

# DOING WHAT MATTERS FOR FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND



REGIONAL ACTION PLAN QUEENSLAND BUDGET 2024-25

The 2024-25 Queensland Budget supports Queenslanders. In Far North Queensland it provides:

**\$1,300**

**electricity bill support** for Queensland households – an upfront \$1,000 Cost of Living Rebate from the Queensland Government and a \$300 rebate paid in quarterly instalments from the Australian Government.

**\$1.8B**

**for health** for the Torres and Cape and Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Services.

**\$96M**

**for education** to maintain, improve and upgrade schools in Far North Queensland.

**\$1.8B**

**for the Big Build** for productivity-enhancing infrastructure and capital works, estimated to support **4,900** jobs in Far North Queensland.

## Delivering for FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND



### Free Kindy

Up to 3,397 children eligible for free kindy in Far North Queensland, for 15 hours per week, 40 weeks per year.

(January 2024 to May 2024)



### Fee-Free TAFE

5,290 fee-free TAFE courses commenced by people in Far North Queensland wanting to train, retrain or upskill in priority industries.

(January 2023 to March 2024)



### Building our Regions

\$77.0 million allocated to projects for critical infrastructure in Far North Queensland, supporting an estimated 500 jobs. This has leveraged further financial co-contributions statewide of more than \$556 million from local governments, the Australian Government, and other organisations, with a total capital expenditure value of more than \$974 million.

(March 2015 to September 2025)



### First Home Owner Grant

2,626 grants worth \$43.9 million paid to home buyers to help them buy their first home in Far North Queensland.

(July 2016 to April 2024)

## Delivering better services for FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

Growth from March 2015 to March 2024



680 extra nurses, **up 31%**



297 extra doctors, **up 62.2%**



59 extra ambulance officers, **up 21.5%**



18 extra firefighters, **up 12.2%**

# Delivering for FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND



For an even more extensive list of initiatives, see the Budget Map

## 1 Moa St Pauls Public Health Community Centre Rectification



\$8.7 million in 2024-25 out of a \$10.7 million total spend to deliver a new extension to the public health community centre. This project is in the initial stages of development with the provision scope to include the construction of a new extension of the Public Health Community Centre building including reconfiguration of the existing site. This will be done in a staged approach to enable installation and commissioning of a temporary facility while the existing facility is under construction. Staff accommodation will also be refurbished.

## 2 Pormpuraaw Primary Health Care Centre and Home and Community Care



\$12 million in 2024-25 out of a \$1 billion total spend to address ageing infrastructure. Queensland Health is investing more than \$1 billion in the Building Rural and Remote Health Program (BRRHP) which supports healthcare delivery in regional areas by enhancing or replacing infrastructure to ensure it meets the needs of the community. Pormpuraaw Primary Health Care Centre was identified as one of the Torres and Cape sites to receive funding that aims to provide safe, compliant and contemporary health services. The emergency section will be equipped with a procedure and resuscitation room, a treatment room, mobile X-ray facilities, and a decontamination shower. The centre will feature six dedicated outpatient consult rooms, allowing for current and future demand, as well as the needs of visiting health partners such as the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Part of the Building Rural and Remote Health Program.

## 3 Cairns Western Arterial Road, Redlynch Connector Road to Captain Cook Highway, funding commitment



\$15 million in 2024-25 out of a \$300 million total spend towards duplication of the Cairns Western Arterial Road between Redlynch Connector Road and Captain Cook Highway. This investment will upgrade this section of road to a four-lane carriageway, improve safety, increase capacity, reduce peak hour congestion and travel time and provide better active transport. The project has a business case, with scope, cost and timing subject to further project development and site investigations, consideration and negotiation with the Australian Government. Delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.

## 4 Cairns police facility upgrade



\$2.3 million in 2024-25 out of a \$21 million total spend to complete the upgrade of the police facility at Cairns. The upgraded police facility has been designed with all the features and specifications needed for a modern policing facility and will accommodate the current staffing level with room for future growth. This facility will support frontline policing services to deliver safe and secure communities and build a safer Queensland.

