



QUEENSLAND
**COST OF
LIVING**
ACTION

DOING WHAT MATTERS

FOR QUEENSLAND

QUEENSLAND BUDGET 2024-25

Budget Overview



First Nations acknowledgement

Queensland Treasury acknowledges Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land. We recognise their connection to land, sea and community, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

'Rich history, thriving future.'
artwork by David Williams of Gilimbaa.



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DOING WHAT MATTERS FOR QUEENSLAND

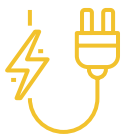
QUEENSLAND BUDGET 2024-25



SNAPSHOT

Total concessions including cost-of-living relief measures available in 2024-25	\$11.2B	Total Big Build over 4 years	\$107.3B
Total health funding in 2024-25	\$28.9B	Jobs supported by the Big Build program in 2024-25	72,000
Community Safety Plan for Queensland	\$1.3B	Percentage of Big Build spend outside of greater Brisbane in 2024-25	68.5%
Putting Queensland Kids First Plan	\$502M	Total capital investment to support the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan over 4 years	\$26B
Homes for Queenslanders	\$3.1B		
Investment in school and early education facilities	\$1.3B		

Everyone is feeling cost-of-living pressures. Find support to manage household costs including bills, transport, housing, healthcare and education. ***In tough times, every little bit helps.***



\$1,300 ELECTRICITY BILL SUPPORT

All Queensland households will automatically receive \$1,300 off their electricity bills in 2024-25. An upfront \$1,000 Cost of Living Rebate from the Queensland Government, and a \$300 rebate from the Australian Government paid quarterly.



50c FARES CHEAPER PUBLIC TRANSPORT

A flat fare of 50 cents will be applied across the state's Translink public transport network for 6 months from 5 August 2024.



20% OFF VEHICLE REGISTRATION

Car registration costs will be reduced 20 per cent for 12 months. The discount will benefit around 5.7 million Queenslanders.



1/2 PRICE BRISBANE AIRTRAIN

Airtrain tickets to and from Brisbane Airport terminals will be half price for 6 months from 5 August 2024.



\$200 FAIRPLAY VOUCHERS

FairPlay vouchers up to the value of \$200 will be available from 1 July to help all Queensland children and young people aged between 5 and 17 years participate in sport and active recreation activities.



FIRST HOME CONCESSION

Eligibility for the first home concession will be extended to homes with a dutiable value up to \$800,000 (up from \$550,000 currently).

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Message from the Deputy Premier and Treasurer

The Honourable Cameron Dick MP

This Budget is doing what matters for Queensland.

Queensland continues to lead the nation when it comes to economic growth and strong labour market conditions, while facing the twin challenges of an unprecedented increase in our population and global inflationary pressures.

Our outlook is positive, with economic and employment growth steadily rising. Importantly, real wages are set to increase, meaning more money left over in the household budget.

But Queensland is not immune to the economic challenges being faced across the country, and around the world. This Budget looks to protect Queensland families in more ways than one.

By addressing short-term pressures, the Queensland Government is safeguarding a future for everyone, particularly our most vulnerable.

New and expanded cost-of-living measures totalling \$3.739 billion means every Queenslanders counts.

This includes **\$1,300 electricity bill rebates** for every household, six months of **50 cent fares for public transport**, and 12 months of **reduced car registration** for all motorists.

We're providing responsible relief which will put downward pressure on prices.

We're also protecting Queensland communities through our evidence-based **Community Safety Plan for Queensland**, with an extra **\$1.28 billion** to support victims, boost early intervention and strengthen our frontline, including more police officers and more equipment like POLAIR helicopters.

In addition, the Queensland Government is **strengthening our health system** funding through a 10.6 per cent increase in funding. Queensland will have more doctors, nurses and other health professionals than ever before.

With our flagship **Big Build** program delivering **\$107.262 billion** worth of infrastructure investment over the next four years, this Budget makes significant additional investments to accommodate our rapid and higher than expected population growth, as well as seizing long-term opportunities to plan and build for Queensland's future prosperity.

We'll have more homes for Queenslanders, we're investing more than \$500 million in our kids and their future through our **Putting Queensland Kids First strategy**, we're delivering better healthcare services, and we're providing cost-of-living relief to every household.

Funding for these initiatives derives from the ongoing strength in coal prices and our progressive coal royalty tiers, which has meant that Queenslanders continue to benefit from a fairer share of our resources.

This is a Budget that will support Queenslanders now, when they need it most, and strengthen our state's long-term future.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cameron Dick".

Cameron Dick MP

Deputy Premier, Treasurer and
Minister for Trade and Investment

BUDGET OVERVIEW

The Queensland government is prioritising what matters, both for households and for our growing state.

While our state is not immune to the economic challenges of global inflation and national growing pains, including an unprecedented and unexpected increase in the population, the 2024–25 Queensland Budget sets out a responsible plan to support our people and invest in our future.

The Budget delivers **\$11.218 billion in concessions** to help Queenslanders when they need it.

Importantly, the Budget also sets out a **\$107.262 billion 4-year capital program** to provide health and education services for Queenslanders where they live, transport to get home faster, and to transform our energy system on the path to net zero.

Queensland is the growth state, with a positive trajectory for the future.

Queensland's overall economic growth is forecast to strengthen to 3 per cent in both 2023–24 and 2024–25. The state continues to enjoy exceptionally strong labour market conditions. As of April 2024, Queensland (up 366,900 persons) had recorded the largest employment growth of any state or territory since March 2020.

In 2024–25, all Queensland households will automatically receive **\$1,300 off their electricity bills** in 2024–25, consisting of an upfront \$1,000 Cost of Living Rebate from the Queensland Government and a \$300 rebate paid in quarterly instalments from the Australian Government. Vulnerable households will continue to receive the \$372 Queensland Electricity Rebate for a total of \$1,672 support in 2024–25.

Since 2018, all Queensland households will have received \$2,425 in electricity bill rebates, including the \$1,300 rebate in 2024–25.

Around 205,000 eligible small businesses will also continue to receive a \$650 credit on electricity bills in 2024–25, co-funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments.

This is not the only cost-of-living relief being provided to Queenslanders.

- 20 per cent reduction in the registration fee and traffic improvement fee components of **motor vehicle registration** for all light vehicles for 12 months.

- Lowering **public transport fares** to a flat fare of 50 cents across the state's public transport network for 6 months from 5 August 2024 and saving Queensland public transport customers \$150 million in 2024–25.
- Increasing the value of **FairPlay vouchers** from \$150 to \$200 and number of vouchers available from 50,000 to up to 200,000 at an additional cost of \$33.5 million.
- Providing \$15 million for the **School and Community Food Relief Program**. This initiative will assist children to access food relief from appropriate sources, ranging from subsidised lunches, breakfasts or tuckshop items. School food programs provide essential support to families as cost-of-living increases impact their ability to provide for their children.
- Providing essential support through a range of targeted **food, emergency and financial relief** measures.
- Substantial additional support to a wider range of Queenslanders purchasing their first home by increasing eligibility thresholds for **first home concession**, and **first home vacant land concession**. It is estimated these measures will deliver additional tax relief to Queensland first home buyers of \$90 million in 2024–25.

This Budget is also continuing to deliver frontline services, with a focus on community safety, education and health.

- Delivering record health funding with growth of 10.6 per cent in 2024–25 to support a range of essential **health** initiatives.
- \$1.28 billion over 5 years for **community safety** measures across 5 key pillars of supporting victims, delivering for our frontline, detaining offenders, intervening when people offend, and preventing crime before it occurs.
- Over \$1.274 billion continuing investment in **school and early education facilities** that consider population growth and shifts, changes in educational needs, and addressing high priority needs for student and staff health and safety.
- \$502 million to deliver the **Putting Queensland Kids First** Plan supporting children from their earliest years of life and directs resources, services and supports to give every Queensland child and family the best possible opportunities for a great life.

Addressing the record increase in the population and driving diversification of the Queensland economy, the Budget is also continuing to build the essential infrastructure that Queensland needs, with a record 4-year capital program of \$107.262 billion, including:

- Around \$26 billion total capital investment over 4 years to support the **Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan**
- New 37.8-kilometre **Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line** between Beerwah and Maroochydore at a total cost of \$5.5 billion (to be jointly funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments), with the longest spur line ever delivered in South East Queensland
- \$2.167 billion in 2024–25 for Queensland Health to continue delivery of **world-class healthcare** facilities
- Ongoing delivery of a **strong transport network** to connect and support our communities and industries
- Continued preparation for the **Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games**, including venue development.

BUDGET PRIORITIES

As population growth continues to drive demand for infrastructure and government services, the 2024–25 Budget focuses on providing cost-of-living support for all Queensland households, delivering frontline services, and building essential infrastructure.

Helping Queenslanders with cost of living

- \$1,300 electricity bill support for all Queensland households in 2024–25, with a higher \$1,672 rebate for vulnerable households.
- 20 per cent reduction to motor vehicle registration fees.
- A flat fare of 50 cents across the state’s public transport network for 6 months.
- Increase in value and number of *FairPlay* vouchers.
- \$15 million for the School and Community Food Relief to provide healthy food for children during school days.

- Food, emergency and financial relief measures to help disadvantaged Queenslanders facing cost-of-living pressures.
- Additional support for first home buyers.
- Estimated record \$11.218 billion in concessions in 2024–25.

Delivering for Queenslanders

- *Community Safety Plan for Queensland* committing an extra \$1.28 billion over 5 years for community safety measures, including support for the victims of crime, increased police presence and policing responses, funding for rehabilitation programs and support through the detention facilities, investment in evidence-based intervention and prevention programs.
- Almost \$4.4 billion uplift to health funding over 4 years to address demand and cost pressures and continue to support initiatives that deliver quality health services to all Queenslanders.
- \$3.1 billion investment as part of *Homes for Queenslanders*.
- Commitment of \$502 million for *Putting Queensland Kids First* to focus on helping young Queenslanders have a healthy, supported start to their lives.
- A permanent 20 per cent funding uplift for state funded domestic, family, and sexual violence services.
- Additional funding of \$203.1 million over 2 years to kickstart the new *Good Jobs, Great Training: Queensland Skills Strategy 2024–2028*.
- Additional Free TAFE places to help Queenslanders skill-up for future jobs.
- Initiatives to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Queensland.
- Funding to support and preserve Queensland’s natural environment.
- Support for tourism initiatives and industry strategy development to enable Queensland to become Australia’s destination of choice by 2032.
- \$19.7 million over 3 years to deliver the *Queensland Small Business Strategy 2024–2027*.

