



2016-17 Queensland Budget

Snapshot

June 2016



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Overview

Overview

Queensland Treasurer Curtis Pitt has handed down his second budget focussed on innovation, investment and infrastructure.

However many of the big ticket items of the \$52.6 billion budget had already been released.

Spending measures

These include an extra \$225 million for the government's flagship *Advance Queensland* initiative to boost innovation, a \$5,000 boost to the state's \$15,000 first home owners' grant and a \$1.54 fare reduction for the average public transport trip.

The budget also outlines a \$10.7 billion capital works program to create 31,000 jobs and provide essential transport, health, education, energy and water infrastructure.

A record \$15.3 billion will be spent on health, which includes \$230 million for hospital upgrades and an extra 110 ambulance officers.

A record \$12.9 billion was allocated to education, with \$250 million to be spent on new or upgraded schools.

Revenue raising

To help pay for this, the government has flagged a 3% transfer duty surcharge for foreign property buyers – to raise \$15 million in the first

year and \$25 million thereafter – and a 3.5% increase to fees and charges in line with the indexation rate set by the previous government.

The government also plans to repatriate \$4 billion from the \$11 billion surplus in the defined benefits superannuation scheme for public servants. Half of that money will be spent on general government debt reduction, with the other half going towards infrastructure.

Key figures

Growth in Queensland gross state product (GSP) is expected to have strengthened to 3.5% in 2015-16 and continue to grow to 4% in 2016-17.

The rebound in GSP growth is underpinned by a surge in overseas exports, as liquefied natural gas (LNG) production ramps up and drives the value of Queensland exports to almost \$100 billion by the end of the decade.

Queensland's estimated actual employment growth for 2015-16 is 1.75%, a substantial improvement on the 0.3% recorded for 2014-15. Employment growth is expected to continue at similar rates over 2016-17 and 2017-18.

The 2016-17 Budget forecasts a net operating surplus of \$867 million.

While in 2015-16 overall debt sat at \$72.7 billion, this year it is forecast to hit \$75.3 billion, growing again in 2017-18 until it hits \$78 billion in 2018-19.

At a glance

CAPITAL PROGRAM

\$10.7B

POLICE

\$2.1B

HEALTH

\$15.3B

ACCELERATING ADVANCE
QUEENSLAND

\$405M

EDUCATION & TRAINING

\$12.9B

REGIONAL 'BACK TO WORK'

\$100M

COMMUNITIES, CHILD SAFETY &
DISABILITY SERVICES

\$3.2B

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

Overview

The 2016-17 State Budget highlights a strong focus on boosting the participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders in the state's economic, social and cultural life.

An additional \$20.2 million has been allocated by the government, which aims to increase jobs and training opportunities and help grow emerging Indigenous businesses.

Key initiatives:

- \$18.1 million over four years for the continuation and expanded role of the Remote Indigenous Land and Infrastructure Program Office in Cairns. This provides a one-stop shop in addressing land administration issues and co-ordinating all infrastructure projects
- \$15.3 million over four years for the continuation of the Cape York Tenure Resolution Program, enabling the transfer of state-owned lands and national parks to formal Aboriginal ownership
- \$3 million over two years for state-wide Economic Participation Partnerships projects that will lead to the employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and an increased number of sustainable Indigenous businesses
- \$1.3 million in 2016-17 for the *From Jails to Jobs* pilot to deliver life changing opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders to 'break the cycle' of reoffending by gaining new skills and stable employment
- \$2.7 million over four years to support an integrated response to domestic violence as part the Government's response to the *Not Now Not Ever Report*

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Agriculture and Fisheries

Overview

The Queensland Government has extended existing drought relief arrangements, allocating a further \$77.9 million for drought assistance, including the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme, rural financial counselling services, and other drought relief measures as part of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries portfolio.

Key initiatives include implementing the *Rural Assistance Package* aimed at reducing financial stress on regional Queenslanders through leveraging existing Queensland and Australian Government policies.

The government will also focus on advancing Queensland's agricultural innovation through the implementation of the ten year Agriculture and Food Research Development and Extension Blueprint.

