

1. OVERVIEW

FEATURES

- **This Budget Paper presents a consolidation of expense, capital and revenue measures reflecting decisions since the 2008-09 Budget.**
- **The measures reflect the Government's policy agenda, targeting priority areas in which the Government will concentrate its efforts to improve performance and respond to changing community needs and expectations and the changing economic climate.**

INTRODUCTION

The intention in producing this paper is to provide a consolidated view of the Government's policy decisions with budgetary impacts made since the 2008-09 Budget. It complements other Budget Papers, in particular Budget Paper No. 2 – Budget Strategy and Outlook, Budget Paper No. 3 – Capital Statement and the Service Delivery Statements.

This paper includes only new policy decisions and does not detail the full amount of additional funding being provided to agencies to deliver services and infrastructure. For example, formula-driven changes in funding are not included.

For details on the total funding available to agencies, refer to agencies' Service Delivery Statements.

This chapter explains the Government's Budget priorities which provide the framework for Government policy making and the major themes of the 2009-10 Budget.

THE 2009-10 BUDGET – PRIORITIES

The 2009-10 Budget introduces measures focused towards achievement in a set of Budget priorities.

These priorities include:

- Delivering Jobs for Queensland
- Investing in Our Health
- Renewable Energy and the Environment
- Better and Safer Roads
- Promoting Education and Early Childhood
- Improving Emergency Services

Delivering Jobs for Queensland

The Government's immediate priority is protecting jobs in the face of the largest global economic downturn in eight decades. The 2009-10 capital program is aimed at supporting job creation and meeting the infrastructure needs of our rapidly growing population.

As well as protecting jobs now, the Government is preparing for the future. By investing in initiatives that will develop the skills base of Queensland workers, support emerging industries, build on traditional strengths, and attract investment and innovation, Queensland will be well positioned to lead Australia through the period of economic recovery and beyond.

Significant measures that involve additional funding include:

- *Payroll Tax Rebate for Apprentice and Trainee Wages* (page 83)
- *Queensland Tourism Strategy* (page 29)
- *Better TAFE Facilities* (page 21)
- *Nation Building and Jobs Plan Element 1—New Capital Works* (page 53)
- *Nation Building and Jobs Plan Element 2—Works on Existing Dwellings* (pages 14, 54)
- *A Fresh Approach* (page 61)

These are complemented by a range of other initiatives, such as establishment of the Green Army to provide 2,300 jobs through work placements of up to six months, which are to be resourced from existing funding.

Investing in Our Health

To make Queenslanders Australia's healthiest people, the Government is investing in healthy lifestyles, hospitals and other frontline health services to ensure we receive the best possible healthcare.

Significant measures include:

- *Expanded Rehabilitation and Step Down Facilities* (pages 34, 62)
- *Faster Emergency Care in our Hospitals* (pages 35, 62)
- *Nurse Practitioners* (page 35)
- *Surgery Connect* (page 35)
- *Queensland Children's Hospital Academic and Research Centre* (page 63)

Renewable Energy and the Environment

Reducing Queensland's carbon footprint and protecting its natural wonders are at the heart of the Queensland Government's commitment to tackling the challenges of climate change and preserving the environment for a sustainable future. The Government will continue to invest in a broad range of initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to climate change and help households and businesses minimise their energy costs.

Significant measures include:

- *Energy Conservation and Demand Management* (page 27)
- *Energy Efficiency Retrofit* (page 31)
- *Renewable Energy Projects* (page 27)
- *Great Barrier Reef Protection Package* (page 32)
- *Maintenance of EPA Estate Assets* (page 32)
- *Expansion of the Wild River Rangers Program* (page 33)
- *Clean Energy Strategy for Remote/Isolated Communities* (page 26)
- *ClimateSmart Business Service* (page 30)

Better and Safer Roads

The Queensland Government is committed to delivering the infrastructure to build and preserve Queensland roads, while managing the impact of urban growth. The 2009-10 Budget continues the Queensland Government's aim to deliver the infrastructure needed to connect Queenslanders while creating and sustaining jobs for Queensland's workforce.

