



# QUEENSLAND BUDGET 2023–24

Tackling the cost of living



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# First Nations acknowledgement

Queensland Treasury acknowledges Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land. We recognise their connection to land, sea and community, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

## ‘Rich History, thriving future.’

This artwork tells the story of Queensland Treasury acknowledging and celebrating First Nations peoples, cultures, and contributions.

It’s a story that begins at the heart of the state’s economy; Queensland Treasury’s place of duty and responsibility.

The starting point of a journey towards being more inclusive than ever before.

By connecting with First Nations people in exciting new ways and sharing stories old and new in relation to the land and its people, we can build strong and authentic relationships for the benefit of every Queenslander.

Just as Queensland Treasury plays an essential role in securing Queensland’s future for generations to come, the importance of contributions by First Nations people to our state cannot be overstated. It is Queensland Treasury’s responsibility and honour to recognise and celebrate First Nations cultures, contributions, and achievements, and create connections with First Nations people and communities wherever we can.

By taking these steps to connect meaningfully with communities all over Queensland, Queensland Treasury can help pave the way to a shared and more equitable future where every Queenslander has the chance to thrive.

*Rich history, thriving future.*

**The artwork concept and narrative was developed by David Williams.**

**David is a proud Wakka Wakka artist at Gilimbaa.**



# Message from the Treasurer

**The Honourable Cameron Dick MP**

**Queensland’s economic strength and success gives us the opportunity to invest in the things that matter to all Queenslanders – tackling the cost of living, and delivering improved services in health, housing, and community safety.**

These investments will be supported by the **biggest infrastructure build ever undertaken by a Queensland Government**, including significant investment in new energy infrastructure.

Even with these commitments, **state debt will significantly reduce from previous forecasts.**

Our better-than-expected royalties, which have been driven by exceptionally high prices, have created an opportunity to invest in initiatives to benefit each and every Queenslander. The Budget funds the expansion of hospitals, with a significant **9.6 per cent increase in health spending**. It will deliver more social and affordable housing, and will fund renewable energy infrastructure. The Budget will secure land for future school sites, and we will fund free kindy for our youngest Queenslanders.

Unlike other states, Queensland’s Big Build begins with a major reduction in debt, supported by a **\$12.3 billion surplus in 2022–23** – the biggest on record. This surplus, supported by coal royalties, will flow through to debt reduction.

These fiscal settings, record investments, and unparalleled cost-of-living relief will continue to give confidence to Queensland businesses and families that our state has a strong and bright future.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cameron Dick".

Cameron Dick MP

Treasurer

Minister for Trade and Investment



# Overview summary

## Fiscal Overview

- Record net operating surplus of more than **\$12 billion** forecast for 2022–23
- Extraordinary strength in coal and oil prices leading to a **\$10.5 billion** increase in expected royalty revenue in 2022–23
- Record 4-year capital program of **\$89 billion** supporting **58,000 jobs** in 2023–24
- Forecast borrowings lower in the near term.

## Economic Overview

- Nominal value of exports expected to grow to a record of almost **\$140 billion** in 2022–23
- Queensland economy is forecast to grow by 3 per cent in 2023–24
- Employment growth expected to remain strong at 3¼ per cent in 2022–23
- Queensland’s unemployment rate is forecast to stay low by historical standards at 4¼ per cent in 2023–24.

## Tackling the cost of living

- A record **\$8.2 billion** in total concessions funding in 2023–24
- **Electricity bill rebates** for all Queensland households and eligible small businesses
- **15 hours per week free kindy** for all 4-year-olds
- School breakfast programs and support for critical food relief for Queenslanders experiencing hardship.



## Better health services for all Queenslanders

- Improving ambulance responsiveness and reducing ramping, improving access to emergency departments, surgery and specialist clinics, boosting women’s health care and mental health support
- Opening of all **7 Satellite Hospitals** in 2023–24 to provide non-urgent health care services in the community
- New 10-year agreement with LifeFlight Australia to deliver emergency helicopter services
- Incentives for medical practitioners and health care workers to relocate to Queensland.

## Alleviating housing pressures

- Support to increase the commencements of social and affordable homes, and unlocking additional residential land
- Increasing housing and homeless support services
- Build-to-rent tax concessions for eligible developments providing affordable dwellings at discounted rents
- Rental law reform to limit rent increases to one a year to balance rights and interests of renters and property owners.

## Delivering solutions for a safe community

- Programs to address youth anti-social and/or offending behaviour and prevent youth crime
- High visibility police patrols and specialist youth crime rapid response squads
- Support for communities to secure their property and develop local solutions to youth crime issues
- Increasing capacity at youth detention centres.

## The Big Build

- Energy transformation through the *Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan*, with investment in new wind, solar, storage and transmission
- Continuing delivery of the health system Capacity Expansion Program to provide additional overnight beds
- New and improved schools and school facilities
- Commence delivery of venues infrastructure for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.



Image supplied courtesy of Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning.



# Queenslanders – Securing your future

## Improving the lives of Queenslanders now and into the future

Leveraging Queensland’s strong economic performance, the 2023–24 Queensland Budget is responding to the challenges facing Queenslanders, including cost-of-living pressures and housing affordability.

The Budget is also investing substantially in health care and critical infrastructure across all our regions to position Queensland on a clear path towards longer-term growth and prosperity.

The historic surplus forecast in 2022–23, driven by strong royalties growth due to the high prices received by the state’s coal producers, is providing the capacity to deliver substantial cost-of-living support to Queensland families and businesses, while also funding a record capital program.

In line with the government’s economic strategy to create more jobs in more industries, this investment will provide the infrastructure across all regions of the state to enhance productivity and the competitiveness of Queensland’s traditional industries, support growth in new and emerging sectors, and provide the essential health and other services to meet the needs of a growing population.

The Budget invests in the growth and development of a healthy and skilled workforce, supports the state’s ongoing decarbonisation agenda, and lays a strong platform for future growth that will help ensure Queensland’s economy and communities remain strong, resilient, sustainable and able to respond to future challenges and opportunities.



**\$1.6**  
BILLION

in new and  
expanded  
cost-of-living  
relief in 2023–24



**\$8.2**  
BILLION

in concessions  
in 2023–24

## The government's community objectives

The 2023–24 Budget is focussed on improving the lives of Queenslanders now and into the future and continues to deliver on the Queensland Government's objectives for the community, including:

**Good jobs:** creating more, good, secure jobs in our traditional and emerging industries

**Better services:** delivering even better services right across Queensland

**Great lifestyle:** protecting and enhancing our Queensland lifestyle as we grow.

## Getting a fair share for the use of our resources

Since mid-2021, Queensland's coal producers have enjoyed the unprecedented benefits of an exceptional surge in global coal prices, supporting strong employment growth in the mining sector and producing record revenues and profits.

In the context of these record global coal prices, the new coal royalty tiers announced by the Queensland Government in the 2022–23 Budget mean that Queenslanders are also benefitting from these exceptional prices.

Queenslanders are getting a fair and reasonable return for the use of the state's valuable and limited resources in a period when coal mining companies are generating extraordinary revenues and profits.

The revenue raised from coal royalties helps enable the delivery of essential economic and social infrastructure and essential services to improve the lives of Queenslanders across all regions of the state.

Given the ongoing strength of coal prices, in particular hard coking coal prices, since the 2022–23 Budget Update, the new progressive coal royalty tiers are now expected to generate a revenue uplift of around **\$7.2 billion** over the 5 years ending 2026–27, with most of this (around **\$5.7 billion**) expected in 2022–23. Coal prices are expected to normalise in 2024 and remain at levels more consistent with medium-term expectations across the forward estimates.

The revenue uplift in 2022–23 has presented an opportunity for Queensland to lower its reliance on borrowings in the near term, creating the fiscal capacity to fund a substantial investment in services and concessions to tackle the immediate challenges at the heart of all Queenslanders – cost-of-living pressures, access to health services, alleviating housing pressures, and living in safe and secure communities.

It has also enabled investment in priority capital initiatives to service our growing population, including a range of substantial investments across regional Queensland, especially coal-producing regions.

### Approach to gender responsive budgeting

As part of its commitment to gender responsive budgeting, the Queensland Government has assessed all 2023–24 budget bids to determine the alignment with the impact areas identified in the *Queensland Women’s Strategy 2022–27*. This approach was used to identify high-impact, high-priority bids to move towards a gender equitable distribution of resources. It also led to the 2023–24 Budget including a package of measures focussed on enhancing the economic opportunities and economic security of women.

This is the start of gender responsive budgeting in Queensland with further work being undertaken for implementation in future years.

## Improving the lives of Queenslanders



**9.6% GROWTH**

in health spending



**\$968 MILLION**

to secure land for new school sites





# Budget Overview

## Responsible budget management – fiscal overview

The Queensland Government continues to leverage Queensland’s recent strong economic performance to support fiscal sustainability. This will be used to fund the services and infrastructure needed to create more, good, secure jobs in traditional and emerging industries, and to maintain a strong and diverse economy into the future.

Queensland’s economic performance has translated into higher-than-expected revenue performance. This primarily reflects unprecedented high commodity prices, in particular coal prices, as well as the state’s strong labour market conditions.

General Government Sector revenue is estimated to total **\$87.623 billion** in 2022–23, up **\$13.438 billion** compared with 2021–22. This is **\$13.737 billion** higher than estimated in the 2022–23 Queensland Budget, with this upward revision largely driven by:

- **\$10.462 billion** increase in royalties, reflecting the extraordinary strength in coal and oil prices across 2022 and early 2023
- **\$1.721 billion** increase in tax revenue, reflecting the strength of the state’s domestic economy, including the state’s jobs growth and labour market performance.

