



## Outback Queensland

### REGIONAL ACTION PLAN QUEENSLAND BUDGET 2023–24

The 2023–24 Queensland Budget supports **good jobs**, provides **better services** for all Queenslanders and protects our **great lifestyle**. In Outback Queensland it provides:

**\$675.8M** on infrastructure for productivity enhancing infrastructure and capital works, estimated to support around **2,300** jobs in this region.

**\$545.7M** on health for the North West, Central West and South West Hospital and Health Services.

**\$30.3M** on education to maintain, improve and upgrade schools in Outback Queensland.

**\$239M** for disaster recovery and betterment projects to local government assets impacted by disaster events between 2019 and 2023. Delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.

**\$40.8M** for social housing to expand and improve social housing in Outback Queensland.

**\$6.1M** for homelessness services to provide essential housing and support services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Outback Queensland.

## Delivering for the **OUTBACK QUEENSLAND REGION**



### Works for Queensland

\$27 million provided to regional councils to undertake 93 maintenance and minor infrastructure projects in Outback Queensland.

(July 2021 to June 2024)



### Building our Regions

\$51 million allocated to 74 projects for critical infrastructure in Outback Queensland, supporting an estimated 283 jobs. This has leveraged further financial co-contributions statewide of over \$539 million from local governments, the Australian Government, and other organisations, with a total capital expenditure value of over \$887 million.

(March 2015 to November 2024)



### Drought Relief Assistance Scheme Funding

\$44 million in financial assistance provided to 1,652 Outback Queensland farms to help manage the adverse impacts of drought.

(March 2015 to April 2023)



### Skilling Queenslanders for Work

\$10.4 million allocated to develop skills and provide training to 799 people in Outback Queensland, with 477 people securing a job as a direct result of their participation in the program.

(July 2015 to April 2023)

## Delivering better services for the Outback Queensland region

Growth from March 2015 to March 2023



110 extra nurses  
up **18.5%**



39 extra doctors  
up **57.8%**



19 extra firefighters  
up **86.8%**



9 extra ambulance officers  
up **12.3%**

# Delivering for OUTBACK QUEENSLAND



Queensland

Good jobs  
Better services  
Great lifestyle

## 1 Normanton Hospital



\$22.1 million in 2023-24 out of a \$36.4 million total spend to replace infrastructure at Normanton Hospital. The program will undertake enhancements to the facility and is expected to include construction of a new facility with 14 beds, 4 consult rooms, kitchen, morgue, X-ray, and administrative facilities. The facility will be delivered to provide a contemporary infrastructure suitable for the model of care in the region. Part of the Building Rural and Remote Health Program.

## 3 Flinders Highway (Julia Creek - Cloncurry), Scrubby Creek, strengthen pavement and widen floodway



\$16.1 million in 2023-24 out of a \$42.7 million total spend towards strengthening pavement and widening floodway on Flinders Highway at Scrubby Creek. These works will improve freight efficiencies and safety to support livestock, mining, tourism and freight industries. This investment is estimated to support an average of 75 direct jobs over the life of the project. Delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.

## 5 Boulia Industrial Estate



\$497,400 in 2023-24 out of a \$994,800 total spend to develop an industrial estate adjacent to the Boulia Mount Isa Road. This estate will have a focus on servicing the transport industry especially long-haul transport, providing layover facilities and service opportunities. Once complete, the estate will facilitate economic growth in Boulia through capitalising on increasing transport and logistics activity. Part of the Building our Regions program.

## 2 Camooweal Primary Health Centre



\$9.6 million in 2023-24 out of a \$18 million total spend to replace infrastructure at the Camooweal Primary Health Care Centre. The program will undertake enhancements to the site and is expected to include a new facility with acute, non-acute and clinical administration areas, along with general support. The investment will help continue the delivery of quality, contemporary health services in the community. Part of the Building Rural and Remote Health Program.

## 4 Julia Creek Community Children's Services Hub Project



\$1 million in 2023-24 out of a \$6.3 million total spend to deliver a children's services hub in Julia Creek to help address the demand for childcare services in McKinlay Shire. When completed, it will be able to accommodate more children as well as babies and school-aged children through the provision of Outside School Hours Care. It will also help to improve children's health by increasing access to allied health services. Part of the Resources Community Infrastructure Fund.

## 6 Longreach replacement police facility



\$50,000 in 2023-24 out of a \$13.8 million total spend to continue the replacement police facility at Longreach. The replacement facility will provide a modern state-of-the-art facility to support frontline officers. The facility will ensure police are properly resourced to allow them to continue to serve Longreach and surrounding communities. The project will support 40 jobs.



