

DELIVERING **FOR QUEENSLAND**

Queensland Budget 2025-26

BUDGET OVERVIEW



Queensland
Government

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This Budget is *Delivering for Queensland.*

The Foundation for a Fresh Start.

The Crisafulli Government's 2025–26 Budget focuses on making our community safer, delivering a place to call home for more Queenslanders, driving down cost of living pressures for families, delivering more free healthcare than ever before and building generational infrastructure.

BUDGET SNAPSHOT

\$5.2B	<i>MAKING OUR COMMUNITY SAFER PLAN</i> with stronger laws, more police, better resourced courts, effective youth early intervention and rehabilitation, and better support for prevention of domestic and family violence.
\$18.5B	<i>HOSPITAL RESCUE PLAN</i> more than 2,600 extra hospital beds including 3 new hospitals, 10 hospital expansions and more regional health services.
\$4.7B	<i>GAMES DELIVERY PLAN</i> to get on with implementing the 2032 <i>Delivery Plan</i> with venues and villages.
\$33.1B	<i>RECORD HEALTH BUDGET</i> for health services when you need them including more ambulances, more health workers and more free healthcare than ever before.
\$116.8B	<i>RECORD INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGET</i> for generational infrastructure for our future to get our busy roads flowing again and deliver a safer Bruce Highway.
\$8.1B	<i>RECORD HOUSING BUDGET</i> with a place to call home for more Queenslanders through a new Boost to Buy nation-leading home ownership scheme to reduce the deposit gap, boosted home owner grants and new social and community housing.
\$21.9B	<i>RECORD EDUCATION BUDGET</i> to help kids catch up, keep up and stay in school, with more teachers, safer classrooms, new primary schools and special schools.



Play On!

More affordable and accessible sport for all Queensland kids with \$200 *Play On!* voucher Program to help reduce the cost of participation in the biggest investment ever.



\$100 Back to School Boost

Vouchers for primary school students to help cover the cost of school essentials every year.



15 new schools

New schools in Caloundra South, Ripley Valley and Gracemere, a Health Sciences Academy in Rockhampton, Crime Prevention and Youth Justice Schools, as well as 6 new special schools to help our kids catch up, keep up and stay in school.



\$147.9M to resource police

Resourcing our police so they can make our community safer, with new tasers, vests and safety equipment.



\$1.8B Surgery Waitlist Stabilisation

More elective surgeries when and where Queenslanders need them, including partnering with the private sector through the Surgery Connect program to reduce waitlists and have patients seen sooner.



\$1.7B ambulance ramping reduction

Health services when you need them with initiatives to reduce ambulance ramping below 30 per cent by 2028 and deliver more paramedics.



\$347.7M Making Queensland Safer laws roll-out

Restoring safety where you live with strong laws and consequences for actions.



\$560M early intervention and rehabilitation

Making our community safer with new early intervention and rehabilitation programs to prevent and break the cycle of repeat youth crime.



\$5.6B new community and social housing

A place to call home for more Queenslanders with record investment for more social and community homes, delivering 53,500 new homes by 2044.



\$2B Residential Activation Fund

Unlocking more land for housing supply with funding to help kick-start new housing developments through essential housing infrastructure.



2 taxes axed to save Queenslanders

Opening the door to home ownership for more Queenslanders by abolishing stamp duty on new homes for first buyers, and stopping Queenslanders paying more at the doctor by axing the Patients' Tax.



\$165M Boost to Buy

Helping unlock home ownership sooner and deliver a place to call home for more Queenslanders with a new nation-leading scheme to reduce the deposit gap.



\$5.5B The Wave

Delivering seamless public transport from Brisbane all the way to the Sunshine Coast Airport, with heavy passenger rail to Birtinya and Metro through Maroochydore CBD to the Airport.



\$5.75B Faster Rail to the Gold Coast

Delivering Faster Rail between Logan and the Gold Coast with \$5.75 billion jointly funded with the Australian Government.



\$9B Bruce Highway upgrades

Locking in a historic 80:20 funding deal with the Australian Government, with \$1.8 billion additional funding to deliver safety improvements up the spine of our State.



\$20M Returning to Work package

Removing the economic barriers for women transitioning back to the workforce after having children, caring for family or following illness.

A message from the Treasurer

This Budget is the foundation for the fresh start we promised Queenslanders.

This Budget is about **delivering for Queensland.**

This Budget comes at a time Queensland is facing some enormous challenges including a Youth Crime Crisis, Cost of Living Crisis, Health Crisis and Housing Crisis.

Queensland families and businesses have been struggling to make ends meet and paying a high price for out of control youth crime, while ambulance ramping remains stubbornly high and record numbers of Queenslanders have been languishing on surgery waitlists.

We promised a fresh start for Queensland and that's exactly what this Budget delivers.

Our first Budget is delivering the foundation for **safety where you live** with more police, better resourced courts, effective early intervention and rehabilitation and better support for prevention of domestic and family violence.

New world-class early intervention and effective rehabilitation programs, as part of a \$560 million investment, coupled with \$347.7 million to implement the *Making Queensland Safer* laws, and 1,600 new police recruits armed with more resources, will start to turn the tide on youth crime.

This Budget is delivering **a better lifestyle through a stronger economy.** Targeted cost of living relief as well as structural, long-term measures will put downward pressure on energy prices and ease pressure on rents.

Queensland families are still doing it tough which is why we will deliver a new \$100 Back to School Boost and \$200 *Play On!* voucher programs offering immediate financial assistance to Queenslanders, supporting the next generation of athletes and boosting education opportunities.

We are delivering a place to call home for more Queenslanders by kick-starting new housing through a \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund and investing \$5.6 billion into new social and community housing, while our Boost to Buy nation-leading home ownership scheme will help reduce the deposit gap for first buyers to unlock home ownership for more Queenslanders sooner.

This is also a Budget delivering the foundation of **health services when you need them.** Our fully funded *Hospital Rescue Plan* will deliver more than 2,600 extra hospital beds, 3 new hospitals and 10 major hospital expansions – more free healthcare than ever before.