Key initiatives:

- Invest an additional \$10.8 million over four years to improve the capability of Queensland's biosecurity system
- Invest \$7.3 million for the ongoing management of Panama disease tropical race 4 in bananas
- \$4.4 million allocated to continue upgrades of the department's research and operational facilities through the Research Facilities Development, Scientific Equipment and Minor Works Programs
- \$2.3 million for the upgrade and refurbishment of existing facilities at Toowoomba
- \$1.8 million allocated to provide new and replacement heavy plant and equipment.
- \$1 million for the purchase of a research property with the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC)
- \$1.5 million of capital grant payments to the RSPCA for facility upgrades along with increased funding to \$500,000 per annum for the RSPCA to ensure adequate regulatory compliance by animal owners in Queensland under the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001
- \$800,000 allocated to continue replacement of vessels and marine equipment for fisheries' research and regulatory functions
- \$700,000 allocated for upgrades and additional infrastructure at the Hermitage Research Facility

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Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services

Overview

The Palaszczuk Government will provide more than \$2.818 billion in 2016-17 to support Queensland communities and families, address domestic and family violence, and reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids in care.

As part of this, it has committed \$198.2 million to address domestic and family violence by implementing all 140 recommendations of the *Not Now, Not Ever* taskforce report led by Dame Quentin Bryce.

Spending for Child and Family Services is budgeted to be \$1.011 billion, Disability Services \$1.704 billion, and Community Services \$223 million.

From 1 July 2016, Queensland will commence its statewide transition to the full scheme NDIS. The NDIS will provide greater choice and control and social and economic participation for people with disability. From 2019-20, when the scheme is fully implemented, the Queensland Government will contribute \$2.035 billion per annum to the NDIS.

Key child and family services initiatives:

- Funding of \$100 million has been provided to continue the investment in services for vulnerable families and their children, in line with the *Supporting Families Changing Futures* reforms, including:
 - o \$13.8 million for Family and Child Connect services including two new services in Mt Isa/Gulf and Cape York/Torres Strait to complete the state-wide rollout
 - o \$45.7 million for Intensive Family Support services across the state which will complement the Family and Child Connect services

- o \$3.3 million for support to young people through the Next Step Care initiative
- o \$2.9 million to improve Collaborative Family Decision Making and expand capacity to facilitate family group meetings
- o \$1.8 million to establish the Office of the Child and Family Official Solicitor and improve departmental participation in child protection court proceedings.
- To address the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in the child protection system, the Government will spend:
 - o \$10 million to support the expansion and integration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family support and child protection services
 - o \$2.9 million to trial new community-based referral and early intervention services for Indigenous families in seven discrete Aboriginal communities

Key disability services initiatives:

- \$3.3 million for housing solutions for people with disability for whom other housing options do not present a sustainable solution
- \$4.9 million to continue to deliver innovative strategies to provide sustainable living options for adults with disability when they can no longer be cared for by their elderly parents
- \$5.6 million to provide assistance to up to 300 young people with disability leaving school

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- \$11.6 million to provide support for up to 64 young adults with disability exiting the care of the State
- \$2.2 million to assist people with spinal cord injuries to leave the Princess Alexandra Hospital
- \$2 million to assist people who are able to be discharged from hospital to move to community living with supports with a priority for long-stay patients in acute hospital settings
- \$7.5 million to support families of children with disability who have critical need
- \$10 million for aids and equipment and vehicle modifications
- Additional funding of \$6.1 million over four years has been provided for initiatives to deliver the *Queensland: an age friendly community Strategy* and implement recommendations from the Parliamentary Inquiry into the adequacy of existing financial protections for Queensland's seniors
- \$6.9 million over four years has been provided for the *Neighbourhood Centre Investment Strategy*, including funding to enhance the sustainability of 43 existing small neighbourhood centres across Queensland and to trial Community Connect Workers from January 2017 within neighbourhood centres in Manoora, Darra, Lockyer Valley, Gympie, Eagleby, Nerang, Chinchilla, Blackall-Tambo, Upper Ross, Bowen, Monto and Mossman

Key community services initiatives:

- \$3.5 million will be provided in 2016-17 for new rest and recovery services in 15 Safe Night Precincts to reduce alcohol related violence and create safer entertainment precincts
- An additional \$4 million has been provided to extend existing community support measures in drought declared areas to strengthen resilience of drought affected Queenslanders
- \$89.5 million over five years from 2015-16 has been provided for the department to implement the Queensland Government's response to a number of the recommendations of the *Domestic and Family Violence Taskforce Not Now, Not Ever Report* and the *Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy*.
- Additional funding of \$2 million in 2016-17 and \$500,000 ongoing from 2017-18 has been provided to modernise the Community Recovery Disaster Management system.

