

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

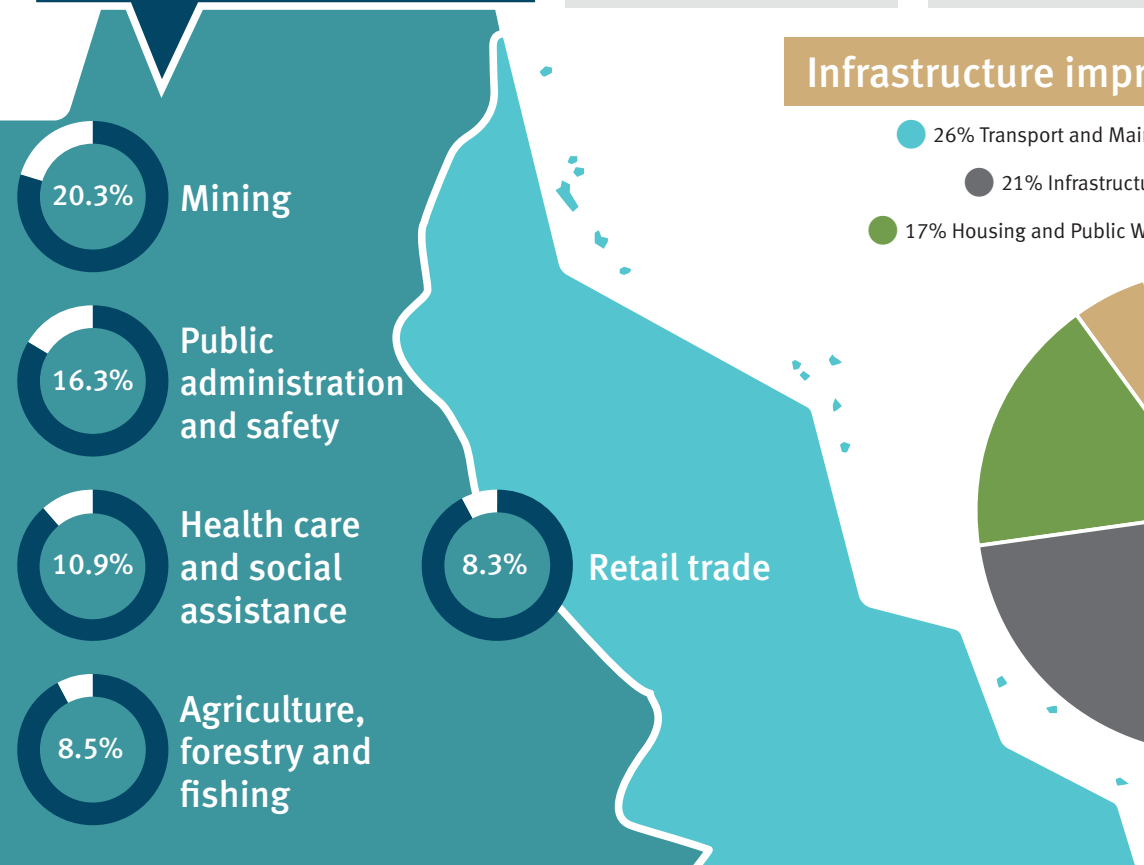


**775** residential dwellings sold  
in 12 months ending 31 December 2014

**7,283** businesses in Outback QLD in 2013-14

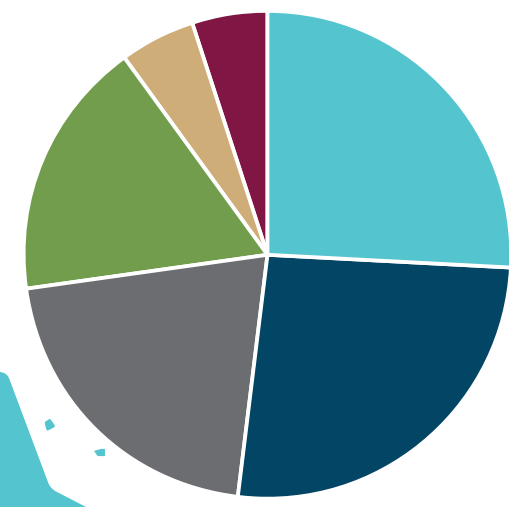


**Top 5 Industries**  
by number of workers



**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



**Major private sector investment projects currently under construction**

Project	Investment
Rocklands Copper Project near Cloncurry by CuDECO	<b>\$300 million</b>
George Fisher Mine expansion near Mount Isa by Mount Isa Mines (Glencore)	<b>\$274 million</b>