We are investing \$1 billion into more ambulance stations and paramedics to reduce record-high ambulance ramping, along with initiatives to streamline triaging in Emergency Departments and 7 Day Hospitals, to ensure patients can go home when they're ready to.

The 2025–26 Budget is delivering the foundation of **a plan for Queensland's future** with generational infrastructure for our growing population, including *The Wave* all the way to the Sunshine Coast Airport and a historic 80:20 funding deal for \$9 billion of upgrades for the Bruce Highway up the spine of our State.

We are delivering 15 new schools, including 2 primary schools, a high school, 6 special schools, as well as more teachers and safer classrooms supported by a nation-leading education deal with the Australian Government.

This Budget restores respect for taxpayers' money, supported by the implementation of the Queensland Productivity Commission and Queensland Government Consulting Services to boost productivity and reduce wasteful spending, just as we promised.

For the first time in this Budget, Queenslanders can see a credible pathway back from fiscal vandalism to responsible economic management. The important first step is a deficit to sustainably fund the programs, services and infrastructure needed to lay the foundation of a fresh start for Queensland's future, while Budget repair across the coming years simultaneously restores respect for Queenslanders' money.

This Budget is **Delivering for Queensland.**

Hon David Janetzki MP

Treasurer, Minister for Energy and
Minister for Home Ownership

A message from the Minister for Finance

This Budget is restoring respect for Queenslanders' money, while **delivering for Queensland.**

The 2025–26 Budget is laying the foundation for a fresh start that restores safety where you live, health services when you need them, a better lifestyle through a stronger economy, and a plan for Queensland's future.

The Crisafulli Government's first Budget is founded in calm and methodical decisions to secure sustainability and certainty for the essential services and infrastructure that Queenslanders need, while outlining a clear and measured path toward Budget repair.

This Budget showcases our commitment to transparency as well as a disciplined and responsible approach towards spending that ensures Queenslanders' money is treated with the respect it deserves, while ensuring we deliver the essential programs, services and infrastructure that Queenslanders need.

With global trade headwinds, cost of living challenges, and a decade of cost overruns and project blowouts that wasted billions of taxpayer dollars, this Budget demonstrates the focus needed to drive Budget repair.

With the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games on the horizon, and a pipeline of \$116.8 billion in generational infrastructure to be delivered over the next 4 years, there has never been a greater need to deliver critical projects without delay and at the best possible value for Queenslanders on time and on budget, just as we promised.

That's why we have already taken decisions that will boost productivity across our capital pipeline. By establishing the Queensland Productivity Commission and tasking it with the critical task of a construction industry review, pausing Best Practice Industry Conditions that were driving up costs, and reforming project contracting processes to reinstate competitive tendering processes, we will unleash industry to deliver generational infrastructure with value for Queensland taxpayers.

In this Budget, Queenslanders will also see our commitment to delivering a world-class public service for our State, boosting capacity to plan, design and

prepare for critical programs, services and infrastructure we need – not just over the next 4 years, but for the long-term. With the establishment of Queensland Government Consulting Services, we will help to expand specialist skills and expertise within the public service. We are also continuing work to enhance the performance of government-owned corporations across the energy, transport, water and finance sectors to deliver better services and value for Queenslanders.

Under the Crisafulli Government, Queensland is open for business and with the regulatory and taxation certainty we are delivering, we are offering a safe and secure investment opportunity in the face of uncertain global conditions. We are already seeing positive early signs of new investment in our State and new trade opportunities, which will allow Queensland to deliver a better lifestyle through a stronger economy – in our cities and across our regions.

Queensland's economy is back in safe hands under a fiscally-responsible and investment-friendly Government that is delivering the programs, services and infrastructure for our State's future.

This Budget secures the foundation for a fresh start and is **Delivering for Queensland.**

Hon Ros Bates MP
Minister for Finance, Trade,
Employment and Training



Budget Overview

The Foundation for a Fresh Start is secured in the 2025–26 Budget.

A priority of the 2025–26 Budget is delivering the foundation for **safety where you live** with more police, better resourced courts, effective early intervention and rehabilitation and better support for the prevention of domestic and family violence.

The Budget will resource our frontline police to start to turn the tide on youth crime, with \$347.7 million to implement the *Making Queensland Safer* laws, while also delivering world-class early intervention and rehabilitation with \$560 million for 4 Crime Prevention Schools, 9 Regional Reset Programs, 2 court-sentenced Circuit Breaker Sentencing youth intensive rehabilitation programs, 2 crime diversion Youth Justice Schools, Gold Standard Early Intervention programs and the Staying on Track program to help young people turn their lives around post-detention.

Additionally, the 2025–26 Budget will continue putting victims front and centre of the justice system with \$275 million to provide financial assistance in the coming year, a bolstered Victim Liaison Service to help navigate the court process and \$50 million for a new Victim Advocate Service.

Another priority of the 2025–26 Budget is delivering the foundation of **a better lifestyle through a stronger economy**. This Budget delivers targeted cost of living relief as well as structural, long-term measures to put downward pressure on energy prices and ease pressure on rents.

New \$100 Back to School Boost and the \$200 *Play On!* Voucher Program, will deliver ongoing cost relief to Queenslanders across our State, supporting the next generation of athletes and helping improve education outcomes. A new 4 year \$20 million *Returning to Work* package will offer practical assistance to women seeking to transition back into the workforce after having children, caring for family or illness. The Supercharged Solar for Renters program will offer \$3,500 grants for solar panels to drive down electricity bills for tenants.

A record \$5.6 billion investment in new social and community housing and a \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund will deliver **a place to call home for more Queenslanders** as a further priority of the 2025–26 Budget, while a new Boost to Buy program and a boosted first home owner grant will unlock home ownership for more Queenslanders.

More than 53,500 social and community homes will be delivered by 2044. To support our most vulnerable Queenslanders, a \$365.9 million boost to crisis and temporary accommodation will be complemented by a 20 per cent uplift for Specialist Homelessness Service providers over the next 4 years.

Every Queenslander should have access to world-class healthcare, which is why the 2025-26 Budget is delivering the foundation of **health services when you need them**, to start healing the Queensland Health Crisis with a \$33.1 billion health budget, representing a 10.2 per cent growth on the 2024–25 operational budget.

