



Highlights

Delivering jobs for Queensland

The Queensland Government has an \$18 billion building program to protect jobs. The Government will equip our workforce with the skills needed for future recovery, to position the State to come out of the global recession stronger, not weaker.



Under the Government's plan to create 100,000 new jobs over the next three years, the Government will focus on building infrastructure, developing skills for the future, supporting new and traditional industries, and developing new job creation programs.

Building infrastructure

In 2009-10 the Government remains committed to delivering its significant capital program by investing \$18.2 billion in additional road, transport, health, education, social housing, energy, water and other infrastructure across the State and supporting 127,000 full-time jobs in Queensland. Key capital investments in 2009-10 include:

- \$7.307 billion for roads and other transport infrastructure, including projects outlined in 'Better roads and transport' on page 7
- \$1.296 billion for health infrastructure as outlined in 'Investing in our health' on page 5
- \$1.837 billion for the education and training capital program, including initiatives outlined in 'Promoting education and early childhood' on page 8 and in 'Developing skills for the future' on page 3
- \$1.447 billion for additional social housing and improvements to the amenities of existing dwellings to ensure they remain available for rent
- \$3.206 billion for the electricity network to secure reliable supply for a growing population
- \$1.122 billion in water infrastructure, including construction of the Wyaralong Dam.

The Government will maximise skilling and training opportunities generated by this capital expenditure by expanding its existing 10% training policy to include any State Government construction or civil works contracts worth more than \$500,000. The expanded policy will require private companies awarded State government contracts to have 10% of all labour hours attributed to apprentices and trainees.

Nation Building and Jobs Plan

The Australian Government released its \$42 billion Nation Building and Jobs Plan in February 2009 committing	\$21.5 billion to the states for education, social housing, and road and rail infrastructure.
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Education – Building the Education Revolution

In 2009-10, Queensland will receive \$1.168 billion in funding under the Building the Education Revolution program, which focuses on long-term investment in school facilities across Australia. This funding will:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • refurbish and renew existing school facilities and undertake minor building works • build new science laboratories and language learning centres in secondary schools • fast-track trade training centres in schools.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deliver new or upgraded large-scale infrastructure in all primary schools, special schools and Prep to Year 12 schools 	

Social housing

In 2009-10, funding of \$816.4 million is provided under the Australian Government's Nation Building and Jobs Plan to help boost Queensland's stock of social housing by up to 4,000 new dwellings over the next three years, and fast track repairs and maintenance on existing public housing. Key initiatives include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rental units and to purchase land for social housing development • \$78 million to start construction of community-managed social housing and \$28.1 million to the Brisbane Housing Company to complete construction of 124 rental units • more than \$40 million for urgent repairs, maintenance and upgrades to existing social housing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$670.3 million to start construction of more than 1,500 new social housing 	

Black spots, boom gates, repairing regional roads and community infrastructure

Under the Nation Building and Jobs Plan, \$52.9 million is provided for road maintenance in Queensland. Funding is also provided to repair regional	roads and black spots, install boom gates at rail crossings and regional community infrastructure across Australia.
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Developing skills for the future

The Queensland Government recognises the importance of ensuring Queenslanders have the necessary skills and training to support their active participation in the workforce, particularly in the current economic climate.

In this Budget, the Government will build on its significant investment in training initiatives, to ensure Queensland has the skilled workers it needs to enable future economic growth.

- A new \$15 million payroll tax apprentice and trainee incentive will be introduced. Employers will benefit from a 25% payroll tax rebate on the eligible wages of apprentices and trainees in 2009-10, in addition to these wages being exempt from payroll tax.
- \$124.3 million will be invested over four years from 1 January 2009 to 30 June 2012, creating 102,000 additional training places for existing workers and around 46,000 additional training places for job seekers in priority qualifications.
- \$136.6 million will be provided to construct, refurbish and modernise training facilities, including the new Coomera Education Precinct of the Gold Coast Institute of TAFE, the SkillsTech Australia campus at Acacia Ridge, and a major trade and technician skills campus at Townsville.

The training and education needs of Indigenous Queenslanders will continue to receive specific support through ongoing initiatives such as the \$5.5 million commitment to support secondary school students from the Torres Strait, Cape York and Palm Island who are studying away from home.

Developing new job creation programs Queensland Green Army

The Government is committed to assisting unemployed Queenslanders enter the workforce. The Queensland Green Army program will invest \$57 million over three years to provide work placements and traineeships for up to 3,000 unemployed people across the State.

The program provides:

- \$47 million over three years to deliver paid green work placements for up to 2,300 unemployed Queenslanders for up to six months. Participants will be paid wages ranging from \$193 to more than \$500 per week to undertake a mixture of supervised work and training as part of green public works projects
- \$10 million over three years to subsidise green traineeships for up to 700 unemployed Queenslanders,

representing around 12 months paid work experience. Trainees who complete the program will gain a nationally recognised vocational green qualification to a Certificate II or III level

- Up to six months assistance for participants to find a full-time job or enter higher education upon completion of the program

- Grants to community-based and not-for-profit organisations and local councils to deliver environmental and conservation projects.

The Green Army will work on projects of strategic importance to enhance the State's natural assets, strengthen the tourism industry and promote increased environmental awareness for all Queenslanders.





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Supporting new and traditional industries

The Queensland Government is committed to helping industries remain viable in these challenging economic times and to positioning Queensland for future economic recovery.

As part of the Sustainable Resource Communities Funding Initiative, \$22.5 million will be allocated for infrastructure projects in the North West Queensland Mineral Province to create and support jobs in a region impacted by the mining downturn. This funding is in addition to \$27 million previously allocated for projects in the Bowen Basin and \$6 million for upgrades to the Capricorn Highway.

Under the Queensland Made Means Queensland Jobs initiative, \$6.45 million is provided over five years for the Industry Capability Network (Queensland) to assist competitive Queensland companies to access major infrastructure and resource project opportunities and global supply chains.

Tourism is an important industry in the State, employing thousands of Queenslanders. As part of the Government's *Tourism Blueprint to Protect Jobs*, \$37.8 million will be invested over three years to support and grow Queensland's tourism industry.

Liquefied natural gas industry

In addition to implementing strategies to support existing industry sectors, the Government recognises the importance of diversifying the economy by attracting and developing new and innovative industries. The Government is committed to supporting and developing the emerging liquefied natural gas (LNG) industry in Gladstone, based on the coal seam gas (CSG) reserves of the Surat and Bowen basins.

An industry viability study commissioned by the Government estimates the LNG industry could generate more than 10,750 Queensland jobs during the construction phase and employ approximately 3,500 people in ongoing, direct industry roles at gas fields, processing plants and export facilities.

Key Government initiatives to support the LNG industry include:

- establishing the LNG Industry Unit to drive development
- dedicating land within the Gladstone State Development Area to establish the LNG industry based around Gladstone
- clearing the way for a gas 'super highway' with a commitment of up to \$30 million to buy the land corridor for an underground gas pipeline from Callide to Curtis Island (located off Gladstone), where LNG plants are being proposed.



- \$36 million of additional funding over three years will go to Tourism Queensland for new, regionally focused tourism marketing and product development campaigns, including marketing major business, sporting and cultural events such as the Picasso exhibition, the Gold Coast A1GP and the Gold Coast Marathon, as well as new tourism products such as the Short Breaks campaign.
- \$1.8 million over three years to support the drive travel market. Funding of up to \$50,000 per project will be available to local councils, regional tourism organisations and local community groups for projects such as toilet facilities and shaded picnic areas.