

# State Budget 2009–10

Department of Employment, Economic  
Development and Innovation

Agency Budget Highlights



Queensland Government

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### Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

#### Messages from the Ministers



**Andrew Fraser MP**  
Treasurer  
Minister for Employment  
and Economic Development

The Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) is the government's lead agency for jobs. The Queensland Government has made a commitment to deliver 100 000 jobs over the next three years and, while the current economic climate provides significant challenges, we are committed to reaching this objective.

The State Government will provide \$101 million towards the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative in 2009–10. This initiative will assist those workers affected by the global recession (including those recently retrenched), young people entering the labour force, the long-term unemployed and other disadvantaged jobseekers, including Indigenous people. These measures confirm the Queensland Government as the only state government in Australia to offer comprehensive assistance to workers in returning to the labour force.

Part of this investment includes \$19 million in 2009–10 (part of a \$57 million commitment over three years) for Queensland's *Green Army*, where 700 people begin Green Work Placements and another 300 begin Green Traineeships.

The budget will contain \$15 million over the next four years for the *ClimateSmart Business Service*. This program will provide small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with a wireless energy meter, energy efficient devices and advice on potential cost savings through water and energy efficiency. This will allow SMEs to improve water and energy efficiency while reducing costs, and assist their transition into operating under the Commonwealth's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.

We are committed to funding key infrastructure such as the Ecosciences Precinct at Boggo Road and the Health and Food Sciences Precinct at Coopers Plains, to create world-class research infrastructure and facilitate the co-location of state research agencies. This budget enables DEEDI to deliver employment initiatives to ensure we continue to create and support jobs and allow businesses to maximise opportunities within an economic recovery.

Minister Fraser



**Stephen Robertson MP**  
Minister for Natural  
Resources, Mines and Energy  
Minister for Trade

This Budget delivers on the Bligh Government's core commitment to protect jobs and create new employment opportunities for Queenslanders. DEEDI is acutely aware of the challenges facing the mining sector; however, the government has great confidence in the resilience of the sector and its ability to face these challenges and create a prosperous long-term future for Queensland.

Today's exploration means tomorrow's mines and energy projects and jobs. That's why the government is investing a further \$12 million in 2009–10 through the *Smart Mining—Future Prosperity* program to assist industry and stimulate exploration investment in Queensland. This program will help reduce mineral and energy explorers' risks, costs and timeframes, and assist them with better opportunities to target prospects that could lead to potential new mines, gas fields and jobs for the future.

Trade Queensland will continue to play a key role in promoting export and trade opportunities for Queensland through the whole-of-government export strategy, *Driving Export Growth for Queensland: 2006–11*.

Tackling the challenges of climate change and ensuring a sustainable clean energy future for Queensland remains a key focus for the Bligh Government. The 2009–10 Budget delivers on that commitment with the roll out of the *Queensland Solar Hot Water Program*, which provides for up to 200 000 affordable solar hot water or heat pump systems to be installed in Queensland households over the next three years. Queensland will also continue to show leadership in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through the development of clean coal and emerging low emission energy technologies, and carbon capture and storage initiatives.

Minister Robertson



**Tim Mulherin MP**  
Minister for Primary  
Industries, Fisheries  
and Rural and Regional  
Queensland

Queensland's primary industries sector has the potential to triple its earnings for the state's economy by the year 2020. To achieve this, the sector needs ongoing support to overcome the twin challenges of the global financial crisis and climate variability. In 2009-10 we will invest in critical biosecurity, fisheries, industry development and regional and rural community services to continue the long tradition of growing our primary industries.

In 2008-09, a *Fresh Approach* was announced to support industry in reaching a desired target of \$34 billion in value by 2020. Since embarking on the *Fresh Approach* journey the government has seen some major milestones already achieved. The completion of the Centre for Advanced Animal Sciences at Gatton and launch of the *Gateway Schools to Agribusiness* program are just two examples. In 2009-10, the *Fresh Approach* program will continue with the commencement of the \$32 million *2020 Beef Plan*, which includes a cutting-edge PC3 biosecurity laboratory at James Cook University's Townsville campus. DEEDI will also be progressing implementation of a purpose-built research and development, training and services facility on the Atherton Tablelands. A host of other plans will be progressed in 2009-10 in collaboration with our stakeholders.