The fully-funded *Hospital Rescue Plan* will deliver 2,600 extra hospital beds, 3 new hospitals and 10 major hospital expansions. New CT scanners and MRI machines will be delivered in regional hospitals and Satellite Health Centres as part of the \$724.4 million *Easier Access to Health Services Plan*.

A \$1 billion boost for the Queensland Ambulance Service will help reduce ambulance ramping and the Budget will fund more than 4,500 additional health workers in the next year, building the workforce as more free healthcare is delivered for Queenslanders than ever before.

The 2025–26 Budget is also delivering the foundation of **a plan for Queensland's future** and seizing the opportunity of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games to invest in the generational infrastructure and transport connections needed for our growing population.

The first funding for the *2032 Delivery Plan* will be included in the Budget, with \$4.7 billion for Games venues and athlete villages. This will be complemented by a \$250 million in *Games On!* investment in grassroots sports facilities in the lead up to 2032.

Generational infrastructure to connect Queensland, including *The Wave* all the way to the Sunshine Coast Airport, Barron River Bridge, Mooloolah River Interchange and Country Roads Connect are part of a \$41.7 billion investment in transport and roads infrastructure over 4 years, which also includes locking-in a historic 80:20 funding deal for \$9 billion of upgrades for the Bruce Highway along Queensland's spine.

This Budget is delivering the foundation of safety where you live, a better lifestyle through a stronger economy, health services when you need them and a plan for Queensland's future.

Budget Priorities

To deliver a fresh start for Queensland, the Crisafulli Government's 2025–26 Budget focuses on making our community safer, delivering a place to call home for more Queenslanders, driving down cost of living pressures for families, delivering more free healthcare than ever before and building generational infrastructure.

DELIVERING THE FOUNDATION OF SAFETY WHERE YOU LIVE

- > New early intervention and rehabilitation programs to prevent crime and break the cycle of repeat crime with \$560 million.
- > Protection and support for victims of crime with a new \$50 million Victims' Advocate Service.
- > Bolstering our front line with 1,600 new police recruits to help keep our communities safe.
- > Resourcing police with \$147.9 million of new equipment including tasers and \$290.3 million in new and upgraded police stations, facilities and beats.

DELIVERING THE FOUNDATION OF A BETTER LIFESTYLE THROUGH A STRONGER ECONOMY

- > \$5.6 billion investment in new social and community housing to deliver a place to call home for more Queenslanders.
- > Securing our housing foundation with the infrastructure needed to fast-track new developments through a new dedicated \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund.
- > More affordable and accessible kids sport with \$200 *Play On!* voucher program.
- > A \$100 Back to School Boost for primary school children to help cover the cost of school essentials, locked in every year.

DELIVERING THE FOUNDATION OF HEALTH SERVICES WHEN YOU NEED THEM

- > 3 new and 10 expanded hospitals with an \$18.5 billion *Hospital Rescue Plan*.
- > More free healthcare than ever before under the *Easier Access to Health Services Plan*.
- > Reducing Ambulance Ramping with a \$1 billion boost to the Queensland Ambulance Service.
- > 4,500 more health workers in the next year to help heal the Queensland Health Crisis.
- > 9 new CT scanners and 6 MRI machines in Satellite Health Centres and regional hospital services.

DELIVERING THE FOUNDATION OF A PLAN FOR QUEENSLAND'S FUTURE

- > Generational infrastructure to connect Queensland including Bruce Highway upgrades, *The Wave*, Barron River Bridge, Bribie Island Bridge and the Mooloolah River Interchange.
- > \$4.7 billion to get on with implementing the 2032 *Delivery Plan* for the Games.
- > 15 new schools including 2 primary schools in Caloundra South and Ripley Valley, a high school in Gracemere, Crime Prevention Schools, Youth Justice Schools, and 6 new special schools, all to help out kids catch up, keep up and stay in school.
- > Delivering affordable, reliable and sustainable energy with \$5 billion in 2025-26, including for CopperString, pumped hydro, gas and the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee.
- > Delivering Faster Rail between Logan and the Gold Coast with \$5.75 billion jointly funded with the Australian Government.

Safety where you live

This Budget is delivering the foundation for safety where you live with more police, better resourced courts, effective early intervention and rehabilitation and better support for the prevention of domestic and family violence.

For the past decade, after Queensland's youth crime laws were weakened by the former Government, Queensland has been in the grip of a growing Youth Crime Crisis. In the past decade, youth crime has soared higher than ever before, including car theft increasing by 91 per cent and robbery skyrocketing by 100 per cent¹.

Over this time, the number of youths charged with stolen cars and robbery tripled while the number of youths charged with break-ins and assault doubled².

With crime out of control, Queenslanders have been living in fear that their homes will be next to be targeted, small businesses have been left to pick up the pieces of repeated break-ins and communities have been torn apart by lives lost to violent youth crime.

The Crisafulli Government is delivering a fresh start, to restore safety where you live and make our community safer for all Queenslanders.

A FRESH START

The Crisafulli Government is delivering the *Making Our Community Safer Plan* for a fresh start for Queensland, already taking significant steps to start turning the tide on the Youth Crime Crisis.

Since November, the Government has implemented the *Making Queensland Safer* laws, delivered *Adult Crime, Adult Time* across 33 offences, made Jack's Law permanent, established a permanent Police State Flying Squad, launched a Commission of Inquiry into Child Safety, and bolstered the capacity of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions for Faster Justice.

The *Making Queensland Safer* laws removed Detention as a Last Resort and made youth offenders' full criminal history available to courts to consider in sentencing – to restore consequences for actions and prioritise community safety. Consideration of victims is now prioritised during sentencing, with the rights of victims raised ahead of the rights of offenders and the Children's Court now open for victims, their families, and the media.

The first 2 stages of *Adult Crime, Adult Time* have been delivered, with youth offenders to face the tough consequences of adult sentences across 33 offences, to begin restoring safety to our community.

The Crisafulli Government has also tripled the Police rapid response surge capacity, with the establishment of a permanent State Flying Squad in a \$31.1 million funding commitment over 4 years, for a specialist team of police deployed to the State's crime hotspots to help arrest the Youth Crime Crisis.

