

**Hon. Terry Mackenroth MP
Deputy Premier
Treasurer and Minister for Sport**

3 June, 2003

CAPITAL WORKS FUNDING INCREASED IN STATE BUDGET

A massive capital works allocation of almost \$5.3 Billion had been provided in the State Budget to help meet the demands of Queensland's growing population, the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, Mr Terry Mackenroth, said today.

Mr Mackenroth said the money would be used to fund hundreds of building and infrastructure projects in towns and cities throughout Queensland.

He said the Beattie Government's investment in capital works would stimulate economic development in communities and generate more than 44,500 full time jobs.

"Capital works funding in this Budget is up approximately \$400 Million from the 2002-03 expenditure," Mr Mackenroth said.

"We have set aside \$1.75 Billion for capital funding of transport and main roads, \$359 Million for education and training, \$283 Million for health and \$297 Million for law, order and public safety," Mr Mackenroth said.

"This is money that will be spent directly on infrastructure such as roads, dams, bridges, water supply and sewerage, schools, hospitals and housing.

"More than \$2.2 Billion will be spent by our government owned corporations on 'building block' infrastructure such as power stations, ports and railways."

Mr Mackenroth said more than \$2 Billion would be spent in the Brisbane Statistical Division.

"Major projects in the Brisbane area include \$92 Million for the Millennium Arts Projects, \$90 Million for the new Magistrates Courthouse, \$147 Million for works at the Port of Brisbane, \$57 Million for hospital redevelopments including Herston and the Princess Alexandra, \$225 Million for roadworks and \$140 Million on public and private rental housing projects," he said.

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“This is the most populous area of the State so it makes sense that it would get the highest allocation of funds.

“However, overall 62.5 percent of all the capital expenditure will occur outside Brisbane in regional and rural areas of the State.

“Major funding allocations in the regions in the upcoming financial year will include \$64 Million for the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, \$60.5 Million for Burnett water infrastructure, \$105 Million for the Enertrade gas pipeline between Moranbah and Townsville and \$76.8 Million for the Hail Creek rail line.

“In addition \$26.9 Million has been set aside for work on the Douglas Arterial in Townsville, \$37.5 Million for the Cairns Airport, \$40.7 Million for various Sunwater capital projects and \$49.8 Million for the Rockhampton-Townsville-Cairns rail track upgrade project.”

Mr Mackenroth said the Beattie Government would also continue to pursue opportunities to partner with the private sector in the provision of public infrastructure.

“Investment in capital infrastructure, public and private, helps support the development of Queensland’s regions, creates a better quality of life for people throughout the State and provides more job opportunities for Queenslanders.”

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