## 5 Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction



\$231.5 million in 2024-25 for delivery of recovery and betterment projects to local government assets impacted by disaster events between 2020 and 2024 in Far North Queensland, which saw disaster assistance activated in a number of Queensland's local government areas. The assistance provided includes funding to councils for counter disaster operations, emergent works and repairs to essential public assets such as roads, bridges and floodways. Part of the joint Queensland-Australian Government Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

## 6 Social housing



\$259.8 million in 2024-25 to expand and improve social housing. Social housing provides safe, secure, and sustainable homes to some of the most vulnerable people in Queensland. The Queensland Government has set a social housing delivery target of 53,500 homes by 2046 as part of Homes for Queenslanders. Investment into new social housing will help to address demand as the state grows, reduce pressure on homelessness services, and provide more housing choices for individuals and families. Delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.



Artist impression

## Record investment to boost health services for Cairns

















































The Queensland Government is investing a record \$474.8 million in Cairns' health infrastructure across five key projects. These works will deliver more than 100 extra hospital beds and support more than 1,220 construction jobs – helping to meet future demand for health services in Far North Queensland while improving emergency care.

The Cairns Hospital expansion project, which is expected to finish in 2026, will provide an additional 96 beds across two sites, including 64 beds at the Cairns Hospital and 32 beds in a new purpose-built surgical centre adjacent to James Cook University's Cairns Tropical Enterprise Centre. Together they will form part of the Far North Queensland Health Innovation Precinct.

The expansion also involves a \$30 million refurbishment of the Cairns Hospital emergency department which will include a dedicated X-ray suite, refurbished resuscitation bays, additional acute care rooms, and a family room.

Far North Queensland residents will also benefit from projects including the Cairns Mental Health Unit, the new Cow Bay Primary Health Centre, and a youth residential rehabilitation and treatment service. These local projects are part of the Queensland Government's Health Big Build, investing more than \$14 billion delivering new and upgraded facilities right across the state.

# Delivering for FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

- 
**Coen Art Centre**  
 \$6.7 million in 2024-25 out of a \$8.2 million total spend for the construction of the Coen Art Centre.
- 
**Kuranda Range Road, safety and resilience upgrades, funding commitment**  
 \$2 million in 2024-25 out of a \$262.5 million total spend funding commitment towards safety and resilience upgrades on Kuranda Range Road. Project details and timing are subject to further planning and negotiation with the Australian Government. Delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.
- 
**Channel Navigation Improvements**  
 \$10 million in 2024-25 out of a \$12 million total spend towards Channel dredging to improve navigation for larger cruise ships.
- 
**Cairns Marine Precinct - Common User Facility**  
 \$37 million in 2024-25 out of a \$360 million total spend towards the Cairns Marine Precinct - Common User Facility project for increased maintenance, repair and overhaul service capabilities. Delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.
- 
**Great Barrier Reef International Marine College**  
 \$14.8 million in 2024-25 out of a \$16 million total spend to expand TAFE Queensland's Great Barrier Reef International Marine College. This includes constructing a new workshop, additional classrooms, staff facilities and a boat shed.
- 

**Cairns Youth Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Community Treatment Facility**  
 \$10 million in 2024-25 out of a \$17.8 million total spend to deliver a new purpose built 10-bed facility providing a 24/7 operating model for medical and non-medical support.
- 
**Cairns Regional Council - Water Reservoir & Sewer**  
 \$18.2 million in 2024-25 for the Mount Peter High Level Water Reservoir and associated infrastructure to unlock approximately 446 residential lots for development. Part of the Building Acceleration Fund, delivered in partnership with the private sector.
- 
**Kareeya Hydro maintenance**  
 \$11.6 million in 2024-25 for the maintenance of existing assets including upgrades to the river pump access and intake road.
- 
**Cairns Water Security**  
 \$40 million in 2024-25 out of a \$875 million total spend to Cairns Regional Council for stage 1 of the Cairns Water Security Program. This brings the total state funding available for this program to \$195 million.
- 

**Cairns Health and Innovation Centre**  
 \$8 million in 2024-25 out of a \$60 million total spend for the Cairns Health Innovation Centre Stage 1, which when complete will deliver additional capacity for Cairns Hospital and provide health education, training and research facilities for future medical professionals in Cairns.
- 

**Cape York Peninsula Land Management Program**  
 \$26.4 million in 2024-25 out of a \$385 million total spend for negotiation of agreements with Cape York Peninsula Traditional Owners, purchase of land in Cape York, and management of certain Cape York lands.
- 

