

State Budget 2008–09

Police and Corrective Services

Agency Budget Highlights

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Message from the Minister

The 2008-09 State Budget delivers funding for the safety and security of Queensland by putting more police on the frontline, targeting criminals, deterring irresponsible behaviour and managing the growing number of prisoners.

To do this the Bligh Government is funding key policing infrastructure, enhanced information technology systems, new prisons and 200 extra police.

We are boosting the Queensland Police Service's operating budget by \$134 million (or 9.3%) to \$1.571 billion and the Corrective Services budget is increasing by 5% to \$511.2 million.

The Queensland Police Service plan to recruit more than 760 police. Of these 200 will be extra police positions, at a cost of \$18.3 million and by October 2009 the QPS will have more than 10,100 police officers helping to keep Queensland safe.

The 2006-07 year saw overall crime rates fall by 4%, the sixth consecutive year that crime has decreased or remained stable and the aim is to continue that trend.

As police numbers continue to grow we need to ensure police have the facilities to accommodate these increases.

The Bligh Government will continue to provide modern facilities to support police operations. This year's budget provides \$142 million for key police stations and watchhouses across the State. Major projects include the delivery of a replacement facility for the Sunshine Coast Water Police, new police stations at Carseldine, Springfield and Reedy Creek, replacement stations and watchhouses in Murgon and Mareeba and station extensions on Thursday Island.

The Queensland Police Service continues its planning and development of the \$450 million Police Academy at Wacol. The Academy will deliver state-of-the-art training facilities for police recruits and operational police and will, once completed, be one of the best facilities of its kind in the world.

This year there is a new weapon in the ongoing fight to reduce the road toll. From July 2008 our tough new vehicle confiscation laws come into force state-wide. Overall this year's budget is allocating \$22.2 million to reduce the tragic loss of life on Queensland roads. This includes funding of \$6.9 million to provide 72,000 officer hours for on road enforcement.

The Bligh Government's commitment to having modern correctional facilities is reflected in our expansive capital works program for prisons. This budget provides funding of \$196.7 million to start construction of the first stage of the \$485.1 million south-east Queensland correctional precinct in the Lockyer Valley. As well \$118.3 million will be spent as a part of the \$445 million expansion and redevelopment of Lotus Glen Correctional Centre, just outside Mareeba.

In order to protect our record of no escapes from secure custody, \$9 million has been allocated to continue the upgrades of perimeter security systems at our correctional centres.

The 2008 Report on Government Services shows Queensland has the lowest recidivism rates in the country. This year we will provide \$1.2 million to rollout permanent probation and parole officers in Indigenous communities in Far North Queensland as a part of a strategy to reduce Indigenous representation in our prisons.

The Bligh Government is determined to provide a safe and secure future for all people of Queensland and we will continue to deliver the required resources to do so.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Spence". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Honourable Judy Spence MP
Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Sport

The Queensland Police Service's operating budget for 2008-09 is \$1.571 billion, an increase of \$134 million or 9.3% over the 2007-08 Budget.

The police operating budget consists of \$1.524 billion in output funding and \$47 million in own-sourced revenue.

Major initiatives for 2008-09 include:

- An extra 200 new police positions at a cost of \$18.3 million (including non-labour costs). By October 2009, the QPS will have over 10,100 police officers helping keep Queensland safe.
- Ongoing funding of \$84.8 million for information technology to ensure Queensland police remain at the cutting edge in fighting crime. \$36.4 million operating funding and \$48.4 million capital funding is provided for a range of initiatives, including:
 - continuing the Public Safety Network project to provide a faster, more reliable shared data network across the State;
 - implementing QPRIME Phase 2.2 and completing the final stage, ensuring a single, integrated operational policing system for managing and recording all aspects of crime incidents statewide.
- Improving road safety with \$22.2 million provided to reduce the tragic loss of life on Queensland roads, including:
 - \$15.3 million (\$13.8 million operating funding and \$1.5 million capital funding) to deliver a total of 70,080 hours of mobile speed camera operations and continue the operation of red light and fixed speed cameras during 2008-09; and
 - \$6.9 million in operating funding to provide 72,000 officer hours for on-road enforcement.
- Improving policing services for Indigenous communities through additional staff and better infrastructure. In addition to Queensland funding of \$3 million, Federal Government funding of \$12 million will help Queensland build new police houses in the remote communities of Aurukun, Mornington Island, Woorabinda, Lockhart River, Pormpuraaw and Doomadgee by 2009-10.
- The acquisition of an additional aircraft will be completed at a cost of \$2.2 million to improve policing in the Torres Strait. The aircraft and its team will also provide assistance in search and rescue operations.

