



Queensland Budget 2022-23

On 21 June 2022, the 2022-23 Queensland Budget was delivered by the Treasurer, Hon Cameron Dick MP.

The 2022-23 Budget Papers (as released by the Queensland Treasury) can be accessed at

<https://budget.qld.gov.au/>

If you have any questions relating to how the budget impacts you and your business, please contact us at memberservices@neca.asn.au

NECA welcomes your suggestions and feedback as it continues to advocate on issues that affect and shape the electrotechnology sector in Queensland.

Overview

NECA welcomes announcements in Queensland's 2022-23 State Budget, and investments in infrastructure, training and renewables.

The Queensland Government is committed to supporting the state's economic recovery through better health care, creation and sustainability of jobs, decarbonisation, renewables, trade and investment, tourism, better government services, education and training, flood recovery, and supporting Queensland's lifestyle.

A \$59.126bn infrastructure investment program over four years will support an estimated 48,000 construction jobs across the state in 2022-23.

This investment will fund building and construction projects in sectors including health, energy transformation, education, family services, justice and policing, and the environment.

The 2022-23 budget further reinforces Queensland Government's commitment to the state's energy transformation and its investment in emerging industries including renewable energy, critical minerals, advanced manufacturing and resource recovery.

Queensland's 2022-23 budget also provides \$19.6bn for education and training, including investments in facilities, and funding to support Queensland's growing workforce to acquire new skills.

The Treasurer confirmed both the Energy Plan and the Workforce Strategy are due to be released later in 2022.

Preparation for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will also unlock new economic opportunities for the Sunshine State.

[Source: Queensland Treasury](#)

2022-23 Budget Summary

- \$23.6bn in total health funding in 2022–23
- 2,200 additional hospital beds over six years
- \$1.6bn Better Care Together: additional funding for mental health services over five years
- \$59.1bn capital program over four years
- \$150 million over ten years toward a new Queensland Trade and Investment Strategy to enhance Queensland’s trade opportunities
- \$291.8 million for resource recovery initiatives
- \$19.6bn for education and training, including TAFE services across Queensland
- \$2.2bn over five years and \$500 million per year ongoing toward child protection services.
- \$2.9bn for Queensland Police in 2022–23
- \$262.5 million toward protected area investment and management
- \$199.5 million toward priority regional water infrastructure projects
- \$200 million over three years to deliver trunk infrastructure in priority areas and ease pressure on the housing market.

Jobs

The 2022–23 Queensland Budget supports jobs in industries such as renewable energy, new economy minerals, advanced manufacturing, biomedical technology, agriculture, tourism and education services, and creative and design industries.

- \$59.1bn capital program over four years
- \$48 million toward pumped hydro energy storage projects
- \$150 million over ten years for Trade and Investment Queensland to implement a

new Trade and Investment Strategy

- \$68.5 million over five years to implement the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan
- \$66.4 million over four years for tourism recovery and development initiatives
- \$50 million over two years to support Queensland manufacturers
- \$35.5 million to support the \$80 million expansion of the Translational Research Institute
- \$39.1 million to support small business growth
- \$3.5 million over three years for the continuation of the Great Barrier Reef Education Experience Program to support Queensland's reef tourism
- \$13.8 million in increased funding over six years toward the Far North Queensland film studio

Services

- \$1.2bn in increased funding for new schools, and for new and upgraded infrastructure in existing schools
- \$19.6bn in 2022–23 for education and training, including TAFE services across Queensland
- \$2.9bn in 2022–23 for policing, as well as \$174.6 million for the Police Capital Program, to support quality frontline Police services
- \$78.8 million increased funding over four years and \$18.9 million per year ongoing to continue Youth Justice Strategy reforms
- \$125.6 million over four years and \$19 million per year ongoing to strengthen social services in Queensland
- \$363 million over five years and \$61.3 million ongoing as part of the Queensland Government’s response to the Queensland Women’s Safety and Justice Taskforce
- \$19.2 million over four years for specialist domestic, family and sexual violence

support services, and for programs for women in custody

- \$27.2 million over four years and \$11.7 million per year ongoing to provide an increase in bus services for highest priority areas, such as northern Gold Coast services
- \$40 million over five years to improve school travel safety in and around Queensland schools and drop-off zones
- \$750 million to build the Queensland Cancer Centre at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital
- \$30 million is available to councils to assist with clean-up of their regions
- A \$721 million “extraordinary circumstances” package, jointly funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, to address recovery needs for impacted communities
- A \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund, jointly funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments under DRFA, for homeowners to bolster resilience across 37 council areas