Queensland's Big Build

- A record \$107.262 billion 4-year capital program.
- Around \$26 billion over 4 years to deliver the *Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan*.
- Health capacity expansion program of \$11.215 billion over 6 years.
- \$100 million over 3 years to support high priority disaster resilience and mitigation projects.
- Key transport projects, including \$5.5 billion for the new Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line between Beerwah and Maroochydore (Stage 1), \$1.004 billion for duplication of rail track between Beerburrum and Nambour, \$3.026 billion for Coomera Connector (Stage 1), \$1.219 billion for Stage 3 of the Gold Coast Light Rail, \$4.869 billion for manufacturing 65 new trains in Queensland and \$5.750 billion for Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail.
- \$7.1 billion over 9 years to 2032–33 for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games venues infrastructure.
- \$1.274 billion in 2024–25 to invest in school and early educational facilities to cater for increased population.



QUEENSLAND
**COST OF
LIVING**
ACTION

COST OF LIVING

COST-OF-LIVING RELIEF

The Queensland Government recognises the challenges that global and national cost-of-living pressures are causing for Queenslanders. While the rate of inflation has started to moderate, elevated price levels for a range of goods and services are still putting pressure on household budgets across the country.

In 2024–25, the government is providing an estimated **record \$11.218 billion in concessions** to Queensland families and businesses, an increase of more than 31.1 per cent compared with estimated actual concessions of \$8.555 billion in 2023–24.

The government is providing \$3.739 billion in new and expanded measures in 2024–25 to support Queenslanders in tackling cost-of-living challenges.

This comprises electricity bill rebates, lower public transport fares and motor vehicle registration costs, additional support for first home buyers, an increase in the value and number of *FairPlay* vouchers, school and community food relief program, and food, emergency and financial relief measures for vulnerable cohorts.

The 2024–25 Budget is responding to the cost-of-living pressures confronting Queensland households arising from a unique set of circumstances. These pressures will ease as inflation falls, real wages continue to grow, significant Australian Government income tax cuts are delivered from 1 July 2024, and interest rates in time begin to fall. Accordingly, these elevated levels of assistance are helping households meet these immediate pressures and are not ongoing.

Electricity bill rebate

In 2024–25, the Queensland Government is delivering the most significant electricity bill support package of any state or territory.

As part of this \$2.965 billion package, all Queensland households will automatically receive **\$1,300 off their electricity bills** in 2024–25, consisting of an upfront \$1,000 Cost of Living Rebate from the Queensland Government

and a \$300 rebate paid in quarterly instalments from the Australian Government.

Vulnerable households will continue to receive the \$372 Queensland Electricity Rebate, for a total of \$1,672 support in 2024–25.

Around 205,000 eligible Queensland small businesses will also receive a \$650 credit on electricity bills in 2024–25, co-funded by the Queensland and Australian governments.

Recent data from the ABS shows that the \$550 electricity bill rebate provided in the 2023–24 Budget lowered electricity bills by 9.4 per cent, which contributed to inflation in Brisbane being lower than the national average.

For a typical residential customer across Queensland, \$1,300 off their electricity bill may represent more than 60 per cent of their estimated annual household electricity bill in 2024–25, meaning many Queenslanders may not pay another bill until 2025.

Motor vehicle registration fee reduction

As part of the 2023–24 Budget Update, the government announced a freeze to the registration fee and traffic improvement fee components of motor vehicle registration costs in 2024–25, at an estimated cost of \$281.8 million over 4 years (including \$66.7 million in 2024–25).

Further support is being provided to Queenslanders in the 2024–25 Budget, with a **20 per cent reduction** in the registration fee and traffic improvement fee components of **motor vehicle registration** for all light vehicles, including motorcycles and trailers, for 12 months. The fee reduction will start appearing on renewal notices sent to customers from 5 August 2024.

A 20 per cent reduction to light vehicle registration fees is estimated to cost \$435 million over 2 years (including \$399 million in 2024–25), and would equate to a saving of almost \$85 for a four-cylinder private use vehicle for 12 months, reducing the registration fee amount to approximately \$338.75 (excluding CTP).

It is estimated that the reduction will benefit owners of around 5.7 million vehicles across the state.

Public transport temporary fare reduction

From 5 August 2024, a **flat fare of 50 cents per trip** will be applied across the state's public transport network for 6 months. This is estimated to save public transport customers \$150 million in 2024–25. In addition to this initiative, the government is also providing half-price tickets on Airtrain services.

Public transport usage remains about 13 per cent below pre-COVID levels. Significantly reducing the cost of public transport will encourage more people to leave the car at home, leading to a reduction in road congestion. A single bus takes 50 cars off the road and a train takes 600 cars off the road.

This is in addition to a freeze on the public transport fare increase in 2024, at an estimated cost of \$62.3 million over 5 years.

FairPlay vouchers

Under *Activate! Queensland 2019–2029*, the Queensland Government delivers direct financial support via *FairPlay* vouchers to help Queensland children and young people aged between 5 and 17 years to participate in sport and active recreation activities.

The **FairPlay voucher** provides relief to vulnerable households facing cost-of-living pressures and helps young Queenslanders to pursue a healthy lifestyle. This will deliver tangible economic and social dividends over many years to come.

Building on the success of these vouchers, the government has now committed a further \$33.5 million in 2024–25, bringing the total funding to \$40 million in 2024–25. This will increase the maximum value of the *FairPlay* voucher from \$150 to \$200, and increase the number of vouchers available from 50,000 to up to 200,000.

Importantly, 50,000 vouchers will be guaranteed to the current target eligible cohort, with an additional 150,000 vouchers to be made available to all households.

School and community food relief

Correct nutrition can not only impact on a child's physical health but can also affect their mood and engagement with learning. School food programs provide essential support to families as cost-of-living pressures impact their ability to provide for their children.

In 2024–25, the government will provide \$15 million for the **School and Community Food Relief Program**. This initiative will assist children to access food relief from appropriate sources, ranging from subsidised lunches, breakfasts or tuckshop items. School food programs provide essential support to families as cost-of-living increases impact their ability to provide for their children.

Food, emergency and financial relief measures

The 2024–25 Budget also includes a range of other targeted measures that will provide food, emergency relief and financial resilience services for disadvantaged Queenslanders facing cost-of-living pressures, including:

- An additional \$3.3 million over 2 years from 2024–25 for **OzHarvest** and **SecondBite** to provide food relief across Queensland.
- \$2.9 million over 4 years for **Foodbank Queensland** to allow increased warehousing space in Brisbane, as well as supporting increased food storage and supply through the establishment of a distribution point in north Queensland.
- An additional \$1.7 million in 2024–25 for the continuation of increased provision of **Emergency Relief** in communities across Queensland, including through an additional 92 Neighbourhood Centres and into discrete First Nations communities.
- A doubling of funding to **Queensland Meals on Wheels**, with the government committing \$1.2 million over 4 years to extend and increase funding to \$300,000 per annum ongoing to enable greater support, guidance and coordination to be provided across the Queensland Meals on Wheels network.
- An additional \$1.1 million in 2024–25 for the continuation of the **Queensland Financial Resilience Program** to deliver vital support to people experiencing financial hardship to improve their capacity to manage their personal finances.

Additional support for first home buyers

The government will be providing substantial additional support to a wider range of Queenslanders purchasing their first home by increasing eligibility thresholds for two key transfer duty concessions.

Eligibility for the **first home concession** will be extended to homes with a dutiable value up to \$800,000 (up from \$550,000 currently), and **first home vacant land concession** eligibility will be extended to vacant land with a dutiable value up to \$500,000 (up from \$400,000 currently).

These changes will increase the maximum value of the first home concession by \$8,600 (to a total of \$17,350) and the maximum value of the first home vacant land concession by \$3,500 (to a total of \$10,675).

It is estimated that around 10,000 first home buyers across Queensland will benefit from the increased concessions each year.



A HELPING HAND FOR QUEENSLANDERS

Supporting Queensland's most vulnerable

The 2024–25 Budget is providing support for some of Queensland's most vulnerable.

The Queensland Government has provisioned additional funding of over \$160 million towards a package of **disability reforms** to provide an initial response to the recommendations of the *Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability*, and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) review.

The Queensland Government is working with state and territory governments and the Australian Government to finalise responses to the Royal Commission, with responses expected to be released later this year, and to implement National Cabinet's decision to design additional foundational supports for people with disability.

As part of the over \$160 million package, immediate investment will be made across a number of initiatives to improve services for people with disability, including:

- \$5 million in 2024–25 to expand individual and systemic advocacy
- \$10 million in 2024–25 to provide a temporary uplift to the Queensland Community Support Scheme, which assists Queenslanders not eligible for the NDIS to live independently
- \$6.5 million in 2024–25 for a pilot of a Hospital Assistive Technology Loan Pool and an expansion of supports provided under the Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme
- \$24.4 million over 5 years:
 - for a sector led stakeholder engagement strategy
 - to improve disability data and reporting
 - for strategic leadership, implementation and monitoring of disability reforms across the Queensland community, including whole-of-government coordination.

This Budget is also supporting multicultural communities across Queensland, including:

- \$4.8 million over 2 years to expand support under the **Asylum Seeker and Refugee Assistance Program**
- \$1 million over 2 years for broader engagement with children through the **Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma**
- \$2.6 million over 2 years as part of the *Community Safety Plan for Queensland* to support the African Youth Support Council's **African Villages** in Moorooka, Geebung and Redbank Plains to build a sense of belonging, identify and establish strategic partnerships, engage with the system and build positive relationships in safe spaces for African youth and community members.

Concessions

The Queensland Government provides a range of concessions including subsidies, rebates and discounts across a variety of services and products. The total value of all concessions provided to Queenslanders is estimated to be a record \$11.218 billion in 2024–25. This represents an increase of 31.1 per cent compared with estimated actual concessions of \$8.555 billion in 2023–24, the largest increase in concessions spending on record.

The **Government Managed Housing Rental Rebate** continues to target low-income families and individuals and represents the difference between the estimated rents that would be payable in the private market and rent that is charged by government based on household income. Assistance is provided to approximately 55,700 households. The estimated average yearly subsidy per household for 2024–25 is \$14,486.

The **Textbook and Resource Allowance** is available for all parents and caregivers of secondary school-age students to assist with the cost of textbooks and learning resources, providing support of \$155 or \$337 per student in 2024 (depending on year level).

The government continues to fund 15 hours per week of **free kindergarten** for all 4-year-olds for up to 40 weeks or 600 hours per year. On average, a family attending a sessional kindy for 15 hours per week that charges \$48 per day will save \$4,800 a year in fees.

Further information can be found in the Concessions Statement – *Appendix A: Budget Paper No. 2 – 2024–25 Budget Strategy and Outlook.*



COST-OF-LIVING CASE STUDIES

Retired couple

Derek and Elizabeth are a retired couple in their seventies, with no dependents, living in Palmview on the Sunshine Coast. They both have a Queensland Seniors Card and receive the pension. In 2024–25, the household could be eligible for a broad range of concessions providing a total benefit of more than **\$4,100**.

