

## SNAPSHOT

# 2019-20 Queensland Budget

JUNE 2019

*insightful, creative, passionate*

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# Overview

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Queensland Treasurer the Hon. Jackie Trad has enthusiastically labelled her second Budget as a “Budget for Regional Queensland”.

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The Treasurer has backed up her mantra with funding for policies like the Building Our Regions Fund, which has seen a \$70 million expansion, plus investment in regional roads and infrastructure which accounts for 70 per cent of overall government spending on infrastructure.

Commentary in the coming days will surely see the Palaszczuk Labor Government touting its \$49.5 billion/4-year capital infrastructure commitment, while the Liberal National Opposition will likely characterise this Budget as ‘high tax and high spend’.

However, it could well be said that this Budget really maps a plan for getting down to “business as usual”. The Treasurer however might prefer the language, “staying the course”.

Much of the investment in infrastructure can be traced to existing commitments, with only modest increases in capital expenditure, and many of these expenditure promises simply continuing or expanding existing programs.

## Spending measures

While the government is trumpeting its infrastructure commitments, it is worth remembering capital expenditure in the 2018/19 Budget was projected at \$45.8 billion over the four-year budget cycle, meaning the government is only committing roughly an additional \$3.7 billion to capital expenditure in this Budget.

This can largely be connected to the ongoing delivery of existing projects such as Cross River Rail, the Logan and Caboolture Hospital expansions, upgrades to the M1 and the Townsville Port Expansion.

## Revenue changes

The revenue measures laid out tinker with existing frameworks, rather than propose radical change, and exist largely, it would seem, to recoup revenue lost to Queensland in the latest Commonwealth GST allocation round. Large businesses with a wages bill over \$6.5 million will see their payroll tax bill increase by 0.2 per cent, although this is largely to offset the state government’s decision to raise the payroll tax threshold from \$1 million to \$1.3 million. LNG producers, landlords and foreign landowners will also be forced to pay for the government’s revenue shortfall through increases of existing taxes. It’s unlikely that the property sector will be happy with this Budget.

The Treasurer has, however, taken the unusual step of saying that many of these measures will be reversed should Queensland’s GST allocation be reassessed.

## Debt

On the topic of debt, the government has committed to additional borrowing to fund some extra expenditure, although part of the increase in debt can be explained by a new accounting standard, which has shifted long-term lease obligations from ongoing expenditure into debt. This has added \$6.2 billion to the state debt for 2019/20 alone. Nevertheless, the Budget papers show government debt is projected to increase to \$90.7 billion in 2022/23.

# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

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The State Government has committed to building better relationships with all communities in the 2019-20 Budget, with a strong focus on strengthening economic and community participation by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

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## Overview

The programs funded in this Budget aim to improve health, housing, education and employment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. These initiatives include:

- \$67.1 million over four years to support the delivery of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan.
- \$6.9 million over four years to develop and implement an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth mental health and wellbeing program.
- \$3.5 million over two years to create Indigenous jobs and business growth through Indigenous tourism development.
- \$25.2 million over three years to expand the Deadly Choices Healthy Lifestyle Program.

## Key initiatives

- \$6.9 million over four years to develop and implement an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth mental health and wellbeing program as part of the Shifting Minds Suicide Prevention Flagship.
- \$3.5 million over two years to create Indigenous jobs and business growth through Indigenous tourism development in Queensland.

- An additional \$25.2 million over three years from 2020–21 and \$8.6 million annually from 2023–24 to expand the Deadly Choices Healthy Lifestyle Program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. The program will be delivered by the Government's newly-established health promotion body, Health and Wellbeing Queensland.
- \$15.6 million over four years to progress the Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program and National Park Joint Management with Traditional Owners.
- \$9.9 million over four years from 2019–20 to improve the operation and management of drinking water supplies in Indigenous communities to ensure public health is protected.
- \$67.1 million over four years to support the delivery of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan, including a \$40 million investment for capital works in remote Indigenous communities and a further \$21 million to develop place based community-led housing plans, providing tailored and holistic person-centred services and strengthening the capacity of community housing providers.
- \$4.5 million over three years to Former Origin Greats Queensland to support an expansion of the Achieving Results Through Indigenous Education (ARTIE) Program into an additional 20 state primary schools across the state.
- \$368,000 in 2019–20 to progress the legal recognition of Torres Strait Islander traditional child rearing practices.

# Agriculture and Fisheries

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In the 2019-20 Budget, the government has committed to the development and implementation of long-term strategies aimed at growing a sustainable and profitable agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector.