Training

User Choice – Apprentice and Trainee Training Subsidy

- The User Choice – Apprentice and Trainee Training Subsidy program provides government funding toward the costs of training and assessment for eligible Queensland apprentices and trainees, or complementary pathways leading to apprenticeship outcomes.
- The subsidy is available to pre-approved public and private registered training organisations to subsidise tuition fees to reduce the cost of nationally recognised entry level training for apprentices and trainees.
- The program provides greater flexibility for apprentices, trainees and their employers to select a preferred registered

training organisation and to negotiate the type of training to meet their specific needs.

- The value of this subsidy for each qualification ranges from \$1,200 to \$50,720, depending on student eligibility and qualification subsidised. The average subsidy value is \$10,239.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) – Certificate III Guarantee Tuition Fee Subsidy

- The Vocational Education and Training (VET) Certificate III Guarantee Tuition Fee Subsidy provides a government subsidy to allow eligible Queenslanders to obtain their first post-school Certificate III qualification to help them gain a job or to improve their employment status, including pathways for disadvantaged learners and Queensland school students (VET in schools).
- The subsidy is available to pre-approved private and public registered training organisations to subsidise tuition fees paid by students undertaking eligible VET qualifications (primarily Certificate III qualifications).
- The value of this subsidy for each qualification ranges from \$480 to \$6,780, depending on student eligibility and qualification subsidised. The average subsidy value is \$3,173.

VET – Higher Level Skills Tuition Fee Subsidy

- The VET Higher Level Skills Tuition Fee Subsidy provides a government subsidy to eligible students and employers to undertake a priority Certificate IV, diploma or advanced diploma qualification or industry endorsed skill set.
- This program assists individuals to gain employment in a critical occupation, career advancement in a priority industry or transition to university to continue their studies.
- The subsidy is available to pre-approved private and public registered training organisations to subsidise tuition fees paid

by students undertaking eligible VET qualifications at Certificate IV or above.

- The value of this subsidy for each qualification ranges from \$1,200 to \$10,566, depending on student eligibility and qualification subsidised. The average subsidy value is \$4,514.

Travel and Accommodation Subsidy

- The Travel and Accommodation Subsidy provides financial assistance to Queensland apprentices and trainees for travel expenses incurred in attending off-the-job training at a registered training organisation.
- To be eligible, apprentices must attend the closest registered training organisation that offers the required qualification and travel a minimum of 100km return from their usual place of residence to the registered training organisation.
- The subsidy provides for:
 - return land travel to the registered training organisation of 21 cents per km for distances between 100km - 649km, increasing to 26 cents per km for distances of 650km or more
 - a return economy air ticket to the location of the registered training organisation if necessary
 - cost of ferry travel if necessary
 - accommodation assistance of \$30 per day for overnight stay within Queensland and \$72 for interstate travellers, if it is necessary to live away from their usual place of residence to attend training.

Infrastructure

- The Catalyst Infrastructure Fund will receive \$150 million in equity funding for major infrastructure needed to continue the delivery of new communities such as Ripley Valley and Greater Flagstone
- \$50 million in equity funding has been approved for the new Growth

Acceleration Fund to invest in the trunk infrastructure needed to develop residential lots and increase dwelling supply.