Concessions available include a \$1,300 Cost of Living Rebate plus the existing \$372 Queensland Electricity Rebate, bringing total electricity bill support to \$1,672 in 2024–25. Derek and Elizabeth are also eligible for other concessions, including a \$120 South East Queensland water subsidy, \$200 for council rates, \$89 for reticulated natural gas, an average benefit of \$830 each for general dental care under the Oral Health Scheme, and a \$49 registration fee concession for their 4 cylinder vehicle registered on a pensioner concession – reducing the cost of their registration to \$195. This reduction is in addition to the existing 50 per cent concession that pensioners receive on the registration fee component of their fees.

Derek and Elizabeth also frequently catch the bus to explore their community, such as shopping in Maroochydore, swimming at Mooloolaba and visiting the hospital. These trips would usually cost \$1.74 per trip. Taking an average of 3 trips per week, they will save a combined \$357 over 6 months due to the 50 cents flat fare on Translink public transport services across the state for 6 months.



Family eligible for a Health Care Card

Noah and Mia live in Robina on the Gold Coast, have a Health Care Card, and have 3 children aged 4, 13 and 16. In 2024–25, the household could be eligible for a broad range of concessions, providing a total benefit of more than **\$9,700**.

Concessions available include a \$1,300 Cost of Living Rebate plus the existing \$372 Queensland Electricity Rebate, bringing total electricity bill support to \$1,672 in 2024–25. Noah and Mia are also eligible for other concessions, including \$492 through the Textbook and Resource Allowance paid to the children’s school and a \$85 registration fee concession for their private use 4-cylinder car, bringing registration fees down to \$339. The youngest family member will also be eligible for 15 hours of free kindergarten per week – on average, a family with a child attending a sessional kindergarten for 15 hours per week that charges \$48 per day will save \$4,800 a year in fees. Each of the eldest 2 children benefit from the \$200 *FairPlay* voucher and the youngest child benefits from the \$150 *SwimStart*.

Noah commutes by train from Robina 4 days a week to work in Bowen Hills at a usual cost of \$11.46 per trip. Due to the 50 cents flat fare on Translink public transport services across the state for 6 months, the family could save over \$2,104 over 6 months.





School-leaver

Samantha is a low-income casual worker, living in Cairns, who has just graduated from high school and has a Health Care Card. In 2024–25, Samantha will be eligible for a range of concessions providing a total benefit of more than **\$6,200 plus a loan of \$1,600**.

Concessions available include a \$1,300 Cost of Living Rebate plus the existing \$372 Queensland Electricity Rebate, bringing total electricity bill support to \$1,672 in 2024–25. Samantha is also eligible for an interest-free and fee-free rental bond loan providing average support of \$1,600, an average subsidy of \$3,483 to undertake her first post-school Certificate III qualification, an average benefit of \$830 for general dental care under the Oral Health Scheme, and a \$85 registration fee concession for her private use 4 cylinder car, bringing registration fees down to \$339.

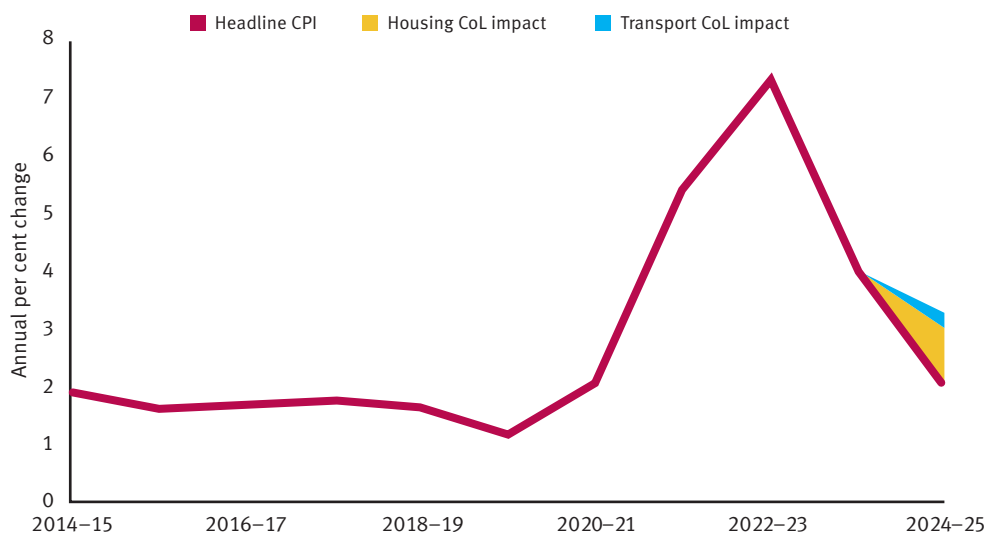
While studying at the local TAFE, Samantha catches the bus to campus 4 days a week, at a usual cost of \$1.20 each way. Samantha could save \$134 over 6 months due to the 50 cents flat fare on Translink public transport across the state for 6 months.

IMPACT OF QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT'S COST-OF-LIVING RELIEF

Based on Queensland Treasury analysis, it is estimated the Queensland Government's cost-of-living relief measures, when combined with the Australian Government measures, will reduce Brisbane's headline CPI growth in 2024–25 by around 1¼ percentage-point, reducing CPI growth to 2 per cent.

This comprises an estimated one percentage point reduction in annual CPI growth due to the electricity bill rebates substantially reducing housing-related costs and a further ¼ percentage point reduction due to the combined impact of the Queensland Government's transport-related cost-of-living relief measures.

Brisbane Headline Consumer Price Index Growth¹



Note: 1. Year-average. Annual % change.
Sources: ABS Consumer Price Index and Queensland Treasury.



MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER

COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN FOR QUEENSLAND

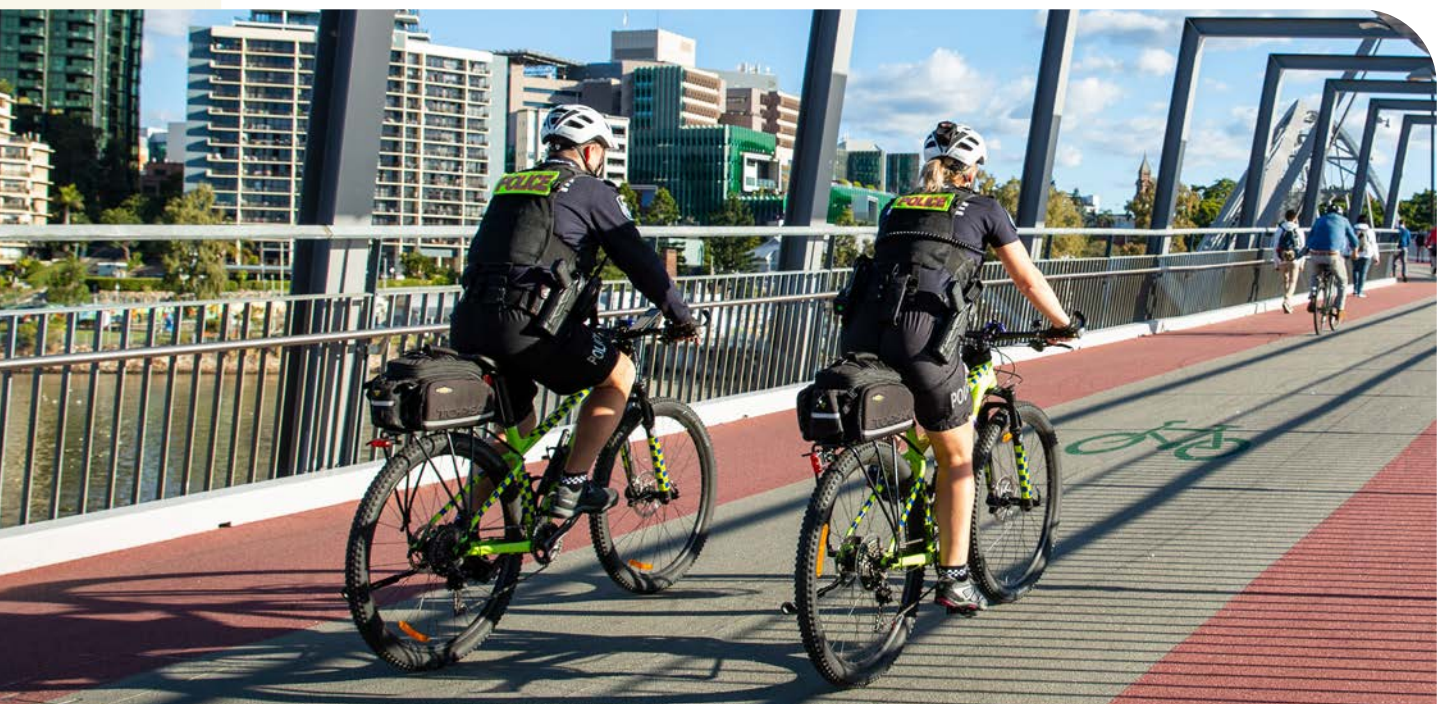
To address community safety concerns, the government unveiled the *Community Safety Plan for Queensland* on 30 April 2024 which includes an extra \$1.28 billion over 5 years for community safety measures across 5 key pillars: supporting victims; delivering for our frontline; detaining offenders; intervening when people offend; and preventing crime before it occurs.

The government will deliver on these pillars through the introduction of new legislative reforms and major investment in programs and systems that will help build safer communities.

Placing an increased focus on domestic, family, and sexual violence, safety for women and young offenders, the plan takes a whole-of-government approach that brings together education, health, sport, housing, community services, domestic violence and child protection services.

The plan builds on the successful measures that have helped to deliver a reduction in overall offences in the first quarter of 2024, with new investment and expanded initiatives. It also charts the way forward on implementing important reform to the criminal justice system, and deliver laws that empower frontline officers and the courts to protect Queensland communities.

For more information about *Community Safety Plan for Queensland*, refer to the website at www.qld.gov.au/communitysafety.



Supporting victims

As part of the Plan, the government is investing \$52.3 million to provide more resources and support for the victims of crime, their families and communities through key initiatives such as:

- \$16 million to continue and expand the **Victims of Crime Community Response Program** that provides immediate round-the-clock support to victims of crime
- \$15.6 million to increase the capacity of **Victims Assist Queensland** to process financial assistance applications
- \$2.8 million to enhance the **Victim Liaison Service** that connects victims and their families with the prosecution while their case is proceeding through court.

The government is committed to listening to community feedback and incorporating expert advice to reform the criminal justice system and improve support for victims and victim-survivors. This is supported by independent bodies such as the Victims' Commissioner, Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council, and the Independent Ministerial Advisory Council.

Delivering for our frontline

Building on the government's commitment in 2020 to invest in community safety through increased police personnel, this Plan commits to increased frontline officers and ensures they are equipped to keep Queenslanders safe:

- **900 additional police personnel** to join the over 18,000-strong police presence in Queensland
- **additional equipment** such as 3,000 wands and 1,000 state-of-the-art tasers for detection and response
- **response helicopters** to service Far North Queensland and Wide Bay/Sunshine Coast, and increased drone capability in priority regions across Queensland
- \$48 million to **upgrade police stations** in Bundaberg and Hervey Bay.