The government is mindful that this revenue uplift is only temporary and revenues will moderate as commodity prices normalise over the forward estimates.



**\$18.1**  
BILLION

in royalties in  
2022–23

Careful management of the recent temporary uplift in revenue performance and disciplined control of spending supports positive progress towards fiscal recovery, a lower reliance on borrowings, and creates capacity for additional public infrastructure investment.

A strong **net operating surplus** of more than **\$12 billion** is expected for 2022–23. A deficit is expected in 2023–24, largely attributable to the government’s **\$1.6 billion cost-of-living package**, before a return to surplus across 2024–25 to 2026–27.

Responsible budget management has provided capacity to implement an expanded capital program across the forward estimates to develop productive capacity, sustain jobs, and support service delivery.

Forecast borrowings are lower in the near term. General Government Sector borrowing in 2023–24 will be **\$8.745 billion** lower compared to the 2022–23 Budget and remain **\$2.158 billion** lower by 30 June 2026 compared to the 2022–23 Budget estimate.

The 2023–24 Budget achieves the right balance. It responds to immediate challenges and issues for Queenslanders such as cost-of-living pressures, strengthening our health system, investing in more social and affordable housing, and delivering services for safe communities.

The government is also taking a long view with its significant program of public infrastructure investment that will deliver an expansion to the health system, decarbonise the state’s energy system, improve water security and prepare for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.



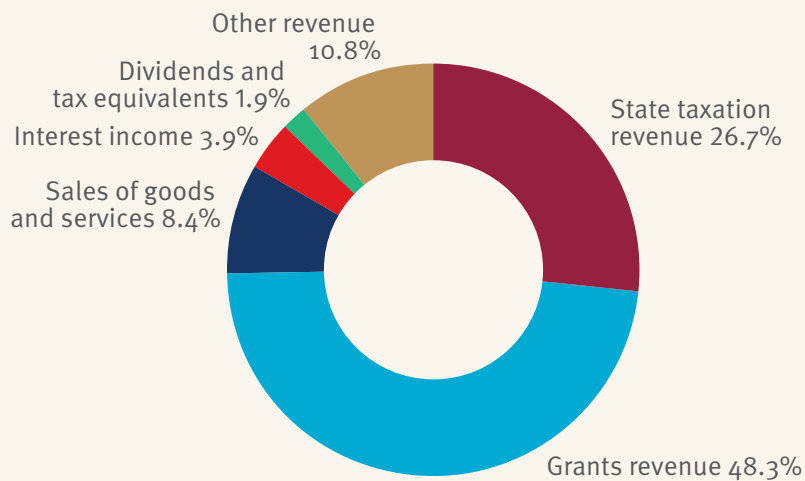
More than  
**\$12 BILLION**

expected net  
operating surplus  
in 2022–23

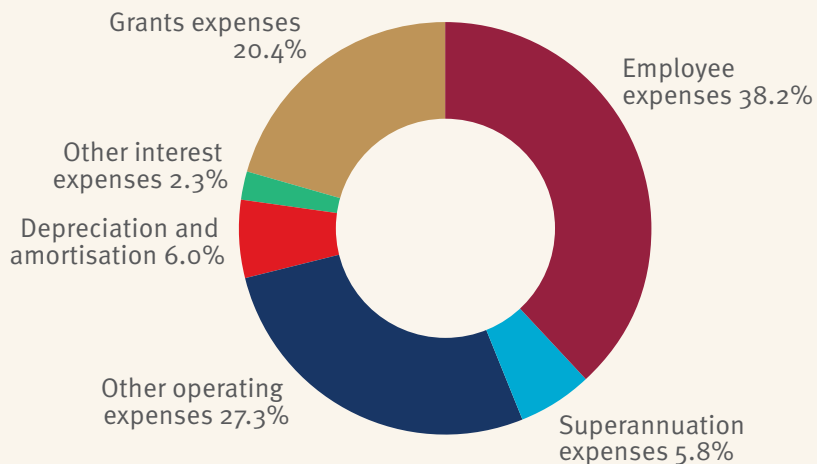
	2021–22 Outcome \$ million	2022–23 Budget \$ million	2022–23 Est. Act. \$ million	2023–24 Budget \$ million	2024–25 Projected \$ million	2025–26 Projected \$ million	2026–27 Projected \$ million
<b>General Government Sector</b>							
Revenue	74,185	73,886	87,623	82,079	82,102	82,858	85,591
Expenses	69,889	74,915	75,317	84,261	81,967	82,653	85,214
<b>Net operating balance</b>	<b>4,296</b>	<b>(1,029)</b>	<b>12,305</b>	<b>(2,182)</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>377</b>
Borrowings	56,764	66,459	54,693	65,479	76,040	85,127	94,814
Net debt	10,997	19,772	5,852	16,190	28,074	37,648	46,934

Notes: Numbers may not add due to rounding. Bracketed numbers represent negative amounts.

### 2023–24 Revenue



### 2023–24 Expenses



# Global and national economic outlook

## Increased uncertainty and volatility

After rebounding strongly across 2021 and 2022, the global economy faces increased uncertainty and volatility.

An expected cyclical economic downturn in 2023 has been triggered by aggressive global interest rate increases by central banks (Chart 1) in response to the challenges posed by high inflation.

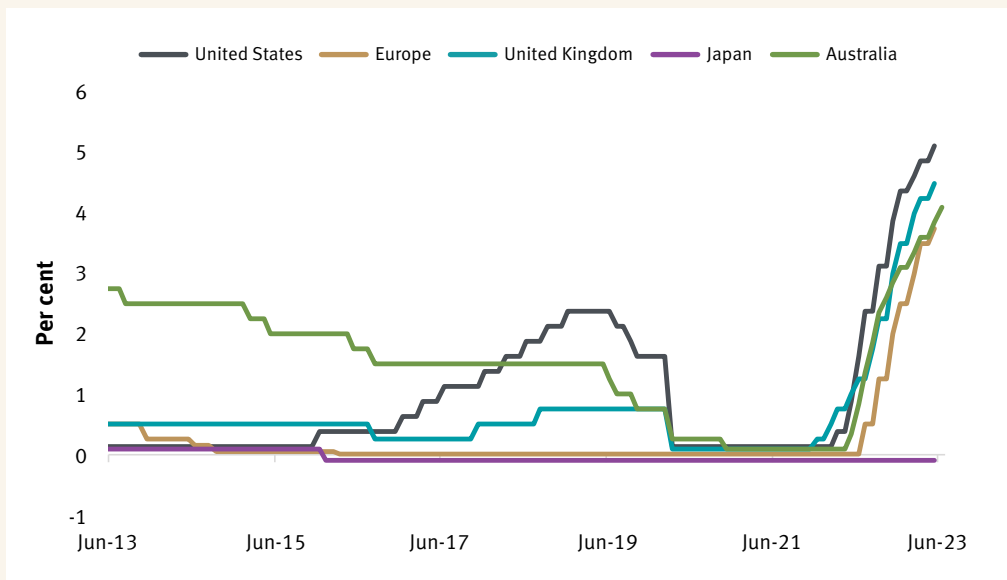
The success in taming inflation globally has so far been mixed across major economies, with key drivers of inflation spreading over time from high energy costs and supply disruptions, to include higher costs of services.

Beyond 2024, the International Monetary Fund projects the global economy to grow by just over 3 per cent per annum, the lowest medium-term forecast in decades.

Similar to the global economy, national economic growth is expected to slow in coming years, with the Reserve Bank of Australia forecasting growth of  $1\frac{3}{4}$  per cent in 2023 and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent in 2024, weighed down by slowing growth in consumption, public spending and exports.



The ultimate impact of higher interest rates and inflation, particularly on household spending, remains a key driver of the slowdown in growth nationally. However, inflation is widely forecast to have peaked in 2022 and to moderate substantially over the next couple of years, with domestic interest rates generally considered likely to be at, or near, their peak for this cycle.



**Chart 1: Key central bank policy rates.**

Sources: US Federal Reserve, European Central Bank, Bank of England, Bank of Japan and Reserve Bank of Australia.

# Queensland's economic outlook

**Following strong growth of 4.4 per cent in 2021–22, the Queensland economy is forecast to grow by a further 2 per cent in 2022–23, and strengthen to 3 per cent growth in both 2023–24 and 2024–25 (Chart 2).**

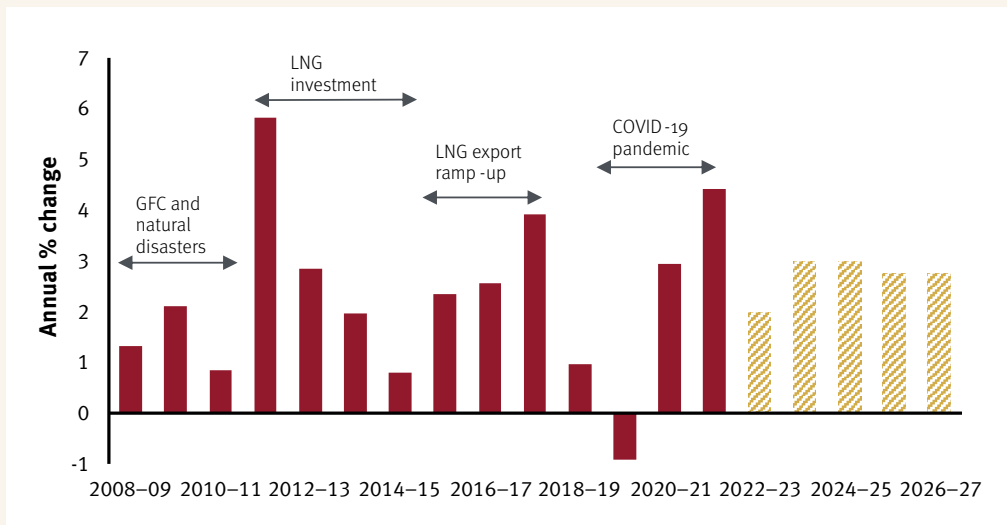
Higher interest rates continue to filter through to borrowers, with consumption growth expected to slow materially over the coming year as household budgets are impacted.