- \$88.2 million as part of the \$1bn Works for Queensland program to support local governments in regional Queensland to undertake job-creating maintenance and minor infrastructure works
- \$46 million for the Resources Community Infrastructure Fund to support the post-COVID recovery of regional communities by improving economic and social infrastructure across Queensland's resources communities
- \$36.1 million for the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program which provides funding for priority infrastructure projects to meet identified community needs and to support projects that will enhance sustainable and liveable communities
- \$24.8 million towards the \$200 million South East Queensland Community Stimulus Program to fast-track south-east Queensland councils' investment in new infrastructure and community assets to create jobs and deliver economic stimulus
- \$22.3 million as part of the \$120 million Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program to support Indigenous councils to implement projects and infrastructure works relating to critical water, wastewater and solid waste assets, and provide a basis for the long-term strategic management of essential assets
- Additional funding of \$1.077bn over four years under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to support a range of recovery and resilience projects following significant flood events in the 2021-22 disaster season
- Continuation of the implementation of The Spit Master Plan with a commitment of \$15.5 million over five years to ensure the revitalisation of The Spit on the Gold Coast
- Up to \$15 million to support the scaling-up of the National Battery Testing Centre

at Banyo.

- Progress the planning, validation, coordination, and delivery of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Brisbane 2032) Master Plan and associated infrastructure
- Implement the \$3.34bn Queensland Jobs Fund, including the Industry Partnership Program and associated industry development grant programs, for sectors such as hydrogen, defence and aerospace, and resource recovery
- Deliver the Regional Infrastructure Planning program to set ambitious social and economic aspirations for Queensland's regions and provide strong investment signals to industry and councils about enabling infrastructure to realise regional priorities
- Work with agencies to align their infrastructure programs with whole-of-government objectives, publish an annual Queensland Government Infrastructure Pipeline report and continue to support councils in delivering priority infrastructure and essential services through the delivery of the 2022-2024 Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program

Energy and Renewables

- \$2bn in large-scale storage, renewable energy projects and generation and transmission investment
- \$1.41bn to improve electricity supply through Energy Queensland, which services 2.3 million Queenslanders across the Energex, Ergon Energy and Yurika networks
- \$239.7 million investment in Powerlink, including upgrades to or replacement of ageing high-voltage assets, as well as continuing transmission works to connect the 250-megawatt Kidston Pumped Hydro Project to the National Electricity Grid
- \$40 million investment to upgrade transmission lines between Townsville and Cairns as part of the Northern

Queensland Renewable Energy Zone initiative

- Stanwell will benefit from a \$300.1 million investment to ensure the reliability and efficiency of its generation plant, while supporting renewable generation, energy storage and renewable hydrogen.

This includes \$85.1 million towards its \$207 million Southern Queensland Renewable Energy Zone battery project, \$68.2 million for Wambo Wind Farm, \$66.7 million to upgrade Tarong Power Station, and \$50.4 million to upgrade Stanwell Power Station

- \$15 million from the Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund will progress the Central Queensland Hydrogen Project
- CS Energy's \$133.4 million capital expenditure includes \$45 million to refurbish and rebuild infrastructure at Callide Power Station, \$37.4 million towards its \$150 million investment in battery storage at Chinchilla, and \$30.3 million to upgrade Kogan Creek Power Station
- Stanwell and CS Energy are investing in large-scale batteries at Tarong and Chinchilla respectively, adding a combined 250 megawatts of new storage capacity to Queensland's electricity grid, supporting the continued uptake of renewables
- \$47.3 million to build CleanCo's renewable and firming portfolio, including \$16.9 million to develop the Karara Wind Farm, \$13.6 million to develop Kogan North Gas Fields, \$7.7 million to overhaul and maintain existing assets at Wivenhoe Power Station, and \$4.4 million for maintenance and upgrades at Swanbank E Power Station
- \$10 million over two years as part of the Queensland Microgrid Pilot Fund to boost resilience of regional and remote communities through initiatives that enable decarbonisation and energy independence.

