.au

