



# *Toward* **2**

Tomorrow's Queensland



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## Premier's foreword



Queensland has come a long way from its humble beginnings as a breakaway state that built its foundations on soil and hard toil.

The strength of our economy now rivals some of the world's biggest nations.  
The skills of our people have risen along with their aspirations.  
The beauty of our environment has made us a highly sought-after destination.

But there are big challenges now and on the horizon that threaten the progress we've made and the great state we've become.

Science has told us our dependence on energy and oil is accelerating climate change.  
Medicine has told us our unhealthy lifestyles are jeopardising our quality of life.

Yet many of us continue to live like there's no tomorrow.

If we want to hold on to the Queensland life we love while creating a better future for our children and grandchildren, we must take early action on these and other challenges – starting today.

The following pages outline my government's plan for Tomorrow's Queensland – Q2.

We see Q2 as the Queensland you love today, only better.

Our plan has been framed around five ambitions for our entire state, covering our economy, environment and lifestyle, education and skills, health and community.

Within each area for the first time we've set long-term targets for 2020 that tackle some of the biggest challenges of our times.

The targets are bold and are meant to stretch us.

Queenslanders have proven they can rise to any challenge if given a clear goal and information about what they can do personally and as a community to make a difference.

Spurred on by evidence about poor activity levels, the people of Rockhampton embraced the opportunity to get fitter by walking 10,000 steps every day.

The whole community got behind the program, got healthy and in the process set an example for communities around the nation that the path to good health starts with one small step.

The water shortage that faced south-east Queenslanders recently also produced a dramatic turnaround in the way people across the entire state use and value water.

It was a harsh lesson about why we need to start planning for our future now; why only by working together will we achieve the greatest success.

Meeting these targets will require all of us – me, you and your family, our communities, businesses, industry and all levels of government – to play a part. No one can do it alone.

We will be holding a series of community forums across the state during September and October to gather your thoughts and ideas about how we can achieve these targets together.

I invite you to join us as we head Toward Q2 – because 'no one is smarter than all of us'.

Anna Bligh MP  
Premier of Queensland





## Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland

### Today's Queensland

There's simply no better place to be.

There's a lot to love about our state.

There's the breathtaking natural beauty of our bush, beaches, parks, reefs and rainforests.

There's our booming economy and the vast job opportunities it offers.

There's the laid back nature of our lifestyle and people.

And there's that welcoming and down-to-earth feel we've retained while making room for the many new faces moving into our neighbourhoods.

### How our state has changed in 150 years ...

2009 marks the 150th anniversary of Queensland's emergence as a state in its own right, with its own identity.

When the architects of our state achieved separation from New South Wales, could they ever have imagined what the future would hold for Queensland?

- A population of 24,000 people growing to 4.2 million.
- Life expectancy rising from 41 years to 79 years for men and 50 years to 83 years for women.
- Two hospitals growing to more than 170 public hospitals caring for over 830,000 patients annually.
- More than 10 schools growing into an education and training system of more than 1700 schools and more than 20 universities and TAFE institutes.
- A fledgling economy that is now one of the fastest growing in the nation.
- Jobs in farming, mining, forestry and fishing now outnumbered 15 to one by jobs in service industries such as tourism, retail, education and health.

- Raw coal production soaring from 12,000 tonnes to more than 200 million tonnes.
- Land cultivated for crops rising from 1400 hectares to 2.7 million hectares.
- Visitors to Queensland growing from a stream of early explorers, settlers and convicts to an annual wave of 2.2 million international and 18.3 million domestic visitors.
- Indigenous people and their culture emerging as a celebrated and integral part of our state's past, present and future.

### How our world has changed in just 15 years ....

Some of the biggest changes to the way we live have occurred in recent times with the evolution of new technologies.

It's hard to imagine life before the internet or the mobile phone.

But both technologies have only been in popular use for just over 10 years.

And their reach into our lives has been pervasive.

- Almost nine in 10 Queensland adults now have access to a computer at home and three out of four surf the internet at home.
- Mobile phone penetration across Australia is almost at saturation point with the number of users nearly mirroring our total population.

The quest for new knowledge to better understand our world and to find solutions to our biggest problems has also seen some stunning scientific discoveries and breakthroughs.

In the past decade and a half we've witnessed:

- the sequencing of the human genome, the genetic blueprint of life which holds the keys to transforming medicine and understanding disease.



