

Department of Community Safety

# State Budget 2011–12

## Agency Budget Highlights



Queensland  
Government

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### Department of Community Safety



### Message from the Minister

The 2011-12 State Budget continues the Bligh Government's commitment to providing the facilities, equipment and front-line staff to keep Queensland safe and secure through a \$1.799 billion Department of Community Safety Budget and \$229.3 million in capital acquisitions and grants.

The addition of 50 officers to the ranks of the Queensland Ambulance Service during 2011-12 will ensure it can continue to respond to the increasing demand for services and continue to provide a first-class ambulance service for all Queenslanders.

The 2011-12 State Budget includes \$51.3 million to continue the \$442.8 million expansion and redevelopment of Lotus Glen Correctional Centre near Mareeba. In addition \$13.6 million operating expenditure is allocated in 2011-12 for the pre-commissioning and operation of the expanded facility. This Budget further provides \$33.7 million to continue the \$415.6 million first stage of the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct development at Gatton. In addition \$26.4 million is provided for operation and maintenance of the Correctional Precinct.

The Budget also allocates \$1 million towards the construction of new low security accommodation for women at the Numinbah Correctional Centre.

A further \$6 million is also provided in 2011-12 towards the cell upgrade program at the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre to modify cells in order to increase the number of suicide resistant cells in that centre.

In 2011-12, \$2.2 million increasing to \$4.1 million on-going from 2014-15, will be provided to introduce global positioning system (GPS) technology to monitor and track the movement of offenders on continuing supervision orders under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003*.

Within this period, \$11.1 million has been allocated towards new ambulance stations at Coomera, Ningi, North Lakes and Pinjarra Hills, while \$12 million is provided for 14 replacement, redeveloped or refurbished ambulance stations. \$2.4 million will also be spent on staff housing in the Surat and Bowen Basins.

\$1.1 million is also provided to continue design and commence redevelopment of the \$7 million Spring Hill complex and ambulance station.

Funding of \$15.2 million has been allocated in 2011-12 for 14 new, replacement or

redevelopment fire stations across the State. The funding includes \$0.45 million this financial year to continue planning for a new \$3.6 million fire station at Brassall and \$2.9 million towards a \$4.2 million replacement fire station at Ripley, to replace the existing Ipswich fire station in 2012-13.

A further \$0.25 million is provided for the development of a training facility at Dysart.

One hundred and forty new or replacement ambulance vehicles will be funded during the 2011-12 financial year at a cost of \$20.4 million, and \$15.7 million will be spent on 49 new and replacement urban and rural fire appliances, ensuring vehicles are maintained to the highest possible standard.

Other budget initiatives include providing \$2.3 million towards the purchase of a disaster management warehouse in North Queensland and additional stock for existing caches, seven additional regional disaster planning staff to support the critical work of preparing for and recovering from disaster events and \$1.1 million for additional staff to perform the watch desk function within the State Disaster Coordination Centre to enhance the coordination of information for disaster events.

The budget also allocates \$4.4 million in 2011-12 towards the \$6.9 million All Hazards Information Management Program to provide accessible, relevant and up to date information to enhance situational awareness during disasters.

In-line with the Bligh Government's commitment to support our volunteers, the Budget will also deliver 20 new vehicles, four flood boats and undertake a disaster management exercise to enhance State Emergency Services capability.

In 2011-12 in support of their activities, Surf Life Saving Queensland will receive \$5.9 million and the Royal Life Saving Society Queensland will receive \$0.39 million.

The Bligh Government's plan is for healthy, safe and secure communities and the 2011-12 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

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The State Government is delivering on its promise to enhance the safety of Queenslanders, through a \$1.799 billion Department of Community Safety Budget and \$229.3 million in capital acquisitions and grants.

This funding provides the foundation for increased capital infrastructure, heightened operational services, more front-line staff, and new and enhanced equipment and systems to best cater for the safety and security of Queenslanders.

Funding highlights for the department's service areas of Ambulance Services, Custodial, Probation and Parole, Emergency Management Services and Fire and Rescue Services include:

## Improved service delivery

### Emergency Management Services

The State Government is committed to building safer communities through disaster response and community resilience in the face of extreme weather events and has funded EMQ for 2011-12 to deliver on its commitment.

