

# State Budget 2009–10

Department of Community Safety

## Agency Budget Highlights

# State Budget 2009–10

## Agency Budget Highlights

### Department of Community Safety



#### Message from the Minister

**The budget for the Department of Community Safety in 2009-10 proves the Bligh Government's commitment to protecting Queenslanders, their property and their communities.**

In March, the former Department of Emergency Services and Queensland Corrective Services were brought together under the banner of the Department of Community Safety.

To further reinforce Queensland's record for excellence in community safety, the Bligh Government has allocated \$1.57 billion to the newly-formed department for 2009-10.

This allocation will enhance the services and operations of Emergency Management Queensland, Queensland Ambulance Service, Queensland Corrective Services, Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, and a number of volunteer emergency service organisations.

The Government will focus specifically on providing more frontline staff, new and improved facilities and equipment, and greater capacity to strategically cater for emergencies and corrective services, both now and into the future.

2009-10 Budget highlights include:

- \$561 million in capital projects including:
  - \$199 million towards the \$445 million expansion and redevelopment of the Lotus Glen Correctional Centre near Mareeba;
  - \$164 million towards construction of the first stage of the South Queensland Correctional Precinct at Gatton at a total cost of \$485 million;
  - \$103 million for new ambulance and fire facilities, vehicles including ambulances and urban and rural fire appliances, information technology and operational equipment.
  - \$54.9 million towards the construction, fit out and associated works of a \$78.7 million integrated communications and emergency operations centre at Kedron;

- \$3.5 million to provide an additional 50 ambulance officers;
- A donation to Surf Life Saving Queensland of twin-engine EC135 helicopter valued at \$6 million and a further \$400,000 annually for on-going operating costs;
- \$2.5 million for the continued expansion of probation and parole services;
- \$1.2 million to strengthen the State Emergency Service's capability to respond to Queensland communities during natural disaster and emergencies.

The 2009-10 Budget will allow the Department of Community Safety to drive public health, safety and security to new levels and position Queensland as a national leader in the delivery of community safety.



**The Honourable Neil Roberts MP**  
Minister for Police, Corrective  
Services and Emergency Services

## The 2009-10 Department of Community Safety Budget will provide the Queensland Government with the platform to strongly support healthy, safe and secure communities across the State.

The \$1.57 billion in allocated funding provides the foundation for increased capital infrastructure, heightened operational services, more emergency and corrective services staff, and new and enhanced equipment and systems needed to best cater for the safety of Queenslanders.

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

### Protecting our Beaches

Surf Life Saving Queensland will benefit from the donation of a \$6 million twin-engine EC135 helicopter to ensure SLSQ has a greater capacity for surf rescues and aerial patrols along beaches from Coolangatta to Noosa. A further \$400,000 will be provided towards ongoing operational costs of the helicopter.

An additional \$200,000 in funding annually over four years will be provided for extra beach patrol and lifeguard services, expanded communications and camera surveillance networks for regional beaches north of the Sunshine Coast.

The package is an election commitment as part of the Keeping our Beaches Safe program.

### Support our Heroes

Funding of \$1.2 million has been committed in 2009-10 to strengthen the State Emergency Service's capability to respond to Queensland communities during natural disasters and emergencies. The funding will be used to provide vehicles, flood boats and trailers and is part of the \$5.6 million Support our Heroes election commitment.

QFRS will invest \$4.4 million in 34 new or replacement rural fire appliances including the first six of 14 specialised 3,000-litre water-carrying appliances fitted with essential communications and bushfire fighting requirements.

The safety of rural firefighter volunteers will be improved through funding of \$4.8 million over four years for the provision of fire-reflective curtains and the replacement

of petrol-driven pumps with diesel-driven pumps in 965 rural fire appliances.

A volunteer recruitment strategy will also be developed, implemented and monitored in line with the Q2 Target Fair initiative, to attract and retain emergency services volunteers.