- the first animal – Dolly the sheep – cloned from a cell taken from an adult animal.
- the introduction of wireless technology which enables information to be shared over the airwaves without cords or wires.
- the Queensland-led development of a vaccine for cervical cancer.

Looking at the advances in technology and science and how they've changed our lives and world gives us a glimpse of the future and the possibilities it holds.

Can you imagine where we might be in 2020?

### Challenges on the horizon

We know with greater certainty than ever before that some of our progress has come at a cost, particularly to our environment.

The challenges ahead of us are now more complex than we've ever faced:

**Climate change:** Our activities, including our dependence on greenhouse gas intensive energy sources and oil are accelerating climate change. On current trends, without intervention, national greenhouse gas emissions are predicted to soar by more than 40 per cent to 815 million tonnes by 2020.

**Unhealthy lifestyles:** Poor diet and exercise habits could see this generation of children be the first in history to die younger than their parents.

**Preventable diseases:** The burden of preventable chronic diseases, such as Type 2 diabetes, is forecast to rise by more than 20 per cent over the next decade.

**Growing population:** Queensland will continue to be the nation's growth capital, accounting for more than 30 per cent of Australia's population growth between now and 2020.

**Ageing state:** By 2020 the number of Queenslanders aged 65 and over is forecast to increase by about 70 per cent – jumping from just over 530,000 to almost 900,000.

**Global competition:** The most successful nations in the future will be powered by the talents, skills and innovation of their people. Our Asian neighbours are investing heavily in education, innovation and research and development to boost their competitiveness.

**Entrenched disadvantage:** There remain pockets of entrenched disadvantage in our communities. Too many families are struggling and the futures of too many children are being put at risk.

But with every challenge comes opportunity, opportunity to empower people with purpose and knowledge to make changes that create a better and brighter future.

### Take a moment to think about what stage of life you'll be at in 2020?

If your child started Prep in 2008, in 2020 he or she will be nearing the end of high school and starting to make big decisions about the future.

If you've just completed university or TAFE, and are in your early 20s, in 2020 you'll be about one quarter of the way into your working life and probably in your second or third job.

If you're in your early 50s, in 2020 you'll be approaching retirement and thinking about whether you can afford to stop working or even if you want to.





## Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland

The government has framed its 2020 vision for Queensland around five ambitions that address these and other future challenges.

These are ambitions for our whole state – for communities in every Queensland region.

We want a Queensland that is:

**Strong:** We want to create a diverse economy powered by bright ideas

**Green:** We want to protect our lifestyle and environment

**Smart:** We want to deliver world-class education and training

**Healthy:** We want to make Queenslanders Australia's healthiest people

**Fair:** We want to support a safe and caring community

These ambitions set the compass points for our future.

Within each of these areas, for the first time we've identified long-term measurable targets – bold targets that clearly identify what we want to achieve by 2020.

Many of the targets go to the heart of some of the most pressing issues of our generation, like climate change and obesity.

These are the areas we must make real and lasting changes in now if we want to shape a better future for ourselves and our children.

The targets are challenging. But great things are never achieved unless we dream big and set our sights high.

They also give the community a benchmark against which to judge the government's performance as well as their own.

They will tell us where we are doing well and where we need to lift our game.

The targets do not attempt to cover every area of government activity or community need.

Many important issues, such as Indigenous disadvantage and disability services, are already being addressed through reform agendas at both a state and national level.

This work will continue.

Ambition	Targets
<b>Strong</b> Creating a diverse economy powered by bright ideas	<p>2020 Target: Queensland is Australia's strongest economy, with infrastructure that anticipates growth</p> <hr/> <p>2020 Target: Increase by 50 per cent the proportion of Queensland businesses undertaking research and development or innovation</p>
<b>Green</b> Protecting our lifestyle and environment	<p>2020 Target: Cut by one-third Queenslanders' carbon footprint with reduced car and electricity use</p> <hr/> <p>2020 Target: Protect 50 per cent more land for nature conservation and public recreation</p>
<b>Smart</b> Delivering world-class education and training	<p>2020 Target: All children will have access to a quality early childhood education so they are ready for school</p> <hr/> <p>2020 Target: Three out of four Queenslanders will hold trade, training or tertiary qualifications</p>
<b>Healthy</b> Making Queenslanders Australia's healthiest people	<p>2020 Target: Cut by one-third obesity, smoking, heavy drinking and unsafe sun exposure</p> <hr/> <p>2020 Target: Queensland will have the shortest public hospital waiting times in Australia</p>
<b>Fair</b> Supporting safe and caring communities	<p>2020 Target: Halve the proportion of Queensland children living in households without a working parent</p> <hr/> <p>2020 Target: Increase by 50 per cent the proportion of Queenslanders involved in their communities as volunteers</p>



## Current performance

Queensland's economic growth (5.9 per cent) was second only to Western Australia (6.3 per cent) and well above the national average (3.3 per cent) in 2006–07.

