

My Wide Bay Burnett

Actions for a stronger region

Building stronger regions

The Queensland Government has released the *Queensland Regionalisation Strategy (QRS)* to ensure population growth is well managed and its benefits are shared across the state.

The QRS aims to encourage economic development across Queensland's regions and strengthen and diversify local economies. To do this, it identifies a range of actions to be implemented across the state.

The statewide actions are supported by a set of actions for each region. The actions contained in this document are a snapshot of projects that will support and encourage economic growth in the Wide Bay Burnett region and sustain its enviable lifestyle.

Together, the QRS, these regional actions and the *Wide Bay Burnett Regional Plan* will maximise future opportunities for the region, setting strong foundations for regional growth and development.

Wide Bay Burnett region

Wide Bay Burnett has a range of economic and natural assets which cross the economic zones of agriculture, tourism and energy. The region has well-established manufacturing activities across food processing, engineering, machinery, and road and air transport equipment products. The region's climate, soils and water availability supports diversified agricultural production, while its ecosystems and high degree of biodiversity support nature-based tourism.

Opportunities to mix work, leisure and family life in Wide Bay Burnett makes the region attractive to new residents.

Wide Bay Burnett has the largest population outside of South East Queensland. Population growth is forecast to continue at a rate of 1.8 per cent each year to 2031.

Long-term priorities to promote the growth of the Wide Bay Burnett region include:

- supporting growth and innovation across the economic zones of agriculture and tourism
- capitalising on strengths in manufacturing through value-adding and building expertise
- supporting industry and business growth through the growing resource sector
- developing a regional workforce that has the skills for current and future employment opportunities.

Capitalising on the region's natural advantages is the key to future success:

- Adding further value to the region's agricultural produce and increasing the industry's productivity will capitalise on export opportunities to meet the world's growing demand for high-quality food.
- Opportunities exist in the tourism sector to develop new nature-based experiences and products which capture the diversity of the region's natural environment.
- There are also opportunities to expand existing manufacturing, maintenance and expertise in the aviation and aerospace sector.

- There is a significant opportunity for the Wide Bay Burnett region to become a services and employment hub for the growing resource sector in the Surat and Galilee Basins using existing road, port and air infrastructure. This will help diversify the region's economy, provide new employment and help retain skills within the region to support its existing economic base.

A strong and growing skills base, with increased workforce participation, is fundamental to realising these opportunities for Wide Bay Burnett. The region's public and private sector training providers are finding innovative solutions to address skills shortages and upskill the workforce. Finding sustainable solutions to unemployment, particularly for young people and mature-aged workers is a key priority.

Prosperous economies and communities rely on strong infrastructure. Growth in the agricultural, manufacturing and tourism industries, as well as new economic opportunities to the west of the region, will place further importance on west-east connections as products and labour move throughout the region. Intra-regional transport options are also a priority as the population grows and needs to access services in nearby towns and cities.

Community services, particularly hospitals and aged-care facilities, will need to adapt to meet the changing needs of the community.

Key actions that are included in this document support the priorities for the Wide Bay Burnett region.






My Wide Bay Burnett Our Queensland

Population: 293 455 people (2010)
 Queensland Public Service jobs: 11 165 (2011)
 Projected population: 425 100 (2031)
 Land area: 3% of Queensland



Action categories

-  Infrastructure and services
-  People
-  Business
-  Partnerships














These icons represent some of the planned actions across the region.








Key

-  Port
-  Airport
-  Defence Force base
-  Railway
-  Highway or road

Regional actions for Wide Bay Burnett

The Queensland Government, in partnership with business, industry and other levels of government will deliver on the actions in this plan. **These are just some of the actions planned or underway in the region in the short, medium and long term.** To find out what other projects are happening in your region visit www.waytogrow.qld.gov.au