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## Overview

This includes the continued implementation of the *Queensland Agriculture and Food Research Development and Extension 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan*, and the creation of a pathway towards zero net emissions in the agriculture sector by 2050.

Continued funding for the *Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027* will also support fisheries reform.

An allocation has also been made to deliver Queensland's obligations under the National Biosecurity System and enhance Queensland's biosecurity prevention and response capabilities.

## Key initiatives

- \$55 million towards the \$225 million Townsville water security plan.
- Up to \$14 million has been allocated to support the future of Mackay region's 140+ year old sugar industry and the jobs it supports.
- \$25 million as part of the Jobs and Regional Growth Fund.
- \$17.1 million over four years for a Shark Control Program.
- \$1 million to establish South East Queensland fish aggregating devices.
- \$1.1 million to upgrade the fisheries compliance system and \$4.2 million to improve swimmer safety.
- \$300 million over three years for restocking, replanting and on-farm infrastructure grants to assist primary producers impacted by severe flooding.
- \$30 million to establish a new *Resources Community Infrastructure Fund*, which will target improving economic and social infrastructure across Queensland's regional resources communities.
- \$74.6 million over four years for drought reform and the continued support of drought-affected communities through the Drought Assistance Package.

# Child Safety, Youth and Women

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2019 marks the sixth year of the 10-year implementation of Supporting Families Changing Futures reforms which sees the State investing \$480 million over the next four years in frontline services and stronger networks to support families experiencing vulnerability.

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## Overview

Focus will continue to be on implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and the Queensland Family and Child Commission.

This year's Budget commits \$14.6 million to eliminate the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the protection system by 2037.

An allocation of \$71.9 million has been made to domestic and family violence services, with the focus on facilitating efforts to prevent and respond to domestic and family violence.

## Key initiatives

- \$480 million over four years to Supporting Families Changing Futures reform program.
- \$332.5 million over five years to the Youth Justice Investment funding package.
- \$71.9 million to domestic and family violence services.
- \$57 million sexual assault and women's health and wellbeing services.
- \$40.5 million to youth services to create opportunities for young people to participate in decision making that will affect their lives now and into the future.
- \$14.6 million over four years to implement new and enhanced initiatives under Our Way, a generational strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families to eliminate the disproportionate representation of the child protection system by 2037.
- \$9.6 million to continue the provision of support for children with disability in the child protection system.
- \$7.9 million over three years to programs and services that target the motherhood and transitional needs of women prisoners and offenders.

# Communities, Disability Services and Seniors

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The State-wide transition of existing specialist disability services clients to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in Queensland is expected to be completed by 30 June 2019.

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## Overview

Of the \$205.5 million allocated to disability services in the Budget, \$62.7 million has been provided over four years to finalise the transition of eligible clients to the NDIS, maintain quality and safeguards, retain responsibility for worker screening, the authorisation of restrictive practices and ensure continuity of support for Queenslanders under 65 years of age who are ineligible for services and supports under the NDIS.

A further \$61.9 million has been provided as a temporary measure to ensure clients can access critical supports while interface issues between the NDIS and mainstream services are resolved.

Eliminating elder abuse will also be a key focus with investment in a number of programs to respond to, and prevent, the abuse of the State's seniors.

Funding will also be provided to various partners to deliver services across the State in areas such as financial inclusion, safety and wellbeing, community resilience and recovery, social participation and cohesion, community industry development, carers, capacity building and volunteering.

## Key initiatives

### Community Services

- \$1.5 million per annum recurrently from 2019-20 for community connect workers
- \$2.9 million, out of a total of up to \$3.2 million, for the construction of the new Townsville Women's Centre
- \$3.8 million over five years for the continuation of Logan Together and \$3.9 million over five years for expansion of the place-based approaches to Gladstone and Rockhampton (matching Australian Government funding)
- \$3.3 million in 2019-20 to continue delivery of the Safe Night Precinct as part of the Government's Tackling Alcohol-fuelled Violence initiative
- \$1.5 million over five years to expand the School Breakfast Program

### Seniors

- \$1.2 million in grants (including already committed funding) in 2019-20 for local communities to implement innovative age-friendly projects
- \$100,000 to enhance and improve the Seniors Enquiry Line throughout Queensland, including access to specific expertise and advice on a range of consumer protection issues and scams
- \$3.5 million for Seniors Legal and Support Services in 10 locations across the State, with an additional \$400,000 to these services to provide a specialist financial protection service for older people
- \$750,000 to deliver Elder Abuse Prevention services