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Education and Training

Overview

Education and training is one of the biggest winners in the Palaszczuk 2016-17 budget, receiving a record budget of \$12.9 billion – accounting for a quarter of the budget and increasing a significant 5.9%.

Notably, the allocation will see the government continue to invest in school infrastructure to cater for enrolment growth.

Specifically the budget delivers \$667 million in 2016-17 for school infrastructure including \$475 million for capital works and \$192 million for maintenance.

The allocation sees a continued commitment to hiring additional teachers as part of an investment of \$152.4 million over three years to deliver the Queensland Government's *Extra Teachers* election initiative. The initiative endeavours to decrease class sizes, allocate specialist teachers in high schools, and provide additional support to teachers and principals.

The government has also provided significant support to the *Advance Queensland*, the state's program designed to create the knowledge-based jobs of the future.

Key initiatives:

- \$42.8 million will be invested to cover the Australian Government's funding shortfall to meet requirements of the *National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education*
- \$24.3 million has been allocated over the 2016/17 financial year to develop and implement the replacement senior assessment and tertiary entrance arrangements
- Continuing the three year \$152.4 million investment to deliver the Queensland Government's commitment to hire up to 875 additional teachers
- Allocating the second round of 15 additional guidance officers (or equivalent) as part of the Government's \$8.9 million commitment to employ an extra 45 guidance officers over three years
- Allocating \$102 million over four years (including an allocation for non-state schools) and ongoing funding to implement the findings of the *Review of Administrative and Support Staff* to recognise the administrative and support staffs' essential contribution
- Introducing legislation to make Prep the first year of compulsory schooling in Queensland schools to ensure all children receive the foundational skills that will provide a confident start to their learning
- An additional investment of \$73 million for maintenance of existing state schools as part of the second year of the Government's \$300 million four year commitment to supplement the state schools maintenance program
- \$60 million investment in the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative, supporting up to 8,000 Queenslanders to get back into work over the year
- \$25.3 million allocation over five years for Trade and Investment Queensland to deliver initiatives from the *Queensland International Education and Training Strategy to Advance Queensland* and to continue the international Education and Training Unit

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Energy and Water Supply

Overview

The Palaszczuk Government's 2016 Budget delivers electricity price relief for regional Queenslanders and invests in new energy.

In total, \$655 million in subsidies and support will be spent across the energy and water supply portfolio, further securing reliable and cost-effective delivery of these vital services to Queenslanders.

Key initiatives:

- \$561.2 million to subsidise regional Queensland electricity prices ensuring customers across regional Queensland pay a similar amount for their electricity to those in South East Queensland
- Undertake a renewable energy study to support the creation of an export-oriented renewable energy sector (including establishing an independent expert panel to investigate how Queensland can achieve a target of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030)
- Rollout Solar 60 (the 60-megawatt large-scale solar energy auction) in partnership with the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, to support private investment and jobs in the renewable energy industry
- Support the Government's A Solar Future commitments, including an aspirational target for a million solar residential rooftops, or 3,000 megawatts of installed solar photovoltaic capacity by 2020
- Implement the *Liquid Fuel Supply (Ethanol and Other Biofuels Mandate) Amendment Act 2015* to help grow Queensland's biofuels and bio-manufacturing industries
- Support the delivery of the Government's commitment to merge the energy network GOCs and to retain the headquarters of the new Energy Queensland merged entity in Townsville

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Environment and Heritage Protection

Overview

The total funding package for the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection in the 2016-17 State Budget is \$231 million, an increase of \$23.5 million on the 2015-16 Budget.

The allocation includes a continued focus on protecting the Great Barrier Reef as well as notable allocation to wildlife protection and management.