36 per cent of Queensland businesses were innovating in 2006–07. This was the best performance in the nation.

The average Queensland household carbon footprint was 13.77 tonnes in 2006–07.

This comprised:

Electricity emissions: 8.24 tonnes

Fuel related emissions: 4.23 tonnes

Waste related emissions: 1.3 tonnes

### Land for conservation

As at June 2008, 7.6 million hectares of land was protected in National Park estates.

### Land for public recreation

Currently there is no statewide register of recreation space. This information is held by agencies at all three levels of government.

A register of land for public recreation will be created to provide baseline data to measure the target.

29 per cent of Queensland children of kindergarten age ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  –  $4\frac{1}{2}$ ) participated in an early education program delivered by a qualified teacher in 2007.

This was the lowest in Australia.

Across the rest of the nation participation exceeded 85 per cent and was as high as 96 per cent in some states.

50 per cent of Queenslanders aged 24–65 held a Certificate III or higher tertiary qualification in 2007.

### Overweight/obese (2005)

Men: 60.3 per cent

Women: 41.3 per cent

### Daily smoking (2007)

Men: 18.9 per cent

Women: 15.4 per cent

### Heavy drinking (risky/high risk) (2007)

Men: 11.5 per cent (29 or more standard drinks per week)

Women: 12.1 per cent (15 or more standard drinks per week)

### Unsafe sun exposure (2006–07)

Queenslanders: 15 per cent were sunburnt on the weekend

### Elective surgery (2006–07)

Median waiting time: 25 days – best in the nation and shorter than the national average of 32 days.

Patients seen within clinically recommended timeframes – 85 per cent – third in the nation and better than the national average of 84 per cent.

### Emergency Departments (2006–07)

Median waiting time: 29 minutes – third longest waiting time in the nation and longer than the national average of 24 minutes.

Patients seen within clinically recommended timeframes – 61 per cent – sixth in the nation and lower than the national average of 70 per cent.

16.2 per cent of Queensland children aged under 15 years were living in a household without a working parent in 2006. This is higher than the national average of 15.8 per cent.

37.8 per cent of Queenslanders volunteered in 2006. This was higher than the national average of 34.1 per cent.

# Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland

## The future of our state is everyone's business

These ambitions and targets cannot be achieved by government alone.

They will require a strong alliance between the Queensland Government, industry, communities, families and individuals – one that is founded on shared ambitions, shared responsibility and shared action.

The Queensland Government will play its part. But industry, the community and other levels of government must also play theirs.

Meeting some of the targets, particularly those relating to our health and environment, will require a real shift in personal attitudes and behaviour.

Some of the targets will also require the Queensland Government to take a hard look at its own operations and how it funds and delivers services to ensure resources are going to the programs that work.

The Queensland Government wants to hear your views and ideas first-hand about how we can achieve these targets together.

We will be hosting community forums across the state during September and October. For more information about how you can get involved, visit [www.towardQ2.qld.gov.au](http://www.towardQ2.qld.gov.au)

## Hitting our targets

Having a plan is only part of the equation. Queenslanders want to know that it will be acted on and followed through.

That's why the Queensland Government is establishing tough new accountability measures to drive improved performance across its agencies.

**Agency agreements:** Agencies responsible for contributing to the achievement of the targets will sign agreements identifying the objectives they must meet and what they will do to meet them. A lead agency will be assigned for each target to coordinate the government's efforts. State Cabinet will approve these agreements and agencies will need to demonstrate they are taking action to meet the targets.

**Ministerial responsibility:** Ministerial Charter letters will outline the Premier's expectation that Ministers will ensure their departments are taking firm action to meet the targets.

**CEO accountability:** Directors-General will be accountable for their department's progress toward the targets. This will be written into their performance agreements with the Premier.