Jack's Law has also been made permanent by the Crisafulli Government, removing the former Government's sunset clause which would have seen an end to police's ability to conduct wandering operations to detect dangerous weapons in public locations.

The capacity of the Director of Public Prosecutions has been bolstered with a \$6.3 million investment to deliver Faster Justice for victims of backlogged DNA-related matters, caught up in the DNA Lab Debacle. Adding to this, the Crisafulli Government is implementing a \$50 million, 2 year program to address the DNA backlog, outsourcing thousands of DNA samples for testing and analysis while systemic issues at Forensic Science Queensland are addressed.

DELIVERING FOR QUEENSLAND

Delivering safety where you live by protecting our community with stronger laws, more police, resourced courts and support for victims of crime:

- > Giving our police and courts the strong laws needed to protect our community with a \$347.7 million roll-out of the *Making Queensland Safer* laws across police, courts, legal services and the custodial system.
- > Delivering more police on the beat with 1,600 new recruits by 2028.
- > Delivering new and upgraded police stations, facilities and police beats at Burleigh, Nambour, Logan Central, Mount Gravatt, Boondall, Ferny Grove, Redcliffe, Edmonton and Goodna with a \$290.3 million investment over 5 years.
- > Resourcing our police with the equipment they need to make our community safer, including more than 6,500 Taser 10s, Tactical First Aid Kits for all frontline police, portable handheld radios and Body Worn Camera replacements and Load Bearing Vests and Ballistic Plates replacements, in a \$147.9 million investment.
- > Expanding the operation of POLAIR with more than \$100 million to lock in long-term services for Moreton Bay, the Sunshine Coast, Cairns and Townsville.
- > Establishing Daniel's Law with a new three-tiered Public Child Sex Offender Register in a \$10 million investment.
- > Protecting and supporting victims of crime with \$275 million this year for financial assistance, \$50 million for a new Victims Advocate Service, \$12.9 million over 4 years for the Victims of Crime Community Response program and a major boost to the capacity of Victim Liaison Services to support victims navigate the justice system.
- > Protecting victims of domestic and family violence with a \$37 million boost to police responses, \$28.5 million to pilot a new GPS tracker program for high-risk DV offenders and deliver 3 new Hope Hub recovery centres, \$18.8 million to upgrade safe spaces in court houses, and \$31.3 million to double the capacity of Womensline and Mensline.

Delivering safety where you live by preventing crime before it happens and keeping young people on the right track:

- > Supporting small businesses to prevent crime by bolstering security with \$40 million across 3 years for the Secure Communities Partnership Program.
- > Keeping our most vulnerable children safe and on the right track with \$661 million over 2 years to support out-of-home care services.
- > Diverting more young people from residential care with \$28.8 million over 4 years for a professional foster care pilot.
- > Boosting education and extra-curricular activities with \$1,500 allowances for children in care to help keep them on the right track in a \$70.1 million investment over 3 years.

Delivering safety where you live by intervening to divert crime and steer kids away from a life of crime:

- > Implementing new world-class early intervention programs to put youth back on the right path before they become entrenched in crime, with a \$215 million boost, including \$115 million for community-led *Gold Standard Early Intervention*.
- > Re-engaging youth who have fallen out of education with four new Crime Prevention schools, in a \$50 million investment over 5 years.
- > Implementing locally-led early intervention programs across every region of the State to help break the cycle of crime, with 9 Regional Reset programs for at risk youth who require a higher level of care than community-based programs can provide, in a \$50 million investment over 4 years.
- > Establishing intensive intervention and diversion for youths on Youth Justice orders, to keep them out of trouble and protect the community, with 2 Youth Justice Schools as part of a \$40 million investment over 2 years.
- > Intervening to protect young people who are a danger to themselves and the community by delivering a Queensland-first SecureCare residential Child Safety facility, with \$50 million over 3 years.

Delivering safety where you live by rehabilitating youth to stop the cycle of repeat crime:

- > Reducing repeat crime with an intensive 12-month rehabilitation program to support every youth offender leaving detention to integrate into the community through the Staying on Track program with a \$225 million investment over 5 years.
- > Rehabilitating dangerous youth offenders through new court sentenced intensive youth rehabilitation program, Circuit Breaker Sentencing with a \$80 million investment in 2 facilities over 4 years.
- > Reducing reoffending by restoring consequences and discipline in detention to aid rehabilitation as part of the Detention with Purpose program.

A better lifestyle through a stronger economy

This Budget is delivering the foundation of a better lifestyle through a stronger economy with cost of living relief and a place to call home for more Queenslanders.

It has never been more difficult to find, secure and keep housing in Queensland. In the past decade our population has grown by 18 per cent, while our housing supply hasn't kept pace, creating the Queensland Housing Crisis.

A decade of the former Government's declining housing approvals and lack of regional planning for the homes needed for our growing State created the Queensland Housing Crisis and left fewer Queenslanders with a place to call home. Growing numbers have been left to languish on social housing waitlists unable to receive help, while rents have skyrocketed 66 per cent³ and vacancy rates plummeted to all-time lows of less than one per cent.

With some regional plans up to 15 years old, and housing lot approvals declining 33.5 per cent⁴ under the previous Government, the lack of new housing supply pushed up rents and put more pressure on renters. At the same time, home ownership has increasingly slipped from reach in Queensland, with the lowest rate of any State at just 63.5 per cent⁵.

The Crisafulli Government is delivering a fresh start, with a better lifestyle through a stronger economy to deliver a place to call home for more Queenslanders and drive-down cost of living pressures.

Queenslanders have paid a high price for the former Government's expensive failures across housing, crime, health and cost of living, which has hit us all in the hip pocket. The State has faced some of the steepest cost increases in the nation, across rent, healthcare, sports participation, food, transport and electricity. Project costs have skyrocketed under the CFMEU Tax, with Queenslanders getting less infrastructure, services and programs for their hard-earned dollars.

A FRESH START

The Crisafulli Government is driving-down cost of living pressures and delivering a place to call home for more Queenslanders, to ease the Cost of Living and Housing Crises.