The economic growth profile also reflects temporary domestic and international supply constraints, which have negatively impacted private investment, especially housing construction, and the overseas trade sector in 2022–23. These supply constraints are expected to unwind over time.

In particular, in the dwellings sector, capacity constraints continue to limit output growth and industry completion times have drawn out. However, the solid pipeline of committed residential construction work and easing supply constraints should support a boost in dwelling investment in 2023–24.

The nominal value of Queensland's exports is expected to grow to a record of almost **\$140 billion** in 2022–23, largely reflecting the surge in the value of coal exports as the state's coal producers benefit from exceptionally high coal prices flowing through to their revenues and profits. However, commodity prices are forecast to normalise as the temporary factors driving the recent unprecedented coal prices and global supply issues abate.

In real terms, an unwinding of supply constraints on goods exports, slowing goods imports and an ongoing rebound in tourism and education exports is forecast to result in a one percentage point contribution from the overseas trade sector in 2023–24, before the overseas trade sector largely returns to balance and makes a neutral contribution to growth in 2024–25 as services export growth moderates.



**Chart 2: Economic growth, Queensland.**

Sources: ABS Annual State Accounts and Queensland Treasury.

Queensland’s labour market has been exceptionally strong, with the unemployment rate near decade lows, the job vacancy rate near its historic high and the employment-to-population ratio around its highest level in more than a decade.

Following the strongest jobs growth in 17 years in 2021–22 (at 5.1 per cent), Queensland’s employment growth is expected to remain strong at 3¼ per cent in 2022–23, before easing to one per cent in 2023–24 as growth in domestic demand moderates.

The state’s unemployment rate, expected to average a remarkably low 3¾ per cent in 2022–23, is forecast to edge slightly higher but stay low by historical standards, to 4¼ per cent in 2023–24 and 4½ per cent in 2024–25.

## Population

Queensland’s population growth is forecast to strengthen to 2 per cent in 2022–23, reflecting a pickup in overseas migration. However, with interstate migration forecast to stabilise at pre-pandemic levels while net overseas migration remains at elevated levels, Queensland’s population growth is forecast to ease to 1½ per cent by 2024–25.

## Challenges and opportunities

Risks to the economic outlook, including nationally and globally, remain skewed to the downside.

Inflation and the impact of monetary policy responses among major central banks, including in Australia, remain the biggest risks to the outlook.

The potential escalation of Russia’s military actions against Ukraine is also an ongoing risk to the outlook.

# Budget Priorities

## **The 2023–24 Queensland Budget is responding to the challenges facing Queenslanders.**

These include tackling cost-of-living pressures, delivering enhanced health care services, addressing housing affordability, and providing safer and more secure communities, including advancing opportunities for First Nations peoples.

The Budget also includes a record capital program, investing in critical economic and social infrastructure across all our regions to position Queensland on a clear path towards longer-term growth and prosperity.

In line with the government’s economic strategy to create more jobs in more industries, this investment will provide the infrastructure across all regions of the state to enhance productivity and the competitiveness of Queensland’s traditional industries and drive growth in new and emerging sectors, and support the state’s ongoing decarbonisation agenda.

The unprecedented infrastructure investment outlined in the 2023–24 Budget will also provide the essential health and other services needed to meet the needs of a growing population, support the growth and development of a skilled and flexible workforce, and ensure Queensland’s economy and communities remain strong, resilient and able to respond to future challenges and opportunities.



### Tackling the cost of living

- **\$550 Cost of Living Rebate** on electricity bills to all Queensland households
- **\$700 Cost of Living Rebate** on electricity bills for vulnerable households, in addition to the existing \$372 under the Queensland Electricity Rebate Scheme, bringing total rebates for this group to \$1,072
- **\$650 rebate** on electricity bills for around 205,000 eligible small businesses, cutting the cost of doing business in Queensland
- **\$645 million** over 4 years for **15 hours per week of free kindy** for all 4-year-olds
- **\$70.3 million** over 4 years to increase assistance to regional patients through the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme
- **Up to \$150** for eligible children aged 0 to 4 years for learn-to-swim activities
- **\$2.7 million** over 2 years to extend and expand school breakfast programs in areas experiencing hardship across Queensland
- **\$315,000** to provide grant funding to Foodbank to deliver critical food relief.



**\$1.6**  
**BILLION**

to tackle the cost of living in 2023–24



**\$550**  
**COST OF LIVING**  
**REBATE**

on electricity bills to all Queensland households

## Delivering for Queensland

### Better health services for all Queenslanders

- **Almost \$2.9 billion** uplift to health funding to address demand and cost pressures and support programs and initiatives targeting improving ambulance responsiveness and reducing ramping, addressing pressures on emergency departments, reducing wait times for surgery and specialist clinics, as well as boosting women’s health care and mental health care
- **\$10.8 million** in 2023–24 for 40 new ambulance vehicles
- **Up to \$70,000** for medical practitioners and **\$20,000** for health care workers to relocate to Queensland
- **\$5,000** cost-of-living allowance for nursing and midwifery students doing placements in rural and regional Queensland
- **\$586.1 million** towards a new 10-year agreement with LifeFlight Australia
- **Opening all 7 Satellite Hospitals** at Caboolture, Kallangur, Ripley, Eight Mile Plains, Tugun, Bribie Island and Redlands in 2023–24
- Completion of major expansions at Caboolture and Logan Hospitals
- **\$150 million** for a new mental health facility as part of the staged expansion of Redland Hospital.

### Alleviating housing pressures

- Doubling the Housing Investment Fund to **\$2 billion**, to support commencements of **5,600 social and affordable homes** by 30 June 2027
- **\$1.1 billion** in increased funding to drive social housing delivery and supply, including to meet higher construction costs and to boost the QuickStarts Queensland program target by 500 homes, bringing it to **3,265 social housing commencements** by 30 June 2025
- **Over \$250 million** for housing and homeless support services, including outcomes from the Queensland Housing Roundtables and Queensland Housing Summit
- Build-to-rent tax concessions for eligible developments providing at least 10 per cent as affordable dwellings at discounted rents.

### Delivering solutions for a safe community

- **\$96 million** for Youth Co-responder Teams who engage with young people to break the cycle of youth crime
- **\$50 million** for infrastructure development at priority Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) sites to improve frontline social program delivery and intervention initiatives for vulnerable youths and **\$6 million** to enable PCYC police officers to increase their focus on social programs aimed at the prevention of youth crime
- **\$37 million** to ensure repeat offenders spend less time on remand and more time serving their sentences, supporting the government’s amendments to the *Strengthening Community safety Act 2023*
- **\$64 million** for policing responses including high visibility patrols and specialist youth crime rapid response squads
- **\$30 million** to help seniors secure their homes
- **\$15 million** to empower communities to develop local solutions to youth crime issues
- **\$10 million** for a trial to subsidise the cost for Queenslanders to install vehicle immobilisers in Cairns, Townsville and Mount Isa
- **\$9 million** to respond better to victims of property crime where violence or a threat of violence has occurred, including for Victim Assist Queensland
- **\$89.7 million** to address capacity issues at youth detention centres and support preparations for the 2 new youth detention centres.



An increase of  
**\$1.1 BILLION**

for the delivery and supply of social housing across Queensland



**\$2.9 BILLION**

to address demand and cost pressures for our health system

## The Big Build

- A record **\$89 billion** 4-year capital program
- **\$4 billion** set aside in the 2022–23 Budget Update for priority regional infrastructure projects
- Provision for **\$1.9 billion** over 4 years to commence delivery of venues infrastructure for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games
- Around **\$19 billion** total capital investment over 4 years to support the *Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan*
- Work is continuing to expand health system capacity through the **\$9.785 billion** (over 6 years) Capacity Expansion Program to deliver around 2,200 additional overnight beds
- **\$6.9 billion** in 2023–24 towards integrated, safe and efficient transport infrastructure across the state
- **\$968 million** over 10-years to establish a strategic land acquisition fund for new school sites
- **\$358 million** for Queensland state schools for new general and specialist learning spaces
- **\$259 million** over 3 years to expand the school halls program
- **\$152 million** to deliver a suite of initiatives to enhance Queensland’s disaster recovery and resilience, jointly funded with the Australian Government from the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Efficiencies.

## First Nations peoples

- **\$167 million** to support the Our Way initiative intended to reduce the rate of over-representation of First Nations children in the child protection system
- **\$38.6 million** for Managing Country with First Nations peoples.

A record   
**\$89 BILLION**  
**THE BIG BUILD**  
 4-year capital program



Image supplied courtesy of Department of Housing.







# Tackling the cost of living

## Inflationary trends

Inflationary trends in Australia have broadly followed global trends in recent years (Chart 3), with the initial surge in inflation primarily driven by increased prices of goods, but more recent cost pressures have also broadened across services components.