In 2009-10, the Bligh Government will be working and engaging strongly with rural and regional stakeholders to promote job growth, economic development and trade opportunities in rural and regional Queensland. The Office of Rural and Regional Communities will continue to play an important role in coordinating the whole-of-government *Blueprint for the Bush* program.

Minister Mulherin



**Peter Lawlor MP**  
Minister for Tourism  
and Fair Trading

Queensland's tourism industry has played an integral role in the state's economic advancement over many years and currently employs more than 216 000 people, both directly and indirectly. This Budget ensures that new initiatives are rolled out to help grow this valuable industry.

This year the Queensland Government will review the *Queensland Tourism Strategy 2006-12* by stocktaking existing actions and capitalising on a new three-year, short-term plan for tourism to respond to the industry's key challenges. An additional \$36 million has been committed to protect tourism jobs by developing new, regionally focused tourism marketing and product development campaigns.

In addition, the government is establishing a central pool of funds of \$1 million per year for three years commencing in 2009. Funds will be allocated on a contestable basis to organisations such as regional and local tourism organisations, local government authorities and industry associations to support the development of new and innovative projects and to build stronger industry networks. A regional network responsible for tourism investment and infrastructure development within each of the seven new tourism zones will also be established.

Later this year a Ministerial Forum comprising Ministers from each of the key portfolios that impact upon tourism will be convened. This will be an important opportunity for government to connect with key industry stakeholders.

Over the next three years, \$1.8 million will be allocated to enable local councils and not-for-profit organisations to develop roadside infrastructure for the drive travel market. This will link with the Queensland *Green Army* employment initiative.

Minister Lawlor

## Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

DEEDI has budgeted for total expenses of \$974.8 million in 2009–10 (including a Queensland Government investment of \$802 million). The investments summarised below will drive the Queensland Government's *Toward Q2* ambitions and targets:

- **Strong**—Creating a diverse economy powered by bright ideas

Targets: Queensland is Australia's strongest economy, with infrastructure that anticipates growth

Increase by 50% the proportion of Queensland businesses undertaking research and development or innovation

- **Fair**—Supporting safe and caring communities

Target: Halve the proportion of Queensland children living in households without a working parent.

### Employment, Industry Development and Innovation

In 2009–10, Employment, Industry Development and Innovation (EIDI) will deliver initiatives designed to increase employment and build and diversify Queensland's economy by targeting key growth industries for development, nurturing innovation across traditional and emerging industries, and promoting regional development. The EIDI budget places particular emphasis on enhancing job creation, job retention and business resilience as well as the development of Queensland's strengths in manufacturing, biotechnology, tropical science and world-class research infrastructure. In 2009–10, EIDI has budgeted for total expenses of \$327.1 million (including a Queensland Government investment of \$288.2 million).



Investment includes **\$19 million** this year for Queensland's **Green Army**



Construction of the **Boggo Road Ecosciences Precinct** progresses

Expenditure will include:

- \$167.6 million in state government funding towards the Ecosciences Precinct at Boggo Road (construction ongoing in 2009–10) and the Health and Food Sciences Precinct at Coopers Plains (construction to be completed by early 2010) to create world-class research infrastructure and facilitate the co-location of state research agencies
- \$59.6 million to be provided under the Smart Futures Fund, Innovation Funds and the Smart State Research Facilities Fund, with major recipients including the Queensland University of Technology's Australian Research Centre for Aerospace Automation and James Cook University's Australian Tropical Science and Innovation Precinct
- \$101 million in 2009–10 towards the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative to assist those workers affected by the global recession (including those recently retrenched), young people entering the labour force, the long-term unemployed and other disadvantaged jobseekers including Indigenous people. This investment includes \$19 million this year for Queensland's *Green Army*, to commence from 1 July 2009. In 2009–10 some 700 people will begin Green Work Placements and another 300 will begin Green Traineeships. The *Green Army* will work on projects to enhance Queensland's natural assets, strengthen the tourism industry and promote increased environmental awareness. Projects could include walking and bike tracks; weeding, revegetation and regeneration; heritage trails; building and repairing boardwalks; and landscaping

