



Anna Bligh MP  
Member for South Brisbane



## Media statement

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Deputy Premier,  
Treasurer and  
Minister for State Development,  
Trade and Innovation

June 6 2006

### Biggest capital works program in State's history in Budget: Bligh

Deputy Premier and Treasurer Anna Bligh has outlined a record capital works and infrastructure program in the 2006-07 State Budget, with more than \$10 billion to be spent on water, roads, ports, rail, health and energy infrastructure, training institutes and schools.

Ms Bligh said the biggest capital works program in Queensland history is also easily the biggest building program in the nation over the next year and will position Queensland into the future as the most prosperous state in Australia.

"The Budget is designed with an eye firmly focussed on Queensland's future with the money to be spent this year on new dams and roads, schools and hospital redevelopments, ports and power upgrades," Ms Bligh said.

"This is a capital works program about building and shaping the State for our next generation of Queenslanders.

"This \$10 billion allocated is an increase of 23% on estimated actual outlays for last year and is crucial at a time when we are experiencing not only an economic boom but unprecedented population growth.

"Our capital program amounts to 5.5% of Gross State Product and makes the Commonwealth Government's 1.1% of GDP pale by comparison. With these outlays, Queensland has the biggest capital expenditure program per capita in the nation."

Ms Bligh said the massive building program was also about employment for Queenslanders – capital outlays will help create up to 73,700 full time jobs in Queensland.

In addition she said the program was not confined to Brisbane city limits.

"It reflects the Beattie Government's commitment to implementing the South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan but also a considerable investment in rural and regional Queensland. Almost 60% of capital expenditure will occur outside of the Brisbane statistical division."

Ms Bligh said the highlights of the capital program in 2006-07 included:

- **Transport and main roads**
  - \$333 million over four years to continue the Inner Northern Busway
  - \$855.9 million in port infrastructure to meet expected demand for Queensland's exports

- \$347 million to commence major works for a second Gateway Bridge river crossing and increased capacity on the Gateway Motorway
- \$838 million in rail upgrades for commuters and industry
- **Water infrastructure**
  - \$490 million allocations for the cost of two new dams in SEQ – at Traveston on the Mary River and either Tilleys Bridge on the Logan River or Wyaralong on Teviot Brook
  - \$270 million over two years to construct a 215km water pipeline from Gorge Weir near Burdekin Falls Dam to Moranbah to provide and enhance water supplies to coal mines and towns in the Bowen Basin. Project will be completed in 2006-07
  - around \$19 million over two years to construct a 46km extension to Eungella Water Pipeline from Moranbah to Coppabella, supplying water for coal mines in the region.
- **Energy**
  - Combined capital network expenditure of Ergon Energy and ENERGEX totalling \$1.7 billion
  - Forecast capital expenditure of \$359.8 million to continue the development of the Kogan Creek Power Station and coal mine
- **Education and training**
  - The first year of a \$1 billion, 5 year, Tomorrow's Schools Program to modernise classrooms
  - A schools capital works program of \$497.1 million in 2006-07 including \$169.8 million for new schools, classrooms and land acquisition in growth areas and a further \$104.7 million for building renewal programs
  - \$19.1 million to commence site works and construction of a new Gold Coast Institute of TAFE campus at Coomera and \$19.3 million to establish major Trade and Technical Skills Institute campuses at Acacia Ridge and Eagle Farm in Brisbane
  - An extra \$20 million this year to enhance State primary schools in readiness for Prep Year including covered walkways and playground equipment.

Ms Bligh said the focus of the 2006-07 health capital program includes hospital redevelopments, the development of community and mental health infrastructure, health technology replacement, completion of the residential aged care upgrade, further investment in staff accommodation and development of new information technology infrastructure.

She said the \$10 billion program also filled in the gaps left for Queensland by Federal Treasurer Peter Costello's 2006-07 Commonwealth Budget.

"The Beattie Government is about building the infrastructure necessary to sustain Queensland.

"Mr Costello and his colleagues talk about infrastructure a lot but the proof is in the pudding.

"The Federal Budget contained not one cent for roads in South-East Queensland and it took a cyclone to hit North Queensland before Mr Costello allocated funding for roads in that region."

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