Rental vacancy rates in Brisbane have trended lower since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, partly driven by a falling average household size as many households opted for more living space. Brisbane's rental vacancy rate has been at or below one per cent since early 2022, driving strong growth in rents.

Consumer inflation trends in Australia have also been impacted by flooding events throughout 2022, impacting agricultural supply. These flooding events have exacerbated food price increases that had already been impacted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and other constraints, including COVID-19-related supply chain disruptions and high transport and fertiliser costs.



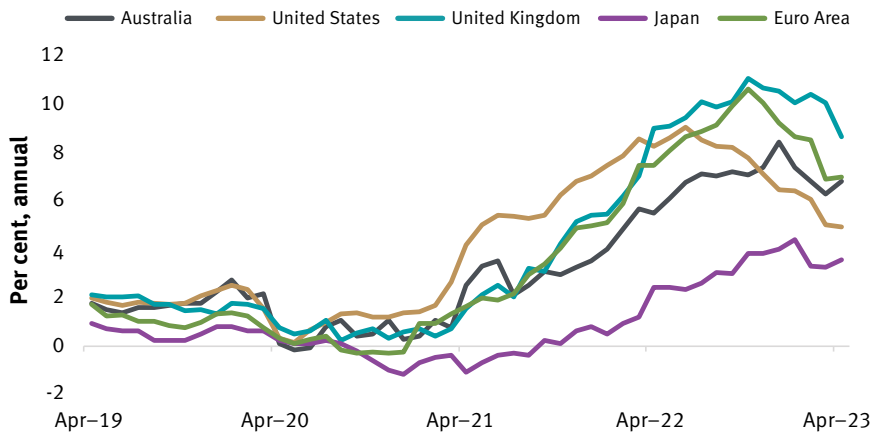
**\$8.2**  
**BILLION**  
**in concessions**  
in 2023–24



**15 HRS**  
**FREE**  
**KINDY**

for all 4-year-old  
Queensland children  
from January 2024





**Chart 3: Global inflation.**  
Source: Refinitiv.

### Taking action on the cost of living

The Queensland Government recognises the cost-of-living challenges being faced by Queenslanders.

In recognition of this, the government is providing a record **\$8.224 billion** in concessions in 2023–24 to Queensland families and businesses, an increase of more than 21 per cent compared with 2022–23.

#### \$1.6 billion Cost-of-Living Relief

The 2023–24 Budget is providing Queensland households and businesses with an unprecedented **\$1.617 billion** in new and expanded cost-of-living relief in 2023–24.

The 2023–24 Budget delivers **\$1.483 billion** for additional electricity bill support to households and small businesses facing cost-of-living pressures. This is the most significant electricity bill support package announced by any state or territory, more than doubling the size of the Federally agreed support package for Queensland under the National Energy Bill Relief Fund.

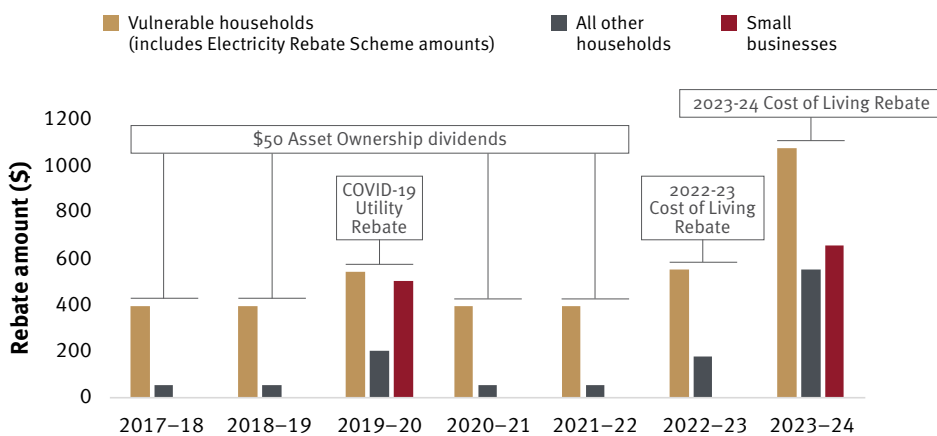
As part of this package, all Queensland households will automatically receive a \$550 Cost of Living Rebate on their electricity bill in 2023–24, while around 600,000 vulnerable households will benefit from a higher \$700 Cost of Living Rebate.



In addition, vulnerable households will continue to receive a \$372 rebate under the Queensland Electricity Rebate Scheme, bringing total support for this group to \$1,072 in 2023–24.

The Government’s substantial cost-of-living relief package will more than offset typical household electricity bill increases in 2023–24. In some cases, households will have zero bills or be in credit in 2023–24.

Including the \$550 Cost of Living Rebate in 2023–24, the government will have provided all Queensland households with a total of \$1,125 in electricity rebates since 2018 (Chart 4).



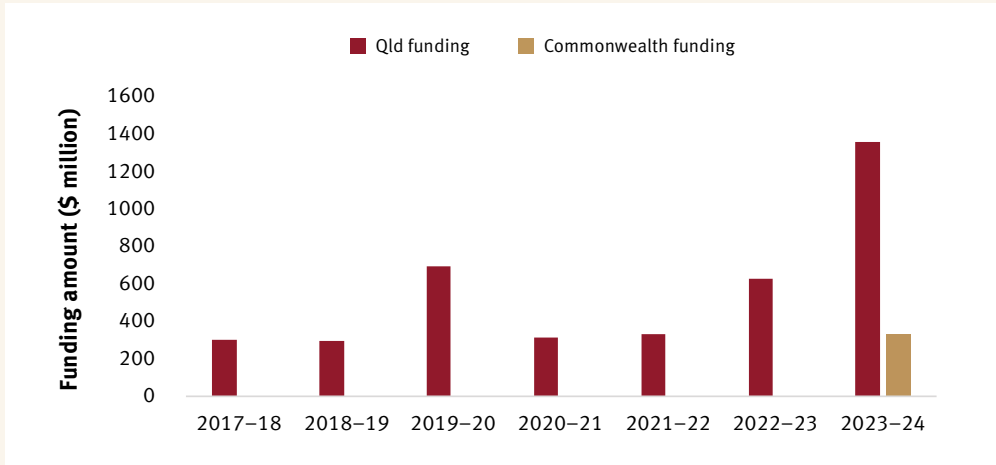
**Chart 4: Historical Electricity Rebates.**

Source: Queensland Treasury.

Eligible small businesses in Queensland will also receive an automatic rebate of \$650 on their electricity bill in 2023–24. This includes around 205,000 Queensland small businesses that consume less than 100,000 kilowatt hours per annum.

The Queensland Government’s cost-of-living relief package significantly increases and broadens support under the National Energy Bill Relief Plan, jointly funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments (Chart 5).

As part of this package, the Queensland Government has also allocated **\$60 million** for a Household Energy Initiatives program, and **\$10 million** for Vulnerable Households Energy Advice Initiatives to deliver energy efficiency measures to keep costs down for households, enabling more choice and greater energy equity. This constitutes Queensland’s co-contribution to the Australian Government’s Household Energy Upgrades Fund.



**Chart 5: Electricity Rebates Funding Sources.**  
Source: Queensland Treasury.



Richard and Joan are a retired couple in their seventies with a Queensland Seniors Card and both on the pension. They live in their own home in South East Queensland with no dependents. In 2023–24, the household will receive a \$700 Cost of Living Rebate plus the \$372 electricity rebate off their electricity bill bringing total support to \$1,072. Richard and Joan are also eligible for other concessions including a \$120 South East Queensland water subsidy, \$200 for council rates, \$87 for reticulated natural gas, an average benefit of \$830 for general dental care under the Oral Health Scheme, 50 per cent discount on Translink public transport services in South East Queensland and a 50 per cent concession on a 12-month registration fee on their 4-cylinder car – reducing the cost of their registration to \$180.30.

## Free kindy

Kindergarten services offer early childhood education programs to help children prepare for school, and are an important part of a child’s learning, social and wellbeing development. The significant cost of early childhood education and care can prevent some parents from enrolling their children in kindergarten.

The government will also provide 15 hours of free kindergarten from January 2024 for all 4-year-old Queensland children to further relieve cost-of-living pressures, improve access to early childhood education, and support economic participation for parents across the state. On average, a family attending a sessional kindy for 15 hours per week that charges \$46 per day will save \$4,600 a year in fees.

## FairPlay vouchers

*Activate! Queensland: 2019–2029* is the Queensland Government’s 10-year strategy with a long-term vision to enrich the Queensland way of life through physical activity.

Over the past 3 years, more than 141,000 FairPlay vouchers have been delivered to help young Queenslanders participate in sport and recreation. Each FairPlay voucher provides value up to \$150, which can be used towards sport and active recreation membership, registration or participation fees for eligible activities with registered activity providers. Each eligible child can apply for one voucher per calendar year.

The 2023–24 Budget provides increased funding of **\$4.8 million** over 2 years to extend the availability of FairPlay vouchers to eligible children aged 0 to 4 years for learn to swim activities.

## Other measures to tackle the cost of living

The government is committing increased funding of **\$70.3 million** over 4 years for the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme to help rural and regional Queenslanders who travel to access essential health care services – refer to Better health services for all Queenslanders for more information.



Additional funding of **\$22 million** over 4 years will be provided to support the Nursing and Midwifery Student Regional Placements Allowance of \$5,000 per student. For eligible Queensland residents, this cost-of-living allowance is designed to attract and retain nursing and midwifery students to complete their compulsory, unpaid placements in regional, rural, and remote locations across Queensland – refer to Better health services for all Queenslanders for more information.