Key initiatives:

- 12.1 million over four years and ongoing funding of \$2.6 million a year for koala protection
- \$5.8 million over three years for crocodile management, including a night-time survey throughout rivers and estuaries and three new staff to deliver program
- \$6.8 million over four years to lead development of climate change strategies
- Continue wildlife management across Queensland, including an additional \$3.8 million (\$15.2 million over four years) to support wildlife hospitals and wildlife call centres, as well as develop improvements to wildlife management policy regulatory reform and service delivery reform.
- \$21.7million as part of the government's five year, \$100 million investment from the 2015-16 Budget to protect the Great Barrier Reef
- Introduction of a new *Community Sustainability Action Grants* program (\$4 million per year over three years) to support community-based delivery of environmental, conservation and heritage protection activities and outcomes
- Manage the government's *NatureAssist Program* to secure and maintain existing protected areas on private land in Queensland, providing a further \$5 million for acquisition of publicly-owned Protected Area Estate
- Progress World Heritage nominations for Cape York Peninsula and extension to the Fraser Island World Heritage area

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Health

Overview

Queensland's \$15.27 billion health budget in 2016-17 is an increase of 7.7% on the previous year's spending.

The bulk of the new budget, totalling \$12.61 billion, has been allocated to the states 16 Hospital and Health Services, Mater Health Services and Saint Vincent's Health Australia.

The Queensland Ambulance Service budget has also been increased by 6.3% to \$673.1 million. The budget also includes provision for ongoing work for ambulance stations at Collinsville, Rainbow Beach, Yandina, Bundaberg, Birtinya, Kenilworth, Coral Gardens, Wynnum and Thursday Island.

The QAS budget also includes the recruitment of an extra 110 ambulance officers and the commissioning of 170 new and replacement ambulances.

Key initiatives:

- \$12.61 billion (82.6 per cent of the total operating budget) will be allocated through service agreements to provide public healthcare services from Hospital and Health Services and other organisations including Mater Health Services and St Vincent's Health Australia
- \$167 million to complete delivery of the \$1.87 billion Sunshine Coast University Hospital and the Sunshine Coast Health Institute
- \$27.9 million as part of the Enhancing Regional Hospitals Program for upgrades at the Hervey Bay and Gladstone Emergency Departments, Caloundra Health Service, and Roma Hospital
- \$12.7 million (of a total \$13.6 million) for the Integrated Community Health Centre in Wynnum
- \$909,000 toward the refurbishment of the Alan Ticehurst Building in Cloncurry
- \$2.3 million (of a total \$4.5 million) to commence replacement of the Dimbulah Primary Healthcare Clinic
- \$15.5 million to complete the \$334 million Queensland and Australian Government funded Townsville Hospital Expansion
- \$80 million to continue delivering a range of asset renewal and enhancement works across the State under the Priority Capital Program
- \$9.6 million towards Suicide Prevention in Health Services Initiative
- \$15.8 million over three years to address sexually transmitted infections in North Queensland
- \$6 million over four years for pre-exposure prophylaxis which has the potential to eliminate the transmission of HIV in Queensland

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Housing and Public Works

Overview

Housing and Public Works total capital expenditure program for 2016-17 is \$452.5 million, which is made up of \$383.4 million in capital purchases and \$69.1 million for capital grants.

The majority of the budget has been allocated towards the purchase, construction and upgrade of social housing with a focus on supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities around Queensland.

Key initiatives:

- \$4.2 million to provide shelters for women and children escaping domestic and family violence in Charters Towers and other remote or rural locations
- \$33.4 for the provision of Government Employee Housing, including the upgrade of existing residents
- \$112 million for social housing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- \$7.8 million in Townsville towards the completion of a facility to support people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities perusing employment, education and training opportunities, and \$5 million to commence construction of a facility to provide supported accommodation for rough sleepers

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Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning

Overview

More than \$10.7 billion is forecast to be spent in the next financial year on capital works, with half of that to go towards regional projects and \$50 million to progress the planning and environmental approvals of the long-awaited Cross River Rail project in Brisbane.

The government is planning to use \$4 billion in surplus super for infrastructure in the State, with a focus on delivering the transformational infrastructure needed to enhance productivity and support job growth.

A key initiative within the Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning budget will focus on allocating \$4.4 billion for roads, including \$400 million for a second Toowoomba Range Crossing and \$300 million for projects like the Ipswich Motorway between Rocklea and Darra and the M1 Gateway merge.