## North-west connection unlocking jobs, renewables

The Queensland Government is investing \$5 billion in CopperString 2032, a 1,100-kilometre transmission line from Townsville to Mount Isa that will connect Queensland's North West Minerals Province to the national electricity grid.

This project will unlock one of Australia's largest renewable energy zones and potentially more than \$500 billion in new critical minerals. To be delivered by Powerlink, CopperString 2032 will connect vast renewable wind and solar resources with critical minerals mining and processing that can be used to make batteries and renewables.

CopperString 2032 is one of the most significant investments in economic infrastructure ever seen in North Queensland. It has the potential to support around 800 direct jobs over its 6-year construction to 2029, and thousands more in critical minerals mining and renewable energy industries. Early works are expected to start in late 2023 and construction in 2024. This project will be delivered through the government's *Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan*, a pathway to transition Queensland to clean, reliable and affordable power.

# Delivering for the OUTBACK QUEENSLAND REGION

Explore the  
Budget Map



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**Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program**  
 \$548,643 in 2023-24 to protect environmental and Indigenous cultural heritage values in Georgetown. Part of the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program, providing \$27 million statewide in 2023-24.
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**Kennedy Developmental Road (The Lynd - Hughenden), progressive sealing**  
 \$11.4 million in 2023-24 out of a \$50 million total spend towards progressive sealing of priority sections of the Kennedy Developmental Road between The Lynd and Hughenden. Delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.
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**Fred Haigh pump station electro-mechanical overhaul**  
 \$2.5 million in 2023-24 out of a \$12.5 million total spend to continue renewal of high-voltage yard and electro-mechanical equipment in Fred Haigh pump station.
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**Royal Flying Doctor Service Mount Isa Aeromedical Base**  
 \$2 million in 2023-24 out of a \$6.9 million total spend to deliver a new aeromedical base in Mount Isa for Royal Flying Doctor Service to support its services in North West Queensland. Part of the Resources Community Infrastructure Fund.
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**Men's Healing Shed**  
 \$400,000 in 2023-24 out of a \$619,255 total spend to deliver a Men's Healing Shed for Cloncurry to help address domestic violence behaviours and support Indigenous low-level parolees. Part of the Resources Community Infrastructure Fund.
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**Curry Kids Early Learning Centre**  
 \$1 million in 2023-24 out of a \$4.4 million total spend to deliver a new childcare facility including teacher and staff facilities, indoor space and outdoor play area to accommodate up to 100 children aged 0-5 years. Part of the Resources Community Infrastructure Fund.
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**Aqua play facility - Mount Isa**  
 \$996,408 in 2023-24 to deliver an aqua play facility for children 12 years and under at the Splashez Aquatic Centre in Mount Isa. Part of the Resources Community Infrastructure Fund.
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**Mount Isa new residential accommodation**  
 \$1 million in 2023-24 out of a \$5.8 million total spend to continue new residential accommodation for police at Mount Isa. The provision of residential accommodation in remote locations is part of the recruitment strategy for the attraction and retention of police.
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**Boulia Shire Staff Housing Project**  
 \$831,600 in 2023-24 out of a \$1.3 million total spend to construct six 2-bedroom units to accommodate the need for staff housing. Part of the 2022-24 Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program.
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**Longreach Hospital**  
 \$1.5 million in 2023-24 out of a \$8 million total spend for the refurbishment of staff accommodation, upgrade of pathology and pharmacy and the rectification of structural, electrical and mechanical services.
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**Barcardine Renewable Energy Zone**  
 \$3.5 million in 2023-24 out of a \$7 million total spend to support the establishment of the Barcardine Renewable Energy Zone.
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**Capricorn Highway (Emerald - Alpha) (Package 2), strengthen and widen pavement**  
 \$2.5 million in 2023-24 out of a \$45 million total spend towards strengthening and widening the pavement on the Capricorn Highway between Emerald and Alpha. Delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.
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**Barcoo Staff Housing**  
 \$1 million in 2023-24 out of a \$1.5 million total spend for the construction of two 1-bedroom units and two 2-bedroom units in Judah to alleviate council staff attraction and retention issues. Part of the 2022-24 Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program.
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**Charleville Hospital**  
 \$6.9 million in 2023-24 out of a \$17.7 million total spend for the replacement of aging primary and allied health services infrastructure to deliver a safe, compliant and contemporary environment.
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**Morven Community Clinic**  
 \$7.7 million in 2023-24 out of a \$17.6 million total spend for the replacement of aging infrastructure utilising standardised design to deliver a safe, compliant and contemporary environment.
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**Quilpie Shire Council employee accommodation**  
 \$1.4 million in 2023-24 out of a \$2.2 million total spend for the construction of 6 two-storey freestanding high standard residential units for Quilpie Shire Council staff. Part of the 2022-24 Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program.
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**Bulloo Region Digital Connectivity Project**  
 \$125,000 in 2023-24 out of a \$778,500 total spend to deliver high-speed internet to the Bulloo region through the construction of telecommunications towers. Part of the Building our Regions program.
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**Cunnamulla water supply pipe replacement and upgrade (Phase 2)**  
 \$2.2 million in 2023-24 out of a \$3.4 million total spend to deliver critical water supply infrastructure required to support the existing town water supply. Part of the 2022-24 Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program.
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**Cunnamulla water supply upgrade**  
 \$778,318 in 2023-24 out of a \$1.9 million total spend to replace approximately 3,943 lineal metres of asbestos cement water reticulation pipes to ensure the supply, security and capacity of potable drinking water. Part of the Building our Regions Round 6.
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**Cunnamulla Multi-Purpose Health Service**  
 \$5.5 million in 2023-24 out of a \$6.7 million total spend for a new extension comprising 4 single ensuite bedrooms for aged care and ancillary rooms including activity, lounge, dining and a sensory garden.
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**Additional Electricity Bill Support**  
 \$1.483 billion in 2023-24 for electricity bill support, including a \$550 rebate for all Queensland households, a higher \$700 vulnerable households rebate and a \$650 small business rebate.
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**Modern Manufacturing Initiative**  
 \$13 million in 2023-24 out of a \$153.5 million total spend to support businesses to adopt new technologies and improve their manufacturing processes. Part of the Queensland Jobs Fund and the Modern Manufacturing Initiative, delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.
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**Network replacement and enhancements - Outback Queensland**  
 \$99.9 million in 2023-24 for Energy Queensland to undertake replacements and enhancements to ensure network security.
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**North West Queensland Economic Diversification Strategy**  
 \$3 million in 2023-24 out of a \$20 million total spend to broaden the region's economic base, providing opportunities for businesses, industry and the local workforce.
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**Queensland First Home Owner Grant**  
 \$72 million in 2023-24 to provide first-time home buyers buying or building a new home with grants to get into the market sooner.
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**Raise, repair and retrofit homes, as part of the Resilient Homes Fund**  
 \$219.9 million in 2023-24 out of a \$381 million total spend to allow eligible homeowners to raise, repair or retrofit their homes to incorporate flood resilient design and materials to reduce the impacts of future flood events.
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**Youth Co-responder teams**  
 \$30.1 million in 2023-24 out of a \$96.2 million total spend statewide over 4 years to continue to deliver and expand the youth co-responder model to deal with or divert high risk young people. This includes funding for a new co-responder team in Mount Isa. Part of the Youth Justice Investment.