The Government Managed Housing Rental Rebate continues to target low-income families and individuals and represents the difference between the estimated rents that would be payable in the private market and rent that is charged by government based on household income. Assistance is provided to approximately 55,000 households. The estimated average yearly subsidy per household for 2023–24 is **\$12,181** at a total value of **\$670.5 million** in 2023–24.

Vehicle and Boat Registration concessions are provided for a range of eligible groups. A concession for a 4-cylinder vehicle would halve the 12-month registration fee from \$360.60 to \$180.30. The Queensland Government will provide \$206.8 million in motor vehicle, boat, special interest vehicle and heavy vehicle registration concessions in 2023–24.

The Textbook and Resource Allowance is available for all parents and caregivers of secondary school age students to assist with the cost of textbooks and learning resources, providing support of either \$146 or \$317 per student in 2023 (depending on year level). The government is providing total funding of **\$83.2 million** in 2023–24 for this concession.

From 1 July 2023, the cost of replacing Queensland driver licences, photo identification cards and industry authority cards will reduce to just \$35 at an estimated cost of **\$23.1 million** over 4 years.



A low-income family with a Health Care card, 3 children aged 4, 13 and 16 could benefit from a broad range of concessions, including up to \$700 through the Cost of Living Rebate plus the \$372 electricity rebate off electricity bills bringing total support to \$1,072 off their electricity bill. The family will also receive 15 hours of free kindy per week. As the family also attends sessional kindy for 15 hours per week, that charges \$46 per day, they will save \$4,600 a year in fees. They will also benefit from \$463 through the Textbook and Resource Allowance paid to their school, and a 50 per cent discount on Translink public transport services in South East Queensland for their 3 children. Based on these measures, the family may benefit from around \$6,135 in concessions in 2023–24.

**Further information can be found in the Concessions Statement - Appendix A: Budget Paper No.2 – 2023–24 Budget Strategy and Outlook**





# Delivering for Queensland

## Better health services for all Queenslanders

**Investing in the ongoing delivery of health services protects the overall wellbeing of Queenslanders and their communities as well as supporting enduring economic benefits. A strong health system supports an active and productive population and enables participation in the workforce. It also contributes to improvements in labour productivity over the longer term.**

### Protecting the health of a growing Queensland

The government continues to deliver a world class health system for our community. The 2023–24 Budget provides for **\$24.153 billion** in operating funding, a 9.6 per cent boost to the health system, for total funding of **\$25.791 billion**. This growth recognises that the system continues to face heightened pressures including a shortage of clinical and scientific staff and high inflation in the cost of critical inputs, including clinical supplies and construction. These impacts have been exacerbated by pressures in the primary health care, aged care and disability care systems, and in the private hospital sector.

To ensure patients get treated at the right place, at the right time, the 2023–24 Budget provides an uplift of **\$2.888 billion** over 5 years from 2022–23 to the health operating funding envelope, to address demand and cost pressures and support programs and initiatives targeting improving ambulance responsiveness and reducing ramping, addressing pressures on emergency departments, reducing wait times for surgery and specialist clinics, as well as boosting women’s health care and mental health care.



**9.6% GROWTH**

in operating funding  
in 2023–24

**Record total  
health funding of**

**\$25.8  
BILLION**

### Our frontline health workers

The government is committed to bolstering our frontline health care workers, providing good jobs and better services for Queenslanders through effective strategies.

The Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme will provide interstate health practitioners up to \$20,000 to move to Queensland and up to \$70,000 for doctors who decide to take up a job in regional and remote Queensland.

The government is also building the future health workforce through initiatives such as expanding health pathways from school-based traineeships to university programs and partnering with universities to guide program requirements to meet future workforce needs.

As part of this approach, the 2023–24 Budget includes an additional **\$22 million** over 4 years to provide a cost-of-living allowance to support student nurses and midwives to undertake placements, in rural and regional parts of the state.

### Improving access to health services for all Queenslanders

Queensland is the most decentralised state in the country and the Queensland Government continues to look at innovative ways to bring emergency health services closer to all Queenslanders, including virtual care options and Satellite Hospitals.

The 2023–24 Budget is providing **\$70.3 million** over 4 years to increase the accommodation and fuel subsidy under the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme to support and enable financially vulnerable Queenslanders to seek the clinical care they need.

Additional funding of **\$586.1 million** for a new 10-year commercial agreement between Queensland Health and LifeFlight Australia will be provided in the 2023–24 Budget to deliver emergency helicopter services. LifeFlight has bases in Bundaberg, Mount Isa, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Roma and Brisbane.







Image supplied courtesy of Department of Housing.

## Hospitals and health infrastructure

In the 2022–23 Budget, the government provided a significant investment of **\$9.785 billion** to increase bed capacity across the state, under the Health and Hospitals Plan which will deliver 3 new hospitals and 11 major hospital expansions and a new cancer centre.

In 2023–24, Queensland Health will continue the delivery of this ambitious program, which has now awarded more than **\$3 billion** of contracts to deliver expansions in Brisbane, Ipswich, Mackay, Logan, Townsville and Cairns.

Significant additional capacity will also come online in 2023–24 including:

- All 7 Satellite Hospitals at Caboolture, Kallangur, Ripley, Eight Mile Plains, Tugun, Bribie Island and Redlands will open
- As part of the **\$269.3 million** Accelerated Infrastructure Delivery Program additional bed capacity will be delivered at QEII, Princess Alexandra, Redland and Gold Coast University Hospitals
- Major redevelopments at Caboolture and Logan Hospitals.

The 2023–24 Budget includes **\$150 million** for a new mental health facility at the Redland Hospital, which will more than double mental health capacity and will free up critical land on the hospital site for potential future expansion.

An additional **\$10.8 million** in 2023–24 is provided for an additional 40 new ambulance vehicles and critical equipment to support and equip frontline ambulance operatives.





Image supplied courtesy of Queensland Health.



**\$250** MILLION

committed to Housing and Homelessness support services since 2022-23 Budget



More than **1,200** NEW DWELLINGS

for the the supply of rental housing contracted through the Build-to-Rent pilot program





# Alleviating housing pressures

## Strengthening housing supply

Queensland's housing availability and affordability challenges are underpinned by the inability of housing supply to keep pace with rising demand.

Previously low interest rates and substantial government support at a national and state level in response to the COVID-19 pandemic underpinned a boom in Queensland's housing market, creating a strong pipeline of work and higher house prices.

Demand has also been fuelled by a continuing reduction in the average size of households, which has resulted in significant additional demand for housing, over and above the population growth rate. This trend was boosted during COVID-19 as more people sought less crowded forms of housing.

Material and labour supply shortages, wet weather disruptions, and several construction company bankruptcies have concurrently constrained Queensland's residential construction activity, slowing the supply of new dwelling stock. Further, while the rise in interest rates has seen house prices subside since their peak in June 2022, the cost of servicing a mortgage has increased greatly.

Exacerbating the housing market challenges, conditions in the rental market are remarkably tight, with rental vacancy rates around record lows and rents increasing sharply across many Queensland regions, with a similar phenomenon apparent nationally.

Recognising these challenges, on 20 October 2022, the Queensland Government hosted the Queensland Housing Summit, to address the challenges of meeting Queenslanders' housing needs.



The Summit provided over 150 industry and other stakeholders an opportunity to discuss innovative strategies to support improved housing outcomes.

The Queensland Government has subsequently released the *Housing Summit Outcomes Report* from the historic Summit, which sets out a program of actions to deliver positive housing outcomes for the Queensland community.

### **Delivering solutions to housing and homelessness issues**

Housing supply and affordability is a national issue and having access to safe and affordable housing remains fundamental to economic and social wellbeing. That is why the Queensland Government has set a clear objective: that every Queenslander should have access to a safe, secure, and affordable home that meets their needs and enables participation in the social and economic life of our prosperous state.

The *Queensland Housing Strategy 2017–2027* sets out the 10-year vision for the state’s housing system and the Queensland Government’s commitment to making sure all Queenslanders have a pathway to safe, secure and affordable housing. It is delivered through the *Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021–2025* and the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan 2019–2023*.

A key enabler under the action plan was the Queensland Housing Investment Growth Initiative, which includes the Housing Investment Fund and QuickStarts Queensland, to accelerate investment in social and affordable housing.

Additional investment in housing supply and support initiatives was also provided through the Queensland Housing Roundtables and the Queensland Housing Summit to deliver positive housing outcomes for the Queensland community.

The 2023–24 Budget builds on these earlier commitments, providing additional investment towards social and affordable housing projects, crisis accommodation and supports, as well as services to address homelessness.

## Social and affordable housing

The 2023–24 Budget is providing increased funding of **\$1.1 billion** for the delivery and supply of social housing across Queensland through the *Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021–2025*, including to meet higher construction costs and to boost the QuickStarts Queensland program target by 500 homes, bringing it to 3,265 social housing commencements by 30 June 2025.

### \$2 billion Housing Investment Fund

The Housing Investment Fund (HIF) was established to support investment in social and affordable housing and to encourage partnerships across Community Housing Providers, developers, builders, tenancy managers, institutional investors and superannuation funds to develop, finance and operate social and affordable housing.

At the Queensland Housing Summit, in October 2022, the government announced an additional **\$1 billion** boost, taking the underlying investment supporting the HIF to **\$2 billion**, to now deliver 5,600 social and affordable home commencements by 30 June 2027.