In addition, the Government will introduce the RACQ Get Ready Queensland program to help the State build resilience to natural disasters, while also ensuring the ongoing delivery of Queensland's NDRRA reconstruction works.

Key initiatives:

- \$4.4 billion for roads, \$400 million for second Toowoomba range crossing
- \$300 million for projects like the Ipswich Motorway between Rocklea and Darra and the M1 Gateway merge.
- \$250 million on widening Gateway Motorway North to six lanes, between Nudgee and Bracken Ridge
- \$40 million on top of the \$100 million already allocated to build the Townsville stadium
- \$12 million for new community-managed mental health services to be built in Mackay, Bundaberg and Gladstone delivered through the State Infrastructure plan
- Coordinate and monitor the delivery of the \$2 billion State Infrastructure Fund
- Monitor and report on the delivery of the \$180 million Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program
- Develop and implement a value capture/sharing policy and alternative funding models that leverage investments more effectively

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Justice and Attorney-General

Overview

The Government is targeting a range of accessibility measures as the cornerstone of its Justice budget. This includes significant funding for legal assistance programs such as Legal Aid, as well as programs to target domestic and family violence.

Programs targeting organised crime and the costs of prosecuting organised crime have also received funding.

Key initiatives:

- \$32.4 million over four years to boost Legal Aid Queensland funding
- \$54.6 million over four years (including \$5.6 million capital) across the department to support domestic and family violence initiatives
- \$12.1 million over four years to the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions to boost the response to serious organised crime
- An additional \$20 million over two years for Justice Services to meet increased demand for land, criminal and domestic and family violence matters in Queensland Courts

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National Parks, Sport and Racing

Overview

Conservation is a key deliverable in the National Parks budget for 2016-17, with funds invested in land management of the Cape York Peninsula and North Stradbroke Island, as well as the ongoing contributions to the *Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan*.

Funding for the *Get in the Game* initiative continues, with a total of \$48 million allocated across the *Get Started*, *Get Going Clubs*, *Get Playing Places and Spaces* and *Get Playing Plus* programs.

There is also an emphasis on supporting Queensland athletes in preparation for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Key initiatives:

- \$19.4 million to increase participation in sport and recreation for Queenslanders, particularly children, females and Indigenous people
- \$13.2 million in conjunction with the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships for the management of traditional lands in Cape York Peninsula
- \$3.5 million to support the planning and delivery of fit-for-purpose sport and recreation infrastructure across local, regional and remote communities
- \$48 million across the four key programs of the *Get in the Game* initiative:
 - o \$5.6 million for *Get Started* vouchers to provide up to \$150 to encourage more children and young people to become involved with sporting and recreation activities
 - o \$3.6 million for *Get Going Clubs* to support not-for-profit sport and active recreation organisations in creating and providing access to participation opportunities
 - o \$12.8 million for *Get Playing Places and Spaces* for new or upgraded sport and active recreation facility projects
 - o \$26 million for *Get Playing Plus* for major new or upgraded sport and active recreation places and spaces

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Natural Resources and Mines

Overview

The Queensland Government has announced a total of \$10.3 million towards the discovery of new minerals, bolstering government partnerships, supporting coal mine workers as well as legislative amendments to improve safety and security in Queensland mines.

The funding will also go towards the appointment of a new Resources Investment Commissioner, who will undertake local and international business development activities to lure investment in Queensland resources and mines.

Another portion of funding will also see the appointment of a Mine Safety and Health Commissioner to conduct a review the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme and reduce the number of mining workers contracting lung disease as a result of exposure to coal mine dust.

Key initiatives:

- Reduce the number of registered abandoned mines
- Develop an economic blueprint for the North-West Queensland Minerals Province
- Appoint Resources Investment Commissioner to oversee local and international business development and frame Queensland as a global resource destination
- Appoint Mine Safety and Health Commissioner to ensure mine safety and security
- Engage and consult with key stakeholders to reduce mine safety and health risks

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Police, Fire and Emergency Services

Overview

Community safety is at the forefront of this State Budget, with \$2.1 billion allocated across the Police, Fire and Emergency Services portfolio.

A clear focus is on counter-terrorism, combatting organised crime, key upgrades to police, fire and emergency services facilities and equipment, plus key measures to respond to domestic violence.