**Funding:** Initiatives and programs that contribute to meeting the targets will be given priority in decisions about the allocation of new and existing funding.

**Reporting:** Since the data for each of the targets is collected by a range of groups, such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics, updated reports on each of the targets will be published on the website [www.towardQ2.qld.gov.au](http://www.towardQ2.qld.gov.au) as the information becomes available.

In addition, annual progress reports on the targets will be published along with a plan that maps out what needs to be done over the coming 12 months to bring us closer towards each target.

The Queensland Government will also develop a range of tools to help the community and industry contribute to achieving the targets.







## Strong – Creating a diverse economy powered by bright ideas

We are fortunate to live in a state with one of the fastest growing economies in the nation.

- Our economic growth is second only to Western Australia – which is also experiencing its own mining boom.
- Our unemployment rate in 2007–08 was the lowest in a generation.
- Our AAA credit rating and competitive tax regime brand us as the place to do business.

### Success breeds confidence

Companies and industries are investing record amounts in Queensland, primarily in new infrastructure and equipment – \$36 billion is forecast for 2008–09. This is more than double the level just six years ago.

And while mining is an important part of our economy it directly accounted for 12 per cent of business investment in 2007. This compares with 48 per cent for Western Australia.

Latest figures show Queensland had the second highest level of non-mining investment projects under construction or in the pipeline in the June quarter, at \$93.2 billion.

We are also the infrastructure capital of Australia, with the Queensland Government alone set to invest \$17 billion this financial year on ports, rail, road, water, schools, public transport and hospitals.

That's about a 19 per cent increase on the previous year.

### By all measures our economy is powering, but there are challenges now and on the horizon

The world has been experiencing the most difficult economic conditions in more than two decades.

And we have all been feeling the effects.

Record oil prices have driven up the cost of fuel, while the global credit crunch combined with domestic inflationary pressures to push up interest rates even further, putting pressure on already stretched family budgets.

Ours is a small economy in comparison with our industrial partners, but the opening up of trade across countries and globalisation of knowledge is changing the playing field.

The rapid rise of countries like China and India has put older and more established economies on notice.

Low and medium technology manufacturing and services jobs are increasingly being relocated from developed countries, including Australia, to these nations where labour costs are lower.

While the United States, the European Union and Japan have been the world's innovation leaders, China and India are also moving up the 'value add' chain with more companies starting to rely on them for advanced research and development.

China in particular has stepped up its investment in research and development and is graduating more skilled citizens.

To sustain our future economic growth in the face of this increasing global competition we must continue to broaden our industry base and lift the productivity of our own infrastructure and people.



This will put us in the best position to capitalise on our strengths and give us the best protection against future global or industry downturns.

Putting all our eggs in one basket isn't smart; it makes our economy and people's jobs vulnerable.

The Queensland Government has already invested heavily in diversifying the state's economic base from our traditional strengths in mining, tourism and agriculture to future industries in aviation, health and education services, science, medical research and technology.

Under Smart State, 60,000 new jobs in knowledge industries have been created. Investment in research and development – by governments and the private and not-for-profit sectors – has risen by about \$1 billion over the past decade.

This is a solid foundation, but we need to take Smart State further by driving innovation throughout Queensland, across all industries and businesses – both existing and new.

Research shows about 70 per cent of our economic growth is the result of productivity improvements – using our resources in smarter ways to produce more.

#### **We know productivity happens when innovation occurs**

In the face of our ageing population, skills shortages and the economic realities of climate change, making smarter use of our existing resources is the key to a stronger, more enduring, environmentally responsible and globally competitive economy.

We know innovation drives economic and jobs growth and gives businesses a competitive edge.

It also protects our environment by creating cleaner and greener products and employing smarter business methods.

Many of our businesses have responded to the innovation challenge, but they are capable of much more.

The global race for new knowledge is gathering speed as countries around the world strive to boost their competitive edge by lifting their investment in research and development and new innovations.

We must not be left behind. We must create a diverse economy powered by bright ideas.







## A diverse economy powered by bright ideas

### 2020 Target

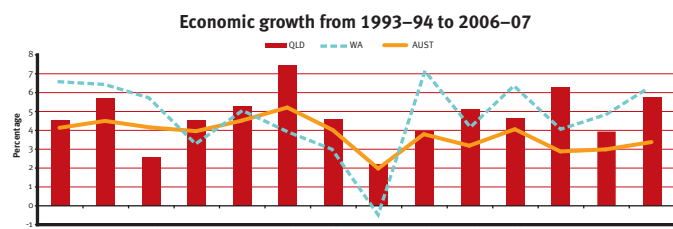
**Target:** Queensland is Australia's strongest economy, with infrastructure that anticipates growth.