To date, over 1,500 homes have been approved for support. This includes support for the delivery of up to 1,200 new social and affordable homes through a commercial partnership between Brisbane Housing Company, QIC Limited and Australian Retirement Trust and the purchase of up to 335 properties exiting the Australian Government’s soon-to-be-closed National Rental Affordability Scheme by community housing provider, National Affordable Housing Consortium.

### Build to Rent

The government has been partnering with the private sector to accelerate the supply of rental housing through its innovative build-to-rent pilot program. Three project partnerships have been announced in Brisbane, which will deliver more than 1,200 new dwellings, of which up to 490 will be provided as discount-to-market rental homes for eligible low-to-moderate income earners.

As part of the 2023–24 Budget, the government will provide build-to-rent tax concessions to support developments that provide at least 10 per cent

of dwellings as affordable housing at discounted rents. The initiative is proposed to commence from 1 July 2023. The tax concessions will be made available for a maximum term of 20 years or until 30 June 2050 (whichever comes sooner). Eligible developments must be operational by 30 June 2030 to be eligible for the concessions.

### Homelessness and housing supports

The Queensland Government continues to support vulnerable Queenslanders with over **\$250 million** committed to housing and homelessness support services since the 2022–23 Budget. This includes over **\$100 million** provided throughout the last 12 months, as well as an additional **\$150 million** committed in the 2023–24 Budget.

Since the 2022–23 Budget, the government has provided over **\$100 million** for housing supply and support, including:

- **\$54 million** for the Immediate Housing Response package to help put a roof over the heads of Queenslanders living in insecure and unsafe situations and help people maintain tenancies. This includes **\$5 million** from the Housing Summit Outcomes
- **\$40.2 million** as part of the total **\$56 million** funding to deliver the Housing Summit Outcomes
- **\$7.8 million** to reintegrate women and girls into the community, as part of the **\$225 million** response to the recommendations of the Queensland Women’s Safety and Justice Taskforce in *Hear her voice – Report Two*.

The 2023–24 Budget commits over **\$150 million** over 5 years to provide temporary accommodation and extend and enhance housing and homelessness services. This includes:

- **\$51.3 million** for the second *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan (2024–2027)* with a focus on progressing Closing the Gap initiatives, enhancing culturally safe services and delivering innovative housing supply solutions
- **\$61.9 million** for emergency supported accommodation
- **\$18.1 million** to enhance and expand youth housing and homelessness services

- **\$13.9 million** for operational services including 3 accommodation sites
- **\$5.4 million** to continue the delivery of critical frontline housing services
- **\$2 million** for the Helena’s House project, to support the safe transition of young people with a disability from the family home to a living solution of their choice.

### Land releases and infrastructure

To stimulate growth and facilitate unlocking 50,000 residential lots in the Ripley Valley and Greater Flagstone Priority Development Areas, the government has increased the Catalyst Infrastructure Fund by **\$21.2 million**. This brings total funding to **\$171.2 million** over 4 years from 2022–23 to enable construction of trunk road, water and sewer infrastructure.

Further, as part of the 2023–24 Budget, the government will provide **\$7.5 million** over 2 years to support Economic Development Queensland undertake detailed site investigations of mixed tenure residential and housing developments, including social and affordable housing.

### Rental reform

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring that rental laws provide certainty and clarity to encourage and maintain housing supply in the private rental market while supporting and protecting vulnerable renters, including people experiencing domestic and family violence, seniors and people with disability, to access safe, secure and sustainable housing.

Consistent with most other jurisdictions, the government passed legislation to limit rent increases to once a year, applying to all new and existing tenancies from 1 July 2023 onwards. The move is designed to balance the rights and interests of Queenslanders who rent, and property owners, to sustain a healthy rental supply.





# Delivering solutions for a safe community

## Queensland’s criminal justice system is responding to increasingly complex individuals, in a context of substantial system reform.

Involvement in crime is a complex issue and there is evidence to indicate Queensland’s criminal justice system is responding to increasingly complex individuals. This is apparent in data showing a decline in the rates of individual adult (18 years and over) and youth (10 to 17 years) offenders in contact with police, while the average number of offences allegedly being committed is increasing, particularly for youth offenders.

Unique offender rates continued the decade long downward trend for both adults and youth. With respect to adults there were 2,276.6 unique adult offenders per 100,000 persons in 2021–22 (down 19 per cent over the 10 years) and the rate of unique youth offenders declined to 1,926.4 per 100,000 persons aged 10 to 17 years, the lowest recorded over the last 10 years (Charts 6 and 7). Reductions in young offenders has resulted in a ‘concentration effect’, with more complex youth remaining in contact with the criminal justice system and observed increases in some rates among older offenders pointing to a cohort of people entrenched in criminal behaviour.

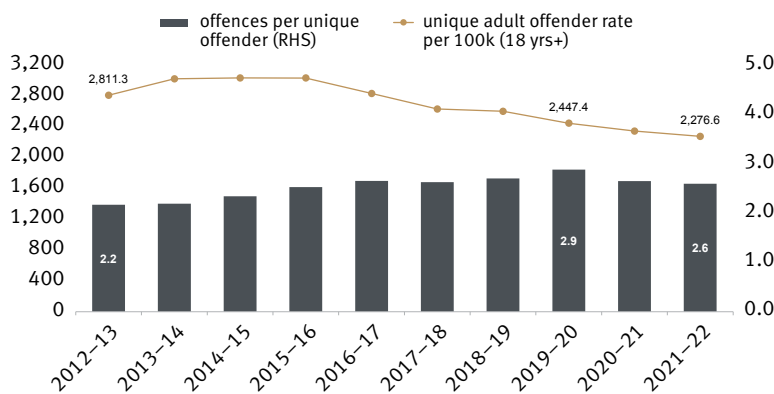
In response, there has been substantial system investment and reform to address a range of issues being dealt with by Queensland’s criminal justice system. For example, there have been multiple government initiatives aimed at reducing the impact of domestic and family violence and sexual offences such as those recommended by the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland,



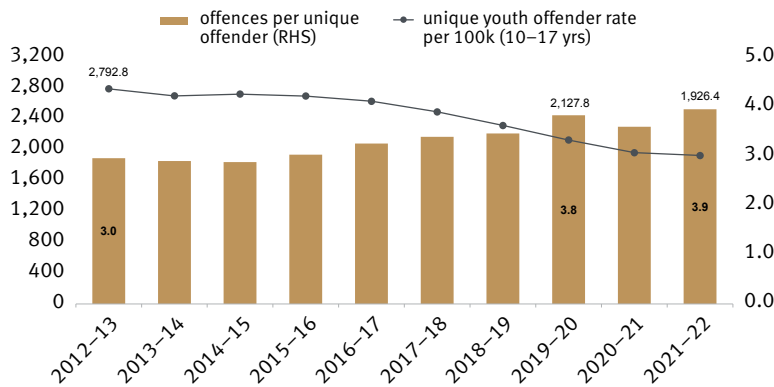
**\$132**  
**MILLION**  
over 4 years

to assist  
Queenslanders with  
crime prevention  
and provide support  
to victims

the Women’s Safety and Justice Taskforce and the Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service Responses to Domestic and Family Violence. Similarly, youth offending continues to be a focus of government reform with the Youth Justice Taskforce and recently announced investments in the youth justice system focused on targeting serious repeat offenders, tackling the complex issues of youth crime and supporting community safety.



**Chart 6: Unique adult offenders, Queensland.**  
Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office.



**Chart 7: Unique youth offenders, Queensland.**  
Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office.

### The Queensland Government is focussed on keeping communities safe

The Queensland Government has been listening and taking action to get the balance right.

Strengthened legislation targeting serious high-risk offenders is backed by evidence-based programs, increased front-line resources, and increased

supports to the community to prevent crime and enhance assistance to victims.

We continue to fund programs and services that the evidence tells us are effective in reducing reoffending and increasing community safety, working in partnership with community controlled organisations and communities to deliver services and tailor support for First Nations young people.

Early intervention and prevention remains a priority. Since the 2022–23 Budget, the Queensland Government has invested **\$446.4 million** over 5-years, with **\$37 million** per annum ongoing, towards a comprehensive youth justice reform program addressing 3 key strategic priorities:

- targeting serious repeat offenders
- supporting community safety
- tackling the complex causes of youth crime.

A further **\$89.7 million** over 3 years is being directed to address capacity issues at youth detention centres and support preparations for the 2 new youth detention centres.

### **Supporting community safety**

Community safety is paramount. This Budget provides funding of **\$132 million** over 4 years to assist Queenslanders with crime prevention and providing support to victims. This includes:

- **\$64 million** for policing responses including high visibility patrols and specialist youth crime rapid response squads
- **\$30 million** to help seniors secure their homes
- **\$15 million** to empower communities to develop local solutions to youth crime issues
- **\$10 million** for a trial to subsidise the cost for Queenslanders to install vehicle immobilisers in Cairns, Townsville and Mount Isa
- **\$9 million** to respond better to victims of property crime where violence or a threat of violence has occurred, including for Victim Assist Queensland.

On 4 May 2023, the government announced the commencement of industry consultation in the lead up to a rollout of the remote engine immobiliser trial mid-2023. The trial will be available to eligible residents of Mount Isa, Cairns and Townsville and offer up to 20,000 subsidy vouchers to offset the cost for installing the approved device. Immobilisers are an important tool in reducing stolen vehicle crime that may have devastating consequences for vehicle owners, the wider community and offenders alike.

The government will also continue to progress work on 2 new youth detention centres for Queensland. The first of these will be built at the Woodford Correctional Precinct north west of Brisbane, with the expenditure subject to commercial negotiation with potential contractors.