Within the Government's first 100 days, the Crisafulli Government moved to boost productivity and put an end to the CFMEU Tax by pausing Best Practice Industry Conditions (BPIC), which was driving-up the cost of projects and estimated to cost Queensland 22,000 homes being built. Pausing BPIC is estimated to save Queenslanders an additional 7 per cent⁶ in increased rents over the next 5 years and billions of dollars in project construction costs.

The Government has also established a new Queensland Productivity Commission, tasking it with reviewing Queensland's building and construction industry, to put an end to the cost escalations on major projects.

The Crisafulli Government has unlocked home ownership for more Queenslanders, with the goal of raising home ownership higher than anywhere else in Australia over the next decade, and started securing our housing foundation by abolishing stamp duty on all new homes for first buyers. First home buyers are saving on average \$16,996, reducing upfront costs to allow them to get into their homes sooner. Restrictions preventing first home owners from subletting a room have also been removed, putting more money back in the pockets of young Queenslanders and helping ease housing pressures.

³ Residential Tenancies Authority

⁴ Queensland Government Statistician's Office

⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics

⁶ Queensland Treasury Modelling

The Crisafulli Government is laying the foundation for affordable, reliable and sustainable energy in Queensland, implementing an Electricity Maintenance Guarantee on all Queensland-owned power generators, with \$1.6 billion to be invested over 5 years, building on \$450 million that has already been invested in 2024–25. Government-owned energy companies are now strictly managed on key performance indicators for maintenance and investment to deliver better reliability and prevent outages that cost Queenslanders more on their power bills.

The Government also funded Permanent 50 Cent Fares on all Translink networks across Queensland following the end of the trial, providing immediate and lasting cost of living relief for Queenslanders. Trips on all Translink bus, train, tram and ferry services are all a flat 50 cent fare, delivering major savings to Queenslanders' hip pocket every time they travel.

To stop Queenslanders paying more when they visit their local doctor and ease pressure on Emergency Departments, the Crisafulli Government has stopped the Patients' Tax, permanently exempting General Practitioners from payroll tax, which would have been passed on to patients, hitting Queenslanders in the hip pocket.

DELIVERING FOR QUEENSLAND

Delivering a better lifestyle through a stronger economy and driving down cost of living for Queenslanders:

- > Reducing schooling costs each year with the \$100 Back to School Boost for primary school students with \$188.6 million over 4 years.
- > Making kids sport more affordable and accessible, and reducing cost of living pressures, with the new \$200 *Play On!* voucher program locked in for 4 years with a record \$250 million.
- > Removing the economic barriers preventing women seeking to transition back into the workforce after having children, caring for family, or following illness with a new *Returning to Work* package, with \$20 million over 4 years.
- > Reducing the cost of public transport with Permanent 50 Cent Fares across the entire Translink network, with \$1.522 billion over 5 years from 2024–25.
- > Saving Queenslanders paying more when visiting their local doctor and stopping the Patients' Tax, by permanently exempting GPs from payroll tax.
- > Reducing energy bills for renters with up to \$3,500 rebates for solar panels on rental properties as part of the Supercharged Solar for Renters Program, with \$26.3 million over 3 years.
- > Reducing energy costs for vulnerable Queensland households by boosting the Electricity Rebate Scheme to \$386 in 2025–26, and resuming indexation to restore fairness.
- > Supporting Queenslanders experiencing financial challenges with the Queensland Financial Resilience Program, with \$2.2 million in 2025–26.
- > Helping Queenslanders in financial hardship by restoring assistance to emergency relief providers with \$3.5 million in 2025–26.
- > Reducing costs for trainee tradies with *Free Apprenticeships for Under 25s* across 130 priority apprenticeship and traineeship qualifications, with \$10 million over 2 years.

Delivering a better lifestyle through a stronger economy with a place to call home for more Queenslanders:

- > Bringing home ownership within reach of more Queenslanders with a new *Boost to Buy* scheme to help reduce the deposit gap, with \$165 million over 2 years.
- > Easing the Housing Crisis by kick-starting new housing developments with critical infrastructure in a \$2 billion investment through the *Residential Activation Fund* with at least half invested in regional Queensland.
- > Delivering a record investment into building new social and community housing, with a \$5.6 billion investment over 4 years to help deliver 53,500 new social and community homes by 2044, as well as unleashing the community housing sector to deliver more homes for Queenslanders with \$600,000 in the coming year to kick-start new projects.
- > Boosting the First Home Owner Grant to \$30,000 for 12 months, to help Queenslanders buy or build their first new home sooner.
- > Supporting our most vulnerable Queenslanders with more homelessness services, including a 20 per cent boost for Specialist Homelessness Services providers over the next 4 years with \$208.9 million and a \$365.9 million boost to crisis and temporary accommodation.
- > Boosting home ownership in Indigenous communities with the Crisafulli Government's rent-to-buy program.

Delivering a better lifestyle through a stronger economy by backing small and family business:

- > Reducing red tape and streamlining services for small business, with greater procurement opportunities as part of the Small and Family Business First Action Statement, with \$130 million.
- > Empowering small business through the Small Business Support Network with financial counselling and coaching, with \$16.8 million over 3 years.
- > Unlocking more manufacturing opportunities by delivering two new manufacturing hubs in Toowoomba and Sunshine Coast, with \$10 million over 3 years.
- > Delivering seamless access to government support through a Business Concierge for small businesses and Queenslanders, with \$10.3 million over 4 years.
- > Easing Queensland's skills shortage with more skilled training through 3 new TAFE Centre of Excellence sites in Rockhampton, Moreton Bay and Caloundra, and a Marine Centre of Excellence in Southern Moreton Bay Islands with \$201.1 million over 4 years, as well as \$79.1 million for the Transforming Queensland Manufacturing program.
- > Protecting local jobs in Maryborough by funding the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program.

Delivering a better lifestyle through a stronger economy by growing our primary industries:

- > Boosting agricultural productivity with state-of-the-art research through a \$30 million investment over 4 years for the Sowing the Seeds of Farming Innovation fund.
- > Boosting drought resilience for agriculture through \$51.9 million over 4 years.
- > Protecting our primary industries from invasive pests and diseases by beefing up biosecurity with \$60.9 million over 5 years and 100 additional frontline biosecurity staff in regional Queensland.