Measure: Economic growth rate. Source: Office of Economic and Statistical Research Queensland.

Lead agency for the target: Queensland Treasury.

### Our economy today

Queensland is in a golden period of economic growth.



Source: Office of Economic and Statistical Research, Queensland

We've been outpacing economic growth nationally and in Victoria for the past 11 years and in New South Wales for the past six years.

In 2006-07 Queensland recorded economic growth of 5.9 per cent. The only state to perform better was Western Australia at 6.3 per cent.

On the international stage our economy has recorded stronger average growth than the G7 nations of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States which recorded combined growth of 2.4 per cent in 2006-07.

Underpinning our stellar performance has been:

**Our booming population:** Queensland accounted for 31 per cent of population growth nationally in the 10 years to 2007.

**Record numbers of people in work:** There were 570,000 more people employed in 2007-08 than there were 10 years earlier and our annual unemployment rate of 3.7 per cent is at a 34-year low.

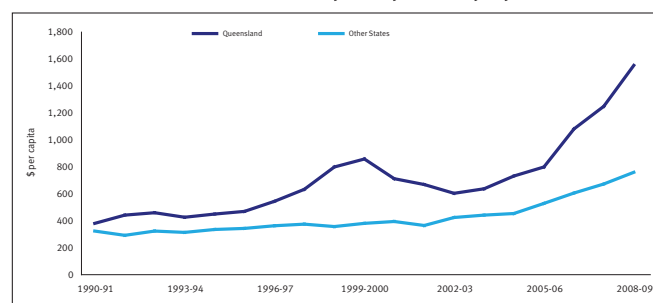
**Strong productivity growth:** We're working smarter with our average labour productivity growth surpassing Australia, the OECD average and leading nations such as the United Kingdom in the 10 years to 2005.

**World demand for our resources:** Overseas exports have doubled over the past 10 years to \$42 billion, with international demand for our minerals driving much of this growth.

**Record infrastructure investment:** The Queensland Government's budgeted capital program has more than tripled from \$5.3 billion in 2003-04 to \$17 billion in 2008-09. Private business investment, which primarily relates to construction activity and the purchase of machinery and equipment, is forecast to double over the same period to an estimated \$36 billion.

When you look at what the Queensland Government spends on infrastructure per person, it's now about double the average of the other states and territories at \$1541.

Queensland Government capital expenditure per person



Source: Queensland Treasury

Having the right infrastructure – such as roads and other transport links – in the right place and working efficiently enables people to do their jobs to the best of their ability.

Government infrastructure spending combined with record levels of business investment is driving jobs growth, particularly in regional Queensland where a significant amount of the private investment is occurring.

While economists have predicted a global economic slowdown, in the immediate future our mining and infrastructure booms are expected to fuel continued growth in our economy well above the Australian average.

The private sector will drive much of this future growth, but the Queensland Government has a role to play in creating the right conditions for industries and businesses to thrive.

Meeting our target would see Queensland leading economic growth nationally in 2020.



## Steps the Queensland Government has taken in just 12 months

- Delivered congestion busting initiatives including:
  - opening the \$543 million Tugun Bypass, which has addressed the Pacific Highway bottleneck at Tugun.
  - opening the \$333 million Inner Northern Busway in Brisbane, which saves up to 20 minutes in travel time on the northside.
- Made home ownership more affordable for first-home buyers by abolishing stamp duty and mortgage duty on homes they purchase which are valued at \$500,000 or less.

## Challenges to achieving this target

**Climate change:** Our consumption of natural resources is increasing with our growing population and industries. The introduction of an emissions trading scheme to slow down the impacts of climate change will require industry to grow in cleaner ways in the future.

**Skill shortages:** Due to our powerhouse economy, Queensland is experiencing a shortage of skilled labour in fields such as health and medicine, engineering and building and construction, and in trades such as electrical and plumbing. Skill shortages have the potential to restrict future economic growth.

**Congestion:** Our growing population is putting pressure on our road and transport links. Congestion hurts our economy by reducing productivity and competitiveness and by delaying the transport and export of goods and delivery of services.