**JOBS NOW, JOBS FOR THE FUTURE**  
for Outback Queensland

**\$2.035B** health budget in 2015-16 **UP 6%**  
North West, Townsville, Central West, South West, Cairns and Hinterland and Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Services, the primary providers

**\$25.7M** over the next four years for maintenance in Outback Queensland schools



**\$155.5M** for disaster relief in 2015-16 in partnership with the Australian Government



**2,500 JOBS** estimated to be supported by the infrastructure program



**Infrastructure improvement budget**

**\$832.6 million** budgeted for infrastructure improvements in 2015-16, including:

Category	Amount
for transport	<b>\$215.9M</b>
for health	<b>\$40.9M</b>
for energy and water	<b>\$220M</b>
for housing and public works	<b>\$145M</b>
for infrastructure and local government	<b>\$178.4M</b>

**The Queensland Government employs 7,089 people in Outback Queensland and they support:**

Category	Count
61,442.1 km <sup>2</sup> of national and regional parks	
167 state heritage sites	
75 hospitals and health facilities	
38 customer service centres and 12,333 km of roads	
2 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnership regional offices	
20 fire stations	
387 police officers	
16 courthouses	



For more details visit [www.budget.qld.gov.au](http://www.budget.qld.gov.au)

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**  
\$3.1 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. \$4.1 million for land rental rebates and waiving the water license fee for struggling landholders and lessees.

- 1 Saving the Great Barrier Reef**  
\$100 million over 5 years as part of the Saving our Great Barrier Reef policy, in addition to the \$35 million per year currently spent across State Government agencies. Funding will help protect the Reef by investing in water quality initiatives and research, as well as helping businesses adopt better environmental practices in primary production, mining and fishing.
- 2 Building our Regions-Regional Infrastructure Fund**  
\$200 million over two years for critical infrastructure projects in regional Queensland.
- Outback Queensland Initiatives**
  - Croc management**  
\$180,000 of \$345,000 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. \$200,000, in partnership with Indigenous councils and organisations, for arts industries and economic development in Indigenous communities.

- 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.
- 3 Charles Lloyd Jones Weir**  
\$1.6 million to maintain the Charles Lloyd Jones Weir.
- 4 Bulloo, Murray Darling water**  
\$100,000 for water quality plans for the Bulloo and Murray-Darling Basins.
- 5 Schools capital works**  
\$465,000 of \$1.4 million for a new Industrial Technology Centre at Cunnamulla P-12 State School.
- 6 Mica Creek Power Station**  
\$11.8 million for operations at Mica Creek Power Station.

- 7 Homelessness**  
\$9.1 million for specialist homelessness services.
- 8 Social housing**  
\$173.5 million to expand and improve social housing in partnership with the Australian Government.
- 9 Geophysics research**  
\$2.1 million to acquire regional geophysical data from across north-west Queensland.
- 10 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.
- 11 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 bellyache bush in the Gulf region.
- 12 Drought support for stock routes**  
\$470,000 for stock owners during drought, including upgrades of priority windmills, water tanks, dams, troughs and other infrastructure.
- 13 Thursday Island police**  
\$800,000 to complete the \$3.3 million upgrade of Thursday Island police station and watchhouse.

- 14 Tropical health and medicine**  
\$5.3 million of \$6.3 million to James Cook University to establish a campus of the Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine on Thursday Island.
- 15 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.
- 16 Outback Way upgrades**  
\$12.1 million of \$24.5 million over 2 years, in partnership with the Australian Government and local councils, to seal and upgrade sections of the Outback Way and other links, due for completion in 2017.
- 17 Cunnamulla fire and rescue**  
\$350,000 towards a \$1.5 million replacement auxiliary fire and rescue station at Cunnamulla, due for completion in 2017.
- 18 Alpha health services**  
\$14.4 million to continue the \$17.5 million Alpha Community Hospital and Co-located Essential Services project.
- 19 Queensland Agricultural Training College Improvements**  
\$3.4 million to upgrade infrastructure at the Longreach Pastoral College and the Emerald Agricultural College.

- 20 Western roads upgrade program**  
\$40 million over two years for a major program of road upgrades. Highlights include: Mitchell Highway (Barrington to Cunnamulla), Wills Developmental Road (Julia Creek to Burketown), Diamantina Developmental Road (Charleville to Quilpie) and Cloncurry to Dajarra Road.
- 21 Lake Eyre Basin**  
\$187,000 for projects to protect the Lake Eyre Basin.