Health services when you need them

This Budget is delivering the foundation of health services when you need them with a fully-funded *Hospital Rescue Plan*, measures to reduce ambulance ramping and more free healthcare than ever before.

As Queensland's population has grown, our health services have not kept up. Under-investment in hospitals and regional health services for the past decade has heaped pressure on a stretched health system, leaving hospitals on life support and creating the Queensland Health Crisis.

Ambulance ramping reached a peak of 45 per cent, with nearly one in 2 Queenslanders kept waiting for longer than 30 minutes to get into the emergency department when arriving at hospital by ambulance. This has left other Queenslanders waiting for hours for ambulances that are stuck on a hospital ramp, and sometimes haven't arrived in time to save lives.

In regional Queensland, mothers have paid the price of a maternity crisis. Local maternity services have been closed permanently, or for months on end, or services have been unreliable due to staff shortages. As a result, mothers have been forced to birth on the side of the road as they attempt to travel to hospitals hundreds of kilometres away while in labour.

This is not the fault of our hardworking doctors, nurses and allied health staff who have worked around the clock to keep a broken system from pulling apart at the seams. Too many of our frontline health staff have borne the brunt of a system on life-support, and doctors and nurses left in droves, with more than 4 per cent of doctors leaving in a year and 6 per cent of nurses, some of the highest ever frontline health staff turnover. With health staff undervalued and unappreciated by the former Government, the health system struggled to staff our hospitals, leading to more delays for Queenslanders needing urgent health care.

Elective surgery waitlists doubled over the past decade under the former Government and specialist waitlists now have more patients than ever before, leaving growing numbers of Queenslanders unable to be seen within clinically recommended timeframes for critical health concerns.

As the Queensland Health Crisis grew worse, transparency about hospital performance became more opaque, with monthly performance data limited to quarterly updates and Queenslanders unable to see what was going on in their own hospitals.

The Crisafulli Government is delivering a fresh start, with health services when you need them to reduce ambulance ramping and stabilise waitlists, and provide world-class healthcare no matter where you live.

A FRESH START

The Crisafulli Government is delivering the *Easier Access to Health Services Plan*, for health services when you need them.

Within the first 100 days of Government, the Crisafulli Government launched real time health data for our Emergency Departments. For the first time, Queenslanders have been able to see what's going on in the State's 25 busiest hospitals and 7 Satellite Health Centres, through the Open Hospitals website. Queenslanders no longer need to wait for quarterly health performance data to be released to know how long they will need to wait at their local hospital. The Crisafulli Government has also made monthly hospital performance data publicly available, in a move to further boost transparency. Data from Open Hospitals is already being used by Hospital and Health Services to target additional resources for our hospitals to address ambulance ramping and help patients be seen sooner at Emergency Departments.

In February, the Crisafulli Government launched Surgery Connect Surge to deliver an additional 10,000 elective surgeries in 2024–25 in partnership with private hospitals, for life-saving and life-changing surgeries including cataract surgery, tonsils and adenoids and knee replacements, in a \$100 million boost to kick-start work to stabilise waitlists.

After major delays and nearly \$7 billion in cost blowouts were revealed, putting new and expanded hospitals at risk of not being delivered under the former Government, an independent team was appointed to review the hospital Capacity Expansion Program. In April, the Crisafulli Government announced the *Hospital Rescue Plan* with more than 2,600 extra hospital beds and a credible plan to deliver them.

DELIVERING FOR QUEENSLAND

Delivering health services when you need them with more patients seen faster through Surgery Connect, more CT scanners and MRI machines, reopening maternity services, free kindy health checks:

- > Delivering more free healthcare for Queenslanders than ever before with a record health budget of \$33.1 billion.
- > Freeing up hospital beds and delivering health services when you need them with 9 new CT scanners and 6 MRI machines in Satellite Health Centres and regional hospital services.
- > Reopening maternity services in Biloela and Cooktown and increasing reliability of existing maternity services, and a \$48.7 million investment into maternity services across Queensland.
- > Delivering more elective surgeries when and where Queenslanders need them, including partnering with the private sector through the Surgery Connect program - with 30,000 additional elective surgeries in 2025–26.
- > Giving our kindy kids a healthy start to their education with free kindy health checks, in \$37.5 million over 4 years.

Delivering health services when you need them with more than 2,600 extra hospital beds in the Hospital Rescue Plan as part of an \$18.5 billion investment over 5 years, including:

- > Building 3 new hospitals at Coomera, Bundaberg and Toowoomba to accommodate the growing regions and deliver world-class healthcare for Queenslanders.
- > Expanding 10 existing hospitals to deliver more free healthcare to more Queenslanders under the *Easier Access to Health Services Plan* at Redcliffe, Townsville, Mackay, Logan, Cairns, Hervey Bay, Ipswich, QEII, Princess Alexandra and Prince Charles hospitals.
- > New and upgraded health services across Queensland, including a Cardiac Hybrid Theatre at Rockhampton Hospital and master planning for future upgrades.

Delivering health services when you need them with more doctors, nurses and paramedics:

- > Boosting our frontline health workforce with an additional 4,500 health workers including doctors, nurses and paramedics in 2025–26, as part of a \$24.3 billion investment into Hospital and Health Service operations.

Delivering health services when you need them by getting ambulances back on the road and available when you need them, reducing ambulance ramping to below 30 per cent by October 2028:

- > More than \$1 billion invested in the future of the Queensland Ambulance Service, including more paramedics and funding for critical ambulance stations.
- > Better Emergency Department triaging with specialist mental health nurses to help streamline mental health patients to in-patient wards.
- > 7 day hospital discharges so patients aren't kept waiting to leave hospital when they're ready.
- > An expansion of transit lounges with a boost to allied health, pharmacy and transport services for when patients are ready to go home.