A second youth detention centre is proposed to be built in Cairns and site selection for this centre is currently underway. This will provide youth detention services closer to where young people live, strengthening connection to family, community, country and support services during detention and transition from detention.

### **Targeting serious repeat offenders**

For the small group of young people who commit serious, repeat offences, the youth justice system delivers intensive responses, therapeutic initiatives and high levels of supervision to ensure an appropriate response given the nature of offences committed.

On 22 March 2023, amendments to youth justice related legislation resulting from the *Strengthening Community Safety Act 2023* came into effect. The act amended the youth justice bail and youth justice sentencing frameworks, making breach of bail an offence for children, extending the trial of electronic monitoring of eligible young people on bail for 2 years, removed the mandatory requirement for police to consider alternatives to arrest for a child who is on bail for an indictable offence or for contravention of certain domestic violence orders, and expanded the presumption against bail.

Funding of **\$37 million** over 4 years has been provided to support these amendments, and to ensure that repeat offenders spend less time on remand and more time serving their sentences.



## Tackling the complex causes of youth crime

The vast majority of young people who come into contact with the youth justice system do not offend again following diversionary and rehabilitation programs. To help break the destructive cycle of offending, the government is investing a further **\$267.5 million** in programs that focus on addressing the complex causes of youth crime.

Since its inception in May 2020, the Youth Co-Responder Teams (YCRT) initiative has had more than 60,000 direct interactions with young people across the state. The initiative gives young people in the early stages of offending, the chance to stay out of trouble with the law and the consequences of entering the youth justice system. YCRTs consist of police and youth justice staff who also work proactively with young people and their families to tackle issues that may be contributing to re-offending, including non-compliance with bail conditions.

That is why the government has provided **\$96.2 million** over 4 years to continue the co-responder model and expand YCRTs into Toowoomba, Mount Isa, Ipswich, South Brisbane and the Fraser Coast.

Increased funding of **\$29.4 million** over 4 years and **\$7.4 million** per annum ongoing is being provided to support location specific diversionary responses to youth crime and young people engaging in anti-social behaviour, including after-hours support, cultural-based mentorship and rehabilitation, bridging to flexi-school and case management, and alternative opportunities and activities for at-risk young people.

An additional **\$50 million** over 2 years from 2023–24 will be provided for infrastructure development at priority Queensland Police-Citizen Youth Club (PCYC) sites to improve frontline social program delivery and intervention initiatives for vulnerable youths and **\$6 million** to enable PCYC police officers to increase their focus on social programs aimed at the prevention of youth crime.

It is imperative that we invest in programs and initiatives to support and engage with our youth, including those that are vulnerable and/or disadvantaged, as they are the future of our great state of Queensland.







# The Big Build

## Ongoing investment to improve liveability and sustainability of our communities and support our great Queensland lifestyle.

The Queensland Government is continuing to deliver the economic and social infrastructure needed to support a growing Queensland.

By keeping Queenslanders connected, unlocking development, and making it easier to do business, investments in infrastructure are boosting Queensland's productivity and competitiveness and supporting job creation and industry development across the state.

This includes significant investments to support the transformation of the state's energy system and deliver infrastructure projects across Queensland's regions. These investments are strengthening the resilience of our communities, supporting growth, and improving liveability.

### **\$89 billion record 4 year capital program**

The Queensland Government is in the midst of a building boom, with a record 4-year capital program of **\$88.729 billion**.

In 2023–24, the government's capital program will directly support around **58,000 jobs**, creating generational change and providing first-class facilities for all Queenslanders.

This Budget continues to deliver on the Queensland Government's **\$50 billion** Infrastructure Guarantee, and is



A record

**\$89**

**BILLION**

**THE BIG BUILD**

4-year capital program

investing in new and ongoing projects, including:

- the *Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan* and supporting investments across renewables, storage and network infrastructure to achieve renewable energy targets of 50 per cent by 2030, 70 per cent by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035 and deliver clean, reliable and affordable power for generations
- vital water projects, such as the **\$983 million** Fitzroy to Gladstone water pipeline to deliver water security to the Gladstone region to support current and future industries
- the infrastructure required to deliver a world-class Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, including redevelopment of the Brisbane Cricket Ground – the Gabba
- boosting the QuickStarts Queensland program target by 500 homes, to increase the pipeline to 3,265 social housing commencements by 30 June 2025
- provision of schools and facilities to help our children succeed, including **\$968 million** over 10 years to establish a strategic land acquisition fund, **\$358 million** over 4 years for new general and specialist learning spaces, and increased funding of **\$259 million** over 3 years to expand the school halls program, which provides for new or upgrade hall facilities, covered outdoor areas and performing arts facilities.

### **The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan**

The *Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan* outlines the state’s pathway to transform the energy system over the next 10 to 15 years to deliver clean, reliable, and affordable power, creating a platform for strong economic growth and continued investment. The government’s publicly owned energy businesses are leading Queensland’s energy transformation, investing in new wind, solar, storage and transmission, supported by the **\$4.5 billion** Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund.

In total, the 2023–24 Budget includes a capital investment of around **\$19 billion** across the forward estimates to support the *Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan*.



## Pumped hydro

The government's investment in the *Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan* includes up to 7 gigawatts of large scale, long duration pumped hydro across 2 regional sites, to be delivered by the newly established Queensland Hydro.

The **\$14.2 billion** Borumba Pumped Hydro project, located west of Gympie, will deliver 2 gigawatts of 24-hour storage. That equates to stored renewable power for around 2 million homes. This project has a 2030 target for completion.

The Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro project will be located west of Mackay. It will be the largest pumped hydro energy storage in the world, with the potential for stage one to be completed by 2032.

These 2 projects, which will be central to Queensland's energy system, will support around 4,000 construction jobs a year over a decade.

## CopperString 2032

The government's **\$5 billion** investment in CopperString 2032 will deliver a 1,100 kilometre transmission line from Townsville to Mount Isa, connecting the North West Minerals Province to the National Electricity Market.

The North West Minerals Province contains one of the world's richest deposits of critical minerals worth potentially an estimated **\$500 billion**. Critical minerals are the essential components for production of emerging technologies such as electric vehicles, renewable energy products and storage and low-emission power sources.

CopperString 2032 will provide energy certainty to the burgeoning critical minerals sector, delivering reliable, affordable and renewable power to the people, businesses and communities in the region. It will also unlock the development of one of Australia's largest renewable energy zones.

CopperString 2032 is one of the most significant investments in economic infrastructure ever seen in North Queensland, and the largest expansion to the power grid in Australia. The Queensland Government is investing **\$1.06 billion** for CopperString 2032 available due to the progressive coal royalties introduced at the 2022–23 Budget.

## Renewable energy and storage

Through the *Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan*, the Queensland Government is investing in additional wind, solar and storage projects.

In the 2023–24 Budget, key renewable energy and storage investments include **\$212.6 million** for CleanCo renewables projects in Central Queensland and the Swanbank Battery, **\$673 million** for Stanwell to develop the Wambo and Tarong West Wind Farms and large-scale batteries, and **\$312.1 million** for CS Energy to invest in Central Queensland wind farms and large-scale batteries.

## Supporting the regions

This Budget will invest **\$13.308 billion** in 2023–24 in projects outside of the Greater Brisbane region, supporting around **38,500 jobs**.

In the 2022–23 Budget Update, the government committed to utilise the uplift in royalty revenue to fund **\$4 billion** in productivity-enhancing investments across regional Queensland. This will support investments across energy, water, and port sectors for projects which will underpin Queensland’s future economic prosperity. In this Budget, the government is providing an additional **\$6 billion** in funding for the Borumba Pumped Hydro Energy Storage project. This brings the government’s total commitment to regional investments to **\$10 billion**, and includes:

- **\$1.06 billion** towards CopperString 2032, which will support the construction of the 1,100 kilometre transmission line from Townsville to Mount Isa
- **\$7 billion** for state-owned, large scale, long-duration pumped hydro, including **\$6 billion** for the Borumba project over the construction period and **\$1 billion** for the Pioneer-Burdekin project
- **\$550 million** towards the Fitzroy to Gladstone water pipeline, enabling long-term water security to the region
- **\$500 million** for CleanCo to support a 2.3-gigawatt portfolio of wind and solar projects in Central Queensland
- **\$440 million** towards Sunwater’s Burdekin Falls Dam Improvement and Raising Project, improving and raising the dam by 2 metres to further support water security, noting this is on top of the existing **\$100 million** commitment towards the project

- **\$300 million** for CS Energy to pursue investments in new wind projects and energy firming options to support future industrial decarbonisation in Central Queensland
- **\$100 million** for Gladstone Port Corporation’s Northern Land Expansion project, subject to approvals, supporting the release of additional land at Gladstone Port and the development of renewable energy and other industries
- **\$50 million** for the replacement of North Queensland Bulk Ports’ Bowen Wharf, with the plans, designs and approvals subject to further consultation with stakeholders.

As well as the *Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan*, key projects in rural and regional Queensland include continued construction of the Rookwood Weir and Mount Crosby Flood Resilience Program, delivery of the Toowoomba to Warwick Pipeline project, building new regional hospitals and schools, courthouse upgrades, continued delivery of the Port of Townsville Channel Capacity Upgrade, and expansion of the Cairns Marine Precinct.

### Providing a strong transport network

Given the geographical size of Queensland, a strong transport network is vital to supporting our communities and industries.

