



Joint Statement
INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT GROWS BY \$2 BILLION

Hundreds of millions of dollars in the bush, energy upgrades in the north and additional transport and water gains in the south-east are among non-health infrastructure announcements in today's mini Budget, Premier and Treasurer Peter Beattie announced today.

"Today's infrastructure announcements build on \$8 Billion new capital and infrastructure projects announced just 20 weeks ago in the State Budget," Mr Beattie said.

"Today's mini-Budget adds to that record. It is not just about health. There is an additional \$2 Billion over four years in the State capital program as compared to the June Budget.

"This is the largest ever annual building and infrastructure program in the history of Queensland."

Mr Beattie said the additional funds included \$1.3 Billion for the Gateway Motorway upgrade and infrastructure investment by Government Owned Corporations.

Other funding and infrastructure related initiatives detailed in the mini Budget include:

- \$350 Million towards replacing more than 100 old and obsolete road bridges in regional Queensland over the next five years;
- \$16 Million as the Queensland Government's contribution to feasibility studies for the Airport Link project;
- \$5 Million towards a Western Brisbane Transport Network Investigation to assess transport needs in Brisbane West;
- \$9 Million acceleration of \$120 million program replacing asbestos roofing in schools;
- \$7 million to allow the substitution of recycled water instead of drinking water for two major industrial users in the Australia Trade Coast area;
- \$20 million over the next two financial years to facilitate design, easement acquisition and business case development for recycled water for the western corridor, to service the needs of industry in this growing region;

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- \$20 Million as a subsidy to local governments to fast-track a pressure reduction and leakage management program in the South East which should add about 10 per cent to our water stocks;
- an additional \$71.8 million over the next four years for joint Information and Communication Technology initiatives for the Departments of Child Safety, Communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Policy and Disability Services Queensland;
- consideration of a \$341 million three stage transmission electricity upgrade between central and north Queensland;
- commitment to the identification of a new multi million dollar generation project for North Queensland by mid next year;
- commitment to fast tracking the assessment of the \$250 million investment in the Southern Regional Water Pipeline – linking the Gold Coast and Brisbane regions as well as meeting the emerging needs of the growing western corridor; and
- \$27 million towards the costs of upgrading the Wivenhoe Dam spillway.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Finance Anna Bligh said the mini Budget reinforced her Government's commitment to providing the building blocks to help grow Queensland.

"Today is largely centred on health, but we also wanted to ensure that the big economic drivers across the State continue to be acknowledged," she said.

"We have built on our record commitment to industry and infrastructure.

"In addition we have also established a separate Coordinator General's Office to accelerate the provision of infrastructure and to facilitate private sector investment in major projects.

"In the short time since that Office was established we have fast tracked investigations into, and procurement processes for projects including:

- the development of the Aurukun Bauxite resource which will attract international and national investment in new alumina refining in Queensland;
- cruise ship terminals at the Gold Coast and Townsville; and
- the Wiggins Island coal terminal and associated rail infrastructure at the port of Gladstone. This \$1.8 Billion project will make the port of Gladstone the world's biggest coal facility and strengthen the possibility of further coal mine expansions in the Bowen and Surat basins."

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