As part of the 2011-12 allocation, seven regional disaster planning staff will be appointed to support the critical work of preparing for and recovering from disaster events. Almost \$0.89 million has been allocated in 2011-12, and ongoing, for these additional staff.

In addition to the new regional disaster planning positions, further resources have been allocated to strengthen Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements claims processing, reporting and compliance requirements. A total of almost \$0.89 million has been allocated to boost resources for this purpose in 2011-12.

In a major enhancement to information coordination during disaster events, \$1.1 million has been allocated this financial year, and on-going, for additional staff to perform the watch desk function within the State Disaster Coordination Centre.

The State Emergency Service will receive a major operational boost through the delivery of 20 new vehicles and four flood boats. In addition, a disaster management exercise to enhance State Emergency Service capability will be undertaken.

Remote Indigenous communities will also benefit through \$0.67 million in funding to assist in better preparing for the impacts of extreme weather events which may result from climate change.

To ensure the rapid and reliable deployment of high volumes of essential supplies to local communities to

assist in response and recovery situations, a total of \$2.3 million will be spent on the purchase of a disaster management warehouse in North Queensland and additional stock for existing caches.

Surf Life Saving Queensland will receive \$5.9 million and the Royal Life Saving Society Queensland will receive \$0.39 million in 2011-12 in support of their activities.

Rockhampton floods 2010



## Ambulance Services

The QAS is committed to boosting the number of paramedics to focus on front-line service delivery and the provision of outstanding patient care.

Accordingly funding of \$4.9 million has been allocated to employ an additional 50 ambulance officers over the course of 2011-12.

The 50 new positions are in addition to the 630 new positions funded since 2007-08.

In support of the boost to front-line paramedic staff, funding of \$20.4 million has been provided for the commissioning of 140 new ambulances across the State, enhancing the efficiency and accessibility of the service.

The new vehicles are part of QAS's fleet management program, which focuses on replacing older vehicles as well as providing new ambulances to address increasing demand. As at 31 March 2011, the fleet consisted of 1132 operational response vehicles.

The State Government has also committed to strongly supporting the on-going development of key emergency technology.

During 2011-12, there will be continued investment for enhancement of radio communication capabilities and Triple Zero (000) systems, including progression of the Emergency Services Computer Aided Dispatch (ESCAD) upgrade, due for completion in 2011-12.

In addition, the replacement of mobile data terminals (MDTs) in ambulance vehicles in the South East Queensland will continue in 2011-12.

The MDT units provide direct communications between the Computer Aided Dispatch system and the paramedics on road. The new MDT technology will provide enhanced mobile communications capability and assist with the planned integration of related patient transport systems.



Queensland Ambulance Service officers during the 2011 SEQ floods.

## Custodial and Probation and Parole

The 2011-12 Budget continues the infrastructure and program reform agenda for Queensland Corrective Services.

QCS' role is to maintain a safe, secure and humane correctional system managing a daily average prison population of 5527, enforce the orders of the court through Probation and Parole supervision of 15,508 offenders in the community as well as providing the training and rehabilitation programs to help break the cycle of re-offending.

In 2011-12, \$2.2 million increasing to \$4.1 million on-going from 2014-15, will be provided to introduce global positioning system (GPS) technology to monitor and track the movement of offenders on continuing supervision orders under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003*.

QCS will continue to upgrade cells as part of a program to increase the number of suicide resistant cells in order to reduce the number of deaths in custody. A total of \$6 million will be spent this financial year upgrading cells at the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre. This is part of the \$33 million cell upgrade program.

A further \$1 million has been allocated as part of a \$2 million investment to provide additional low security accommodation for women at the Numinbah Correctional Centre.

Post-occupancy works at Arthur Gorrie, Brisbane and Townsville correctional centres will be completed through a \$4.4 million allocation.

A further \$1.7 million will be invested for the upgrade and expansion of Probation and Parole offices across Queensland, including Indigenous communities.



Offenders help with Southbank flood cleanup, Probation and Parole Services.

