State Budget 2008–09

Department of Infrastructure and Planning

Agency budget highlights
Message from the Deputy Premier

Queensland is moving from strength to strength, with economic growth at 5.6 per cent year on year and an unemployment rate of 3.5 per cent—the lowest in a generation.

In response, the Department of Infrastructure and Planning’s combined operating and capital budget for 2008–09 of $153.7 million represents an increase of 78.8 per cent when compared to 2007–08. In addition $2.2 billion is provided for the $9 billion water grid.

The government is serious about planning and building for growth. The Department of Infrastructure and Planning leads and coordinates all government departments and agencies to ensure the timely delivery of infrastructure which is vital to the future growth of the state. We were the first government in Australia to commit to a 20-year infrastructure plan. We have the largest capital works program of any state on a per capita basis and are delivering on our infrastructure development agenda.

The government has already recorded a number of significant achievements with most major projects either on track or ahead of schedule. The $9 billion South East Queensland water grid is on time, despite summer rain at the start of the year. It’s projects like this that demonstrate the state government’s commitment to managing the strong growth of Queensland.

The government takes smart planning and development seriously with a clear strategy for managing growth throughout the state. We will deliver a contemporary and consistent framework for regional planning in Queensland, through the delivery of statutory regional plans.

We have established the Urban Land Development Authority (ULDA) to coordinate development of key urban sites across Queensland and create world-class, mixed use development and deliver affordable housing for Queenslanders. The first two urban development areas—Bowen Hills and Hamilton North Shore—have now been declared, with the Budget allocating $25.3 million to progress these and the other three proposed areas. The ULDA will also help create mixed use precincts, using transport oriented development and best practice urban design.

The government is also advancing critical infrastructure projects across regional Queensland. The Northern Economic Triangle Infrastructure Plan 2007–2012 was developed and is now being implemented to foster economic development in Mount Isa, Townsville and Bowen. The Coal Infrastructure Program of Actions is being implemented and sets the course for infrastructure expansion that will raise the capacity of our coal export industry. A number of regional water infrastructure projects are underway as part of a statewide water strategy. The management of the state’s economic growth is demonstrated by the considerable increase in declaration of significant projects, associated environmental impact statement processes and facilitation of private sector projects across the state.

The 2008–09 State Budget is a commitment to shaping a sustainable future for Queensland.

Paul Lucas
Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning
Sustainable development—sustainable communities

The government’s capital expenditure on Queensland’s infrastructure and planning portfolio provides investment in the growth and prosperity of Queensland. The Budget provides funding that will ultimately support enhanced community services, accelerated economic growth, the creation of jobs and the preservation of our environment.

Major projects and allocations for 2008–09 include:

- $2.2 billion for construction of the $9 billion water grid, including the following specific projects designed to bring water security to South East Queensland:
  - $795 million to complete and commence operation of three advanced water treatment plants and approximately 200km of pipeline
  - Completion of the Coordinator-General’s report for the environmental impact statement for the first stage of Traveston Crossing Dam and Wyaralong Dam. If approved, more than $531.8 million is available to commence work on the dams
  - $448.1 million to finalise construction and commence operation of the 125 megalitres per day (ML/day) Tugun desalination plant
  - $217.3 million to complete the design and construction of the 130ML/day two-way pipeline between Brisbane and the Gold Coast, including laying approximately 96km of pipe and construction of ancillary works
  - $219.8 million to complete construction of stage 1 of the Northern Pipeline Interconnector and ongoing environmental assessment of stage 2 of the Northern Pipeline Interconnector
  - $16.7 million to complete construction of stage 2 of the Eastern Pipeline Interconnector.

Construction of the Airport Link Road Tunnel will commence. This is a mainly underground toll road proposed to connect the North-South Bypass Tunnel, Inner City Bypass and local road network at Bowen Hills to Gympie Road and Stafford Road at Kedron and to the East-West Arterial Road at Clayfield. Airport Link is being delivered with the Windsor to Kedron section of the Northern Busway, which will connect the Inner Northern Busway at the Royal Children’s Hospital in Herston to Bracken Ridge via Windsor, Lutwyche, Kedron, Chermside and Aspley.
• Implement the Housing Affordability Strategy and the Planning Reform Implementation Project with $25.3 million allocated over three years for the continuing operation of the Urban Land Development Authority. The ULDA was established in late 2007 as part of the Queensland Housing Affordability Strategy.