- A capital works budget for 2008-09 of \$142 million to fund important infrastructure projects to address population growth and improve service delivery including:
 - Continued construction of new police stations at Carseldine, Crestmead/Marsden, Mango Hill (North Lakes), Reedy Creek, Sippy Downs, and Springfield.
 - Continued construction of replacement police stations at Ayr (including watchhouse), Camp Hill, Holland Park, Fortitude Valley (including heritage building refurbishment), Ipswich, Mareeba (including watchhouse), Murgon (including watchhouse), Port Douglas, Surfers Paradise, Whitsunday and Yeppoon.
 - Continued refurbishment and/or upgrade of police stations at Beenleigh, Bribie Island, Longreach, Mudgeeraba, Smithfield, The Gap and Upper Mount Gravatt.

Police station on wheels

\$856,000 for four new Mobile Police Stations. At a cost of \$214,000 per vehicle, one has already become operational, with the remaining three to be rolled out throughout 2008-09.



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- Station extensions at Thursday Island.
- Replacement facility for the Sunshine Coast Water Police.
- Continued construction of the new Burpengary police station and district support facility, Charleville replacement district headquarters and watchhouse and Coomera district office.
- Residential accommodation at Aurukun, Bamaga, Coomera, Cooktown, Kowanyama, Yarrabah and Weipa.
- A \$450 million project that will deliver a state-of-the-art Police Academy at Wacol by 2012. The precinct will deliver a full range of education and training programs for trainee and operational police.
- Highly trained Task Force Argos detectives will be supported through a \$94,000 upgrade to their computer networks. An additional \$122,000 will be spent warning about the dangers of surfing the internet by further developing the successful 'Who's Chatting With Your Kids' and 'Surf Safely' initiatives.
- Following on from the success of Australia's first National Symposium on Nigerian Fraud, the Service will conduct a Hi Tech Crime and Digital Recovery Conference and Fraud Investigation Training Symposium.
- The QPS will continue with proactive initiatives aimed at reducing crime and associated calls for service. 2008-09 initiatives include Project 'Weed It Out,' which aims to reduce the harm associated with cannabis abuse in Cape York and Torres Strait Indigenous communities. In the coming year the QPS will provide start up funding of \$20,000 for phase 2 of the project, which will focus on establishing the baseline research. The project is being conducted in partnership with James Cook University.

Department of Corrective Services Budget Highlights

The Department of Corrective Services has been allocated \$511.2 million in the 2008-09 budget. The Agency's operating budget consists of \$492.9 million of appropriation funding and \$18.2 million of its own-sourced revenue. This represents a \$24.2 million or 5% increase from 2007-08.

Queensland's prisoner population has grown significantly and in 2006-07 the average daily prison population was 5,649, the largest in the State's history. To support this growth, there is capital funding for the 2008-09 year of \$400.5 million. Infrastructure projects include:

- \$196.7 million funding to start construction of the first stage of the \$485.1 million south-east Queensland correctional precinct in the Lockyer Valley.
- \$118.3 million funding for the \$445 million expansion and redevelopment of Lotus Glen Correctional Centre, just outside Mareeba in North Queensland.
- \$37.3 million for the completion of the refurbishment and expansion of Townsville Correctional Centre.
- \$12 million for the completion of the new Townsville Women's Correctional Centre. The 154-bed centre, which is located adjacent to the men's centre, will include special facilities for prisoners with disabilities and units for mothers and babies.
- \$9 million to continue the rolling program of state-of-the-art upgrades of perimeter security systems at correctional centres.
- \$1.9 million for the continued upgrade program of Probation and Parole offices across Queensland.
- \$1.2 million to continue the roll-out of permanent Probation and Parole offices in Indigenous communities in far north Queensland as part of the ongoing strategy to reduce the over-representation of Indigenous offenders in correctional centres.



Queensland
Government

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