### Improved Service Delivery

#### Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ)

The progression of helicopter rescue training in night vision goggles operations and the upskilling of aircrew officers into the dual role of aircrew officer/co-pilot as part of the strategy to reduce flight risk and to enhance service delivery.

The strengthening of Queensland's disaster management system, through the provision of specialised stakeholder training.

Education and awareness programs on cyclone and bushfire preparedness and other severe weather events will be extended to build community resilience.



The successful urban search and rescue multi-jurisdictional operation Mercury 08 exercise.

### Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS)

The QAS is committed to boosting the number of paramedics to focus on frontline service delivery.

Accordingly funding of \$3.5 million has been allocated to employ an additional 50 ambulance officers over the course of 2009-10.

The 50 positions for 2009-10 are in addition to 250 new positions funded during the 2008-09 financial year, and 255 new positions in 2007-08.

In support of the boost to frontline paramedic staff, funding of \$20.9 million will be provided to commission 150 new ambulances across the State, enhancing the efficiency and accessibility of the service.

The new vehicles follow the purchase of 145 vehicles in 2008-09 and 140 in 2007-08.

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 2009, the fleet consisted of more than 1000 operational response vehicles.

In addition to the vehicle purchases, \$3.9 million will be spent replacing mobile data terminals (MDTs) in ambulance vehicles in South East Queensland and to finalise the installation of satellite navigation or GPS capability in all operational ambulance vehicles.

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

In a further boost to service delivery, specialist bariatric ambulance services for the Northern and South-Eastern areas of Queensland will be introduced.

Also, the piloting of a Secondary Triage and Referral service in the Brisbane region communications centre will enable specially-trained clinicians to provide further clinical assessment to low-acuity callers who may not require an emergency ambulance.

Mental health clients will benefit significantly under the Prevention and Early Intervention Initiative.

Funding of \$819,000 over two years has been allocated to implement a Vulnerable Clients program to train ambulance officers to provide a coordinated and issues-focused approach to dealing with vulnerable clients including recently-released prisoners, sex workers, families associated with Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, traumatised people, people with disabilities, culturally and linguistically diverse people and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and inter-sex (LGBTI) people.

### Queensland Corrective Services (QCS)

QCS will introduce or expand a range of services and programs, as part of the 2009-10 funding.

The new and expanded services and programs include:

A total of \$1.4 million to continue the Sexual Offender Treatment program.

\$2.5 million to manage growth in demand for Probation and Parole services and to improve supervision and reparation to the community.

\$330,000 in 2009-10 to identify prisoners with a cognitive impairment or intellectual disability and to provide them with specialised case management and support while they are in prison.

The allocation is part of three years of funding worth \$1.46 million under the Bridging the Gap Prevention and Early Intervention initiative. Bridging the Gap will also provide identified prisoners with specialist support and practical re-settlement assistance in the community after release from custody, with the aim of reducing the likelihood of further offending.

### Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS)

Savings from the QFRS Efficiency Review will be applied to the construction of a new station at Nerang, a new fire appliance for the station and to provide for the ongoing operational costs of the Nerang and Redland Bay stations. These two new services will employ an additional 38 trained firefighters and station officers and cost an estimated \$4.3 million annually to operate.

A further \$10.4 million will be invested in 23 new or replacement urban fire and rescue appliances.

As part of this funding, the major incident response and management capability of QFRS will be significantly enhanced through the completion and commissioning of a Forward Command Vehicle.

The vehicle is capable of hosting a high level of Command and Control including the ability to transmit data/video to the State Operations Co-ordination Centre.

In addition, six combined HAZMAT/Incident Support Vehicles and a Specialised Scientific Services Vehicle will be constructed in 2009-10.

QFRS will continue to engage "at risk" communities through the delivery of the Bushfire Prepared Communities program and will also closely monitor the findings of the Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission to ensure that any relevant issues are incorporated into QFRS policies and procedures where applicable.

