

State Budget 2010–11

Agency Budget Highlights

Department of Community Safety

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Message from the Minister

The 2010 State Budget will deliver an additional 75 ambulance officers and 24 extra operational firefighting personnel as part of the Bligh Government's continued focus on front-line service delivery.

The 2010-11 State Budget provides increased funding to enhance the provision of community safety services throughout Queensland.

The Bligh Government has allocated a record \$1.669 billion to the Department of Community Safety in the coming financial year, to continue and enhance the Queensland Ambulance Service, Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, Emergency Management Queensland, Queensland Corrective Services, and key volunteer emergency service organisations.

The Budget focuses on boosting front-line services by funding extra ambulance officers and operational firefighting personnel, and the continuation of a massive infrastructure program for the state's corrective services and Emergency Services agencies.

The addition of 75 officers to the ranks of the Queensland Ambulance Service during 2010-11 will ensure it can continue to respond to the increasing demand for services, and will take the number of new positions funded from 2007-08 to 630.

Twenty-four extra operational firefighting personnel will be recruited this financial year. This is in addition to the 61 extra firefighter positions funded since 2007-08 and ensures the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service is well placed to deliver services in key growth areas in the state.

The 2010-11 State Budget includes \$88.4 million towards the \$442.8 million expansion and redevelopment of Lotus Glen Correctional Centre near Mareeba and \$80.2 million towards the \$485.6 million first stage of the South Queensland Correctional Precinct development near Gatton.

More than \$3 million has been allocated towards new ambulance stations at Ashgrove, Coomera, Ningi, Pinjarra Hills, Springfield and North Lakes, while \$14.6 million will be spent on 14 replacement, redeveloped or refurbished stations and on staff housing in the Surat and Bowen Basins.

Funding of \$2.5 million has been allocated to complete construction of a new fire and rescue station at Agnes Water, and to commence construction of new and replacement stations at Ripley and Brassall. In addition to this, seven replacement or redeveloped fire stations will be completed or commenced.

One hundred and sixty-five new or replacement ambulance vehicles will be commissioned during the 2010-11 financial year at a cost of \$18.5 million, and \$15.3 million will be spent on 48 new and replacement urban and rural fire appliances, ensuring both agencies' vehicle fleets are maintained to the highest possible standard.

Other budget initiatives include a continuing major investment of \$1.5 million per year on sexual offender treatment programs to minimise the risk of re-offending; \$4.9 million over four years for public education and implementation of the new telephone-based Emergency Alert warning system; and \$4.3 million to employ four Indigenous Disaster Management Field Officers, purchase a disaster management warehouse in North Queensland, and education for communities to adapt to the effects of climate change.

In line with the Bligh Government's commitment to support our volunteers, regional councils will share in \$5.9 million for equipment, vehicles, flood boats, trailers, training and personal protection clothing for State Emergency Service groups.

Surf Life Saving Queensland will receive \$1.7 million to support its activities, and the Royal Life Saving Society Queensland will receive \$300,000 to provide water safety education programs for young Queenslanders.

The Bligh Government's plan for Tomorrow's Queensland is for healthy and safe communities and the 2010-11 State Budget ensures our community safety organisations have the funding they need to achieve that objective.

Neil Roberts MP
Minister for Police, Corrective Services
and Emergency Services

The 2010-11 Department of Community Safety Budget reinforces the Queensland Government's strong commitment to supporting healthy, safe and secure communities across the State. The record \$1.669 billion in allocated funding provides the platform for heightened community safety across the State through expanded operational services, capital infrastructure, extra emergency and corrective services staff, and new and enhanced equipment and systems.

The State Government continues to deliver on its promise to enhance the safety of Queenslanders and has made key funding investments in the department's agencies of Queensland Ambulance Service, Queensland Corrective Services, Emergency Management Queensland and Queensland Fire and Rescue Service.

Strengthening front-line service delivery

Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS)

In a significant boost to front-line staff, a further 75 ambulance officers will be recruited as a demand management strategy.

The new positions will mean that 630 additional front-line paramedic jobs have been created since 2007-08.

The appointments will be strengthened by the commissioning of 165 new or replacement ambulance vehicles, at a cost of \$18.5 million, to ensure the ambulance fleet is maintained at the highest possible level.

Queensland Corrective Services (QCS)

QCS will introduce or expand a range of services and programs as part of the 2010-11 funding. These include:

- an investment of \$1.5 million per annum to continue sexual offender treatment programs to assist prisoners minimise their risk of re-offending
- additional investment of \$1 million to expand and enhance Probation and Parole services throughout the State
- a Social Responsibility Charter, which will be launched in 2010-11, setting out the commitment to rehabilitating offenders to become productive citizens who can participate in society, within the law
- continued close monitoring of offenders who are subject to orders under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003* with intensive supervision, dedicated surveillance, electronic monitoring and partnerships with other agencies, and the return of offenders who breach conditions to custody if necessary.

Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ)

Investment in Queensland's emergency helicopter services has been boosted with funding of \$3.2 million to complete ongoing maintenance of the Townsville-based Bell 412 helicopter. A further \$1 million will be spent in 2010-11 and \$800,000 ongoing to enhance the engineering program for the helicopter fleet. In addition \$1.6 million has been allocated for annual funding to support the CareFlight helicopter based at Toowoomba.

In providing disaster assistance for vulnerable rural and remote communities, four Indigenous Disaster Management Field Officers will be recruited as part of a

Boost for emergency helicopter services



\$4.3 million initiative to provide disaster management planning; purchase a disaster management warehouse in north Queensland; and educate communities to prepare for the effects of climate change.