- \$5.9 million to the Queensland Tropical Health Alliance including a node at James Cook University's Cairns campus from the Innovation Building Fund
- \$1.4 million of a total \$6.5 million over five years to boost the capacity of the *Industry Capability Network* (Queensland) to maximise opportunities for local suppliers on major infrastructure and resource projects, create new business opportunities, support retention and creation of jobs, and support economic growth
- the launch and implementation of a new employment- and productivity-focused information and communication technology industry development strategy.

## Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries (incorporating the Office of Rural and Regional Communities)

In 2009–10, Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries (QPIF) will strategically invest in primary industries development, biosecurity and fisheries initiatives that target economically important primary industries across Queensland. In 2009–10, QPIF has budgeted for total expenses of \$335.5 million (including a Queensland Government investment of \$263.4 million).

Expenditure will include:

- \$16.5 million of a total \$32 million injection into the beef industry under the *2020 Beef Plan* for a network of world-class beef research facilities. The *2020 Beef Plan* includes the purchase of a new purpose-designed beef research and development facility in the dry tropics and a \$13 million biosecurity laboratory at Townsville's James Cook University
- progressing implementation of major research, training and service delivery infrastructure projects including:
  - a new science and training precinct for horticulture in Bundaberg
  - a new \$6.5 million Atherton Tablelands facility to be constructed at Mareeba by December 2010
- \$76 million statewide on biosecurity research, surveillance, emergency response and eradication services, implementation of the *Queensland Biosecurity Strategy* and development of modernised biosecurity legislation
- support for the recreational fishing sector by providing 34 free kids fishing clinics to continue the *Living the Queensland Lifestyle* program
- working in collaboration with the Department of Education and Training and the eight selected southern Queensland schools to progress the *Gateway Schools to Agribusiness* project, and commencing work to expand the program.



A new science precinct for horticulture in **Bundaberg**

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## Office of Rural and Regional Communities

In 2009–10, the Office of Rural and Regional Communities will guide the implementation of the next phase of *Blueprint for the Bush*, with a greater focus on the economic drivers that ensure the viability of rural and remote communities.

## Forestry Plantations Queensland

The Queensland Government has allocated \$6.8 million in 2009–10 under the state's *Community Service Obligation Policy* to establish state-owned hardwood sawlog plantations as part of its *Western Hardwoods Plan*. DEEDI has contracted Forestry Plantations Queensland to deliver these plantations. The *Western Hardwoods Plan* will deliver upon the state's obligation to ensure sustainable production of hardwood sawlogs into the future.

## QRAA

In 2009–10, QRAA will be contributing to the Queensland Government's *Toward Q2* ambitions through the implementation of new strategic priorities—cost leadership, national business development, service delivery excellence and Queensland business expansion and capability. A revised business model and organisational structure will ensure that QRAA remains responsive to unexpected natural disasters and other external influences in 2009–10.

## Australian Agricultural College Corporation

By building partnerships with QPIF in 2009–10, the Australian Agricultural College Corporation (AACC) will deliver better industry outcomes through training and skilling, together with research, development and extension. The AACC's new strategic direction will see a renewed focus on residential training for the extensive livestock and cropping industries, and a new industry training approach for other agricultural industries including sugarcane and horticultural production. Improved diploma and certificate III and IV courses will be offered to enable students to proceed to tertiary qualifications.