# State Budget 2009–10

## Agency Budget Highlights

### Department of Community Safety

To meet the demand for building fire safety services, QFRS will plan the development of web-based image and computer-aided design systems to enable the lodgement, review, approval and storage of building fire safety plans. These will deliver a greatly improved service for the community. The development and implementation of these systems is planned to occur over the subsequent three years.

Work on the scope and design of systems to dramatically improve the department's ability to successfully respond to and suppress fire incidents in buildings and major community infrastructure will also be completed.

This work will integrate with the recently-completed statewide Emergency Services Computer Aided Dispatch system and a current project to upgrade alarm monitoring equipment, communications and systems that will provide greatly enhanced 24-hour building monitoring services to 7000 buildings across the State at an estimated cost of \$17.2 million in 2009-10.

#### Strengthening our Infrastructure

##### 20 New and Improved Ambulance Facilities

In 2009-10, \$19.3 million will be spent on 20 new or redeveloped ambulance facilities across Queensland.

New ambulance stations will be built at Ashgrove/The Gap and Springfield, to better service the community. The 2009-10 allocation for these stations is \$4 million.

Redevelopment work will either begin or be completed during the 2009-10 financial year at a cost of \$15.3 million at the following ambulance stations: Burleigh Heads, Chermside, Clermont, Gordonvale, Grovely/Mitchelton, Ipswich, Jimboomba, Julia Creek, Moranbah, Mount Morgan, Pimpama, Ravenshoe, Redcliffe, Runaway Bay, Stanthorpe, Tully, Yarrabah, and the South Brisbane Regional Staff Development Unit.

##### New Lotus Glen Correctional Facility

Funding of \$199 million has been allocated for 2009-10 towards the expansion and redevelopment of the Lotus Glen Correctional Centre near Mareeba.

The \$445 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.

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 farm's beds, covered staff car parking and visitor car parking. This work is due for completion in 2011.

##### New Women's Prison at Gatton

The State Government has committed \$164 million towards the first stage of the South Queensland Correctional Precinct at Gatton.

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

The \$485.1 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 Precinct, which will have scope for further correctional centres in future.

##### Nine New and Improved Fire Stations

Funding of \$22.2 million has been allocated in 2009-10 for nine new or improved urban fire and rescue stations across Queensland, together with minor works at a number of facilities, and ongoing upgrades and improvements to facilities at the Combined Emergency Services Academy at Whyte Island.

Under the 2009-10 program, new 24-hour, 7-day permanently-staffed stations will be completed at Redland Bay and Nerang, while a new auxiliary-staffed station will be commenced at Agnes Water. Planning will also start for the construction of a new station at Ripley in Ipswich. The total capital cost of the projects will be \$10.8 million.

Work will also commence or be completed on the redevelopment of stations at Nambour, Pullenvale, Southport and Woodridge at a cost in 2009-10 of \$11.5 million.

In addition, land will be purchased in Townsville and Pittsworth to enable the subsequent relocation and upgrade of fire services. The total estimated cost of land purchases in 2009-10, including land for rural fire brigades, is \$3.9 million.



Queensland Corrective Services officers.

# State Budget 2009–10 Agency Budget Highlights

## World-Class Emergency Operations Centre

A central component in the department's commitment to deliver world-class community safety is the development of the Queensland Emergency Operations Centre (QEOC) facility at Kedron.

A total of \$54.9 million has been committed in 2009-10 toward the construction, fit-out and associated works of the \$78.7 million integrated communications and emergency operations centre.

The state-of-the-art centre – which is due to be commissioned in early 2011 – will more effectively coordinate day-to-day emergency responses together with large-scale incidents and disasters.



Communication Centre North East Perspective.



Northern Aerial view.



**Queensland**  
Government

## State Budget 2009–10

Minister's Office contact details  
Phone: 3239 0199 Fax: 3221 9985  
[www.budget.qld.gov.au](http://www.budget.qld.gov.au)