**Ageing population:** Growth in our labour force is expected to slow as our population ages; this has the potential to exacerbate skill shortages and put a brake on economic growth.

## Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland

To be Australia's strongest economy in 2020, we must plan for the challenges ahead, and build on the strength of our current economic foundations. This means doing more than just maintaining our performance – we need to improve upon it.

Achieving this target will require joint action by the Queensland Government, other levels of government, industry and individuals in the community.

The Queensland Government will play its part by:

- setting solid foundations for our State's economy, by maintaining a strong budget position and competitive taxes
- continuing to plan for and invest in infrastructure that allows our economy to grow, like roads, rail, public transport, ports, water and energy infrastructure
- encouraging the creation and growth of new industries throughout the state, to secure our future against changes in the global economic environment
- investing in skills and creativity, to boost the productivity of our people
- helping Queenslanders who are out of the workforce to participate, to supply the labour our economy will need
- simplifying regulation, which can be a barrier to industry and business growth
- assisting industry to adjust to a carbon-constrained world.

We need the Australian Government to support our efforts, including by increasing their investment in the infrastructure that connects our economy, like roads, railway connections, public transport and broadband.

We need industry and community members to contribute too. This might be by businesses investing in new equipment, or mentoring small business owners to help them succeed, or it could be a region identifying new opportunities for industry growth.

We want your ideas on what can be done to ensure that in 2020, Queensland is Australia's strongest economy.

**What can you, your region, your business or industry do to create a stronger economy for Tomorrow's Queensland?**





## Strong

### A diverse economy powered by bright ideas

## 2020 Target

**Target:** Increase by 50 per cent the proportion of Queensland businesses undertaking research and development or innovation.

Measure: Proportion of innovating businesses. Source: ABS Innovation in Australian Business.

Lead agency for the target: Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry.

### Our innovation record today

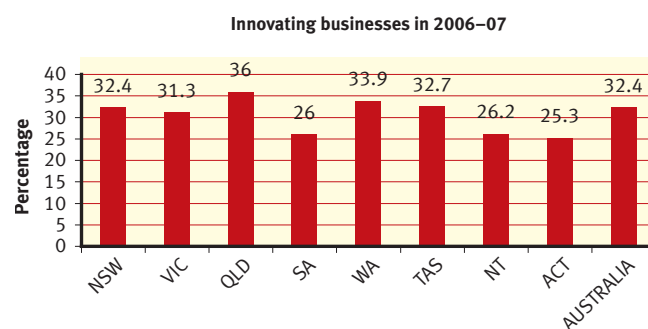
Queensland has a strong record of businesses creating and harnessing new ideas to work smarter and develop better products.

Our innovation success stories include Brisbane-based ICT leader Mincom which exports its resource planning software system around the world.

There's also Barramundi Blue, in Queensland's Far North, which has revolutionised traditional aquaculture using a system that uses less land, water and energy to achieve the same results.

But innovation isn't just about the big inventions. It's also about the front and back office changes that make businesses run smoother and faster.

In 2006–07, 36 per cent of Queensland businesses developed or introduced new or significantly improved products or services.



Source: ABS, Innovation in Australian Business 2006–07

This made us the innovation leader in the nation, and is a great foundation from which to set our sights even higher.

Strengthening our innovation performance even further will improve our competitiveness, make our state more attractive to business investors and better prepare us to face emerging global economic, environmental and social challenges.

**Meeting our target would see 54 per cent of Queensland businesses innovating in 2020. This would put us up with some of the world's innovation leaders.**

#### **Steps the Queensland Government has taken in just 12 months**

- Launched a new direction for the Smart State Strategy that focuses on developing the talent of our people – shifting the focus from ‘bricks to brains’.
- Attracted the Australian head office of aviation giant Boeing International’s research and development unit to Brisbane.

#### **Challenges to achieving this target**

**Skill shortages:** Lack of skilled staff is one of the top barriers businesses cite to innovation. A national survey of 500 CEOs by the Australian Industry Group in 2008 found 60 per cent of firms said skill shortages were restricting innovation.

#### **Business investment in research and development:**

Queensland business investment in research and development per person is the second lowest of all states behind Tasmania. In 2005–06 business investment in research and development was only 0.7 per cent of Gross State Product. This was lower than both the Australian average of 1.04 per cent and OECD average of 1.53 per cent.