The government has also committed to a permanent 20 per cent uplift in funding to the state funded domestic, family and sexual violence service providers across Queensland, continuing to improve women's safety.

Detaining offenders

When crime does occur, Queensland needs empowered police and courts, strong laws, and prison infrastructure to keep the community safe. The government is committing \$261.4 million to deliver a therapeutic operational model at the **Woodford Youth Detention Centre**, to ensure young people detained can access rehabilitation programs and support to break the cycle of re-offending. This is in addition to \$149.2 million approved for the **Wacol Youth Remand Centre**, scheduled to be commissioned in late 2024. The Government is also delivering stronger laws to break the cycle of offending, such as the *Strengthening Community Safety Act 2023* to support community safety.

Intervening when people offend

The government understands that intervention is crucial in getting at-risk offenders back on track. Evidence-based interventions will be delivered by targeting the risk factors of re-offending particularly among young people, with partnerships across our community including non-government organisations critical to the success of these programs.

The Plan will build on existing youth justice reform by trialling new programs and expanding those programs that work, as the government recognises that the causes of offending are complex. Through the **Better Care Together Plan**, the government has invested significantly in mental health, alcohol and drug services. However, more needs to be done, which is why part of the *Community Safety Plan for Queensland* includes:

- \$13.6 million to expand the **Youth Co-Responder teams** in Cairns, the Gold Coast and South Brisbane and additional teams in Sunshine Coast and South West
- \$6 million to non-government organisations to provide **after-hours support for young people**.

Preventing crime before it occurs

The Plan tackles the root causes of crime through investing in early intervention programs, partnering with communities to improve security and supporting families to ensure children stay on the right track:

- \$15 million for a new **Police-Citizens Youth Club (PCYC)** in Caloundra and \$2 million to upgrade PCYC Redcliffe in recognition of the work of PCYCs in youth development
- \$5 million in a new **Local Government Community Safety Fund** for communities in priority areas across Queensland to install CCTV systems and other community safety measures
- almost \$40 million to extend the **Helping Seniors Secure their Homes** trial until the end of 2024, which supports eligible seniors to install security related measures in their homes
- \$3.2 million to boost support for community groups such as the **Neighbourhood Watch, Queensland Homicide Victims' Group, Crime Stoppers** and **Stop the Coward Punch**.



KEEPING QUEENSLANDERS SAFE

Strengthening Queensland's response to domestic, family and sexual violence

Studies show that more than 50 per cent of young people in the youth justice system were impacted by domestic and family violence and most recently, more than half of reported assaults were domestic and family violence related. This means tackling domestic, family and sexual violence at its roots will have a positive impact on crime rates.

Since 2015, the government has invested more than \$1.9 billion in funding to fight domestic, family and sexual violence in Queensland, including:

- \$588 million package in response to recommendations from the two Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce's reports
- \$100 million in response to the Independent Commission of Inquiry into the Queensland Police Services' responses to domestic and family violence.

Funding of \$154.4 million over 4 years and \$38.4 million per annum ongoing, has been committed for a recurrent 20 per cent uplift for the state funded **domestic, family and sexual violence sector**. This ongoing funding is important to make sure Queensland's domestic, family and sexual violence frontline workforce is resourced to respond to increased demand, programs are put on to address behaviours of persons using violence, and there are new programs to fill gaps in services delivered across the state.

In addition, the government is providing \$14.8 million over 2 years in additional funding to Queensland Corrective Services to support domestic and family violence perpetrators' rehabilitation and re-entry to the community.

Strengthening our systems

The government is investing to ensure the Queensland Corrective Services delivers a safe, secure, and efficient system to maximise the rehabilitation of offenders and reduce the risk of re-offending:

- \$270.5 million services funding to meet increased cost of safely managing prison operations given current demand numbers
- \$127.8 million services funding and \$327.7 million in equity funding is provided to upgrade critical infrastructure and equipment and provide short to medium term prison capacity relief.

The **Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal** will receive \$73.1. million in funding over 5 years and \$20.1 million per annum thereafter, which includes the provision of more decision makers and to provide critical mediation services for minor civil disputes.

The government continues to fund initiatives supporting frontline law enforcement activities:

- \$33.4 million to continue and improve efficiency of court recording and transcription services
- \$3.3 million to support courts and tribunals to implement proposed legislative reform and improve safety for vulnerable court users.

To deliver client-focussed frontline services, the government will invest:

- \$13.2 million to build a workforce for a sustainable and family-centred coronial system that meets the needs of all Queenslanders
- \$5.9 million in the Office of the Public Guardian to protect vulnerable Queensland children and adults with impaired decision making capacity
- \$4.9 million to support existing circuit court sitting days and associated travel costs.

In addressing root causes of crime, the government will fund:

- \$22 million in end-to-end case management to better identify prisoner needs and tailor program interventions and pre- and post-release strategies
- \$3.3 million to extend the trial of the **Culture Family Partnership** services in Hervey Bay, Logan and South West Brisbane, as a result of positive early community response to the trial that began in 2023.

In addition, the government is providing ongoing support to non-government community organisations which provide services to keep Queenslanders safe, such as **Surf Life Saving Queensland, Royal Life Saving Society, Emergency Services Cadets Program** delivered by the Police-Citizens Youth Club, **Neighbourhood Watch Queensland, Crime Stoppers Queensland**, and **Queensland Homicide Victims Support Group**.



EDUCATING FOR THE FUTURE

BETTER SCHOOLS AND JOBS

The Queensland Government is committed to setting Queenslanders up for success through better schools and jobs.

The 2024–25 Budget is investing over \$1 billion in additional funding over 5 years from 2023–24 to support delivery of a high performing state education system. This funding will deliver more teachers and teacher aides to support delivery of the government’s education strategy for state schools – *Equity and Excellence: realising the potential of every student*. Funding will also help to improve outcomes for priority cohorts, including delivering reasonable adjustments for students with a disability.

Good Jobs, Great Training: Queensland Skills Strategy 2024–2028

In the biggest skills and training reform in almost a decade, the government will fund one million training places for Queenslanders, easing cost-of-living pressures for those who want to train, upskill, reskill and pursue careers in the state’s priority industries.



The *Good Jobs, Great Training: Queensland Skills Strategy 2024–2028* will help address skills and workforce priorities across Queensland with more free and subsidised training for Queenslanders. It will also fund one million publicly subsidised training places in health, social services, hospitality, clean energy, construction and more.

The government is providing additional funding of \$203.1 million over 2 years, as part of a total investment of \$370 million, to help kickstart the new *Good Jobs, Great Training: Queensland Skills Strategy 2024–2028* to further strengthen the state’s training system to deliver skills needed to power our economy and provide access to good jobs with better pay for Queenslanders. The strategy is Queensland’s roadmap to deliver on the National Skills Agreement, unlocking billions of dollars in areas of national priority, and is a key action under the *Good people. Good jobs: Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022–2032*.

Free TAFE

Following the outstanding success of Free TAFE, which has seen more than 88,000 commencements in Queensland in around 200 courses, the Australian and Queensland governments have provided a further 30,000 Free TAFE places in 2024 through to 2026. This will offer cost-of-living support while giving more Queenslanders the opportunity to skill-up for future jobs in areas where the economy needs them most. This partnership builds on the Queensland Government’s workforce strategy that aims to position it as a world-class economy out to 2032.

Other incentives include:

- **Free TAFE Nursing**, which offers 6,500 fee-free training places to eligible Queenslanders in the Diploma of Nursing over 2024 and 2025
- **Free Apprenticeships for under 25s**, which covers the cost of training in a high priority apprenticeship or traineeship.

Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician has been Queensland’s most popular course at TAFE with over 5,000 students commencing their apprenticeship in 2023. Queenslanders are being encouraged to apply for the Free TAFE programs. With the *Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan* set to create 64,000 jobs in clean energy infrastructure, this initiative is saving students and employers money while they build the industry’s capacity.

50 per cent payroll tax rebate for apprentices and trainees

The 50 per cent Apprentice and Trainee Rebate, which applies in addition to the exemption of apprentice and trainee wages from payroll tax, will be extended for a further 12 months to 30 June 2025. The extended rebate will reduce costs for businesses that employ apprentices and trainees and aligns with the government's broader objective of supporting youth employment, and will help to address skills shortages across industries. The extension will deliver estimated tax relief of \$54.9 million for Queensland businesses employing trainees and apprentices in 2024–25.

GPs in schools

Schools play a significant role in supporting the wellbeing of their students. To ensure schools are well-placed to support all students, the Queensland Government has invested in General Practitioners (GPs) in 50 state secondary schools 1 day per week. The service helps to remove barriers students may otherwise face in accessing timely and appropriate healthcare.

The 2024–25 Budget will deliver \$21 million to support the continuation of the GP in Schools program for a further 4 years. A further \$10.7 million will support provision of health practitioners in 20 priority primary schools under the \$502 million *Putting Queensland Kids First* package. These programs will help deliver positive outcomes for students' health and wellbeing, and their readiness and ability to engage at school.

Education infrastructure

The government is continuing to invest in school and early educational facilities that consider population growth and shifts, changes in educational needs, and the high priority needs for student and staff health and safety.

An investment of \$1.274 billion in 2024–25 will support projects such as:

- \$342.2 million for the provision of additional facilities at existing state schools experiencing faster enrolment growth

- \$273.2 million to replace and enhance facilities at existing schools which includes \$144.8 million for critical infrastructure upgrades to create contemporary learning environments as part of the **Special School Renewal, Contemporary Specialist Spaces** and **Discrete Indigenous Community Renewal** programs
- \$166.6 million for the **Building Future Schools** program to deliver world-class learning environments for students
- \$144.2 million as part of the **strategic land acquisition fund**, to acquire land for future new and expanded schools
- \$117 million as part of the **School Halls Program** to boost education infrastructure investment across Queensland.



PUTTING QUEENSLAND KIDS FIRST: GIVING OUR KIDS THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME

The government is committed to supporting children from their earliest years of life, and directing resources, services and supports to give every Queensland child and family the best possible opportunity for a great life.

Backed by an investment of \$502 million, *Putting Queensland Kids First* invests in our youngest Queenslanders for positive and healthy pathways for life, building on the strengths and opportunities that help children and families to thrive, and supporting people to get back on track when they face greater challenges.

The wellbeing of individuals and the economy are intrinsically linked. Social wellbeing fuels a strong and sustainable economy for all Queenslanders. Evidence shows that investing in a child's early years is one of the best investments for the long-term health, wellbeing, safety, and prosperity of our community.

Putting Queensland Kids First is underpinned by 5 priorities:

Partnering for connected and community-led delivery

Communities are best placed to understand the strengths and needs of local families and children. The Queensland Government is partnering with non-government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations to deliver local, place-based supports that respond to diverse community needs.

Investments include:

- \$15 million for a dedicated partnership fund for non-government organisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations
- \$5.8 million for more safe, stable, and secure housing for First Nations families and young people
- \$270,000 for a co-designed First Nations leadership program for young First Nations parents.