Action	What	Why	When	
	Infrastructure and services: Ensuring regional Queensland emerges more resilient from natural disasters and anticipates future growth to improve productive capacity and sustain long-term growth.			
	Bruce Highway Cooroy to Curra upgrade—section B construction	Construct 12 km section to four-lane motorway standard between Sankeys Road and Traveston Road.	Improve road safety, transport efficiency and flood immunity to ensure the highway caters safely for urban growth.	1–4 years
	Moonaboola Industrial Estate—stage 3 construction	Development of the next stage of the Moonaboola Industrial Estate.	To support industrial growth, employment and economic growth in the region.	1–4 years
	Bruce Highway Gin Gin southern approach upgrade	Realign the 2 km southern approach to Gin Gin with upgraded layout for the Bundaberg to Gin Gin Road intersection.	Improve road safety and traffic flow through realignment.	1–4 years
	Bundaberg Industrial Park—stage 2 construction	Develop the next stage of the Bundaberg Industrial Park.	To support industrial growth, employment and economic growth in the region.	1–10 years
	Bruce Highway Cooroy to Curra upgrade—section C	Construct 11 km section to four-lane motorway standard between Traveston Road and Keefton Road.	Improve road safety, efficiency and flood immunity to ensure the highway is able to cater safely for growth.	5–10 years
	Bruce Highway Cooroy to Curra upgrade—section D	Construct 26 km four-lane motorway from Gympie to Curra, including bypassing the urban area of Gympie.	Improve road safety, flood immunity and transport efficiency.	11–20 years
Region wide action	Integrated regional transport plan	Prepare the Wide Bay Burnett Integrated Regional Transport Plan.	Provide a whole-of-network approach to address current and future passenger and freight transport challenges, responding to and integrating with the regional plan land-use planning framework.	1–4 years
Region wide action	Wide Bay Burnett freight network upgrades	Upgrade key freight routes in Wide Bay Burnett including linkages to Surat Basin and Gladstone.	Improve freight efficiency and safety.	5–20 years
	People: Promoting regional communities as centres offering residents the full range of opportunities in life through career and education, as well as the amenities that contribute to liveability.			
	Bundaberg Hospital expansion	Construct a new expanded emergency department, maternity unit and rehabilitation facilities.	Improve access to health services including emergency care, maternity services and rehabilitation.	1–4 years
	Replacement ambulance stations	Construct new stations at Gayndah and Biggenden to operate as day shift stations with emergency availability after hours.	Provide facilities to support population growth and community health in the region.	1–4 years
	Trade Training Centres in Schools Program—Bundaberg Regional Trade Training Centre	Develop new training facilities at Bundaberg, North Bundaberg, Kepnock, Isis, Rosedale, Gin Gin and Biggenden State High Schools.	Provide tertiary training for school students to provide employment for industries with skills shortages.	1–4 years
	Bundaberg Skills Development Centre	Expand clinical training capacity in the local area.	Facilitate the continued upskilling of health professionals.	1–4 years
	Increased workforce participation	Facilitate greater economic participation, employment and training for people across the communities of Bundaberg, Fraser Coast and Gympie.	Increase employment participation in the region.	Ongoing
Region wide action	Resource workforce development	Partner with resource industry and local government to assist people in areas of high unemployment to find a job in the resource sector.	Enable local people to develop skills and gain employment in the resource sector.	Ongoing
Region wide action	Indigenous participation	Facilitate greater economic participation, employment and education opportunities for Indigenous communities including maximising Indigenous opportunities through government procurement, employment processes and industry engagement.	Maximise employment opportunities for Indigenous people.	Ongoing
Region wide action	Wide Bay Burnett Greenspace Network Plan	Develop a Wide Bay Burnett Greenspace Network Plan to secure more land for public recreation by 2020.	Protect lifestyle, environment and places to play. Guide planning and investment in greenspace to help manage growth.	1–4 years