• Undertake a review of the South East Queensland Regional Plan. Currently 12 existing studies are underway as well as an additional 13 new studies and investigations to be undertaken to inform the review. The draft plan is scheduled for release in mid-2009 for public consultation for three months.

• Continue to deliver a contemporary and consistent framework for regional planning in Queensland building on the success of the South East Queensland Regional Plan through the delivery of new statutory regional plans for:
  - Maranoa and District
  - Central West Queensland
  - South West Queensland
  - North West Queensland partnering with councils to address growth management issues.

• Implement ‘Planning for a Prosperous Queensland: A reform agenda for planning and development in the Smart State’ to standardise and improve Queensland planning schemes and policies and streamline approvals and dispute resolution.

• Implement Stage 2 Housing Sustainability Policy and projects identified in the Climate Smart 2050 strategy.

• Release the findings of the Sunshine Coast Enterprise Needs Investigation and Bridges Project for public consultation, with a view to making a decision on the need for Bridges as future industrial land.

• Complete the Coal Infrastructure Strategic Plan to provide a medium- to long-term framework to allow for whole-of-government and industry planning to ensure the timely delivery of coal-related infrastructure to 2026. The plan will:
  - provide a comprehensive understanding of expected future coal demand and production
  - detail the hard and soft infrastructure, including community infrastructure, required to meet expected coal production increases
  - identify triggers, dependencies and lead times to ensure the timely provision of infrastructure to meet the needs of industry
  - be responsive to future changes in energy policy which may impact on coal production.

• Continue to assist with the implementation of the Coal Infrastructure Program of Actions to:
  - facilitate the timely and commercial delivery of infrastructure needed in the short term to meet the expected demands of the Queensland coal industry
  - undertake the strategic infrastructure planning required to meet expected future demands of the coal industry.

• Facilitate delivery of the Northern Economic Triangle Infrastructure Plan 2007–2012 with particular focus on competitive energy supply to Mount Isa and North Queensland, and development of the proposed state development area at Abbott Point.
The Inskip Peninsula Master Plan when completed will consolidate urban, commercial and tourist development adjoining the Rainbow Beach township, protect environmentally sensitive areas between Fraser Island and Cooloola National Parks and deliver on outcomes identified in the Great Sandy Region Management Plan.

Complete the Southport Broadwater to Southern Moreton Bay Marine Infrastructure Master Plan which will result in the identification of new and improved marine infrastructure opportunities to cater for the rapidly developing marine industry and recreational boating sectors in the Gold Coast and southern Brisbane regions.

Provide policy advice to government on developing a liquefied natural gas industry in Queensland and facilitating the establishment of specific projects.

Identify and coordinate critical government infrastructure and industrial projects including:
- the Yeerongpilly Landing Development, a mixed use development which will include high quality residential accommodation, affordable housing, parklands and recreational facilities
- the North Bank project, which aims to redevelop the city side of the Brisbane River between Alice Street and the Victoria Bridge, providing better community access to the river
- progress stage 2 of the competitive process for the Gold Coast Marine Development Project which consists of a marina for super yachts, recreational and fishing vessels on the western side of The Spit, tourism development south of Sea World and incorporation of an Aboriginal cultural centre. The development will improve public recreational facilities in Doug Jennings Park and surrounding areas on The Spit.

Coordinate preparation of Coordinator-General reports for projects such as: Airport Link Road Tunnel, Northern Pipeline Inter-connector Stage 1 and 2 and others expected to be completed.

Progress the North East Gold Coast (Rocky Point) Economic, Land Use and Infrastructure Study.

Finalise the Replacement Aerodrome Study for Caloundra and Caboolture aerodromes.
Agency budget highlights

• Release the updated South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program; establish a Gateway Review Process to assist government programs and projects achieve value for money outcomes, through independent structured reviews at key decision points; develop a Special Purpose Vehicle Governance Framework; and continue support for the Public Private Partnership Schools package with the Department of Education, Training and the Arts.

• Undertake region-wide industrial land planning studies for South East Queensland, Toowoomba/ Darling Downs and Whitsunday Hinterland and Mackay and Wide Bay Burnett regions to inform the preparation of regional plans.

• Investigate suitability of sites for industrial land development in Far North Queensland/Cairns, Rockhampton and Townsville. Undertake detailed industrial land studies for provision of industrial land in Mackay and Rockhampton.

• Planning, securing and managing land supply for urban, industrial and economic development including undertaking:
  - industrial land planning and development
  - delivering the Industry Location Scheme through industrial property developments
  - declaration and management of state development areas.