# Communities, Disability Services and Seniors *(cont.)*

## Disability Services

- \$20.9 million over four years to ensure the sustainability of Queensland's wheelchair accessible taxi fleet through replacement of aged vehicles and converting some conventional vehicles to wheelchair accessible vehicles. In addition, the current taxi subsidy scheme for NDIS and non-NDIS participants will continue for now.
- \$19.5 million for State disability functions, including authorising the use of restrictive practices, worker screening and NDIS performance monitoring
- \$5.3 million for complaints and investigations, coordination of State disability planning, Ministerial Advisory Councils, continuity of support, and Guide Dogs
- \$5.6 million in 2019-20 for peak bodies in the disability services sector
- \$7 million in 2019-20 to provide transitional support for community transport services
- \$4 million to supplement the Queensland Community Support Scheme in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and build the capability of service providers.
- \$8.7 million over two years to support disability advocacy services.

# Corrective Services

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The Budget has delivered an \$847.9 million investment across Queensland's justice system to develop new and support ongoing programs designed to enhance justice and safety outcomes.

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## Overview

A key focus in this Budget is on changes to Queensland's youth justice system, continuing investment in youth justice reforms and operational funding, as well as the improvement of delivery of correctional services to women prisoners and offenders.

Significant growth in the prison population since 2012 has also seen funds committed in this Budget to upgrade and maintain a safe and secure correctional system for prisoners, corrective services staff and offenders in the community.

## Key initiatives

- \$143 million over four years to commission and operate the expanded Capricornia Correctional Centre.
- \$22.1 million over three years for updates and refurbishments to Woodford Correctional Centre, Princess Alexandra Hospital Secure Unit and Brisbane Correctional Centre.
- \$111.4 million over five years to transition the privately-run Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre and Southern Queensland Correctional Centre to public operation.
- \$25.2 million over four years to continue implementation of Taskforce Flaxton.
- \$6.5 million over four years to enhance the operations of Parole Board Queensland.
- Continued implementation of the Sobrinoff Review reform package (\$265 million over six years from 2016-17) to improve end to end case management, expand rehabilitation programs, housing services, opioid substitution programs and training for probation and parole officers.
- \$2.5 million over four years to support the Aurukun Four Point Plan as part of the Aurukun Prisoner Reintegration Program.
- \$2.9 million to continue enhanced service delivery for prisoners with a disability or mental illness.
- \$1.2 million to continue supervised community service projects implemented under the Government's Tackling Alcohol Fuelled Violence Program.

# Education

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Education and training is again a big winner in the Palaszczuk Government's 2019-20 Budget, receiving a record \$14.9 billion in funding – accounting for approximately one quarter of the total Budget spend.

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## Overview

The allocation will see the government deliver more teachers and teacher aides, as well as significant funding to enhance frontline education services and improve educational outcomes across the state.

Specifically, the Budget will see \$235 million invested in its Renewing Our Schools

Program, to enhance and upgrade facilities in existing state schools over four years to 2021–22.

This Budget has also identified the need for additional facilities at existing state schools which are experiencing enrolment growth, providing increased funding of \$251.3 million over three years.

The government also recognises that education starts long before children attend school, increasing the funding to support the continued provision of universal access to kindergarten for children in the year before they attend school to \$30.4 million over two years.

## Key initiatives

- Increased funding of \$532.6 million over seven years from 2018–19 to expand the Building Future Schools Fund to a total of \$1.3 billion, to deliver world class learning environments for students, including new primary, secondary and special schools opening in 2020 and 2021.
- New schools being built under the Building Future Schools Fund include:
  - Special Schools – Caboolture, Palmview
  - Primary Schools – Ripley, Palmview, Pimpama
  - Secondary Schools – Inner City North, Inner City South, Mango Hill, Caloundra South, Yarrabilba, Ripley, Coomera.
- Increased funding of \$1.5 million over five years to expand the School Breakfast Program to additional Queensland schools.
- Increase of \$26.5 million over two years to continue and enhance regulation of the early childhood sector.
- Increased funding of \$167.6 million over three years (\$56.6 million per annum) to support new senior assessment and tertiary entrance arrangements.

# Employment, Small Business and Training

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The Palaszczuk Government has made no secret of its desire to stay “on course” with a strategy focused on jobs, jobs, jobs as it heads towards an election in 2020.

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## Overview

The pitch in this Budget tilts towards small business and school leavers with:

- \$885 million committed to programs focused on jobs growth, investment in new industries and skills development.
- A record investment in education and training – funding for education infrastructure by 80 per cent on last year’s Budget allocation.
- Continuation of the Free TAFE initiative which covers the total cost of training (once only) in 160 high priority qualifications, with the aim of allowing year 12 graduates to get a free start to their skills training.