Wellbeing in the earliest years of life

Healthy development in the early years supports young Queenslanders with the strongest start for wellbeing and learning. The Queensland Government is supporting children to be born and raised healthy in their families, connected to culture, and supported in their development.

Investments include:

- \$65.5 million for more sustained health home visiting and antenatal support
- \$18.4 million to support healthier pregnancies, including health risk screening during antenatal care
- \$11.1 million to connect parents with essentials for thriving babies
- \$9 million for housing and holistic support for pregnant and parenting mothers
- \$4.1 million to expand weekly text messages to support child development and parental wellbeing.

Supporting families and strengthening communities

Whole-of-family health and wellbeing is critical to a child's healthy development. The Queensland Government is strengthening the holistic and wraparound supports for families and communities, and responding to the needs of parents, caregivers and kin to create the best conditions for children to thrive.

Investments include:

- \$29.9 million to embed Early Childhood Coordinators within existing child, family and community services
- \$20 million for family and early years school-based hubs in Aurukun and Kowanyama
- \$11.6 million to support tenancies for young parents with wraparound support including parenting education
- \$10.4 million to enhance mental health support for parents, partners and families
- \$5.4 million to support Neighbourhood Centres to combat the effects of isolation and loneliness.

Responsive support for healthy development and positive life courses

The early years of life are a key time to identify developmental vulnerabilities and respond as early as possible, so that children are ready to transition into school with confidence, and to prepare for the best future outcomes. The Queensland Government is supporting individual development through the earliest possible access to support for the diverse needs of Queensland children.

Investments include:

- \$71.4 million for enhanced child health development checks in priority locations in the first 5 years of life



- \$56.6 million for Enhanced Child Development Services in priority locations to improve the health and wellbeing of children with developmental concerns
- \$9.9 million for improved children’s hearing screening and diagnostic services in priority locations
- \$3.6 million for housing and support link services for young mothers, babies, and families
- \$2 million to strengthen family connections through an early intervention program for families experiencing complex challenges.

Supporting confident steps through life and learning

Children who have positive experiences with learning are more likely to be happy at school and improve their academic and social skills, setting them up for better outcomes across their schooling, training and employment journey. The Queensland Government is encouraging confident steps as children grow and develop, from early learning through to key phases of learning, to set them on positive pathways for the future.

Investments include:

- \$67.3 million for Behaviour Specialists in priority primary schools to support engagement in learning
- \$42.7 million for Family Support Coordinators in primary schools to support transitions from early childhood for a confident start to learning at school
- \$26.2 million to extend free kindy up to 30 hours per week for four-year-olds in discrete communities
- \$10.7 million for health practitioners in 20 priority primary schools.

For more information about *Putting Queensland Kids First*, refer to the website at www.qld.gov.au/about/putting-qld-kids-first.



HEALTH AND WELLBEING

RECORD INVESTMENT IN OUR FRONTLINE CARE

Investing in the health of all Queenslanders, where and when it is needed, is a priority of the government. A strong health system supports a healthy population, which is a key driver of labour productivity and overall economic growth.

Record growth in health funding

The 2024–25 Queensland Budget is delivering a record investment in the health system with growth of 10.6 per cent in operating funding in 2024–25, well above the historical average of 6.9 per cent.

To ensure patients get treated at the right place, at the right time, and to meet the growth in demand for health services, this Budget provides an uplift to Queensland Health's operating budget of \$4.393 billion over the next 4 years. This funding will address emerging demand and cost pressures, and invest in quality health services across Queensland.



The health funding uplift will focus on improving the flow of patients through hospitals and more timely access to care, including by improving ambulance responsiveness, addressing pressures on emergency departments, reducing waiting times for surgery and specialist clinics, as well as boosting First Nations health, women's health care and the health workforce.

Putting Patients First

In 2024–25, Queensland Health will take further action to tackle ramping and relieve health care pressures through the expansion of the *Putting Patients First* plan.

This Budget provides an overall investment of \$1.14 billion in 2024–25, building on the \$764 million investment made in 2023–24 to improve the flow of patients through our hospitals and create additional bed capacity in response to the rise in acute hospital presentations. We are continuing to deliver on this commitment to Queensland patients by helping those working in the public health system to better manage increasing demand through targeted strategies aimed at providing new and innovative ways of delivering care, closer to home and keeping Queenslanders well and out of hospital.

This investment will support the rollout of the **free Meningococcal B and Respiratory Syncytial Virus vaccines** for eligible infants, children and adolescents. Alongside a continuation of the **free influenza vaccination** for all Queenslanders, this is the largest state government-funded vaccination program in Queensland's history.

This investment will also be directed to improving hospital discharge initiatives through the expansion of the successful **Long Stay Rapid Response** and **Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Hospital Bedside Hearings** programs. This will enable people who are medically ready for discharge to transition to more appropriate accommodation for ongoing care needs.

Support for the Queensland Ambulance Service

For many Queenslanders experiencing a health emergency, their first connection is with the highly experienced and dedicated officers in the Queensland Ambulance Service.

The 2024–25 Budget is supporting an uplift to the Queensland Ambulance Service of \$265.9 million over 4 years, in response to growing and changing demand. This additional funding will enable the **recruitment of 188 ambulance operatives and 80 specialised positions** to drive service delivery improvements and innovative models of care. This is in addition to the Queensland Government’s commitment for an additional 735 ambulance operatives during this term of government.

The 2024–25 Budget is also supporting a \$30 million boost to the Queensland Ambulance Service’s base capital program, providing critical infrastructure to equip ambulance operatives on the frontline to meet the growing and changing demand for pre-hospital care services.

Queensland Health workforce

This government is committed to investing in our frontline health workforce now and into the future.

The 2024–25 Budget provides an additional \$158.4 million over 4 years in new funding and \$215.9 million from internal Queensland Health resources, in response to Queensland Health’s most significant workforce challenges; with a focus on supporting and retaining the current workforce; building and attracting new pipelines of talent; and adapting and innovating to find new ways to deliver. This investment will support Queensland Health to build a sustainable and supported workforce to deliver high-quality healthcare across Queensland.

The 2024-25 Budget will also invest \$64 million over 4 years to implement a new electronic workforce rostering system to enable best practice in rostering frontline staff to deliver safe, affordable, sustainable, and high-quality care to Queenslanders.

First Nations First

The Queensland Government will invest \$324.7 million, including \$209.9 million in new funding, to accelerate efforts to address inequity in health and wellbeing outcomes for First Nations Queenslanders, by putting First Nations First and putting the Queensland Government back on track to close the gap by 2031.

To achieve this, Queensland Health will uphold a key priority in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap by strengthening and empowering the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Health Sector, in particular the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council, including the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health to invest in First Nations health and wellbeing hubs. The commitment will deliver on the *Health Q32 - First Nations First Strategy*, with significant investments across 4 priority areas: eliminating racism, reshaping the system, transforming care and strengthening our workforce.

Building a stronger health system

Queensland Health is committed to building a stronger, more sustainable health system.

The vastness of our state means that not all Queenslanders are in close proximity to a hospital should the unimaginable occur. The Queensland Government continues to look for ways to bring emergency health services closer to Queenslanders.

The 2024–25 Budget is investing an additional \$142.2 million over 4 years in **vital specialist retrieval and emergency helicopter services** in Torres Strait, Bundaberg, Mount Isa, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Rockhampton, Mackay, and Brisbane.

WOMEN AND GIRLS' HEALTH STRATEGY

Women and girls are a valued part of our society and improving women and girls' health will improve our economy. To that end, improving the health and wellbeing of Queensland women and girls across their life course, is the foundation to ensuring women and girls can fully participate in their social, cultural and economic lives.

All women and girls must be able to access safe, quality care where their concerns are heard and believed. Healthy women and girls strengthen our economy and are a big part of what makes Queensland great.

Women and girls experience different health outcomes to men – women generally live longer but experience more years living with chronic conditions and are almost twice as likely to experience mental health conditions.

In response, the Queensland Government has released the *Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy 2032*, a commitment to prioritising the health and wellbeing of women and girls in Queensland.

With a new injection of \$247.9 million over the period to 2027–28 to address gender-based health inequity, the government is rectifying disinvestment and underinvestment in women and girls' health. With this new injection of funds, and combined with funding for existing services, the government will now spend over \$1 billion over the next 5 years to target and provide activities and services that focus on women's health and wellbeing.

The strategy was developed with many organisations, and almost 12,000 Queenslanders shared their experiences and suggestions on how to improve the health of women and girls. This was the largest response to any government survey in Queensland's history and has informed how this record investment is being delivered.

The strategy is supported by an Investment Plan that outlines key initiatives under 6 priority health action areas:

- **healthy lifestyles and bodies** – Queensland women and girls are supported to maintain healthy lifestyles, behaviours, body weight and positive body image

- **sexual and reproductive health** – reproductive and sexual health of Queensland women and girls is optimised across their life course
- **mental health and wellbeing** – Queensland women and girls experience enhanced mental health and wellbeing
- **health response to domestic and family violence, and sexual violence** – Queensland women and girls experiencing domestic and family violence, and sexual violence have access to sensitive, trauma-informed and culturally safe healthcare
- **maternal health** – Queensland mothers and babies are healthy and cared for close to home and community
- **chronic health conditions and cancer** – Queensland women and girls live longer, healthier lives and are supported to prevent and manage chronic conditions.

These 6 priority health action areas are underpinned by system reform goals:

- enhance the health of priority communities
- increase prevention and early intervention
- improve health literacy
- increase access to gender-informed, integrated and equitable care
- continue to develop an informed and trusted workforce
- build a strong evidence base.

Ultimately, the strategy aims to make a measurable difference in care for women and girls and the health outcomes they experience.

For more information about the *Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy 2032* and associated Investment Plan, refer to website <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/strategic-direction/plans/women-and-girls-health-strategy>.

HOSPITAL AND HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

As Queensland's population expands, so does the demand on the health system. The Queensland Government is committed to delivering world-class healthcare facilities to all Queenslanders. The total capital investment program in 2024–25 for Queensland Health is \$2.167 billion.

In the 2024–25 Budget, the Queensland Government is providing a \$1 billion boost to the **Capacity Expansion Program** to optimise patient flow within hospitals, reduce wait times and improve healthcare delivery. Along with additional funding committed by the Australian Government and philanthropic contributions to the Queensland Cancer Centre, the Capacity Expansion Program now totals \$11.215 billion over 6 years to deliver around 2,200 additional overnight beds at 15 facilities across the Queensland health system.

The Queensland Government is committed to delivering an additional 3,378 beds by 2031–32 – this includes more than 230 beds scheduled to come online in 2024–25.

This budget will invest:

- \$200 million over 7 years from 2024–25 to completely redevelop and deliver a contemporary **Cooktown Multi-Purpose Health Service** facility to support modern models of care.
- \$60 million over 2 years for the **Cairns Health and Innovation Centre** which will deliver additional capacity for clinical services within the existing Cairns Hospital Precinct and provide necessary health education, training and research facilities for future medical professionals in Cairns.
- \$12 million in 2024–25 to replace existing staff accommodation in the **Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service** which will support recruitment and retention of health workforce in the Torres and Cape region.



