Queensland State Budget 2014–15 Regional Budget Statement

Outback

Regional Hospitals Redevelopment

Regional Queenslanders will benefit from $173.3 million for hospital redevelopments in Cairns, Mackay, Townsville, Rockhampton and Mt Isa. The total estimated cost is $1.424 billion.

- Cairns: $81.4 million for the $446.3 million Cairns Hospital redevelopment, delivering an additional 168 beds by 2015.
- The redeveloped Cairns Hospital will also provide an ambulatory cancer care centre, radiation oncology service, more cardiac care facilities, surgical capacity, intensive care capacity, birthing and special care nursery services and aged care and rehabilitation.
- Townsville: $41.2 million in 2014-15 for the $334 million Queensland and Australian Government funded Townsville Hospital expansion. The Townsville Hospital expansion will significantly expand health services in the Townsville region and deliver long-term local benefits. It will include an emergency department, maternity unit, intensive care unit, neonatal intensive care services, operating theatres, clinical support and services, pathology expansion, Townsville Cancer Centre expansion and Planned Procedure Centre.
- Mackay: $29.4 million for the $408.3 million Mackay Base Hospital redevelopment. The Mackay Base Hospital redevelopment will almost double bed capacity to 318 beds. It will include emergency and outpatients departments, delivery suites and special care nursery, an intensive care and coronary care unit, inpatient surgical and medical wards, renal support, dental services and a mental health facility.
- Rockhampton: $13.6 million for the $173.1 million Queensland and Australian Government funded Rockhampton Hospital expansion. The Rockhampton Hospital expansion has included increasing capacity by 50 beds, four new operating rooms and support areas, a new eight-level building to house cancer services, medical officers’ facilities, two wards and provision for a future intensive care unit.

Support for drought-affected Queenslanders

The Government’s Drought Assistance Package is a $62 million, two-year package of targeted assistance for individuals and communities in drought-affected areas. It provides both business-related support for landholders and social welfare services to get families through tough times.

Rental relief of almost $9 million over the term of the package includes rebates for land rental and the waiving of annual water licence fees for drought-affected landholders and lessees.

$32.75 million is being provided for freight subsidies and emergency water infrastructure rebates to support producers and communities. The Australian Government is providing $13 million over two years to support the emergency water infrastructure rebate component of the Queensland Department of Communities’ Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme.

The Government is providing an additional $1.5 million to expand mental health support workshops and additional interventions in drought areas. $5.9 million will be used to provide information, support, case management and coordination of community resilience-building strategies.

Learn more about drought assistance at www.daf.qld.gov.au/environment/drought/assistance/new-package or by telephoning 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

For more detail: www.budget.qld.gov.au

A STRONG PLAN FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

This Budget continues to deliver a Strong Plan for a Brighter Future.

The 2014-15 Budget carefully balances increases in education, health and community services spending, while not introducing or raising any new taxes or reducing services. Strong choices have to be made so that a brighter future can be ours; we need to reduce the State’s $80 billion debt and the annual $4 billion interest bill. This Budget outlines our plan to secure our finances by making the strongest and smartest choice to reduce debt so we can sustainably invest in the schools, hospitals and infrastructure for the future.

We are making significant progress in restoring our finances, growing a four pillar economy, revitalising frontline services and funding infrastructure projects and jobs – with more than 60,000 jobs created in Queensland in the last year. To sustain this we must reduce debt, so we can truly keep building on our Strong Plan for a Brighter Future.

Great state. Great opportunity.
A STRONG PLAN FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Royalties for the Regions

The Queensland Government has committed $495 million over four years from 2012 for community infrastructure, roads and flood mitigation projects across Queensland's regions.

Royalties for the Regions ensures regional communities receive real long-term benefits through better planning and infrastructure investment. The program is helping communities better manage the impacts of resource sector development and ensures they remain liveable and sustainable well into the future.

To date, Royalties for the Regions has approved over $296 million to support 93 infrastructure projects, with a total cost of over $501 million, across 38 regional and shire councils. These include:

- 34 community infrastructure projects including 20 water, sewerage and waste management projects, six regional port upgrades, two telecommunications projects, and other projects that will provide a variety of community facilities
- 40 projects to provide critical road safety and access improvements across regions impacted by resource development
- 16 flood mitigation projects that will provide levees, upgraded town drainage and road and bridge upgrades to improve access and safety
- 3 projects to support essential community services including two new childcare facilities and a new medical centre.

Investment in these projects is critical to managing growth and improving the liveability of resource communities.

Outback Queensland will benefit from $31.2 million for 25 projects in the Aurukun, Barcoo, Bouli, Carpentaria, Cloncurry Creek, Diamantina, Flinders, Marmor, McInnis and Quilpie Shires, as well as $7.5 million for 18 projects in the Barcaldine and Blackall-Tambo Regional Council areas. These projects include childcare centres, water and sewerage projects, flood mitigation work, and telecommunications, regional airport and road upgrades.

Mining exploration
$4.5 million of $9 million for surveys in the Winton-Boulia-Dajara area in northwest Queensland to search for ore bodies.

Social housing
$219.4 million for the Cloncurry heavy vehicle bypass and to upgrade the Flinders Highway intersection.

Indigenous heritage
$7.6 million for Indigenous communities to protect natural and cultural resources in Cape York and the Lake Eyre Basin.

Communication technology for the central west
$5.5 million for a modern communication system that supports economic development and improves social connectivity and emergency response for central west communities.

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