	Action	What	Why	When
	 Business: Supporting businesses to attract new investment to generate sustained employment opportunities and strengthen the economic base.			
	 Industrial land	Investigate the availability and suitability of potential industrial sites for regionally significant industrial activities within the Gympie Regional Council area.	Support industrial growth and employment in the region.	1–4 years
	 Transport options for the North Burnett Mining Industry	Work with the private sector to identify transport options that support the development of the mining industry in the North Burnett Region.	Broaden the region's economic base and capitalise on the region's mineral assets.	Ongoing
Region wide action	Liquefied natural gas (LNG) supply chain opportunities	Help local firms access supply chains arising from the emerging coal seam gas (CSG) to LNG industry in both the Surat and Bowen Basins, and in Gladstone.	Diversify and grow the regional economy to improve the resilience of the region.	Ongoing
Region wide action	High-speed broadband and the digital economy	Encourage the business sector to utilise existing digital capability to promote the demand for new information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure like broadband.	Improve the productivity and competitive advantage of local businesses.	Ongoing
Region wide action	Streamlined investor access to government	Provide investors with streamlined access to government to attract investment and facilitate business expansion in Wide Bay Burnett.	Diversify and grow the regional economy to improve the resilience of the region.	Ongoing
Region wide action	Tourism opportunity plans	Support implementation of the <i>Bundaberg Fraser Coast Tourism Opportunity Plan</i> .	Assist the tourism industry to grow and remain competitive into the future.	Ongoing
Region wide action	Marketing regional Queensland	Work with regional leaders to promote the benefits of living and working in Wide Bay Burnett.	Attract residents into the region.	Ongoing
Region wide action	Business innovation	Deliver tailored business innovation services to targeted regional firms aimed at improving business performance, resilience, productivity and supply chain integration with the focus on key areas of economic interest and opportunity.	Improve the productivity and competitive advantage of local businesses.	Ongoing
Region wide action	Aviation industry	Continue to promote Wide Bay Burnett as a significant aviation hub for aircraft manufacture and maintenance.	Diversify and grow the regional economy.	Ongoing
	 Partnerships: Fostering partnerships at the local, state and national levels to promote coordination and drive local leadership.			
	 Supporting agribusiness	Support growth and innovation in agribusiness across the region through crop improvements and increased business productivity including sectors in Bundaberg, Maryborough, Gympie, Kingaroy, Mundubbera and Cherbourg.	Diversify and grow the regional economy to improve the resilience and liveability of the region.	1–4 years
	 Wide Bay Burnett Nation Building Social Housing Initiative	Construction of dwellings at Gin Gin and Bundaberg under the Nation Building Social Housing Initiative.	Increase supply of social housing across Wide Bay Burnett and generate additional employment in the construction industry.	1–4 years
	 Bundaberg Horticulture Science and Training Precinct	Work with partners to build the expertise of the Bundaberg Horticulture Science and Training Precinct to support agribusiness development across the Wide Bay Burnett and surrounding regions.	Build a competitive advantage for the region in sub-tropical horticulture expertise.	Ongoing
Region wide action	<i>Wide Bay Burnett Regional Water Supply Strategy</i>	Implement the <i>Wide Bay Burnett Regional Water Supply Strategy</i> .	Continue the strong partnership approach to the long-term planning of Wide Bay Burnett's residential, commercial, rural and industrial water needs to achieve the best possible environmental, social and economic outcomes.	1–4 years
Region wide action	Regional economic development	Partner with local governments to establish a new regional economic development organisation for Wide Bay Burnett to advocate on behalf of the region and provide leadership in economic development initiatives.	Diversify and grow the regional economy to improve the resilience of the region.	Ongoing
Region wide action	<i>Wide Bay Burnett Regional Plan</i>	Implement the <i>Wide Bay Burnett Regional Plan</i> and governance arrangements including the regional planning committee.	Provide a clear direction for delivering on the region's environmental, social and economic priorities.	Ongoing
Region wide action	Service and labour gateway	Work with regional stakeholders to help establish Wide Bay Burnett as a service and labour gateway for the emerging energy and gas corridor.	Diversify and grow the regional economy to improve the resilience and liveability of the region.	Ongoing

Community feedback

The QRS has been developed to share the benefits of growth across the state and support the economic growth and liveability of each region.

Public consultation was held from July to September 2011 to learn about the Wide Bay Burnett community's vision and ideas for the region. Key issues raised included: diversifying the region's economy by establishing a services and labour hub for the Surat and Galilee Basins; initiatives to help address youth unemployment; more accessible health services for the region's population; and improved west-east road corridors.

This document has been developed to set the course for government investment into the future and to build a shared vision and plan of action with industry, other levels of government and regional leaders.

Building on solid foundations

It is vital that regions have the infrastructure, services and other support they need to realise the benefits of growth while maintaining the unique characteristics and lifestyle that regional Queenslanders value about their local areas.