QUEENSLAND'S BIG BUILD

Addressing the record increase in the population and driving diversification of the Queensland economy requires continued investments in critical social and economic infrastructure.

The Queensland Government's transformational Big Build is continuing to deliver the infrastructure needed to support our growing state; it will create new industries, more jobs, better communities and stronger regions.

Priorities include decarbonising Queensland's energy system, expanding health capacity, and getting ready for the Brisbane 2032 Olympics and Paralympics Games.

The 4-year capital program is now a record **\$107.262 billion**.

In 2024–25, the government's \$27.1 billion capital program will directly support around 72,000 jobs across the state, with 50,000, or 69 per cent, of these jobs located outside of the Greater Brisbane region.

Over the 13 years to 2027–28, the government will have supported over \$225 billion in infrastructure works.

Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan

The Queensland Government is powering ahead with energy transformation while driving emissions reduction across the sector and broader Queensland economy.

Released in 2022, the *Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan* (QEJP) charts an infrastructure investment pathway to 2035 to deliver clean, reliable and affordable power.

Through the QEJP, Queensland's energy government-owned corporations have a leading role in the state's energy transformation – to build, own, and operate new renewable energy and storage while partnering with the private sector to deliver clean and reliable energy to customers across Queensland.

Building on the momentum of the last budget, the 2024–25 Budget includes a landmark capital investment of around \$26 billion over 4 years to deliver the QEJP. This includes new publicly-owned investments, including:

- \$16.5 billion for **renewable energy and storage projects**

- \$8.5 billion for **transmission infrastructure**, including CopperString 2032, SuperGrid and Renewable Energy Zone transmission works
- \$500 million for **distribution network storage**, including Energy Queensland’s Local Network Battery Plan and Local Renewable Energy Zone Pilot Projects
- \$192 million for Powerlink to develop **Transmission and Training Hubs** in Townsville and Gladstone.

These projects are supported by coal royalties set aside in the 2023–24 Budget and the \$4.5 billion Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund.

During the energy transformation, the Government is ensuring energy workers at existing publicly-owned coal fired power stations and associated coal mines have access to new jobs and training or financial assistance through the \$150 million **Job Security Guarantee Fund**. This framework will complement the conversion of publicly owned power station sites into clean energy hubs by 2035.

Supporting the regions

This Budget will invest \$18.568 billion in capital projects outside of the Greater Brisbane region in 2024–25, supporting around 50,000 jobs.

The \$1.1 billion **Works for Queensland** program will continue to support local governments outside South East Queensland by funding job-creating maintenance and minor infrastructure projects relating to assets owned or controlled by local governments.

In 2024–25, \$124.5 million will be delivered towards Works for Queensland projects.

Queensland’s regions have experienced a significant number of natural disasters in recent years, including devastating floods and cyclones. The Queensland Government is not only supporting communities with their recovery, but also investing to reduce the impacts of future events.

The 2024–25 Budget is allocating \$100 million over 3 years from the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Efficiencies, jointly funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments, to support a suite of high priority **disaster resilience and mitigation** infrastructure and non-infrastructure programs and projects.

As well as the QEJP, key projects in rural and regional Queensland include delivery of health facilities under the Building Rural and Remote Health Program, building new regional school facilities, Domestic and Family Violence Courthouse improvements, replacement of the Bowen Wharf, raising and improving Burdekin Falls Dam, delivery of the Toowoomba to Warwick Pipeline project, and construction of the Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline.

Critical Transport Infrastructure

The strong growth in Queensland's population and the geographical size and vastness of Queensland means that a strong transport network is vital to connect and support our communities and industries.

Key regional transport projects supported by the 2024–25 Budget include:

- The construction of a new 37.8 kilometre **Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line** between Beerwah and Maroochydore, the longest spur line ever delivered in South East Queensland. Stage 1 will be a 19-kilometre dual track connecting Beerwah to Caloundra. At a total commitment of \$5.5 billion (split 50:50 with the Australian Government), construction is expected to commence in 2026, and delivered by 2032. Future stages will connect Caloundra with Birtinya and Maroochydore.
- Construction of the **Coomera Connector** (Stage 1), Coomera to Nerang will reduce pressure on the M1 by providing an alternative route for the growing communities and commercial hubs of Helensvale and Coomera. At a total cost of \$3.026 billion (jointly funded with the Australian Government), the 16-kilometre Stage 1 is expected to progressively open to traffic in late 2025.
- The ongoing **Bruce Highway Upgrade Program**, which includes total budgets of \$1.730 billion to construct the Rockhampton Ring Road, \$1.162 billion to construct Cooroy to Curra (Section D), \$948 million for the upgrade between the Gateway Motorway and Dohles Rocks Road (Stage 1), and \$336 million towards a bypass of Tiaro to increase the flood immunity, safety and efficiency of the Bruce Highway.
- Construction of Stage 3 of the **Gold Coast Light Rail**, from Broadbeach South to Burleigh Heads, will connect to the existing Gold Coast Light Rail, providing 8 additional stations, at a total estimated cost of \$1.219 billion (jointly funding with the Australian Government and Gold Coast City Council).

- Committing \$5.75 billion (split 50:50 with the Australian Government) for the **Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail** (Kuraby to Beenleigh) upgrade, with a plan to increase the number of tracks between Kuraby and Beenleigh from 2 to 4 tracks, with modernised rail systems, station upgrades and level crossing removals along this 20 kilometre corridor.

The Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP) is a 4-year program, released annually, outlining current and planning investments in transport infrastructure. QTRIP spans road, rail, bus, cycling and marine infrastructure on freight, commuter and recreational networks. The program of works detailed in QTRIP represents a \$37.4 billion investment over the 4 years from 2024–25 to 2027–28.

Further details on QTRIP are available at www.tmr.qld.gov.au by searching for QTRIP.



BRISBANE 2032 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

The 2024–25 Budget includes funding to continue to support preparations for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Brisbane 2032).

The Queensland Government is providing an additional \$62 million over 4 years from 2024–25 and \$14 million per annum ongoing to 2032–33 for the preparation of additional Project Validation Reports and establishment costs for the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority, to be transferred to the Authority once established.

Funding contributions have been agreed between the Queensland and Australian governments for the jointly funded **\$7.1 billion venues infrastructure program** to support the hosting of Brisbane 2032.

The allocation of funding for specific venues projects is subject to government investment decisions following completion of project assessment activities.

Brisbane 2032 Infrastructure

The 2024–25 Queensland Budget provides for total capital expenditure for Brisbane 2032 venues infrastructure of \$7.1 billion over 9 years to 2032–33.

Consistent with the government’s response to the Sport Venue Review, the venues infrastructure program comprises the Brisbane Arena (\$2.5 billion), upgrades to the Queensland State Athletics Centre and refurbishment of the Gabba Stadium and Suncorp Stadium (\$2.7 billion), and 15 new or upgraded venues under the Minor Venues Program (\$1.9 billion).

Of this, total funding of \$560 million is allocated for minor venues works now in procurement – Chandler Indoor Sports Centre, Brisbane Aquatic Centre, Sunshine Coast Indoor Sport Centre, Sunshine Coast Mountain Bike Centre, and Sunshine Coast Stadium.

Total forecast expenditure for the venues’ infrastructure program over 4 years to 2027–28 is \$3.247 billion.



HOMES FOR QUEENSLANDERS

Queenslanders are experiencing significant pressures associated with housing availability and affordability, underpinned by all-time high housing demand surpassing supply.

Record low interest rates, substantial government stimulus and a decrease in the average household size during the pandemic, followed by an unexpected and record increase in the population, drove a surge in demand for housing in Queensland in recent years.

However, construction activity has struggled to keep up with demand, significantly constrained by pandemic-related material and labour shortages, poor weather and flooding, and construction company insolvencies. Rental supply conditions have remained extremely tight, with the vacancy rate hovering around only 1 per cent over the past 2 years.

The Queensland Government is continuing its commitment to ensure that every Queenslander has access to a safe, secure, and affordable home that meets their needs and enables participation in the social and economic life of this prosperous state.

To meet this objective, the government launched its new whole-of-system housing plan, **Homes for Queenslanders**. As part of this plan, the government is making a \$3.1 billion investment into housing and homelessness initiatives.

Homes for Queenslanders is centred around 5 key pillars:

Build more homes, faster

More Queensland homes need to be built, in the right locations, and they need to be built faster. *Homes for Queenslanders* includes a target of one million new homes by 2046, including 53,500 new social homes. With 95 per cent of the state's housing supply being delivered by the private sector, collaboration among government, the private sector and the community sector is needed to reach this goal.

Initiatives include:

- a \$350 million fund to incentivise infill development to support delivery of new housing in the right locations

- a new state facilitated development team to streamline decisions and quickly resolve planning and infrastructure issues delaying new homes, including social and affordable homes
- \$12.5 million of targeted, needs-based funding for local governments to facilitate strategic planning and updating of their planning schemes
- a new Distinctly Queensland Design Series, which will provide clear requirements, that when met, expedite the delivery of new homes with a focus on gentle density products that are viable.

Support Queensland renters

As Queensland changes, so too does our housing system. More people are renting – and for longer than ever before. The Queensland Government is supporting renters with reforms to improve the experience of renting, as well as products and services to help renters who are struggling.

Initiatives include:

- a \$160 million **Renters Relief Package** to give more households immediate cost-of-living support while new homes are being built, including help to pay bonds and rent
- reforming rental laws to **protect renters' rights**, including banning all forms of rent bidding.

Help first homeowners into the market

Over the past 8 years, the government has supported 69,000 first home buyers with homeowner grants.

To support more first homeowners, the grant has been doubled to \$30,000 for new homes until 30 June 2025. This is the equal most generous scheme in the country. By targeting it at new homes, the government also encourages more supply into the market to make housing more affordable in the long term.

The Queensland Government is committed to make the housing system fairer and close the gap for First Nations peoples in urban, regional, and remote areas. Backed by a \$61.3 million investment, the **Our Place Action Plan** brings together a suite of actions that address systemic challenges and respond to the unique cultural strengths, values, and priorities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Queensland.

Other initiatives include:

- supporting social housing tenants to own their own home through the **Sales to Tenants program**
- working with the Australian Government to implement the **Help to Buy scheme**, which will make it easier for up to 40,000 low and middle income families around Australia to buy a home
- supporting Queenslanders in regional and remote locations by temporarily raising the income eligibility threshold for the **Queensland Housing Finance Loan**.

The 2024–25 Budget also includes new revenue initiatives aimed at providing relief for first home buyers. Eligibility for the transfer duty **first home concession** will be extended to homes with a dutiable value up to \$800,000, increased from \$550,000 currently. First home buyers will pay no duty on homes valued up to \$700,000 and will receive a partial concession up to \$800,000.