Key initiatives in the portfolio include \$98.9 million allocated to providing major upgrades to Police Service facilities, technology and communication, and \$74 million to upgrade service facilities and urban and rural fire appliance and communications equipment across the State.

Key police service initiatives:

- \$32 million for new and replacement police vehicles
- \$31.9 million over four years to target serious and organised crimes
- \$21.6 million for major plant and equipment including for Mobile Services and the Public Safety Network
- Extra \$16 million over four years to improve counter-terrorism capability
- \$5.1 million over four years to enable a coordinated, whole-of-government response for victims
- \$5 million for a business case for a new facility for counter-terrorism training
- \$20 million over two years to boost court system to manage workload pressures
- \$3.2 million over two years to tackle child exploitation

- \$2 million for contingency accommodation for dangerous sex offenders
- \$12 million for a range of information and communication technology initiatives
- Support the implementation of the Government's child safety reform agenda

Key fire and emergency services initiatives:

- \$34.5 million for replacement and new urban and rural fire appliances
- \$4 million for strategic land acquisitions and rural land purchases
- \$3.9 million for minor capital works across the State including upgrades of fire and rescue station amenities
- \$3.1 million for operational and communications equipment
- \$9.8 million to complete the replacement permanent fire and rescue station, Rural Fire Service Queensland and State Emergency Service (SES) facilities at Bundaberg and Petrie and the auxiliary fire and rescue station at Cunnamulla
- \$8 million to complete the upgrade of the permanent fire and rescue station at Bundamba, the replacement auxiliary fire and rescue station, Rural Fire Service Queensland and SES facility at Roma, and upgrade the south western region headquarters at Charlton

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Science, Information Technology and Innovation

Overview

The Queensland Government has built on the \$180 million investment in the 2015-16 Budget to grow Queensland's innovation sector, adding \$225 million to the *Advance Queensland* package.

Considered to be the budget centrepiece, the additional commitment will be used to advance 13 initiatives to create knowledge-based jobs for the future, including \$22.7 million for small business innovation, \$6 million for regional innovation hubs and \$10 million to develop new platform technologies for businesses.

\$23.8 million has been assigned to the State Library of Queensland for public library collections and services across the State. The funding will support public libraries to implement programs to increase Queensland's digital literacy skills, including coding and robotics and Tech Savvy Seniors Queensland.

Other key initiatives in the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation budget portfolio include developing international science and innovation collaborations to build strong economic and cultural bridges with Queensland's trading partners, and opening the Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine at James Cook University Townsville campus.

Key initiatives:

- \$225 million extra for Advance Queensland, which has already had \$180 million allocated to it over four years, including:
 - o \$22.7 million for small business innovation
 - o \$10 million to develop new platform technologies for business in areas like drones and big data
 - o \$6 million regional innovation hubs
 - o \$10 million for Cairns innovation centre at James Cook University to focus on innovation, commercialisation and entrepreneurship
 - o \$3.9 million for new agricultural economy
 - o \$40 million to poach business from interstate and attract innovative, job-creating industries
- Opening the Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine at James Cook University Townsville campus
- Ensuring Queensland becomes more digitally aware by driving major programs including Community Digital Champions and Digital Careers, as well as Advance Queensland
- Introducing \$10,000 'digital capability' grants for Queensland businesses
- Promote increased investment and growth in Queensland's digital industry sector

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State Development

Overview

The Department of State Development will be taking the lead on the government's *Advance Queensland* strategy, including responsibility for developing 10-year roadmaps for key growth sectors. The sectors identified include:

- Advanced manufacturing
- Aerospace
- Biofutures
- Biomedical and life sciences
- Defence
- Mining equipment and technology
- Tourism.

The Department of State Development has been allocated \$478 million in this year's budget in order to deliver on this program, up from \$355 million last year.

