

Department of Environment  
and Resource Management

# State Budget 2011–12

## Agency Budget Highlights



Queensland  
Government

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### Department of Environment and Resource Management



Kate Jones MP



Stephen Robertson MP

## Message from the Ministers

The work of the Department of Environment and Resource Management touches the lives of ordinary Queenslanders 365 days a year.

From the water we use, the habitat and species we protect, the national parks we safeguard, the land we manage—and the list goes on.

The department's vital role in managing the state's natural environment will shape the way future generations of Queenslanders will live their lives.

The important status of the department's work is reflected in this year's budget. The department has received a budget allocation of \$1.1 billion, which is nine per cent more than in the previous year.

This increased injection of funds will help the department continue to manage the complexity and challenges associated with protecting the state's long-term sustainability and help environmental recovery from the recent natural disasters experienced across Queensland.

In 2011–2012, the department will play a critical role in overseeing the reconstruction activities relating to water and sewerage infrastructure, coal seam gas and mining, marine health, our biodiversity, and protected areas.

It will also enable the department to continue its work to expand Queensland's protected areas and national park estates and its ongoing work to respond to the challenges of climate change.

This year's budget will also assist the department to continue its important work to implement a robust regulatory, legislative

and compliance framework to manage environmental and community impacts from the expanding coal seam gas and liquefied natural gas industries.

The department's role as environmental watchdog will continue with a budget allocation of \$27.1 million to crack down on breaches of Queensland's tough environmental laws.

The department's budget will also ensure it can continue its groundbreaking work in helping Queenslanders reduce their carbon footprint. In particular, the continued funding of the ClimateSmart Home Service will assist over 100 000 more Queensland families to receive energy-saving devices and learn more about ways they can reduce their energy consumption.

In 2011–12 the Queensland Government will invest \$17.2 million through its Q2 Coasts and Country Program. Of these funds, \$11 million will be provided directly to the regional Natural Resource Management Groups to deliver on Queensland Government NRM policies and programs.

The department's funding in 2011–2012 will also assist it to continue its vital work in conserving the state's biodiversity, protecting strategic cropping land, improving water supply security programs, and accelerating land allocation and disposal programs.

The increased budget allocation for the Department of Environment and Resource Management re-confirms the State Government's commitment to building a greener, more sustainable Queensland.

The Honourable Kate Jones  
Minister for Environment and  
Resource Management

The Honourable Stephen Robertson  
Minister for Energy and  
Water Utilities

The Department of Environment and Resource Management plays a vital role in delivering a greener, more sustainable future for Queensland. The department's key responsibilities include:

- conserving Queensland's natural and cultural environment
- managing our land and water resources
- delivering strong environmental regulations
- meeting the challenges of climate change.

The department uses the latest science to underpin decision making when considering social, economic and environmental outcomes to plan, allocate and manage natural resources, to ensure the State's economic growth and its natural heritage are maintained now and in future.

#### Disaster recovery

The department will lead the coordination of the Environmental Line of Reconstruction of Operation Queensland, the state-level *Community, Economic and Environmental Recovery and Reconstruction Plan*.

The department will work with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and communities throughout the State to support the sustainable recovery of ecosystem services and natural resource management systems and deliver ecologically sustainable development outcomes.

As the lead agency for environmental reconstruction, the department will allocate approximately \$133 million in funding to be used over three years (commencing 2010-11) by the department and other entities, such as Nature Resource Management groups, to give effect to the priority actions to recover the environment.

A key component of this funding will be the repair of critical public infrastructure such as sewerage and water treatment plants. As well, expenditure for asset repair and restoration of essential public infrastructure on national parks, state forests and other protected tenures is expected to be \$20 million.

#### Coal Seam Gas regulation

As the expanding coal seam gas and liquefied natural gas industries grow, the Government is committed to delivering environmental outcomes in balance with economic and social considerations. In 2011-2012 this commitment will include \$9.4 million in funding to assist the department to:

- Continue to implement a robust regulatory and legislative framework to manage environmental and community impacts, including the protection of environmental and groundwater impacts.