Queensland's new telephone-based Emergency Alert warning system has also been strongly supported under the Budget with \$4.9 million funding over four years for implementation and public education. The funding will include \$1.2 million in 2010-11.

Disaster management training will be significantly enhanced as a high priority under this year's State Budget. This will be achieved through a \$500,000 allocation which will also aim to support community resilience and minimise loss to the community by implementing recommendations from the review of the disaster management system.



165 new or replacement ambulance vehicles.



Additional \$1 million to expand Probation and Parole services.

Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS)

The QFRS fleet will benefit under the budget, with \$10.9 million to be spent on 23 new or replacement urban fire appliances and a further \$4.4 million has been provided for 25 new or replacement rural fire appliances.

Funding has also been allocated to recruit and appoint an additional 24 operational firefighting personnel.

To heighten bushfire safety preparedness, \$200,000 will be spent continuing to engage "at risk" communities through the delivery of the "Are You Bushfire Prepared? PREPARE. ACT.SURVIVE." program.

Incident response will undergo a major boost with the completion of the roll-out of automatic vehicle location (AVL) technology to south east Queensland and expansion of AVL to all urban vehicles outside south east Queensland; ongoing maintenance and support for statewide AVL services; upgrades to the Wide Area Network; installation of radio over internet protocol (ROIP) technology to enhance regional urban stations communications with fire communications (Firecom) centres; and a pilot trial of mobile data incident response, management and reporting technology.

The QFRS will provide large incident HAZMAT and heavy vehicle road crash rescue (RCR) capability in the Surat and Bowen Basins and on major highways in the west.



An additional 24 operational firefighting personnel.

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Improving our infrastructure

Lotus Glen Correctional Centre

Funding of \$88.4 million has been allocated for 2010-11 towards the expansion and redevelopment of Lotus Glen Correctional Centre near Mareeba.

The \$442.8 million expansion and redevelopment will add 300 high security beds and 25 low security beds, taking the centre's total capacity to 696 beds and the farm's capacity to 124 beds.

The first stage of the project will include three new 100-bed blocks, new programs and medical buildings, four industry workshops, a gatehouse, sports hall, visitor processing and staff amenities building, the new low security farms beds, covered staff car parking and visitor car parking. This work is due for completion in 2011.

A total of \$700,000 will be spent in 2010-11 on pre-commissioning work.

New prison at Gatton

The State Government has committed a further \$80.2 million in 2010-11 towards the first stage of the South Queensland Correctional Precinct development at Gatton.

The funding will go towards the construction of a new 300-bed correctional centre on an 11-hectare site.

The \$485.6 million project will feature a secure perimeter and gatehouse, visitor facilities, buildings for education and rehabilitation programs, a sports hall and field and video conferencing area.

The centre is part of the 680-hectare South Queensland Correctional Prison Precinct, which will have scope for further correctional centres in future.



Aerial view of the new South Queensland Correctional Precinct.

20 new and improved ambulance facilities

Queensland Ambulance Service infrastructure will be significantly enhanced with \$3.2 million in funding for six new ambulance stations at Ashgrove/The Gap, Coomera, Ningi, Pinjarra Hills, Springfield and North Lakes.

In addition to the new stations, \$13.8 million will be spent on 14 replacement, redeveloped or refurbished stations.

To further support new and refurbished station facilities, QAS will begin the planning and purchase of ambulance staff housing in the Surat and Bowen Basins at a total cost of \$5.8 million.

Work has commenced on the design for the \$7 million Spring Hill emergency complex and ambulance station redevelopment.

Significant funding of \$1.7 million has also been allocated to commence strategic land acquisitions for QAS, to meet the future needs of the Queensland community.

New and improved fire stations

Funding of \$2.5 million has been allocated in 2010-11 to complete the construction of a new fire and rescue station at Agnes Water, and to commence a new service through the construction of new fire stations at Ripley and Brassall to replace the existing Ipswich fire station.

Commencement or completion of the relocation or upgrade of stations at Cherbourg, Craignish, Clermont, Emerald, Noosa, Pullenvale, and Kitchener Street Toowoomba, to improve service delivery, will also occur in 2010-11 at a cost of \$5.4 million.

To meet the future needs of the Queensland community, \$1.2 million will also be spent on strategic land acquisitions over the year; while \$1.2 million has been allocated for ongoing improvements to the Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy at Lytton.

Supporting our volunteers and staff

The State Government values highly the roles of volunteers within community safety and has responded strongly with significant funding support in 2010-11.

Regional councils will be provided with \$5.9 million to strengthen State Emergency Service capability and to respond to natural disasters and emergencies in Queensland communities. The funding will be spent on equipment, vehicles, flood boats, trailers, training and personal protective clothing.

Continuing the 2006 election commitment Guarding Our Beaches – Saving Lives, Surf Life Saving Queensland will be provided with \$1.7 million in 2010-11 for the Life Saving Services Development Fund and WorkCover payments as part of an ongoing commitment.

As part of an ongoing commitment to the Royal Life Saving Society Queensland, they will also be given funding of \$300,000 to provide water safety education programs for young Queenslanders.

Ongoing support for the Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland and the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association has also been recognised under the 2010-11 budget.

QFRS has been allocated \$1.2 million for Rural Operations Volunteer Community Educator roles, while a further \$850,000 has been committed for ongoing development and implementation of a flexible learning package for QFRS volunteers.



Rural fire volunteers surveying a controlled burn.



Queensland
Government

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