Delivering health services when you need them with more mental health services across Queensland with \$3.1 billion investment:

- > Reinvesting every dollar raised by the mental health levy back into mental health services across the State.
- > Boosting youth mental health services with two Step Up, Step Down youth mental health services, the first one in Rockhampton.
- > Delivering new mental health beds at Redlands Hospital, perinatal mental health beds in Townsville, the Cairns Adolescent Acute Mental Health project and the expansion of the Rockhampton adult mental health unit.

A plan for Queensland's future

This Budget is delivering the foundation of a plan for Queensland's future with generational transport and road infrastructure for our growing population, 15 new schools and the *2032 Delivery Plan*.

A decade of underinvestment on our road and transport networks, and billions of dollars in project cost overruns has seen Queensland's busiest roads grind to a halt without the upgrades they need, leaving more Queenslanders caught in more congestion and no long-term plan to deliver the infrastructure needed to protect our enviable way of life.

The Bruce Highway has become a national embarrassment with an increasingly dire safety record, due to a lack of investment under the former Government. Independent reports suggest that up to half the 1,673 kilometre stretch sits at a 2 star safety rating, with too many Queenslanders losing their lives on these dangerous stretches of road. In late 2023, the Australian Government withdrew a longstanding 80 per cent contribution to Bruce Highway projects and the former Queensland Government was unable to secure a new 80:20 funding deal for future projects, leaving Queenslanders to spend more for less.

The generational infrastructure promised to Queenslanders as part of the 2032 Games bid was also caught in the same paralysis. More than 1,200 days after winning the Games bid Queensland still had no delivery plan, with concern mounting we would be left embarrassed on the world stage without the venues required or legacy transport infrastructure delivered.

Similarly, ecotourism has been tied up in mountains of green tape, with projects hitting bureaucratic blockages for years without progress, leaving Queensland without new tourism opportunities and unable to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the Games.

In our schools, teachers have been increasingly pulled out of the classroom for non-teaching tasks, and with escalating violence and behavioural issues in our schools, it's little wonder they report feeling undervalued and overworked. A lack of planning for future population growth and failing to properly resource our schools has led to over-enrolled schools and major teacher shortages, with Queensland students paying the price. Instead of leading the nation, Queensland students have been falling further behind their interstate counterparts, with many failing to meet national literacy and numeracy standards, and others turning to classroom violence.

A FRESH START

The Crisafulli Government is delivering a plan for Queensland's future, with the generational infrastructure needed to protect our way of life and prepare for our growing State.

Within 2 months of the Crisafulli Government, a new deal to fix the Bruce Highway was secured, which had not been achieved in 2 years of the former Government. A new 80:20 deal with the Australian Government will deliver a fresh start with \$9 billion of upgrades for the Bruce Highway, with 16 projects already underway and a further 7 in planning to deliver critical safety upgrades on notoriously dangerous stretches of highway. A newly re-established Bruce Highway Advisory Council is already working to identify priority areas for the next stage of upgrades.

Following a 100 Day Review, after 1,200 days of Games chaos, the Crisafulli Government put the Games back on track with the *2032 Delivery Plan*. *Delivering 2032 and Beyond* is a clear roadmap for the delivery of venues, villages and transport connections, developed following expert assessments, stakeholder consultation and community input. Since handing down the *2032 Delivery Plan*, work is already underway by the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority to implement the plan and ensure Queensland shines on the world-stage and can take full advantage of this generational opportunity.

The Crisafulli Government is already removing the green tape for ecotourism, as Queensland prepares to deliver 45 new ecotourism experiences by 2045, as part of a 20-year tourism plan. *Destination 2045*, developed as one of the first priorities of the Government, is a bold plan to take advantage of the lead-up and legacy of Brisbane 2032. Under the plan, Queensland will become the events capital of Australia and deliver new direct airline connections with the Connecting Queensland fund. *Destination 2045* will be supported by a new Tourism Cabinet Committee, created to help remove the roadblocks for new tourism projects and help deliver the fresh start needed for tourism in our State.

DELIVERING FOR QUEENSLAND

Delivering a plan for Queensland's future with generational infrastructure to connect our regions, get busy roads flowing again, provide water and energy security, deliver the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and a lasting legacy:

- > Progressing the *2032 Delivery Plan* to deliver a world-class Games, with \$4.7 billion for Games venues and athlete villages.
- > Upgrading hundreds of grassroots sports facilities from Cairns to Currumbin and Mount Isa to Longreach, with the *Games On!* program, to support the next generation of Queensland athletes as they grow their skills, with a \$250 million investment.
- > Delivering a better Bruce Highway to improve safety under the \$9 billion program locked-in with the Australian Government under an 80:20 partnership, with \$1.8 billion.
- > Getting Queensland's busy roads flowing again with the *Safer Roads, Better Transport Plan* including Barron River Bridge, the Bribie Island Bridge, the Caloundra Congestion Busting Plan and Mooloolah River Interchange with \$41.7 billion in new and upgraded roads, bridges and transport over 4 years.
- > Delivering seamless public transport all the way to the Sunshine Coast Airport with *The Wave* - heavy passenger rail to Birtinya and metro all the way to the Sunshine Coast Airport through Maroochydore CBD, with an additional \$40 million to accelerate planning for stages 2 and 3.
- > Delivering Faster Rail between Logan and the Gold Coast with \$5.75 billion jointly funded with the Australian Government.
- > Boosting the safety and flood resilience of regional unsealed roads across regional Queensland with a \$100 million investment in the Country Roads Connect program.
- > Increasing water storage and capacity to protect agriculture and deliver water security, with 5 new weirs along the Thomson River in Longreach, delivering the Barlil and Cooranga Weirs, improving water supply reliability along the Burnett's Boyne River and Barambah Creek, as well as advancing the business case for the Water for Warrill Irrigation project, in a \$37.7 million investment from 2024–25.

- > Rebuilding Paradise Dam to support the Wide Bay-Burnett agriculture and restore water security for the region's future, with \$96.9 million in 2025–26 to continue planning and enabling works.
- > Delivering affordable, reliable and sustainable energy with \$5 billion in 2025–26 including to advance CopperString, and progress small pumped hydro and gas projects.