**Disaster Management Reforms**  
 \$30 million in 2024-25 to progress the government's commitment from the Independent Review of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. Part of the government's Emergency Management Reforms.
- 

**Electricity network enhancements - Cairns**  
 \$24.8 million in 2024-25 to augment and improve the electricity distribution network in the Cairns region.
- 

**Electricity network replacement - Cairns**  
 \$111.3 million in 2024-25 to undertake capital replacement works, ensuring network security and electricity supply to the region.
- 

**Free TAFE Nursing**  
 \$58 million in 2024-25 out of a \$162.6 million total spend to provide 6,500 training places for eligible Queenslanders who are passionate about healthcare to study the Diploma of Nursing for free in 2024 and 2025.
- 

**Homelessness services**  
 \$232.2 million in 2024-25 to provide essential housing and support services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- 

**Homes for Queenslanders**  
 \$600,000 in 2024-25 to support improved housing outcomes for people with disability and those experiencing domestic and family violence in Queensland.
- 

**Integrated Zero Emissions Vehicles charging infrastructure**  
 \$8 million in 2024-25 out of a \$12 million total spend for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and to explore innovative "smart" integration and management of the infrastructure. Part of Queensland's Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy and the National Electric Vehicle Strategy.
- 

**Isolated Communities Decarbonisation**  
 \$54.8 million in 2024-25 to continue to decarbonise isolated network system communities across Queensland through the installation of local renewable energy generation and storage projects. These projects will improve the reliability and sustainability of supply across isolated communities. Part of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.
- 

**Joint field management - Great Barrier Reef**  
 \$19.2 million in 2024-25 for joint management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.
- 

**Cooktown Multipurpose Health Service Facility**  
 \$8 million in 2024-25 out of a \$200 million total spend to redevelop and deliver a contemporary Cooktown Multi-Purpose Health Service facility to support modern models of care including maternity, paediatrics, mental health and palliative care, increasing bed numbers by 50 per cent.
- 

**Queensland Fire and Rescue appliances**  
 \$23.8 million in 2024-25 for replacement and new fire and rescue appliances.
- 

**Queensland Skills Strategy 2024-28**  
 \$96.7 million in 2024-25 out of a \$203.1 million total spend to further strengthen the state's training system to deliver skills needed for our economy and provide access to good jobs with better pay for Queenslanders. Delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.
- 

**Recruitment Drive - additional police personnel**  
 \$25.9 million in 2024-25 out of a \$875 million total spend to support the recruitment of additional police personnel.
- 

**Reef Water Quality - Integrated Reef Water Quality Program**  
 \$8.3 million in 2024-25 out of a \$63.9 million total spend to support research, development and extension on land management practices that improve reef water quality as well as productivity. Part of the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program.
- 

**Wangetti Trail**  
 \$12.7 million in 2024-25 out of a \$47.1 million total spend for the construction of a 94 kilometre walking and mountain biking trail from Palm Cove to Port Douglas, with public and eco-accommodation facilities. Part of the Australian Government's National Tourism Icons Package.
- 

**Workforce Accommodation - Torres**  
 \$12 million in 2024-25 to replace existing staff accommodation in the Torres and Cape providing appropriate, safe, and fit-for-purpose accommodation.
- 

**Youth Co-Responder Teams**  
 \$6.7 million in 2024-25 out of a \$20.4 million total spend to deliver and expand the youth co-responder model to divert high risk young people, including those on bail, and those subject to electronic monitoring. Part of the government's Youth Justice Investment.

## Project key

-  Community well-being
-  Utilities
-  Health
-  Education
-  Statewide/region-wide
-  Transport and roads
-  Justice and safety
-  Government services
-  Recreation and culture
-  Relates to government election commitment

# DOING WHAT MATTERS FOR QUEENSLAND

QUEENSLAND BUDGET 2024-25

## QUEENSLAND COST OF LIVING ACTION

### AT A GLANCE

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

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

Apply now for a range of Queensland Government funded support. Don't miss out.



Find the savings you're eligible for

Q | Queensland Cost of Living Action

or go to:

[www.qld.gov.au/costoflivingaction](http://www.qld.gov.au/costoflivingaction)