An additional \$30million in funding over two years has been allocated to continue universal access to kindergarten.

Support for at-risk young people has been prioritised again with the expansion of the FlexiSpace program to up to 52 State schools, plus funding for food relief organisation Foodbank to expand their school breakfast program to an additional 70 schools.

## Key initiatives

### Supporting Queensland businesses

- \$885 million over four years in a series of targeted payroll tax initiatives aimed to deliver lower taxes for an estimated 13,200 small and medium businesses. The package includes:
  - An increased exemption threshold – raising the payroll tax exemption threshold from \$1.1 million to \$1.3 million, which will benefit employers with annual wages up to \$6.5 million.
  - Regional payroll discount – from 1 July 2019, a 1 per cent payroll tax discount will apply for eligible employees with 85 per cent of their employees outside of SEQ.
  - Employment growth rebate – for two years from 1 July 2019, Queensland employers that have increased their number of full-time employees will be eligible for a payroll tax rebate, capped at \$20,000 per annum.
  - Extension to June 30, 2021 of the apprentice and trainee rebate – building on the success of the 50 per cent payroll tax rebate for apprentices and trainees, especially for employers in regional Queensland.
- Increased funding of \$105 million over 2018–19 to continue funding programs under the Advance Queensland initiative.
  - \$45 million for the Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund
  - \$25 million for the Research Infrastructure Co-Investment Fund
  - \$19 million for the Queensland Hydrogen Industry Development Strategy

# Employment, Small Business and Training (cont.)

- \$5 million for Biofutures 2.0
  - \$4 million in additional grant funding for the Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy 2016–2020. This brings total funding for this initiative to \$755 million.
  - Increased funding of up to \$14 million over two years to meet continued demand for the Back to Work program in South East Queensland in areas facing significant labour market challenges. This brings total funding under the Back to Work program to \$383 million.
  - \$14.8 million is committed to the Regional Business Energy Savers Program. The \$150 million Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund continues to engage with companies to assist them to relocate or establish new projects, reinvest or expand in Queensland.
- Skills and training**
- \$80 million in 2019–20 as part of a \$420 million, six-year commitment to the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program.
  - \$105.8 million in 2019–20 for upgrades and improvements in Queensland’s training infrastructure. Key projects include the upgrade of TAFE campuses at Mount Gravatt, Gold Coast, Pimlico in Townsville, Alexandra Hills and Toowoomba.
  - Additional funding of \$5.5 million over three years for the Micro-Credentialing Pilot to support industry-led skills development designed to address emerging workforce skills requirements.
  - \$4.6 million over five years for the Digital Engagement Strategy to improve online accessibility of vocational education and consumer training information for young people.
  - \$300,000 over two years to establish a Higher Level Apprenticeship Pilot, to provide opportunities to partner with industry to develop new pathways to layer specialised skills and knowledge with the traditional apprenticeship model.
  - \$1 million in 2019–20 to deliver the Queensland Social Enterprise Strategy to support the further development and growth of the social enterprise sector in Queensland to create jobs, support inclusive and diverse workforce participation and deliver social impact outcomes.
  - \$9.6 million over four years from 2018–19 for a Link & Launch initiative to help disengaged year 12 school leavers engage in education, training or employment.
  - \$11.2 million over four years for an expansion of the Regional Youth Engagement Hubs program to locate, case manage and re-engage early school leavers back into school and training.
  - \$16.6 million over four years from 2018–19 for FlexiSpace to support schools to provide innovative learning spaces to retain students at risk of disengagement.
  - \$199 million for the User Choice - Apprentice and Trainee Training Subsidy.
  - \$193.7 million for the Certificate III Guarantee Tuition Fee.
  - \$75 million for the Higher Level Skills Tuition Fee Subsidy.

# Environment and Science

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This Budget highlights the environmental issues of the times with a focus on renewable energy, waste, and environmental protection.

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## Overview

Funds are allocated to support the government's delivery of the \$330 million, five-year program to protect the Great Barrier Reef and includes an allocation of \$24.9 million to help rejuvenate the Great Barrier Reef island resorts and boost tourism.

Climate risk in Queensland will continue to be managed through the Queensland Climate Resilient Councils program currently working with 33 local councils to be rolled out across all 77 in the State.

From 1 July 2019, the department will work with industry and local councils to manage the implementation of the Queensland Waste Levy which will be applied to most commercial and industrial waste.

In support of renewable energy, CleanCo Queensland will join Stanwell and CS Energy in the national market to continue working towards achieving the Queensland Renewable Energy Target.