Delivering a plan for Queensland's future with more teachers in safer schools to unleash kids' full potential and catch up with national standards:

- > Building 15 schools for our growing population including 2 new primary schools in Caloundra South and Ripley Valley, a new high school at Gracemere and 6 new special schools in Berrinba, Coomera, Springfield/Redbank, Beenleigh, Ipswich West and Moreton Bay South in a \$1.09 billion investment over 4 years.
- > Delivering world-class education to help Queensland students catch up, keep up and finish school, as part of a \$9.4 billion investment over the next decade that secures an additional \$2.8 billion in funding from the Australian Government.
- > Keeping our next generation safe in care, with a properly resourced Queensland Early Childhood Regulatory Authority, with \$12.7 million over 4 years.
- > Delivering Crime Prevention Schools under the Special Assistance Model and 2 new Youth Justice Schools, all to help turn youth away from crime and make our community safer.
- > Fast-tracking students into health careers with a \$95 million Queensland Academy of Health Sciences in Rockhampton.

Delivering a plan for Queensland's future with more ecotourism, more events and more flight connections in a bold 20-year tourism strategy to take advantage of 2032 and beyond, with a total \$1 billion investment in tourism over four years:

- > Delivering 45 new ecotourism experiences by 2045 to showcase Queensland's world-class natural environment, and make our State the leading destination for ecotourism, starting with Wangetti Trail, Thorsborne Trail, Currumbin Eco-Parkland, Whitsunday Skyway, Springbrook National Park and Lake Eacham.
- > Delivering more to see and do in Queensland by making us Australia's events capital by attracting world-class events for Queenslanders and tourists.
- > Supercharging our tourism sector with support for Tourism and Events Queensland and a new Connecting Queensland fund for new direct connections to target markets and improve connections to regional Queensland.

Delivering a plan for Queensland's future by conserving our pristine environment for generations to come:

- > Boosting protected areas, increasing Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service rangers, and funding habitat restoration and conservation projects as part of a \$242 million investment over 5 years.

Economic outlook

Queensland's economic growth is forecast to strengthen in the short-term and then remain robust across the forward estimates.

Gross State Product (GSP) growth is forecast to strengthen to 2½ per cent in 2024–25 despite the impacts of natural disasters in early 2025 and the initial effects of changes in global trade policies, being estimated to have reduced growth by around ¾ of a percentage point.

Public demand is expected to remain robust and private sector consumption and investment are forecast to strengthen to be key drivers of activity next year. The Budget is forecasting GSP growth of 2¾ per cent in 2025–26, before easing slightly while remaining robust at 2½ per cent from 2026–27.

Queensland's labour market conditions are expected to remain strong, with employment growth of 3 per cent in 2024–25, before jobs growth stabilises at 1½ per cent from 2025–26 onwards, broadly in line with population growth.

The State's unemployment rate is forecast to remain lower for longer than previously expected. While edging slightly higher from 4 per cent in 2024–25 to 4¾ per cent in 2028–29, it will remain well below the long-run average across the forecast period.

Wages growth is forecast to be 3¾ per cent in 2024–25 and 3½ per cent in 2025–26 before slowing to 3 per cent by 2028–29, delivering ongoing real wages growth across the forward estimates.

Respecting Queenslanders' Money – Fiscal Outlook

This Budget is about setting the Foundation for a Fresh Start for Queensland following the youth crime, health, housing and cost of living crises.

This Budget secures the infrastructure, programs and services critical to delivering a fresh start for Queensland's future, with responsible economic management.

This Budget identifies a clear pathway from the history of unsustainable cost overruns and mismanagement back to credible and responsible economic management over the forward years. The deficit in this Budget is an important step in Budget repair, sustainably securing the delivery of programs and services needed for a fresh start, while also ensuring debt remains lower than under the Budget the Government inherited.

While the Government could have chosen in this Budget to expedite the path to Budget surplus, it would have come at a cost to Queenslanders, a path the Government was unwilling to take. This Budget includes ongoing and sustainable commitments to core services across community safety, health, housing, infrastructure, education and cost of living.

The Government's principles for respecting Queenslanders' money will support an improved fiscal outlook with borrowings moderating, expenses growth below revenue growth and steady improvement in net cash flows to fund the Government's capital program.

The 2025–26 capital program sets the foundation for a fresh start with the generational infrastructure needed for our growing State. The decision of the Government to pause BPIC and commence a review of the construction industry under the Queensland Productivity Commission addresses cost overruns identified in the 2024–25 MYFER under the former Government.

The capital program also focuses on key Queensland investment priorities including delivery of the *Hospital Rescue Plan*, the *2032 Delivery Plan*, the Residential Activation Fund and a pipeline of social and community housing. The capital program is expected to total \$116.8 billion over four years to 2028–29.

Responsible economic management and commitment to a safe and secure pathway to budget improvement will drive the Non-financial Public Sector's (NFPS) borrowings lower compared to forecast in the 2024–25 MYFER. NFPS debt is forecast to be \$147.8 billion as at 30 June 2026, almost \$8.4 billion lower than forecast in the 2024–25 MYFER. In 2027–28, NFPS debt of \$190.4 billion will be \$27.5 billion lower than it would have been under the former Government.

The 2025–26 Budget is an important step towards restoring respect for Queenslanders' money while also delivering the foundation of a fresh start for Queensland. Key 2025–26 Budget aggregates show measurable improvement when compared to the 2024–25 MYFER, that is expected to continue over the medium term.

Figure 1: Key fiscal aggregates

General Government Sector	2023–24 Outcome \$ million	2024–25 MYFER \$ million	2024–25 Est. Act. \$ million	2025–26 Budget \$ million	2026–27 Projected \$ million	2027–28 Projected \$ million	2028–29 Projected \$ million
Revenue	89,768	88,071	89,476	91,337	94,886	97,748	102,457
Expenses	88,087	92,983	94,852	99,918	100,751	102,033	103,543
Net operating balance	1,681	(4,911)	(5,376)	(8,581)	(5,864)	(4,285)	(1,086)
Borrowings	58,773	77,627	74,843	95,480	114,301	131,696	145,176
Net debt	5,684	25,539	22,092	41,803	61,605	79,239	93,217
Non-financial Public Sector							
Borrowings	106,397	128,085	124,118	147,840	170,484	190,360	205,660

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