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### Fire and Rescue Services

The State Government is committed to increasing front-line resources for urban and rural firefighters and boosting bushfire education for the community and volunteer capability.

As part of that commitment, \$11.7 million will be invested in 24 new or replacement urban fire and rescue appliances during 2011-12, to enhance service delivery.

In addition, 25 rural fire appliances will be purchased in 2011-12 at a cost of \$4 million.

QFRS will continue to engage “at risk” communities through the delivery of the PREPARE.ACT.SURVIVE program, in line with the recommendations from the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission.

Funding has been allocated in 2011-12 to continue building upon the award-winning Flexible Learning for QFRS Volunteers Taking Us Into The Future initiative, by completing crew leader and first officer flexible learning programs.

The QFRS Rural Operations Volunteer Community Educators will continue to be financially supported during 2011-12, enhancing the provision of bushfire and natural disaster community safety messaging.



Fire and Rescue Service.



Bundaberg Rural Fire planning.

### Strengthening our infrastructure and capability

#### 19 new and improved ambulance facilities

In 2011-12, \$24.3 million has been allocated for 19 new or redeveloped ambulance facilities across Queensland.

New ambulance stations will be built at Coomera, Ningi, North Lakes and Pinjarra Hills at a total cost of \$11.6 million, to better service the community. A total of \$0.45 million has already been spent to commence these projects.

Redevelopment work will either begin or be completed during the 2011-12 financial year at a cost of \$13.1 million at the following ambulance stations: Biggenden, Calliope, Chermerside, Cleveland, Emerald, Gayndah, Gladstone, Gordonvale, Kingaroy, Normanton, Ravenshoe, Spring Hill, South Mackay, Tara and Winton.

A further \$2.4 million will be spent on staff housing in the Surat and Bowen basins.

#### Lotus Glen Correctional Centre

Funding of \$51.3 million has been allocated for 2011-12 to continue the expansion and redevelopment of Lotus Glen Correctional Centre near Mareeba.

The \$442.8 million redevelopment will add 300 high security cells and 24 low security farm beds, taking the centre's total capacity to 696 beds and the farm's capacity to 124 beds.

In addition \$13.6 million operating expenditure is allocated in 2011-12 for the pre-commissioning and operation of the expanded facility.

The expansion and redevelopment includes 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.

#### Enhanced disaster and emergency information

The delivery of vital information to the community and decision-makers during a disaster will be significantly improved through a new \$6.9 million information technology program.

Funding has been allocated over three financial years commencing 2010-11 to develop the All Hazards Information Management Program, designed to deliver the right information, to the right place, at the right time.

The program, which will involve significant enhancements to online, IT and social media capability,

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will provide timely and accurate information to the community and key decision makers.

Ultimately, the system will be able to consolidate, integrate, validate and cross-reference information, and be shared across jurisdictional boundaries.

Apart from enhancing decision making, the new program will significantly boost the timeliness and quality of information provided to the public during disasters.

## **New prison near Gatton**

The State Government has committed \$33.7 million to continue the development of the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct at Gatton.

The \$415.6 million first stage of the development will feature a new 300-bed correctional centre on an 11 hectare site.

In addition, funding of \$26.4 million is provided for the operation and maintenance of the facility.

The facility will include 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 Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct, which will have scope for further correctional centres in future.



State Emergency Service.

## **New and improved fire stations**

Funding of \$15.2 million has been allocated in 2011-12 towards the planning, construction, replacement or redevelopment of 14 new or improved urban and auxiliary fire and rescue stations across Queensland.

Planning, replacement and redevelopment work will occur for stations at Cherbourg, Clermont, Clifton, Craignish, Emerald, Mackay, Mareeba, Millaa Millaa, Mount Tamborine, Noosa, Smithfield, and Walkerston.

The funding includes \$0.45 million this financial year to continue planning for a new \$3.6 million fire station at Brassall and \$2.9 million towards a \$4.2 million replacement fire station at Ripley.

The Brassall and Ripley projects will replace the existing Ipswich fire station in 2012-13.

In addition, \$0.25 million will be spent in 2011-12 as part of the development of a training facility at Dysart.



Corrective Services officers.



## **State Budget 2011–12**

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