The Government's road building program plans for growth by creating and sustaining Queensland jobs, improving road safety and quality, reducing congestion, and continuing to connect people and places around the State.

Significant measures include:

- *Safer Roads Sooner—Additional Road Upgrades* (page 45)
- *Urban Congestion Initiatives* (pages 47, 76)
- *Sustainable Resources Communities Funding—Road Safety Improvements* (page 74)
- *Road Safety Enforcement Initiatives* (pages 41, 70)
- *Digital Integrated Traffic Camera System* (pages 41, 70)

Promoting Education and Early Childhood

In line with the Government's *Towards Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland* agenda, a focus for 2009-10 will be improving the educational outcomes for all students, with particular emphasis on the essentials of literacy, numeracy and science. Major infrastructure investment will support this by providing high quality teaching and learning environments.

Significant measures include:

- *Early Childhood Reform* (pages 22, 60)
- *Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan* (page 23)
- *Productivity Places Program National Program* (page 24)
- *Science Spark* (page 25)
- *Additional School Grants* (page 21)
- *Additional Assistance for non-State Schools* (page 59)
- *South East Queensland Public Private Partnership Schools Project* (page 25)
- *Building the Education Revolution* (pages 22, 59, 60)
- *National Secondary Schools Computer Fund* (page 24)

Improving Emergency Services

Over the past year, Queensland has experienced devastating floods, cyclones and torrential storms. The Government's investment in emergency services will help make Queensland communities safer and provide quality emergency relief services.

Significant measures include:

- *Contribution to Fire Service* (page 18)
- *Helicopter Services* (page 18)
- *Keeping Our Beaches Safe* (page 18)
- *Support Our Heroes—Rural Fire Service* (pages 19, 57)
- *Support Our Heroes—State Emergency Services* (pages 19, 58)
- *Sustainable Disaster Management* (page 20)
- *Sustainable Resource Communities Funding— Upgrade of Bowen Basin Emergency Service Centres* (page 58)
- *Disaster Management Warehouses and Caches* (page 30)
- *Disaster Preparedness in Vulnerable Communities* (page 31)
- *Bushfire Community Training Package* (page 30)

EXPLANATION OF SCOPE AND TERMS

The following is a description of the scope and terms applied in this document.

Scope

This document includes measures with the following features:

- **Sector.** Only Queensland General Government sector agencies are included. Measures involving Government-owned Corporations or other Public Non-financial Corporation sector agencies are within scope if the measures are being funded directly by the General Government sector.
- **Timeframe.** Measures based on decisions made since the release of the 2008-09 Budget (June 2008), including the 2009-10 Budget.
- **Type.** Measures with budgetary impacts; in particular, expense and capital measures with service delivery, capital enhancement, grant or subsidy impacts on the community. Revenue measures involving a significant change in revenue policy, including changes in tax rate.

Initiatives of a technical nature or non-policy based adjustments, such as parameter based funding adjustments, are not included as they do not reflect changes in government policy. The main focus is on measures reflecting policy decisions that impact directly on the community through service delivery or other means.

- **Materiality.** Minor measures or measures with non-significant community impact are not included in the document.

Funding basis

Tables in this document are presented on a net funding basis.

- Net funding refers to the impact of funding the measure on appropriations from the Consolidated Fund or centrally held funds (such as the Queensland Future Growth Fund) to the relevant General Government agency. It does not include funding directed to the measure from existing agency resources or other sources. Where the funding is provided from sources other than the Queensland Government, this is indicated in the text.
- Amounts refer to additional funding being provided to agencies for a particular program or project, as a result of Government decisions since the 2008-09 Budget. This may differ to other Budget papers, such as Budget Paper No. 3 – Capital Statement, that may refer to total funding.
- Amounts included in the tables relating to revenue measures represent the impact of the measure on Government revenue (with a positive amount representing additional revenue).