## Key initiatives

- \$5 million to implement waste reforms for Queensland.
- \$250 million to CleanCo for renewable energy generation.
- \$12.5 million to the Revitalising National Parks initiative.
- \$20 million over two years to continue works on Torres Strait Island seawalls to combat rising sea levels and coastal inundation.
- \$550,000 to aid in the delivery of the government's mined land rehabilitation policy.
- \$1 million for continued delivery of the Queensland Government's eco-efficiency program, ecoBiz.
- \$2.7 million for rebates under the Solar for Rentals trial in Bundaberg, Gladstone and Townsville.
- \$1.5 million for works to identified State heritage buildings .
- \$8 million infrastructure upgrade works at the Queensland Museum and the Queensland Cultural Centre, South Bank.

# Fire and Emergency Services

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The Queensland Government has made clear its pitch for a 'world class fire and emergency service' for the state with a \$740 million Budget allocation in 2019–20. It has also allocated \$885.7 million to the Queensland Ambulance Service.

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## Overview

Additional firefighters and fire communication officers will continue to be deployed as part of a funding package totalling \$29.5 million over four years. The stated aim is to help the community prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from the impacts of fire and emergency events.

Overall, the government appears determined to allocate enough in the Budget to ensure that fire and emergency service resources are of a sufficient quality to stay ahead of the unforeseen incidents and disasters that may affect everyday Queenslanders.

## Key initiatives

- \$55.7 million for ambulance facility upgrades and for the supply of 122 new and replacement vehicles.
- \$58.5 million over four years for community helicopter providers to support Queensland's Emergency Helicopter Network services.
- \$50 million in new and replacement Rural Fire Brigade and Fire and Rescue service equipped vehicles.
- 200 new ambulance operatives to provide emergency medical care.

# Health

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Queensland Health is a major winner from the Palaszczuk Government's second Budget, with the department continuing to enjoy growth in funding over the budget cycle.

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## Overview

In total, Queensland Health receives approximately \$1.6 billion in additional funding over the next four years.

The government has committed an additional \$1.1 billion to Operational Growth Funding, supporting growing demand for health services.

Other major expenditure measure include:

- An additional \$116.8 million to the Nurse Navigator program, which provides nurses to assist chronic patients with navigating the health system.
- An additional \$77.4 million towards the Specialist Outpatient Long Wait Strategy, expanding access to specialist outpatient appointments.
- Other programs receiving additional funds include National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Transition Support programs, aeromedical services, correctional health services, suicide prevention services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health programs.

As part of its \$49.55 billion capital investment program, the government is continuing to deliver on hospital expansions across South East Queensland.

This includes:

- Additional funds towards the \$352.9 million expansion of the Caboolture Hospital, on top of the \$46.2 million in additional funding for a new multi-store car park at the hospital.
- The Logan Hospital expansion is proceeding, with the government earmarking an additional \$179.7 million towards the \$406.9 million project.

## Key initiatives

- \$1.1 billion for the Operational Growth Fund.
- \$116.8 million in additional funds for the Nurse Navigator Program.
- \$77.4 million in additional funds for the Specialist Outpatient Long Wait Strategy.
- \$100.6 million in additional funds for Correctional Health Services.
- \$58.5 million for community helicopter providers to support the Emergency Helicopter Network.
- \$35.2 million for NDIS Community health support programs.
- Additional funding for the \$352.9 million expansion of the Caboolture Hospital.
- An additional \$46.2 million for a new multi-storey car park at the Caboolture Hospital.
- Additional funding for the \$406.9 million expansion of the Logan Hospital .

# Housing and Public Works

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This Budget has put significant focus on social housing, committing \$324.2 million to deliver, commence construction and upgrade more than 1,000 social housing dwellings.

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## Overview

Sport and recreation facilities get something of a boost but the only major project to be funded in this Budget is the partially complete North Queensland Stadium.

In addition, the Palaszczuk Government has committed \$67.1 million over four years to support the delivery of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan.

The Budget also includes a \$40 million investment for capital works in remote Indigenous communities and a further \$21 million to develop community-led housing plans, provide tailored person-centred services and to strengthen the capacity of community housing providers.

## Key initiatives

- \$324.2 million to deliver 497 social housing dwellings, commence construction of 581 social housing dwellings and upgrade existing social housing dwellings.
- \$63.3 million for social housing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- \$102.8 million to complete construction of the North Queensland Stadium, ahead of the 2020 National Rugby League (NRL) Premiership Season.
- \$46.4 million for new and existing capital grants programs to build, upgrade and improve sport and recreation infrastructure to support healthy communities. This includes funding for programs designed to boost the community's use of schools, and to support female participation in sports programs through new and upgraded female facilities.

# Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and Commonwealth Games

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The Budget sees continued investment in the State's film and television production activity, with the aim of attracting domestic and international productions, as well as supporting the growth of the local screen industry.

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## Overview

Significant investment is identified in growing Global Tourism Hubs in Cairns and the Gold Coast, as well as funding to support tourism in regional and outback Queensland.

The government will this year also release its *Building our Innovation Economy – Advance Queensland Strategy*, aimed at providing a blueprint to support innovating businesses across the state and encourage regional participation.

Ongoing funding has been provided for the Business Development Fund which has seen \$58 million invested to date in 51 businesses around the State.

Among other commitments to growing innovation industries is \$19 million for the Queensland Hydrogen Industry Development Strategy aimed at developing a world-class sustainable hydrogen industry for Queensland.

## Key initiatives

### Tourism

- \$35.7 million over three years from 2018–19 for the Production Attraction Strategy, to help grow a pipeline of large-scale film and high-end television productions in Queensland.
- \$9.5 million over four years to support the growth of the screen industry through a new Screen Investment Fund and support for the Post, Digital and Visual Effects incentive program and the Queensland video gaming industry.
- \$2 million in 2019–20 and \$13.5 million in total for Screen Queensland to establish and operate a screen production facility in Brisbane.
- \$125 million over four years as part of a \$150 million package to build a new theatre at QPAC, which will see it become Australia's largest performing arts centre.
- \$60 million to support delivery of the Southport Spit Master Plan, which will include 138 hectares of green space, create a possible 1,800 new jobs, provide more than 800 new short-term accommodation rooms, enhanced tourism and recreation opportunities, and community spaces.
- \$21.4 million over two years for the Global Tourism Hubs in Cairns and the Gold Coast to progress market approaches, and for the management of contractual obligations for

# Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and Commonwealth Games *(cont.)*

the Queen's Wharf Brisbane Integrated Resort Development and for the Thorsborne, Cooloola and Whitsunday Ecotourism Trails Program.

- \$35 million for an upgrade of 'the Gabba', with funds used to upgrade public, corporate and media facilities, with completion in time for the stadium to host matches as part of the T20 World Cup in 2020.
- \$41.4 million to the Wangetti Trail ecotourism walk from Palm Cove north to Port Douglas, providing direct economic benefits to regional Queensland and Traditional Owners.
- \$4 million over two years to secure blockbuster exhibitions that are exclusive to Brisbane.
- \$3 million over three years for the Premier's Outback Events Program to further grow tourism to Outback Queensland.
- \$2 million over two years to develop an options assessment for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre to celebrate and showcase artistry and cultural heritage of Traditional Owners.
- \$9 million over three years to host the 2020 World Science Festival and extend the festival in Brisbane and regionally.
- \$1.3 million over four years to progress the nomination of Quandamooka Country on North Stradbroke Island as a World Heritage Area. The nomination will help to enhance ecotourism opportunities and preserve environmental values of the island. If successful, it would make this area Queensland's sixth World Heritage-listed natural wonder.

## **Innovation**

- \$45 million for the Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund.
- \$25 million for the Research Infrastructure Co-Investment Funds.
- \$19 million for the Queensland Hydrogen Industry Development Strategy, reinforcing the Government's commitment to develop a world-class sustainable hydrogen industry, with Gladstone being a key focus for hydrogen development. Global demand for hydrogen is increasing with the market expected to reach US\$155 billion by 2022.
- \$5 million for Biofutures 2.0, supporting delivery of the Biofutures 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan.
- \$8.6 million over two years to establish FibreCo, to improve internet speed in regional Queensland.
- \$350,000 has been allocated for hosting the 2018 and 2019 World Congress of Drones, which follow the release of the Queensland Drones Strategy in 2018. Queensland continues to lead the way nationally in emerging drone technology.
- \$25 million over four years for the Queensland Government Research Infrastructure Co-Investment Fund for critical co-investment in facilities with partnerships and joint ventures designed to put our science facilities and researchers in a nation-leading position.
- \$15 million over seven years for the Defence Cooperative Research Centre for Trusted Autonomous Systems.
- \$1 million over two years towards developing a Resource Recovery Industries Roadmap and Action Plan.

# Justice and Attorney-General

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In line with much of the rest of the Budget, it's business as usual for the Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG).

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## Overview

Many of the government's headline justice initiatives are being handled by the newly created Department of Youth Justice, although DJAG continues to oversee a significantly larger budget, responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Queensland justice system.