Small and Medium Businesses

- The 50 per cent payroll tax rebate for wages paid to apprentices and trainees will be extended by 12 months until 30 June 2023.
- This will provide payroll tax relief for thousands of small and medium Queensland businesses, support businesses across the state that employ apprentices and trainees, and provide foreign acquisition duty relief for foreign buyers who are retirement visa holders when purchasing their principal place of residence.
- High-impact small business grant programs that were successful during the pandemic will be permanently funded
- Guarantee ongoing funding to provide the Mentoring for Growth (M4G) initiative, a program that matches hundreds of volunteer business experts with small business operators to advise them, free of charge
- \$6.75 million Small Business Wellness and Support package to engage six Small Business Wellness Coaches to help those businesses hardest hit by the pandemic and recent floods
- Support for employers, in particular the small business sector, will be a key area of emphasis for the Queensland Workforce Strategy, announced at the Queensland Workforce Summit in March 2022.
- Workforce Strategy will focus on building partnerships with key industry groups to support employers to grow, build and develop Queensland's workforce.

Women's Budget Statement

- \$163.4 million to provide housing, support and specialist homelessness services to vulnerable people, including older women and those experiencing domestic and family violence.
- \$100 million Skilling Queenslanders for Work program aims to increase workforce participation and improve work opportunities for disadvantaged Queenslanders.

As at 31 May 2022, over 35,900 women, more than half of all participants, have benefited from the initiative.

- \$363 million investment in the multi-year response to the first report of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce.

This investment into our systems, our communities and our first responders will increase the ability to understand, identify and respond to coercive control and to enable the criminalisation of this form of abuse.

- \$2.8 million investment in programs offering coaching, mentoring and access to extra-curricular activities to encourage young First Nations women and girls to remain actively engaged in education until completion of Year 12.

Lifestyle

- \$262.5 million toward protected area investment and management of ecosystems, natural resources and habitats
- \$200 million over three years to increase the Catalyst Infrastructure Fund as well as a new Growth Acceleration Fund to unlock development and support the delivery of trunk infrastructure and increase the supply of housing in priority development areas
- \$80.2 million in increased funding over three years toward Activate! Queensland 2019–2029 to maximise opportunities for Queenslanders to increase physical activity, taking total funding to \$394 million
- \$291.8 million for resource recovery initiatives
- \$199.5 million toward priority regional water infrastructure projects including the Cairns Water Security Program, Hughenden Water Bank, Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct, and the Mount Morgan Pipeline
- \$70 million for the Townsville Connection

Road and Bowen Road bridge duplication as part of a \$7.3bn transport capital spend

- \$40 million to help protect Queensland's native animals at risk across South East Queensland, including \$24.6 million to support the South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy 2020–2025
- \$31.4 million increased funding from 2023–24 to extend the 2032 High Performance Strategy to help prepare elite Queensland athletes for Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Los Angeles 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and leading up to Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games

over the remainder of the forward estimates, driven mainly by growth in the domestic economy.

- Employment is forecast to grow by 4.75 per cent in 2021–22, the fastest jobs growth in 15 years.
- The state's unemployment rate is forecast to remain low across the four years to 2025–26, between 4 and 4.25 per cent, as sustained employment growth and a pick-up in wages growth keep the participation rate elevated.

Economic Outlook

- Queensland's domestic economy continued to grow in March quarter 2022, and is now 7.8 per cent larger than its pre-COVID level.
- Economic activity in Queensland has been supported in part by the elevated level of net interstate migration during the pandemic.
- More than 54,500 people moved to Queensland from other states, in net terms, between June quarter 2020 and September quarter 2021.
- Since the COVID pandemic began, Queensland has enjoyed the largest increase in employment of any state or territory.
- Employment in Queensland has increased by 206,000 since March 2020, including 77,700 in the first five months of 2022.
- Queensland's unemployment rate has fallen from a pre-COVID rate of 5.8 per cent to 4.0 per cent in May 2022, despite the state's participation rate increasing from 65.5 per cent to 67.2 per cent over the same period.
- Queensland's economy grew by 2 per cent in 2020–21, faster than the national average. Growth is expected to strengthen to 3 per cent in 2021–22, and then average 2.75 per cent per annum