

ATT: CHIEF-OF-STAFF/NEWS EDITOR

15 June, 2004

FUNDS IN STATE BUDGET FOR FITZROY

The State Budget contained a wide range of new initiatives, enhanced services and projects designed to improve the lives of residents in the Fitzroy region, the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, Mr Terry Mackenroth, said today.

Mr Mackenroth said the Budget, his fourth as Treasurer, would fully fund the Beattie Government's 2004 election commitments across the State.

"Earlier in the year, this Government shared with the people of Queensland our future plans for how we want this great State to grow, develop and maintain our enviable way of life," Mr Mackenroth said.

"Upon returning to office, we have immediately got straight down to the business of delivering for Queenslanders this term.

"Part of that duty means preparing a responsible and balanced Budget that builds our regions and delivers for both families and individuals no matter where they live in Queensland."

State Budget initiatives and projects for the Fitzroy region in 2004-05 include:

- Over \$350 million to enhance major rail and port facilities to boost Queensland's export performance. Initiatives in 2004-05 include \$194.8 million by Queensland Rail to maintain and upgrade the Blackwater rail system.
- \$24 million over two years for three new aircraft for the Royal Flying Doctor Service to replace those operating from bases in Rockhampton, Townsville and Brisbane.
- \$3.6 million as part of a total \$26 million package of works including construction of the Yeppoon Western Bypass and upgrade of Yeppoon-Tanby Road.

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- \$3 million for the development of a multi-purpose events centre at Gracemere.
- \$850,000 to improve the intersection of the Burnett Highway at the Dee River.
- \$800,000 out of a total \$9.5 million for the Rockhampton Riverbank project.
- \$296,000 for LiveScan fingerprinting technology for Gladstone and Rockhampton.
- \$3.1 million, including \$256,000 for fit out, for Tannum Sands State School; - \$450,000, including \$40,000 for fit out, for Allenstown State School; and \$730,000, including \$52,000 for fit out, for Taranganba State School.
- \$750,000 for a new ambulance station at Emu Park.
- \$1 million for the construction of new training facilities to relocate the Central Queensland Institute of TAFE Yeppoon campus.
- \$412,000 to construct a duplex in Gladstone for government employee housing.
- \$2.8 million over three years for four new renal chairs at the Rockhampton Renal Service and to employ two extra nurses and a skilled indigenous health worker.
- \$1.96 million of total Government funding of \$5.2 million to replace current aged care facilities in Springsure.
- \$1.1 million for an integrated community health centre at Emerald and staff accommodation.
- \$1.35 million for new or replacement ambulance stations at Emu Park and Gemfields/Sapphire.
- \$35.9 million over the next three years to recruit an extra 240 paramedics across Queensland.
- \$164,000 to provide four new life saving ambulance paramedics.
- \$9.09 million to support people with disabilities and their carers in Fitzroy. This includes an estimated \$133,000 for grants to community groups to help local communities support people with a disability and their families and approximately \$611,000 for respite care.
- \$14.09 million for public housing construction, upgrades and maintenance programs, including \$2.2 million for the renewal of 58 houses in Gladstone.
- \$4.4 million for community housing programs and services to address crisis, transitional and long-term housing needs.
- \$3.02 million, including \$242,000 for fit out, to complete the \$3.4 million stage five of Tannum Sands State High School \$601,000, including \$54,000 for fit out, to support industrial technology initiatives at Emerald State High School.
- \$975,000 under the Cooler Schools program to complete projects worth \$2.14 million for airconditioning in 17 local schools. In addition, \$948,000 is provided for the Triple R program, which will provide repainting, reticulation and re-roofing for 28 local schools.

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- Approximately \$50 million will be invested in creating around 23,000 training places in the region. The commitment to meeting the vocational education, training and employment needs of the Fitzroy community will be assisted by the relocation of the Central Queensland Institute of TAFE Yeppoon campus at a cost of \$1 million.
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- \$4.4 million for community housing programs and services to address crisis, transitional and long-term housing needs.
- \$194.8 million by Queensland Rail to maintain and upgrade the Blackwater rail system.
- \$58.8 million for the further expansion of the R G Tanna Coal Terminal at Gladstone Port as part of total Government funding of \$167.5 million over three years, with some projects commencing from 2005-06.
- \$4.39 million in partnership with the Australian Government, the Gladstone Port Authority and the Calliope Shire Council to finalise construction of the Gladstone Port Access Road to two-lane sealed standard, with a further \$1.5 million to construct a heavy-haulage route to the Port.
- \$4.28 million for the Dawson Highway between Gladstone and Biloela, including upgrading the Briffney roundabout from two lanes to four lanes.
- \$55.18 million by CS Energy to develop and improve the Callide Power Station. This will help ensure reliable electricity supply for the region.
- A further \$800,000 for the \$9.5 million development of the Fitzroy Riverbank.
- Approximately \$302,000 of funding for weed and feral animal management and around \$49,000 for improved fire management.
- Approximately \$197,000 will be spent on maintaining and upgrading access and facilities in the region, with an additional \$1 million for the strategic acquisition of lands with high conservation value in Fitzroy region and the neighbouring regions of Western Queensland and Darling Downs and West Moreton.

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- \$1.81 million for the Abandoned Mine Land Program, most of which will be spent progressing the rehabilitation plan for Mount Morgan.
- An additional \$3.5 million for the remediation of dams on the Dee River associated with the Mount Morgan Mine.
- \$500,000 for construction of a new Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol Base at Rosslyn Bay to help ensure sustainable use of the region's environmental resources.
- Assisting Livingstone Shire Council with a \$3.09 million grant towards an overall project cost of approximately \$6.2 million to help Yeppoon gain a new reef-friendly sewage scheme. This will result in less impact on our valuable reef environment.
- Approximately \$5.96 million to create an estimated 767 jobs through the Government's Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative. This includes \$1.49 million allocated to community employment programs and \$4.47 million for apprenticeship and traineeship incentives to provide jobs in crucial, skills-shortage industries and the public sector.
- \$7.17 million will be allocated to support training and skills development requirements of the region's manufacturing base. This includes \$2.34 million to support the region's global scale industrial projects centred around the light metals industry.
- Approximately \$4 million for the development of the Clinton Industrial Estate.
- \$1.84 million for the expansion of the region's softwood plantations.

Mr Mackenroth said the State Budget included a record capital works program of more than \$6 Billion – the highest in the history of Queensland.

He said approximately 60 percent or \$3.2 Billion of this money would be spent outside the Brisbane Statistical Division.

“In addition to our investment in infrastructure we are also maintaining a focus on service delivery with record recurrent spending in Departments such as Health (\$5.1 Billion), Education (\$4.8 Billion), Transport and Main Roads (\$4 Billion), Police (\$1.1 Billion), Disability Services (\$454 Million) and the new Department of Child Safety (\$269 Million),” Mr Mackenroth said.

“Residents of regional and rural Queensland will also benefit from 589 new school teachers, 240 paramedics, 350 police officers, 590 nursing graduates and 518 child protection staff to be employed statewide in 2004/05.

“There are also statewide initiatives that will also have a positive impact on local residents, including the abolition of credit card duty, further transfer duty assistance on homes for owner-occupiers and insurance duty cuts.”

Further enquiries:

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