## Key initiatives

- \$57.7 million dollar in additional funding for the courts system.
- \$27 million in additional funding for the Office of the Public Guardian over four years.
- \$13.5 million in additional funding for child protection litigation services.
- \$15.3 million in additional funding for Victims Assist Queensland
- \$2.5 million to establish and maintain a Murri Court at Ipswich
- \$3 million over four years to support participation in the National Redress Scheme for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Crown Law Legal Expenses and the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and the Supreme and District Courts all receive modest increases in funding, showing the need for additional capacity across the justice system.

Community justice groups receive additional funds and the government has committed any additional \$9.7 million to the Queensland Family and Child Commission, as part of their \$517.5 million package dedicated to family support and child protection reforms.

# Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs

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The Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs enjoys modest increases across its programs, particularly those directed towards regional Queensland, including the Works for Queensland program, the Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure program and inundation mitigation in the Torres Strait Islands.

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## Overview

This is unsurprising in the so-labelled 'Budget for Regional Queensland', however, it is perhaps remarkable the government has not announced any policy response to corruption crises in the Logan and Ipswich City Councils.

The racing industry receives a vote of confidence, with an additional \$131.1 million over the next four years, to go towards increasing prize money and other initiatives. Most of this funding, \$119.1 million, goes towards thoroughbred racing.

There are small funding boosts for water supply in the Northern Peninsula Area and a sewage infrastructure upgrade in the Paroo Shire Council area.

## Key initiatives

- \$131.1 million towards the Queensland racing industry, including \$119.1 million for thoroughbred racing, for increased prize money and other initiatives.
- \$50 million as part of the \$600 million Works for Queensland Program to support local governments in regional Queensland undertake job-creating maintenance and minor infrastructure works.
- \$29.4 million for the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program which provides funding for priority infrastructure projects to meet identified community needs and support projects that will enhance communities.
- \$28.8 million as part of the \$120 million Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program to support Indigenous councils in implementing projects and infrastructure works for critical water and wastewater assets.
- \$15 million as part of \$20 million in total funding to continue coastal inundation mitigation works on five outer Torres Strait Islands, which aims to protect infrastructure and communities on these islands from rising sea levels and the impacts of coastal inundation.
- \$12.4 million under the Racing Infrastructure Fund to assist the Queensland racing industry improve racing infrastructure.

# Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

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After the recent strong performance by the Coalition in Queensland in last month's Federal Election, many may have wondered if or how the State Labor Government might strike out to win back support from regional Queensland and the mining and resources sector.

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## Overview

It appears that this Budget seeks to appease both the environmental lobby and pro-mining advocates, with measures promoting exploration of the North West Minerals Province and also commitments to pursue a range of initiatives to lower emissions and create more renewable energy.

## Key initiatives

- \$30 million over two years towards the construction and operation of a new common user terminal at the Port of Townsville which will increase the capacity for containerised freight on the Mount Isa Line.
- \$20 million per annum to reduce below rail access charges for users on the Mount Isa Line.
- \$19 million to help kick start the hydrogen industry in Queensland; a push for the state to be the home of this new industry – in the same way that Queensland became a key player in the LNG sector.
- Commitment to pursuing a range of initiatives to lower emissions, including the government's renewable and low-emissions electricity generator – CleanCo – to begin operating and trading in the national electricity market.
- Review of current royalty arrangements with a view to increase petroleum royalties overall by 2.5 per cent to 12.5 per cent.

# Police

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The Budget delivers the Queensland Police Service a funding boost of \$66.3 million, taking the total operating budget for 2019-20 to \$2.4 billion.

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## Overview

Commitment to frontline services will see funding for an extra 436 police, plus \$69.8 million for new, upgraded and replacement police facilities.

The QPS is also expected to play a pivotal role in supporting youth justice reform initiatives. The spend on youth justice reforms total more than \$550m since 2017 and include \$154.5 million in operating funding and \$178 million capital over five years as part of the Youth Justice investment package.

The Palaszczuk Government is looking for big ticket results from its \$2.4 billion investment in the QPS, with the a focus on targeting serious and organised crime gangs, including outlaw motorcycle gangs; ongoing development of responses to combat various forms of child sex offending; and the implementation of the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2016-2026.

## Key initiatives

- \$28 million to continue work on the \$52.2 million Counter-Terrorism and Community Safety Training Centre at Wacol.
- \$10.8 million to complete the \$11.5 million new police facility at Arundel on the Gold Coast.
- \$4.9 million towards the \$8.2 million replacement facility at Pormpuraaw on Cape York Peninsula.
- \$2.3 million over four years and \$685,000 annually has been allocated to Queensland Police to maintain the focus on investigating online child exploitation materials.