The Queensland Government has already undertaken a number of projects in the Wide Bay Burnett region to achieve the outcomes the community wants for the region. These include:

- the Bundaberg Hospital expansion
- development of the Bundaberg Ring Road
- construction of a new Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre
- the Isis River bridge replacement now open to traffic

These projects, some completed and others ongoing, reflect the positive work already underway to build liveable strong and vibrant communities in Queensland's regions. They provide a solid platform for the proposed regional actions which will build on this work to advance regional development.



Image: Roy Cash Photography

Rohan, Bundaberg

Superior skills success

Waste equipment manufacturer Superior Pak has grown its Bundaberg workforce from 10 to 180 in five years. A core of staff came across from Case IH Austoft, another local operator which moved its manufacturing to Brazil. Superior Pak's

operation is based on the same site, now called Bundaberg Technology Park.

Superior Pak makes garbage truck bodies and industrial bins. It manufactures in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria and has offices across the country and in New Zealand.

The company has operated in Bundaberg for the past five years and is growing strong thanks to a good skills base.

Implementing the QRS and regional actions

The QRS statewide actions and regional actions represent existing and new actions which together will help meet the Queensland Government's commitment to building stronger, more resilient and prosperous regions. The benefits of regionalisation will be realised in the short, medium and long term.

While many actions will be led by the Queensland Government, local partnerships with business, industry and other levels of government will be critical to their success. The Queensland Government will work with these groups throughout implementation and as part of the review process to ensure actions best meet local

priorities and needs. The actions will be reviewed and adjusted as needed to take account of progress and to address any significant social or economic changes.

The Queensland Government will keep the community informed about progress in implementing both statewide and regional actions.

Wide Bay Burnett Regional Development Australia Committee

The Regional Development Australia committees (RDAs) are a joint Australian and Queensland Government initiative to enhance the growth and development of Queensland's regions. RDA committees

champion development activities to bring the greatest benefit to their region and provide critical advice to government on priorities for regional development.

The Wide Bay Burnett Regional Development Australia Committee provides a link between the three levels of government and builds partnerships with other regional development bodies, community and not-for-profit groups and the private sector. The committee identifies and progresses regional priorities. Areas of focus for the Queensland RDA network include economic recovery, regionalisation, developing regional workforces and capitalising on the National Broadband Network.

A coordinated approach to planning for the region

The QRS and the actions in this document are closely connected to other plans and activities being undertaken for the region. These include:

Wide Bay Burnett Regional Plan 2011-2031

The final regional plan was released in September 2011. It will guide land use and development in the region over the next two decades. It provides a planning framework to help sustain the region's communities, strengthen its economy, inform the delivery of social services and infrastructure, and protect

its environment. It supports the QRS by providing the preferred pattern of land use and development within the region. Visit www.dlqp.qld.gov.au/wbb for more information.

Queensland Infrastructure Plan (QIP)

The QIP—one of the statewide actions of the QRS—guides planning, prioritisation and sequencing of infrastructure across the state. It outlines the infrastructure needed to support and further encourage growth across Queensland's major regional economic zones. It is therefore strongly connected to the QRS and provides detail

on the infrastructure which will help meet the outcomes for each region. Visit www.dlqp.qld.gov.au/qip for more information.

Bruce Highway Upgrade Strategy (BHUS)

The BHUS—one of the statewide actions of the QRS—is a 20-year masterplan of planned and proposed upgrades to the Bruce Highway to improve safety, increase capacity and transport efficiency and to boost flood immunity and reliability. Visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au/brucehighwayupgradestrategy for more information.

Connecting Wide Bay Burnett with the resources boom

Queensland's economy is on the verge of the next big leap forward. As many as 38 000 construction and operation jobs will be created in the resource industry between now and 2015.

The Queensland Government and the resource sector have reached an agreement to seek out new workers for the resource industry from coastal areas with high unemployment and connect them into the mining boom.

The resource sector has committed to identifying the jobs and skills required immediately and in the longer term. This move is supported by five regional councils which will help tap into these new pools of resource workers. Career advice, skills assessments and jobs were on offer at recent mining and gas expos held across the state.

In addition, the new, five-week 'Resources 101' program will give eligible jobseekers the basic skills they need to start applying for jobs in this booming industry. The partnership with industry and local government will help ensure people in regional areas have greater opportunity to benefit from the jobs boom.

Hervey Bay

For more information, visit www.waytogrow.qld.gov.au

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