- Continue to undertake the Healthy Headwaters Coal Seam Gas Feasibility Study which is investigating the potential impacts of CSG extraction on groundwater resources, and is funded by the Commonwealth Government's Water for the Future initiative.
- Continue to bolster the LNG Enforcement Unit, a one-stop shop for environmental monitoring, information, compliance and the resolving of landholders' issues related to the coal seam gas industry. This Unit was provided \$2 million in additional funding to recruit staff.



Environmental recovery

### Extend the ClimateSmart Home Service

The Queensland Government will provide additional funding of \$34.5 million in 2011–12 for the ClimateSmart Home Service as part of a broader \$60 million extension to this highly successful program from January 2011 to December 2012.

The Government's ClimateSmart Home Service is the largest in-home carbon reduction program delivered in Australia. It provides a winning combination to Queenslanders by helping households knock down their energy bills, while contributing to a State-wide effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing their energy consumption.

In 2011–12, approximately 100 000 additional customers are expected to benefit from the information, advice and energy efficient products provided by the ClimateSmart Home Service. These households could save up to \$480 a year on their power bills and up to 2.5 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year.

Over the four calendar years of the program, up to 430 000 Queensland households are expected to receive the service. They could save a combined 4.7 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions—a significant contribution towards Government's Toward Q2 target to cut Queenslanders' carbon footprint by one-third by 2020.

### North Stradbroke Island

In 2011–12 the newly established national park on North Stradbroke Island will be expanded to cover 50 per cent of the island. In addition, two native title determinations by consent will be finalised between the Government and the traditional owners, the Quandamooka people, over the majority North Stradbroke Island and a number of smaller islands in parts of Moreton Bay. By June 2012, a total of 12 rangers, including six Indigenous rangers, will be employed on the island. A comprehensive strategy to transition the island to a new sustainable economy which relies on its permanent natural, cultural and social assets will also be developed and implemented in consultation with local business, traditional owners and the community.

### Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Funds totalling \$10.5 million over four years from 2011–12 will be allocated to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to assist in the management of Queensland's growing national park estate with an extra 50 park rangers which will take the total number of rangers to over 800 for the first time.

### Biodiversity strategy

The final biodiversity strategy for Queensland will be released in 2011–2012. To support the strategy,



More funding for Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

\$3.9 million has been made available over three years as part of the *ClimateQ* Climate Change Corridors for Biodiversity initiative. The allocation will fund community action to build healthy, connected ecosystems for threatened and iconic species, such as cassowaries, in response to the threats of climate change.

### Waste reform agenda

The Industry Waste Levy will apply from 1 December 2011 to industrial, commercial, construction, demolition and hazardous waste taken to landfill in designated areas instead of recycling.

Queensland's waste strategy provides a new direction for waste and resource management and aims to avoid waste generation, improve resource efficiency and recovery and reduce the climate change impacts of generating waste.

The estimated funding from the levy for 2011–12 is \$53.9 million and will be distributed as follows:

- \$35.8 million towards targeted programs to help local government, business and industry reduce the amount of waste they generate, and to encourage industry investment in recycling technologies, jobs and materials processing, particularly in regional areas
- \$10 million for local governments to spend on environmental projects, focusing on better waste management facilities and practices
- \$8.1 million of the remaining funds will be dedicated to priority Queensland Government environmental initiatives, including acquiring land for national parks.

### Native title

The department will continue its whole-of-Government role of representing the State in native title litigation before the Federal Court.

From 2011–12 additional annual funding of \$1 million has been allocated to assist management of native title caseloads.

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#### Healthy waterways

The Healthy Waterways program has been allocated \$2 million in 2011–12 to continue to improve the health of South East Queensland waterways by reducing rural and urban diffuse pollution. This funding is in addition to the department's annual core contribution of \$500 000 and \$2.6 million in kind to Healthy Waterways Ltd to undertake the Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program.

#### Water security

The department is continuing to expand its water supply security programs throughout Queensland.

Additional funding of \$12.2 million over five years has been provided to deliver programs aimed at improving water security for areas outside of South East Queensland.