## Tourism and Fair Trading (incorporating Liquor, Gaming and Racing)

In 2009–10, Tourism and Fair Trading will work closely with industry and other government agencies to develop policies and initiatives that grow our valuable tourism industry, protect consumers, foster business and consumer confidence, promote responsible industry development and maintain the integrity of the liquor, gaming and racing industries. In 2009–10, Tourism and Fair Trading has budgeted for total expenses of \$102 million (including a Queensland Government investment of \$55.6 million).

Expenditure will include:

- \$12 million as the first instalment of a \$36 million investment over three years to protect tourism jobs by facilitating a new, regionally focused tourism marketing and product development campaign
- the implementation of the tourism network review reforms, including establishing a central pool of funds of \$1 million per year for three years (commencing 2009–10) to be allocated on a contestable basis to organisations such as regional and local tourism organisations, supporting the development of new and innovative projects and stronger industry networks
- the review of the *Queensland Tourism Strategy 2006–12* to respond to key challenges currently facing the industry
- \$4.11 million of ongoing state government funding to assist with tourism marketing and administration activities



**Tourism and Fair Trading** will work to develop policies and initiatives that **grow** our **valuable tourism industry**



A **\$36 million investment** over three years to protect tourism jobs

- progressing the *Tourism in Protected Areas* initiative, and working with the Department of Environment and Resource Management to identify a number of sites to develop walking tracks and sustainable tourism opportunities
- \$39.7 million statewide in grants from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund to approved, not-for-profit organisations for provision of services or activities that benefit the community
- the implementation of an effective regulatory regime and targeted information campaigns that improve awareness of consumer and business rights and obligations to support fair trading
- working as part of a national partnership across Council of Australian Government reform areas to reduce the regulatory burden on business and move Australia towards a seamless national economy
- promoting harm minimisation within both the gambling and liquor industries through the continued implementation of the *Queensland Responsible Gambling Strategy* and the recent reforms to the *Liquor Act 1992*.

## Mines and Energy (incorporating Clean Energy and Trade Queensland)

In 2009–10, Mines and Energy will undertake activities that support a strong and resilient mines and energy sector, and a clean energy future for all Queenslanders. Mines and Energy has budgeted for total expenses of \$180.2 million (including a Queensland Government investment of \$166.8 million).

Expenditure will include:

- \$12 million for the *Smart Mining—Future Prosperity* program (\$29.1 million over four years that commenced in 2006–07) to stimulate exploration investment in Queensland by implementing the *Queensland Exploration Development Initiative*
- \$4 million of capital funding to complete construction of a new \$4.8 million drill core facility at Mount Isa to accommodate the increasing stock of drill core samples from surrounding areas and support the promotion of mining and exploration in the North West Queensland Mineral Province
- \$3.9 million for the *Carbon Geosequestration Initiative* (\$10 million over five years that commenced in 2007–08). The coal industry and the Australian Government are supporting this initiative to help locate, assess and evaluate sites suitable for the safe, long-term underground geological storage of carbon dioxide
- \$47.7 million for ENERGEX Limited and the Ergon Energy Corporation to initiate a range of energy conservation and demand measures designed to reduce peak electricity demand in Queensland. Implementing these measures may significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as electricity infrastructure costs.



**\$12 million** for the *Smart Mining—Future Prosperity* program

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## Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation



Trade Queensland will continue to implement the whole-of-government export strategy, *Driving Export Growth for Queensland: 2006–11*

In 2009–10, Trade Queensland has budgeted for total expenses of \$30.1 million (including a Queensland Government investment of \$28.1 million). Trade Queensland will continue to implement the whole-of-government export strategy, *Driving Export Growth for Queensland: 2006–11*.

Expenditure will include:

- *Export Week 2009*—incorporating the Premier of Queensland's Export Awards—providing a range of statewide activities to support and continue to grow Queensland businesses exporting to the world
- over 300 exporter development initiatives and trade promotional activities across the state and overseas, including major trade missions supported by Trade Queensland's global network in 16 overseas locations.



Queensland  
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