

ATT: CHIEF-OF-STAFF/NEWS EDITOR

15 June, 2004

BUDGET BOOST FOR REGIONS

The majority of State Government capital funds in the 2004-05 Budget would be spent on infrastructure and services outside Brisbane, the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, Mr Terry Mackenroth, announced today.

Mr Mackenroth said this involved approximately 60 percent or \$3.8 Billion of the Beattie Government's record \$6 Billion plus capital program.

"Many cities and towns across Queensland are being revitalised through factors such as major industrial and business development, interstate and overseas migration and people leaving capital cities for lifestyle sea changes," Mr Mackenroth said.

"Our Government recognises and encourages this growth and that is why we are spending the majority of capital funds in the 2004-05 Budget in regional and rural Queensland."

Mr Mackenroth said some initiatives for regional and rural Queensland in 2004-05 included:

- \$529.5 Million to enhance Ergon Energy's electricity distribution network across regional and rural Queensland;
- \$227.9 Million on maintaining and upgrading rail track infrastructure on the coal network including construction of a new 110km spur line to the Xstrata Rolleston Coal project;
- \$115.1 Million out of a total project cost of \$254.8 Million for the Burnett Water Infrastructure project;
- \$58.8 Million towards the \$167 Million expansion of the RG Tanna Coal Terminal in Gladstone;

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- \$29.5 Million for common user infrastructure associated with the Comalco Alumina Refinery;
- \$34.3 Million for new baggage and security facilities at the Cairns Airport;
- \$33.15 Million for capital works associated with Enertrade's completion of the North Queensland Gas Pipeline Project;
- \$19.5 Million as part of total funding of \$237 Million over four years to improve the Sunshine Coast Motorway;
- \$11.5 Million for a new 70 bed residential aged care facility at Kirwan in Townsville;
- \$6.24 Million for improvements to the Peak Downs Highway including construction of overtaking lanes in the Nebo to Mackay section;
- \$6.6 Million for improvements to the port of Weipa;
- \$8 Million out of \$25 Million to begin work on a new Coomera campus for the Gold Coast Institute of TAFE;
- \$13.7 Million to continue the construction of the new Health and Social services facility in Toowoomba for the Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE;
- \$5 Million for land acquisition in the Cape York and Daintree areas;
- \$65.1 Million for the construction of new houses and upgrades to existing houses in indigenous communities;
- \$82.4 Million for the construction and upgrades of public housing;
- \$28.6 Million for the Mackay wastewater reuse scheme;
- \$5 Million of \$67.5 Million over five years to modernise the Ross River Dam;
- \$36.8 Million for ongoing overhaul work at Callide, Swanbank and Mica Creek power stations;
- \$8.3 Million for a substation and two feeders in the Tewantin area;
- \$4.9 Million for new substations at Bargara and Point Vernon in the Wide Bay/Burnett region;

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- approximately \$9.2 Million for new and replacement police stations at Southport, Mackay North, Sarina, Toowoomba, Ingham and Hopevale;
- \$8.5 Million to refurbish the Cairns Convention Centre;
- \$1.23 Million to widen and seal between Boundary and Nonda Creeks on the Richmond to Julia Creek section of the Flinders Highway;
- \$24 Million over two years for three new aircraft for the Royal Flying Doctor Service;
- \$3 Million for the development of a multi-purpose events centre at Gracemere in the Fitzroy region;
- approximately \$6.2 Million for the construction of two sections of the Cooktown Developmental Road;
- \$7.85 Million for the redevelopment of the Innisfail Hospital; and
- \$2.91 Million towards the \$11 Million construction of the Wetalla Wastewater Treatment Plant near Toowoomba.

Mr Mackenroth said in 2004-05 regional and rural Queenslanders would also share in \$488.6 Million in grants for local governments across Queensland.

“This money will be used by local governments for a variety of projects including general services, public library schemes, rates subsidies to pensioners, and road subsidies for local roads, networks and drainage,” he said.

“In 2004-05 residents of regional and rural Queensland will also benefit from an extra 589 new school teachers, 350 police officers and over the next three years 240 paramedics and 518 child protection staff.

“In addition there is \$150 Million for rural landholders as part of the Beattie Government’s assistance package for land clearing reforms and \$33 Million over three years under the Sugar State Industry reform package.”

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