# State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning

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While infrastructure is a key priority of the Budget, much of the expenditure laid out is allocated towards other departments, with the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDMIP) seeing only moderate growth in funding for several programs.

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## Overview

The *Building the Regions* program, initially announced as part of the 2015/16 Budget, has been allocated an additional \$70 million, bringing the total value of the fund to \$515 million, of which \$365 million is allocated to DSDMIP.

The government has provided some additional funding to industry attraction and development programs, including

- \$45 million for the Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund.
- \$19 million for the Queensland Hydrogen Industry Strategy.
- \$5 million for Biofutures 2.0.
- \$6 million for the Made in Queensland Grants Program.

Increased investment is notably modest, most likely due to the constraints put on the Budget by the government's commitment to capital expenditure.

## Key initiatives

- Additional \$70 million allocated the *Building the Regions* program, bringing the fund to \$515 million.
- An additional \$45 million towards the Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund, bringing funding to \$150 million for the program.
- \$19 million in funding towards the Queensland Hydrogen Industry Strategy.
- Additional \$4.8 million for disaster recovery, part of the \$110 million allocated towards recovery following Cyclone Debbie.

# Transport and Main Roads

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The 2019-20 Budget sees the government delivering a \$5.625 billion investment in transformative transport infrastructure.

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## Overview

This includes the continuation of construction work on Cross River Rail, major upgrades to the M1/Pacific Motorway and the Bruce Highway; and ongoing work on the Smithfield Bypass project.

## Key initiatives

- Queensland and Australian Government funded upgrades on the M1 Pacific Motorway:
  - \$1.03 billion Varsity Lakes to Tugun project
  - \$749 million Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill project
  - \$197.5 million Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes project
  - \$195.3 million M1/M3 Gateway merge project
- Queensland and Australian Government funded upgrades on the Bruce Highway:
  - \$186 million widening from four to six lanes, Caloundra Road to the Sunshine Motorway
  - \$108 million to construct bridges and approaches south of Giru between Horseshoe Lagoon and Palm Creek
- \$68.2 million for the Cairns Southern Access Corridor Stage 3 and Stage 4 projects
- \$60 million to construct Mackay Ring Road Stage 1
- \$29.1 million widening from two to four lanes, Rockhampton Northern Access Stage 1
- Continuation of work on the \$5.509 billion Cross River Rail - the 10.2km rail line between Dutton Park and Bowen Hills in Brisbane.
- \$279.7 million for the Queensland component of the Northern Australia Roads Program (2016-17 to 2020-21).
- \$76.1 million for the Queensland component of the Northern Australia Beef Roads Program (2016-17 to 2019-20).
- Continued delivery of stages 2, 3 and 4 of the Queensland Government funded \$17.2 million North Brisbane Bikeway.
- Commence the \$335.7 million roll-out of accessibility modifications to 75 Next Generation Rollingstock trains to be delivered locally at Maryborough.

# Youth Justice

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With the establishment of a separate department for Youth Justice after the last election, the State Government demonstrated its intention to take a coordinated, whole-of-government approach to offending by young people.

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## Overview

This Budget sees the government committing a total of \$330 million to its youth justice package, including funding for the new department, capital works to expand existing detention centre capacity, funding for programs to continue Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Restorative Justice conferences, and programs to reduce recidivism and increase participation in education and vocational activities.

## Key initiatives

- \$159.8 million over five years to fund the new department to deliver the Youth Justice Strategy.
- \$51.2 over five years to expand existing detention centre capacity.
- \$27.5 million over four years to continue Restorative Justice conferences, including Restorative Justice Conferencing and Family Group Meetings delivered through community-controlled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations.
- \$28.7 million over four years and \$7.6 million ongoing to continue the Transition 2 Success program aimed at reducing recidivism and increasing participation in educational and vocational activities.
- \$330 million youth justice package.
- \$16.6 million over four years to expand the FlexiSpace program to up to 52 state schools.
- \$14.3 million additional funding over four years to support the Townsville Community Youth Response initiative, which incorporates services including a High-Risk Youth Court, after-hours diversionary services, cultural mentoring and alternative education bridging programs.
- \$15 million over four years to establish three new Community Youth Response initiatives to address youth crime in Brisbane, Ipswich and Cairns.
- \$1.2 million additional funding over two years to continue the Conditional Bail program, providing community-based supervision for high risk young people on bail in South East Queensland.
- \$829,000 from the Government's Safer Communities Grant Fund for the establishment of a transitional hub in Mount Isa to deliver after-hours diversionary services to high risk young people.

# Thank you.



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