Key initiatives:

- An extra \$175 million for the *Building Our Regions* program, including \$90 million towards the regional infrastructure program, over the next four years
- Almost \$20 million over three years to develop the state's biofutures industry with a target of turning it into a \$1 billion export sector
- \$20 million over four years from 2016-17 (with an additional \$3.9 million in Queensland Government in-kind contributions and \$5 million for the Sand Mining Workers Assistance Scheme) to finalise the North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Strategy
- Ongoing master planning of priority ports at Gladstone, Abbot Point, Townsville and Hay Point/Mackay
- Progress the delivery of government property-focused market-led proposals and transactions, including the assessment of the Queensland Aquarium and Maritime Museum

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Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games

Overview

The centrepiece of the Queensland Government's tourism strategy is the *Advance Queensland: Connecting with Asia* strategy, with \$33.5 million allocated for regional tourism organisations. The strategy is designed to capture a larger share of the Asian tourism market and is specifically targeted at regional operators.

With the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games now less than two years away, funding for construction of games facilities is starting to ramp up with \$83.3 million allocated this budget.

In small business, the Government has focused on its *Advancing Small Business Queensland* strategy with the aim of positioning Queensland as the premier state for small business creation.

Key small business initiatives:

- \$33.5m over four years, as part of the *Advance Queensland* fund, to boost tourists from Asia by securing more international air routes, marketing and new tourism experiences
- \$22.7 million to deliver the *Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy*
- \$44.5 million allocated as grants for the Carrara Precinct including Carrara Indoor Stadium, Carrara Southern Precinct and Carrara Sports and Leisure Centre for wrestling and badminton
- \$14.8 million for the Belmont Shooting Centre for clay target, full bore, pistol and small bore shooting
- \$8.9 million for the Gold Coast Hockey Centre
- \$6.5 million to the Queensland State Velodrome for track cycling
- \$5.1 million to the Carrara Stadium upgrades for athletics and warm up tracks
- \$3.7 million for the Coomera Indoor Sports Centre for gymnastics and netball
- \$1.5 million for the Nerang Mountain Bike Trails
- \$1 million allocated to Village Roadshow Sound Stage 9 for squash, table tennis and boxing

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Transport and Main Roads

Overview

Capital spending on transport infrastructure has been allocated \$4.388 billion for the 2016-2017 financial year.

This year the Queensland Government will focus significant spending on upgrading existing road and rail infrastructure, as well as finalising major transport projects in the lead up to the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

Construction work on the \$1.6 billion Toowoomba Second Range Crossing (TSRC) will continue this year, with \$399.9 million allocated to constructing the four-lane bypass of Toowoomba.

The Gateway Motorway North will receive \$250 million to widen the existing road to six lanes between Nudgee and Bracken Ridge.

The government has also announced its reforms to public transport fares in South East Queensland, which include lower fares across all zones from 1 Jan 2017 and will see the number of zones reduced from 23 to 8.

This year will also see a further \$50 million in 2016-17 towards the Cross River Rail to further progress its environmental impact approvals, establish a statutory body and commence early works.

Both the Australian and Queensland Governments will continue the existing 10-year, \$8.5 billion program to deliver safety and flood mitigation upgrades to the Bruce Highway.

Key initiatives:

- \$399.9 million for *Toowoomba Second Range Crossing (TSRC)* project
- \$250 million to widen *Gateway Motorway North* to six lanes between Nudgee and Bracken Ridge
- \$50 million towards *Cross-River Rail* to further progress planning and environment approvals
- \$189.2 million towards construction commencement of *Eton Range Realignment* project
- \$232.4 million towards critical road upgrades
- \$260.5 million in joint funding towards Cape York Region Package

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Roads:

- \$88.4 million allocated towards Stage 1 of the \$400 million Ipswich Motorway upgrade
- \$42 million towards the \$210 million Pacific Motorway/Gateway Motorway 'merge upgrade' of all southbound lanes
- \$40 million in funding towards the Dawson Highway timber bridge replacement
- \$30 million in funding for the Riverway Drive duplication in Townsville
- \$22 million towards the Sunshine Coast University Hospital intersection upgrades package
- \$10 million in funding towards Stage 1 of the Rockhampton Road Train Access
- \$49 million to widen Southport-Burleigh Road and \$18 million to widen Labrador-Carrara Road on the Gold Coast from four to six lanes in the lead up to the Commonwealth Games

Public transport:

- \$420 million towards Stage 2 of the Gold Coast Light Rail project, including the construction of the northern extension from Gold Coast University Hospital to Helensvale Rail Station

insightful, creative, passionate