Key regional transport projects supported by the 2023–24 Budget include:

- the ongoing Bruce Highway Upgrade Program, which includes **\$1 billion** to construct Cooroy to Curra (Section D), **\$662.5 million** to upgrade the Bruce Highway between Caboolture–Bribie Island Road and Steve Irwin Way, **\$350 million** to construct a new road to connect the Bruce Highway with Mackay–Slade Point Road, and **\$336 million** towards a bypass of Tiaro
- construction of Stage 3 of the Gold Coast Light Rail, which will connect to the existing Gold Coast Light Rail network (from Helensvale to Broadbeach South), delivering a 6.7-kilometre extension from Broadbeach South to Burleigh Heads and providing 8 additional stations

- providing for the Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail (Kuraby to Beenleigh) upgrade, with a plan to increase the number of tracks between Kuraby and Beenleigh from 2 to 4 tracks, with modernised rail systems, station upgrades and level crossing removals along this 20-kilometre corridor
- establishing the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program (QTMP), which will build 65 new 6-car passenger trains at a purpose-built manufacturing facility at Torbanlea, in the Maryborough region, as well as construct a new rail facility at Ormeau, in the Gold Coast region. The QTMP will support South East Queensland’s population and economic growth, as well as Cross River Rail and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP) is a 4-year program, released annually, outlining current and planned investments in transport infrastructure. QTRIP spans road, rail, bus, cycling and marine infrastructure on freight, commuter and recreational networks. The program of works detailed in QTRIP represents a **\$32.1 billion** investment over the 4 years from 2023–24 to 2026–27.

Further details on QTRIP are available at [www.tmr.qld.gov.au](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au) by searching for QTRIP.

### **Building better – Disaster recovery and resilience**

Queensland has experienced a significant number of natural disasters in recent years, including devastating floods and cyclones. Queenslanders are resilient. We rally together and recover from these challenging events. The Queensland Government is supporting communities with their recovery, but also investing to reduce the impacts of future events.

With the number of disasters experienced in Queensland each year predicted to rise, the focus of the Queensland Betterment Fund is on creating stronger, more resilient Queensland communities, and reducing future rebuilding costs. Jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments, the Queensland Betterment Fund was established in 2013 following Severe Tropical Cyclone Oswald. Since 2013, more than 520 projects valued at over **\$263 million** across 70 local government areas have been approved.



The South East Queensland floods in 2021–22 caused damage to almost 7,000 homes and was one of the state’s most devastating disasters. In response, the Australian and Queensland Governments have established the Resilient Homes Fund, which now totals **\$761.6 million** following a **\$20.6 million** boost in this budget jointly funded by the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Efficiencies. Under this program, Queenslanders whose homes were damaged by flooding can register to be considered for 3 program options: Resilient Retrofit, Home Raising or Voluntary Home Buy-Back. To date, over 100 flood-impacted home settlements have now been finalised, allowing homeowners who were affected by the floods to sell their home for pre-flood value and move to safer ground.

The Queensland Government, in partnership with the Australian Government, is continuing to support impacted communities in the 2023–24 Budget with **\$152 million**, including **\$60 million** held centrally, from the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements committed to deliver a suite of initiatives to enhance Queensland’s disaster recovery and resilience, including the Bundaberg Levee and uplift to the Resilience Homes Fund.

### **Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games**

The 2023–24 Budget continues to support preparations for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The government is providing additional funding of **\$100.3 million** over 4 years and **\$13.6 million** per year ongoing for Brisbane 2032 activities. The Brisbane 2032 Coordination Office will oversee key aspects of Games preparations. This includes planning and designing infrastructure like venues and athlete villages, as well as transport, environment, legacy, First Nations and security. The Coordination Office will also work closely with the Organising Committee for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games to ensure government meets its contractual commitments and targets with the International Olympic Committee.

A further **\$7.5 million** over 4 years is provided for the Queensland Police Service to support its specialist security advisor role.

The 2023–24 Budget has provisions for total capital expenditure for

Brisbane 2032 venues infrastructure of **\$7.1 billion** over 10 years. This venues infrastructure program is jointly funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments to support the hosting of Brisbane 2032. The allocation of funding for specific venues projects will be subject to government investment decisions following completion of project assessment.

The venues infrastructure program comprises the Brisbane Arena (**\$2.5 billion**), the Gabba Redevelopment (**\$2.7 billion**) and 16 new or upgraded venues under the Minor Venues Program (**\$1.9 billion**). Total forecast expenditure for the venues infrastructure program over 4 years to 2026–27 is **\$1.9 billion**.

A further **\$154.7 million** is provided over 4 years from 2024–25 for Economic Development Queensland to bring forward delivery of public infrastructure to facilitate the development of services and land for the Brisbane Athlete Village.

The 2023–24 Budget also includes **\$44 million** as the state's contribution to the University of Queensland's proposed Paralympic Centre of Excellence as part of the Brisbane 2032 Legacy Plan.



Image supplied courtesy of The University of Queensland

### Paralympic Centre of Excellence

The Paralympic Centre of Excellence at the University of Queensland is a jointly funded project with the Queensland Government contributing up to **\$44 million** in budget funding to help construct the world-leading facility.

The University has commenced discussions with the Australian Government regarding funding opportunities for the **\$132 million** centre which will set a new benchmark for inclusion and elite paralympic sport.

The Paralympic Centre of Excellence, to be based at the St Lucia campus, will help participation and training for para-athletes in the lead up to the 2032 Games.

The Queensland Government's support of the facility provides a possible long-term home for Paralympics Australia and is an example of the legacy the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games provides.

The funding will help create an international standard sports venue, a wheelchair and prosthetics workshop, dedicated testing facilities and accessibility to student workforce and education.

It will cater for 20 out of 23 Paralympic sports and employ 22 fulltime staff who will have the opportunity to combine leading research with sport technology and rehabilitation facilities.

Construction is expected to begin in 2025–26 and be completed in 2027–28.





# First Nations peoples

## Understanding the challenges for First Nations peoples

Queensland is home to over 273,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, making up 5.2 per cent of our population in 2021. Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is also growing, up by 23.5 per cent since 2016.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders are younger, on average, than the rest of the population.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across the state have historically been, and continue to be, confronted by a range of complex factors contributing to higher levels of socio-economic disadvantage, higher rates of chronic disease and lower levels of education attainment, among other things.

The Queensland Government remains committed to partnering with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the state to achieve the ambitious aims of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, and to deliver real change.

Recent data shows several key strengths, including:



**9 in 10**

babies born with a healthy birth weight



**9 in 10**

women attend at least 5 antenatal visits while pregnant



**95%**

of children enrolled in preschool in the year before school



**8 in 10**

Year 12 graduates in 2021 awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education

Employment rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people increased to 57.2 per cent in 2021, up from 52.1 per cent in 2016, with every age group seeing an uplift in employment rates.

Significant challenges remain. Rates of children and young people in out-of-home care and youth detention remain high, as do rates of hospitalisation for preventable conditions and overall mortality rates.

### Path to Treaty

On 10 May 2023, after receiving bipartisan support, the Path to Treaty Bill was set into law with the passing of the landmark legislation in the Queensland Parliament. The bill creates the legislative framework to establish:

- a First Nations Treaty Institute to support the development and provision of a framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to prepare for and then commence treaty negotiations with the Queensland Government
- a Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry to inquire into, and report on, the effects of colonisation on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The 2021–22 Budget established a dedicated **\$300 million** Path to Treaty Fund, with annual returns available to support Queensland’s Path to Treaty activities, including a **\$10 million** annual allocation to support the First Nations Treaty Institute for the duration of treaty-making.

## Support for First Nations peoples

### Housing Action Plan

First Nations peoples in Queensland are 6 times more likely to experience homelessness than other Queenslanders, twice as likely to experience severe overcrowding, and approximately half as likely to achieve home ownership than non-Indigenous Queenslanders.

This is why the government is establishing the second Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan (2024–2027), with the 2023–24 Budget providing **\$51.3 million** in additional funding over 4 years, with a focus on progressing Closing the Gap initiatives, enhancing culturally safe services and delivering innovative housing supply solutions.

As part of the additional **\$1.1 billion** for the delivery and supply of social housing through the *Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021–2025*, **\$77 million** is committed to continue the development of social housing in remote and discrete First Nations communities. The expanded QuickStarts Queensland program will include the delivery of new social housing outcomes for First Nations people across Queensland.

### Our Way

Following extensive co-design with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and stakeholders, this government is committing increased funding of **\$167.2 million** over 4 years and **\$20 million** ongoing from 2027–28, to continue to support activities and reforms aimed at eliminating the over-representation of First Nations peoples in the child protection system. The Our Way strategy represents a fundamental shift in how child protection, family support and other services work with, and for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. The next stage of *Our Way, Breaking Cycles (2023–2031)* builds on

the foundations for transformational change in the child protection system set under Changing Tracks with a focus on changing the way that services are designed and delivered with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people, and families to eliminate the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system in Queensland.

### **Managing Country with First Nations Peoples**

The Queensland Government has committed to reframing relationships with First Nations people, partnering with them to deliver the best care for country through traditional knowledge and expertise, co-stewardship arrangements and recognising native title. This is why the government will provide **\$38.6 million** over 4 years and **\$10.4 million** per annum ongoing to ensure that we progress agreements and relationships that promote respect, culture, rights and active co-stewardship of Country. The government will also continue its partnership with the Quandamooka People, providing **\$31.9 million** over 4 years and **\$1.7 million** per annum ongoing, to extend ranger accommodation at Minjerribah (Stradbroke Island) and Mulgumpin (Moreton Island), to implement a fire management plan on Mulgumpin and to assist in management of the Moreton Bay Marine Park.







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'Rich history, thriving future.' artwork  
by David Williams of Gilimbaa.