In addition, eligibility for the transfer duty **first home vacant land concession** will be extended to vacant land with a dutiable value up to \$500,000, increased from \$400,000 currently.

These changes will increase the maximum value of the first home concession by \$8,600 (to a total of \$17,350) and the maximum value of the first home vacant land concession by \$3,500 (to a total of \$10,675).

It is estimated the changes to the first home buyer concessions will benefit around 10,000 first home buyers per year.

Boost our social housing Big Build

The Queensland Government has set a bold social housing delivery target of 53,500 homes by 2046. Through this target, the needs of vulnerable Queenslanders are being addressed with a pipeline of:

- 8 new youth foyers to provide stable housing and support for young people who are studying or working
- 10 new or replaced domestic and family violence shelters to provide immediate safety and protection for women and children
- 1,200 social homes for First Nations families through partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander local government authorities and communities

- more supported accommodation places across the state for people experiencing homelessness.

The Queensland Government will continue to work with the Australian Government and the community housing sector to deliver the homes Queenslanders need.

Work towards ending homelessness

Homes for Queenslanders strengthens the safety net the Queensland Government has put in place to help Queenslanders avoid homelessness. The Queensland Government is ramping up its efforts with more funding for specialist homelessness services, more emergency accommodation in the regions, and more help for First Nations peoples and young people.

The Queensland Government is backing frontline specialist homelessness services with a 20 per cent funding boost to increase their capacity while an independent review of the state's overall homelessness response is undertaken.

For more information about *Homes for Queenslanders*, please visit the website www.housing.qld.gov.au/homesforqueenslanders.





SUPPORTING QUEENSLANDERS IN MORE WAYS

FIRST NATIONS

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Queensland have historically been, and continue to be, confronted by a range of complex factors. The Queensland Government remains committed to partnering with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the state to deliver real change.

Initiatives supported by the 2024–25 Budget include:

- \$61.6 million over 2 years to continue delivery of the needs-based **Indigenous Councils funding program** and to establish an entity to support Indigenous Councils
- \$56.1 million over 4 years for the **Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry**
- \$40 million over 4 years for the **First Nations Treaty Institute**
- \$11.2 million over 4 years to deliver initiatives to support **Closing the Gap**. This includes funding to support the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Coalition, the Doomadgee Place Based Partnership and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing programs and Alcohol Management programs
- \$8.178 million over 2 years for the construction of the **Coen Art Centre**
- \$500,000 over 2 years for the management of discovered **ancestral remains**.

The *Putting Queensland Kids First* plan includes \$20 million for family and early years school-based hubs in Aurukun and Kowanyama, \$15 million for a dedicated partnership fund for non-government organisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations, \$5.8 million for more safe, stable and secure housing for First Nations families and \$270,000 for a co-designed First Nations leadership program for young First Nations parents.

The \$3.1 billion *Homes for Queenslanders* aims to make the housing system fairer and close the gap for First Nations peoples in urban, regional and remote areas. It includes a target of 1,200 social homes in remote communities, in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Councils. Complementing *Homes for Queenslanders*, the Queensland Government has announced ***Our Place: A First Nations Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2024–2027***, which is delivering initiatives co-designed with community, aimed at closing the gap and delivering housing outcomes for First Nations peoples in Queensland.

ENVIRONMENT

Queenslanders live in one of the most beautiful areas of the world with countless natural wonders. In order to protect and preserve our natural environment, the 2024–25 Queensland Budget is funding a range of initiatives including:

- \$247.8 million over 5 years for continued delivery of the \$2.1 billion **Waste Package**, which includes funding for programs supporting waste management, such as local government waste management plans, grants to address illegal dumping and annual payments to councils to ensure no impact on households.
- \$125 million for implementation of the **Future Fisheries reforms** to support enhanced protections for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and a more environmentally sensitive and sustainable fishing industry.
- \$31.3 million over 4 years and \$8.4 million per annum ongoing to continue planned actions under the **South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy** that address the decline in koala populations and preserve and restore key koala habitat.
- \$23.5 million over 4 years and \$6.3 million per annum ongoing to continue implementation of the **Threatened Species Program 2020–2040** to protect and recover Queensland’s most threatened flora and fauna.
- \$6.5 million over 4 years and \$1.6 million per annum ongoing for stronger enforcement and evidence related initiatives to improve **biosecurity leadership**, including prosecutorial, enforcement, investigative and intelligence capabilities.
- \$1.9 million in 2024–25 for the **RSPCA** towards animal welfare enforcement activities and the upgrade of systems to support its regulatory activities.

TOURISM

Queensland has the second largest tourism industry in Australia. The government has a vision that, by 2032, Queensland will be Australia's destination of choice for domestic and global visitors seeking the world's best experiences. That is why the Queensland Government is investing in quality tourism products, attractions and experiences and making the most of our unique, competitive advantages. Initiatives supported in the 2024–25 Budget include:

- \$15 million over 2 years for the **Growing Future Tourism Program** to provide financial support to eligible Queensland tourism operators, not-for-profit organisations and local governments to deliver new and enhanced tourism infrastructure or experiences.
- \$10 million over 2 years for the **Building Bush Tourism Fund** to support delivery of the Bush Boost and Queensland's long term tourism industry strategy.
- Release of \$3 million (centrally held) in 2024–25, matched by a co-contribution from the Australian Government, to continue to work closely with community and Traditional Owners to improve the quality of **First Nations tourism experiences**, deliver a range of initiatives and new events and support employment across Queensland.



SMALL BUSINESS

The *Queensland Small Business Strategy 2024–2027* aims to build a thriving, resilient small business sector supporting local jobs and contributing to a strong economy across Queensland.

In the 2024–25 Budget, the government is providing additional funding of \$19.7 million over 3 years for the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training to support delivery of the strategy. This forms part of a total investment of over \$250 million over 3 years to deliver a range of actions, including:

- additional funding for grants to support businesses to implement workforce solutions
- new investment in cybersecurity support and safer retail precincts
- continuation of the \$650 rebate on electricity bills for eligible small businesses (co-funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments)
- assistance to help small businesses recover from natural disaster events, including through wellness coaching and financial counselling
- continuation of the small business grants program
- expanded access to mentoring and upskilling for Indigenous businesses
- access to free training under the Free TAFE program to ensure Queenslanders working in small businesses have the skills they need to succeed and grow.



ECONOMIC AND FISCAL OVERVIEW

GLOBAL AND NATIONAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

The international economy has proven resilient in the face of higher interest rates, elevated inflation and increased geo-political conflicts. However, it remains subject to ongoing uncertainty and potential risks.

Global inflation fell faster than expected over 2023, primarily driven by falling goods inflation as global supply chain constraints that emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic gradually unwound.

With inflation across most major economies approaching central bank targets, official interest rates appear to have generally peaked, and discussion has shifted to a focus on when (and by how much) rates will need to be eased to successfully navigate a soft economic landing.

The International Monetary Fund forecasts the global economy to grow 3.2 per cent in 2024, below the 20-year pre COVID average growth of 3.8 per cent. Global growth is then expected to remain at 3.2 per cent in both 2025 and 2026.

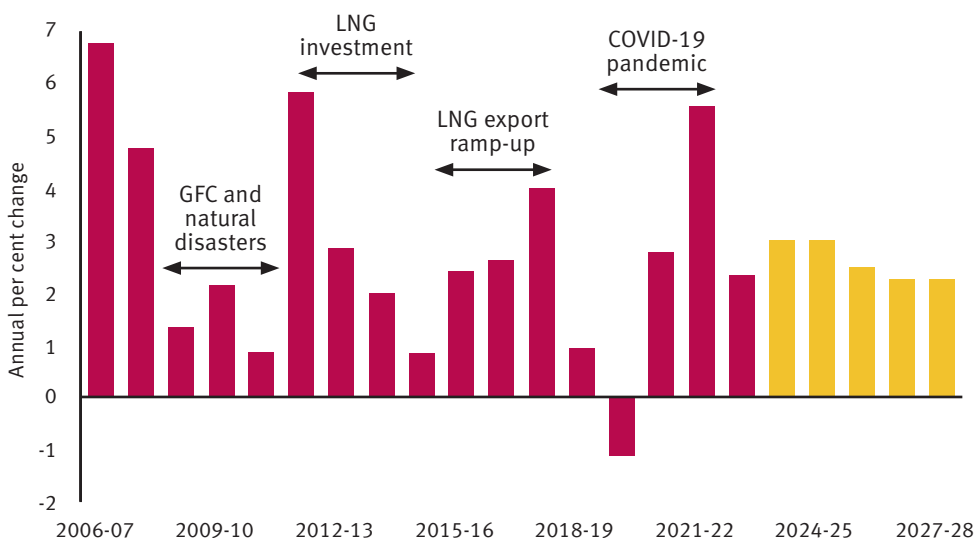
National economic growth has slowed since the post COVID rebound in 2021, primarily reflecting weaker national household consumption growth. The slowdown in growth has progressed as expected, with activity supported by significant accumulated household savings and a large number of fixed rate mortgages, which has likely partially mitigated the immediate impact of interest rate increases on these households' disposable incomes.

Australia's economic growth is expected to continue to slow in the near term, with the Reserve Bank of Australia forecasting growth of 1.3 per cent in 2024, slowing from the 2.0 per cent recorded in 2023.

Queensland's economic outlook

Following growth of 2.3 per cent in 2022–23, Queensland's overall economic growth is forecast to strengthen to 3 per cent in both 2023–24 and 2024–25, driven by a substantial rebound in exports, in part due to an unwinding of capacity constraints, and continued strong growth in public infrastructure investment.

Economic growth, Queensland



Note: 1. Gross State Product, Chain volume measure (CVM), 2021–22 reference year.
Sources: ABS Annual State Accounts and Queensland Treasury.

Household budgets continue to be constrained by higher mortgage rates and other cost-of-living pressures, which have resulted in slower consumption growth in 2023–24. Growth in consumption is expected to recover to around pre-pandemic averages in 2025–26.

In the dwelling sector, higher construction costs and ongoing capacity constraints have limited overall residential construction activity, particularly renovation activity. The large amount of work in the pipeline is supporting new and used dwelling investment, which is continuing to add to the housing stock.

Growth in business investment is expected to be modest over the next 2 years as higher interest rates, elevated construction costs and softening commodity prices impact investment intentions.

Growth in public final demand is expected to continue to be a key driver of overall economic growth in Queensland. This outlook is supported by the Queensland Government’s ongoing substantial capital program, committing \$107.262 billion over 4 years to essential economic and social infrastructure investment across the state.

Queensland’s overseas trade sector is forecast to be a substantial contributor to the economy in 2023–24. This improved trade performance is due to increased export volumes of coal, LNG, metals, and beef, as well as the continued recovery of services exports.