## Project key

-  Community wellbeing
-  Utilities
-  Health
-  Education
-  S/R Statewide/region-wide
-  Transport and roads
-  Justice and safety
-  Government services
-  Recreation and culture
-  ✓ Relates to government election commitment



## At a Glance

Total concessions in 2023-24

**\$8.2B**

Total health funding in 2023-24

**\$25.8B**

Investment in regional Queensland supported by coal royalties

**over \$16B**

Additional funding for social housing infrastructure and housing and homelessness support over 5 years

**over \$1.2B**

Total capital program over 4 years

**\$89B**

Jobs supported by the capital program in 2023-24

**58,000**

Percentage of capital spend outside of greater Brisbane in 2023-24

**65.5%**

Total capital investment to support the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan over 4 years

**\$19B**

## Good jobs. Better services. Great lifestyle.

### More jobs in more industries

#### Good, secure jobs in our traditional and emerging industries

Queensland is building on its advantages in traditional and emerging industries that support good, secure jobs. The Queensland Government's economic strategy will help Queensland businesses to take advantage of these opportunities and grow the economy.



### Better services

#### Deliver even better services right across Queensland

A growing economy will allow the government to deliver better services across the state, including in education, justice and social services. High-quality services improve the lives of Queenslanders and help everyone to participate fully in our economy and our community.

### Protecting Queenslanders' lifestyle

#### Protect and enhance our Queensland lifestyle as we grow

Our great Queensland lifestyle will be protected while the economy grows. The Queensland Government is investing in crucial infrastructure to support our growing population, reducing cost-of-living pressures and taking care of our natural environment.



Images supplied courtesy of:  
Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water.  
Queensland Ambulance Service.  
Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training.