#### Strategic cropping land

The Government is committed to implementing a strategic cropping land policy framework which provides a strong approach for protecting the State's best cropping land resource. In 2011–12 the finalisation and implementation of new legislation and State Planning Policy by early 2012 will identify, conserve and manage strategic cropping land in Queensland.

#### Valuations

In 2011–2012 the department will continue to implement quality assurance procedures for annual valuations of over 1.6 million properties, as well as a centralised objection process and support the operations of a peer review process. In May 2011, the first valuations under the new *Land Valuation Act 2010* were released under the new independent Office of the Valuer-General.

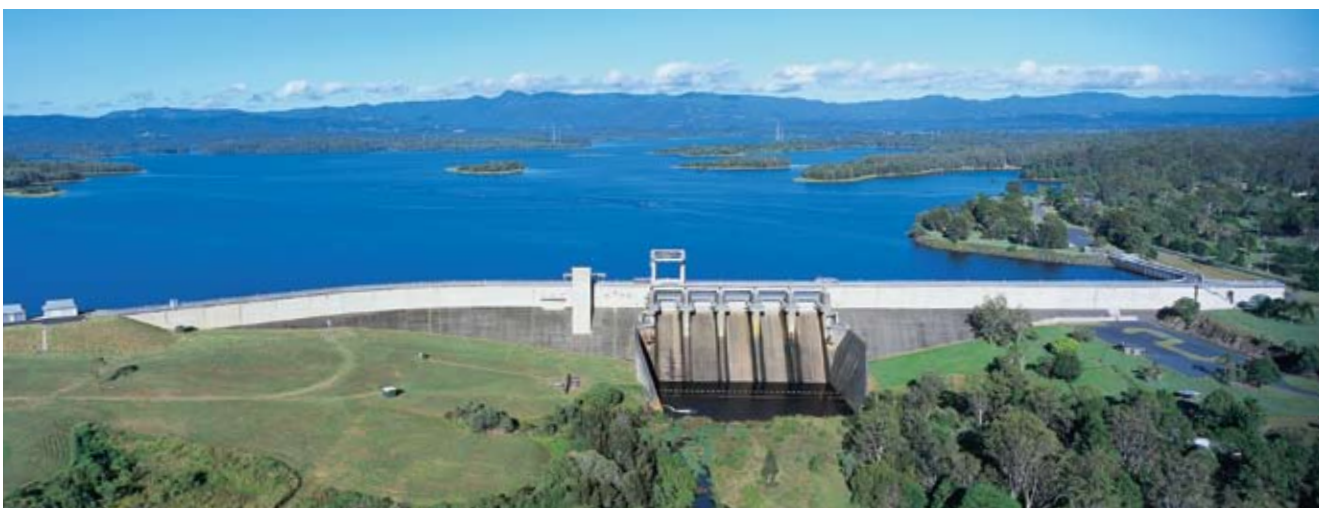
**The Queensland Water Commission is an independent statutory body established under the *Water Act 2000* which reports to the Minister for Energy and Water Utilities and Minister for Environment and Resource Management.**

#### Queensland Water Commission

The Queensland Water Commission is responsible for planning for the provision of a safe, secure and sustainable water supply and for improving institutional and regulatory frameworks for South East Queensland. It is also responsible for managing the impacts of coal seam gas water extraction on groundwater resources.

The Queensland Water Commission's key priorities in 2011–12 for water supply and demand management functions, through a total revenue of \$20.9 million, include continuing to implement key actions in the SEQ Water Strategy and undertaking an annual review of the SEQ Water Strategy; finalising a review of water use efficiency measures; continuing to implement institutional and regulatory reforms, including the Government's announcement to cap distribution and retail water and wastewater prices in south east Queensland and commencing a review of the bulk water supply price path in south east Queensland due in 2012.

The Queensland Water Commission's key priorities in 2011–12 for coal seam gas water functions, through a levy of \$5.7 million, include producing an underground water impact report for cumulative management areas that is clear, timely and in accordance with legislative requirements and implementing agreed arrangements for the industry levy to fund the Commission's role.



North Pine Dam

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DERM staff join the community in the clean up after the floods



**Queensland**  
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