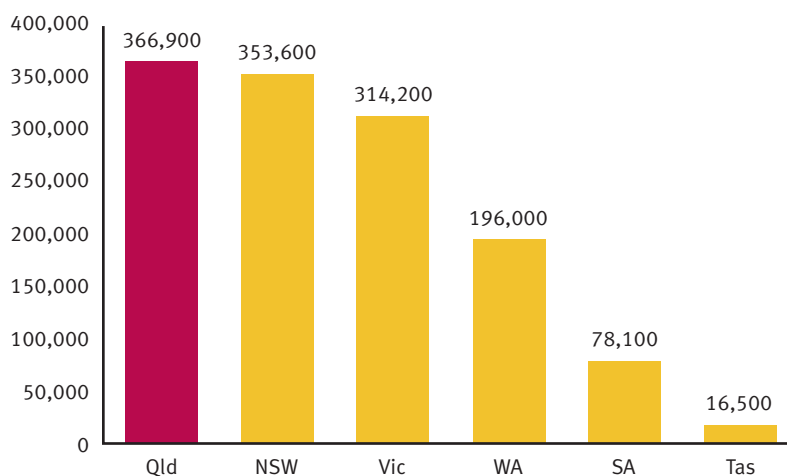
Queensland’s economy is projected to continue to grow solidly at 2½ per cent in 2025–26, sustained by continuing growth in domestic activity but tempered by a moderation in population growth.

Labour market

Queensland continues to enjoy exceptionally strong labour market conditions. As of April 2024, Queensland (up 366,900 persons) had recorded the largest employment growth of any state or territory since March 2020.

The state’s unemployment rate averaged 3.7 per cent in 2022–23, its lowest year average unemployment rate since ABS monthly data began in 1978. As tightness in the labour market continues to unwind gradually, the unemployment rate is expected to edge slightly higher over the forward estimates period but remain low by historical standards.

Employment growth since pre COVID March 2020, by state



Note: 1. Trend, persons. Source: ABS Labour Force.

Inflation

Inflationary pressures eased significantly during 2023. This has largely been due to a marked slowing in goods inflation, whereas services inflation has been more persistent – in line with global trends.

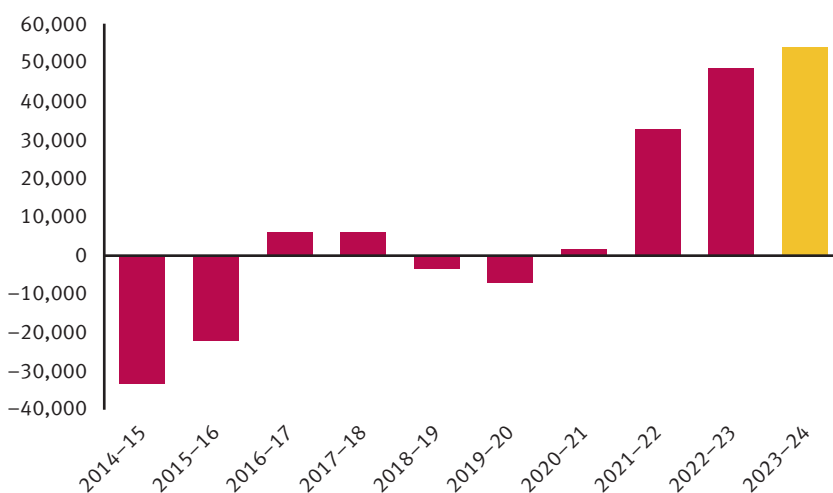
In year-average terms, inflation in Brisbane is forecast to ease from 7.3 per cent in 2022–23 to 4 per cent in 2023–24. Services inflation is expected to moderate going forward, while the Queensland Government’s cost-of-living measures, supported by the Commonwealth’s additional electricity and rent support, is expected to detract around 1¼ percentage points from CPI growth next year. This results in annual CPI growth falling to 2 per cent in 2024–25.

Population

The COVID-19 pandemic drove divergent trends in key components of population growth, both nationally and in Queensland, across the period during and following the pandemic.

In particular, the recent unexpected surge in national net overseas migration has resulted in Queensland’s overall population growth being much stronger than previously expected in 2022–23 and 2023–24. Cumulatively, across the 3 years to 2023–24, Queensland’s population growth is estimated to have exceeded forecasts by a total of 135,500 persons.

Queensland population, Actual less Budget forecasts by iteration^{1,2}



Note: 1. Year-average. Persons.

2. There is only one quarter (September quarter 2023) of actual data currently published by the ABS for 2023-24. Therefore, 2023-24 in this chart represents Treasury’s current updated forecast less the level implied from the growth published in the 2023-24 Budget.

Sources: ABS National, State and Territory population and various Queensland Budgets.

Queensland's population growth is expected to strengthen to 2½ per cent in 2023–24, reflecting the elevated levels of net overseas migration, before easing to 1½ per cent in both 2024–25 and 2025–26, as net overseas migration normalises, partially reflecting the likely impacts of the recent changes as part of the Australian Government's migration strategy.

Risks to the outlook

Global geopolitical tensions remain a key risk to the economic outlook. However, with expectations that most central banks are close to the peak in the interest rate cycle, concerns over a hard landing for the international and national economies have eased.

Global supply chain disruptions have generally eased, but labour supply shortages remain a challenge. In particular, this poses risks in terms of the capacity of the construction industry to meet expected demand.

RESPONSIBLE BUDGET MANAGEMENT – FISCAL OVERVIEW

The Queensland Government is deploying its fiscal capacity to support Queenslanders with additional spending measures that strike the right balance between providing strong responses to immediate, but temporary, challenges and continuing to take the long view on the importance of delivering long-lived transformational recurrent and capital spending programs.

Prudent management of record royalty revenue over past budgets has Queensland well-positioned to deliver on the centrepiece of the 2024–25 Budget providing critical, but temporary additional cost-of-living relief through further electricity bill rebates, slashing public transport fares and vehicle registration relief.

A strong net operating surplus of \$564 million is expected for 2023–24 compared to the deficit of \$2.182 billion estimated in the 2023–24 Budget. This estimated outcome is the result of careful management of revenue improvements, including royalties and taxes, so that a surplus has been achieved at the same time as providing additional electricity bill support for Queensland households and small businesses in 2024–25. The 2023–24 estimated actual represents the third consecutive operating surplus of this term of government and follows a record surplus of \$13.9 billion in 2022–23.

Across 2024–25 and 2025–26, a deficit is forecast as revenue growth is flat and the government prioritises the provision of elevated cost-of-living support when the community most needs it, as well as boosting health, housing, and community safety measures in response to strong demand. As temporary relief measures are wound back, and revenue strengthens, Queensland’s net operating position is expected to improve.

The recovery of the net operating position is also underpinned by a targeted \$3 billion savings plan over 4 years to 2027–28.

Forecast borrowings in 2023–24 are lower for the fifth consecutive year since the 2023–24 estimates were first reported in the 2020–21 Budget. This reflects prudent management of an extraordinary revenue uplift, particularly in 2021–22 and 2022–23, which was driven by higher royalties.

These revenue windfalls have been used to substantially lower borrowing requirements in the near term, providing the capacity to then fund an expanded infrastructure program over time.

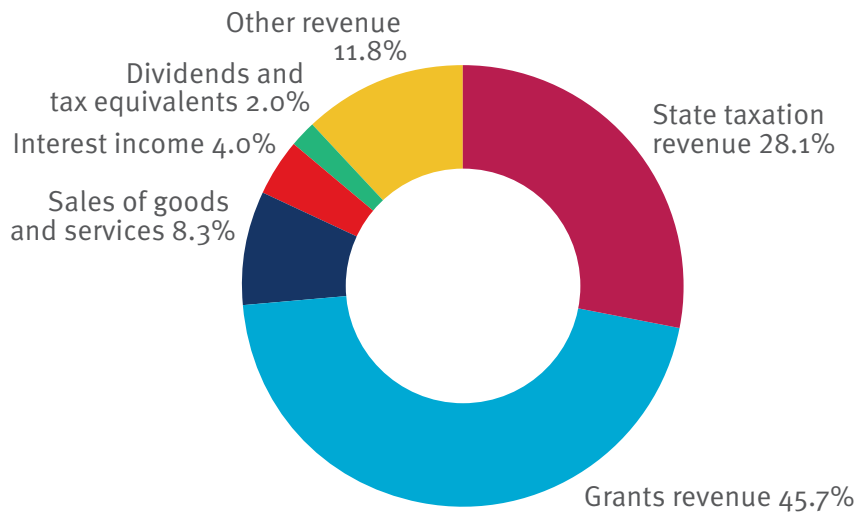
The 2024–25 Budget will see an increase in the size of the capital program. The capital program continues to invest in transformative infrastructure such as boosting health system capacity, decarbonisation of the state’s energy system, preparing for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, *Homes for Queenslanders*, and major transport infrastructure investment such as the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail.

Key Fiscal Aggregates

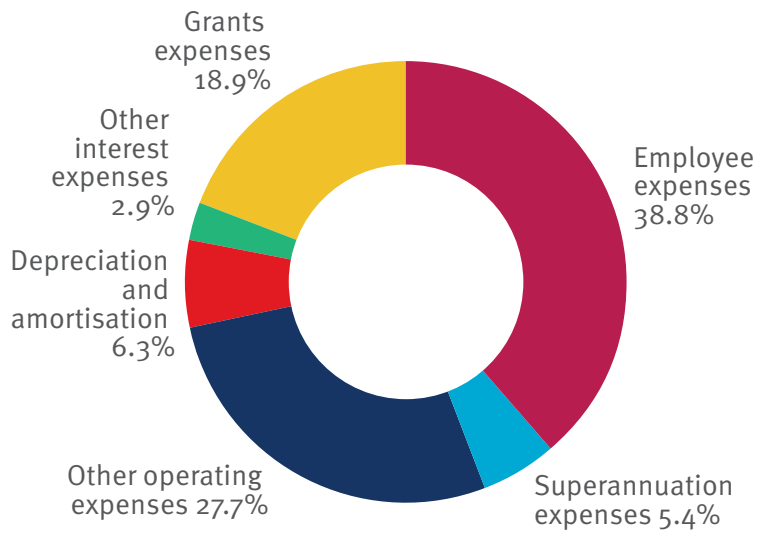
General Government Sector	2022–23 Outcome \$ million	2023–24 Budget \$ million	2023–24 Est. Act. \$ million	2024–25 Budget \$ million	2025–26 Projected \$ million	2026–27 Projected \$ million	2027–28 Projected \$ million
Revenue	89,810	82,079	89,059	88,107	88,717	90,670	95,332
Expenses	75,880	84,261	88,495	90,738	89,232	89,783	93,305
Net operating balance	13,930	(2,182)	564	(2,631)	(515)	887	2,027
Borrowings ¹	53,726	65,479	61,958	77,118	91,507	103,221	111,383
Net debt	2,615	16,190	12,223	27,407	40,552	52,076	59,831

1 Comprised of borrowing with QTC, leases and similar arrangements and securities and derivatives line items in the Balance Sheet.

2024–25 Revenue



2024–25 Expenses



\$1,000

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