



Hon. Andrew Fraser MP
Member for Mount Coot-tha

3 June 2008

Infrastructure budget up 21 per cent – to a record \$17 billion

The State Government will invest \$17 billion in 2008-09 on roads and dams, schools and housing, health and drought-proofing projects – an increase of more than 21 per cent on last year's budget.

Treasurer Andrew Fraser said the \$17 billion capital program for the next year was an increase of \$3 billion on last year's budget, and included projects critical to the future Queensland.

"Queensland is growing – and fast. Our population is growing and our economy is growing at rates which outpace the nation," Mr Fraser said.

"The Bligh Government is absolutely committed to ensuring that we build the infrastructure to service our bulging population.

"This budget allocates record funding to our key frontline service delivery areas – to health, to education, to traffic congestion, to housing and to ensuring we have water supplies to take us into the future.

"The State Budget is funding the infrastructure boom Queenslanders can witness:

- The Gateway Bridge duplication climbing above the ground
- The Eastern Busway being forged through the inner-east
- The Desalination Plant almost complete on the Gold Coast
- The Caloundra Road and Sunshine Motorway upgrades nearing completion
- The Townsville and Bundaberg Ring Roads under construction, the bridges being built in Mackay, the massive expansion of Abbot Point Coal Terminal ... the list goes on.

"Today we deliver on getting it in place and this is a budget that delivers to the regions.

"Almost 56 per cent of planned expenditure this year will take place outside of the capital city."

Mr Fraser said funding allocations across government were:

Transport and Roads (including Airport Link) : \$6.968 billion

Education and Training and Arts: \$929.7 million

Health: \$1.024 billion

Housing: \$516.9 million

Water: \$2.551 billion

Key initiatives

Water

- \$795 million to complete the \$2.5 billion Western Corridor Recycled Water Project by December 2008
- \$448.1 million to complete the South East Queensland Desalination Plan by January
- \$217 million to complete the \$901 million Southern Regional Water Pipeline by November
- \$220 million to complete stage 1 of the Northern Pipeline Interconnector by December
- A further \$442.3 million to progress development of the Traveston Crossing dam
- \$41.9 million for the land for Nathan and Connors River dams which are going through approvals processes

Transport

- \$204.5 million for construction of the Northern Busway between the Royal Children's Hospital and Kedron
- \$234.2 million for the Eastern Busway
- \$537.6 million on Gateway Bridge Duplication and upgrade to increase capacity on the Gateway Motorway, between Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Road and Nudgee Road
- \$150 million towards construction of the new Houghton Highway Bridge between Brighton and Redcliffe
- \$33.7 million towards the construction of cycle links to enhance the cycle network in South East Queensland
- \$565.4 million to extend the Citytrain track network and track upgrades (including Springfield and Robina to Varsity Lakes rail line, Corinda to Darra third track, Caboolture to Beerburrum duplication)
- \$132.2 million in 2008-09 for additional rollingstock for Citytrain service enhancements – 12 new 3 car sets to arrive this year, as we fund a forward order of 58 new 3 car sets.
- \$200 million towards the federally-funded Ipswich Motorway upgrade between Wacol and Darra, \$100 million to complete the upgrade of the Ipswich/Logan Motorway interchange and \$20 million for planning and land acquisitions for the upgrade of the Ipswich Motorway to six lanes between Dinmore and Goodna
- \$34.5 million towards the construction of the Bundaberg Ring Road
- \$42 million to complete the Townsville Ring Road
- \$32 million to complete the Pacific Paradise interchange and David Low Way access on the Sunshine Coast

Export Infrastructure

- \$576.4 million on additional track works on the coal rail network in Central Queensland
- \$320 million to double the capacity of Abbot Point Coal Terminal
- Funding to start a \$107 million upgrade on the Mt Isa rail line to speed up travel times on the key transport link servicing the North West Minerals Province.

Energy

\$3.1 billion by Queensland Energy GOC's to build new capacity in our electricity grid, reinforce the network and support generation capacity, to cope with increasing load and ensure supply to power our growth.

Health

- \$1.024 billion for Health capital works
- Funding to commence the redevelopment of Cairns Hospital, build a new Mackay Hospital and upgrade the Mt Isa Hospital at a total cost of \$920 million.
- More than \$200 million towards the new tertiary hospital building program: Gold Coast University Hospital, Sunshine Coast Hospital, and Queensland's Children's Hospital
- \$55 million towards a significant expansion of Robina Hospital
- \$10 million toward the expansion of the Townsville General Hospital to increase bed capacity
- \$400,000 for a new community based health service at Toowoomba Hospital.

Media Contact

Chris Taylor
Renee Mickelburgh

0419 710 874
0458 357 539