#### **Toward Q2: Tomorrow’s Queensland**

If we want to join the world’s premier innovation league by 2020, we must address these challenges, and create a culture that champions innovation.

The Queensland Government will play its part by:

- investing in research and development and innovation infrastructure and incentives
- facilitating collaboration between research institutions and industry, and among firms that can learn from each other
- connecting early-stage knowledge businesses with the finance they need to grow
- attracting innovative international companies and skilled migrants to Queensland, to give local firms an opportunity to enter the world stage
- investing in skills and creativity to build the ideas and knowledge of our people
- reducing red tape which can get in the way of good ideas.

We need the Australian Government to support our efforts, including by investing in our universities and research institutions, the home of some of our best new ideas.

We need industry and community members to create their own success too. This might be by investing in new technology or by collaborating with research organisations to find ways of operating smarter.

We want your ideas on what can be done to ensure that in 2020, 50 per cent more Queensland businesses are undertaking research and development or innovation.

**What new systems or technology could your business introduce?**



## Green – Protecting our lifestyle and environment

Queensland's natural environment and lifestyle are the envy of the world.

We are a biodiversity hotspot – we have more native plants and animals than anywhere else in Australia and almost half the species living here are found nowhere else in the world.

Our state is blessed with a wealth of natural riches – a warm climate, beautiful beaches, parks, rivers, reefs and rainforests and stunning outback scenery.

There's room to breathe and enjoy life.

Understandably our lifestyle has been a magnet for the 1200 interstate and overseas migrants moving here every week.

### **However there are challenges on the horizon**

Our environment and lifestyle are under increasing pressure.

They're under pressure from our growing population and the greatest global challenge of our time – climate change.

Science has told us climate change is real and human activity is accelerating it.

We are using more energy and producing more harmful greenhouse gases than our parents and grandparents before us.

Without emission cuts, temperatures will continue to rise. This has the potential to put our sensitive ecosystems and life as we know it at risk.

### **Our state is the biggest emitter in the nation**

Our state's average emissions per person are well above the rest of the world.

This is largely due to our dependence on coal-fired energy to power our homes and businesses, our relatively large, energy-intensive industry base and our dependence on road transport to get around our vast state.

The Queensland Government is taking action on a number of fronts to reduce the state's carbon footprint.

We have signed up to doing our part to achieve a 60 per cent reduction in national greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

This will be achieved primarily through a new Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme that puts a cap on the amount of carbon pollution generated by our largest emitters.

We will be working closely with the Australian Government on the creation of the scheme, which will have a big impact on industry emissions.

This reduction is where the biggest inroads will be made in cutting our carbon footprint.

We are also committed to reducing emissions in the energy sector by deploying new forms of renewable technologies (such as solar thermal and geothermal) and exploring low-emission technologies (such as carbon capture and storage).

To that end, Queensland is supporting the uptake of renewable energies and will play its role in helping to achieve a national 20 per cent renewable energy target by 2020.

The Queensland Government is investing heavily in public transport and new cycling lanes and programs to encourage people to car pool, cycle or walk in favour of driving.





### **We can all play a role in slowing the march of climate change**

Many of our everyday activities, like driving the car or leaving the lights on when we don't need to, and our love affair with new appliances such as big screen TVs, are contributing to the increase in greenhouse gas emissions.

Being climate conscious isn't about eating by candlelight or living in the dark ages. It's about thinking twice and making small changes that will make a big difference in the long-term.

### **Protecting our natural landscapes**

Queensland is particularly vulnerable to climate change. The livelihoods of some of our important job generators, such as tourism and agriculture, are married to our climate.

In addition some native plants and animals are at risk as a result of rising temperatures.

National Parks and other conservation reserves play an important role in protecting areas of high biodiversity and unique or at risk species and ecosystems.

For example, the last known colony of the Northern Hair Nosed Wombat is protected in Epping Forest National Park in central Queensland.

We are gradually learning more about the state's plants and animals, however there are many gaps. More than 50 previously unknown plant species are identified every year.

To give our wildlife the best chance at survival, we must protect their habitats and increase land for National Parks and other conservation reserves.

By doing this we will also create more natural carbon sinks which will also help offset our emissions.

### **Increasing the 'lungs' of our cities and suburbs**

At the same time, we must also ensure we keep our cities and suburbs breathing.

Planning measures are in place to ensure green space is set aside in growth areas of Queensland.

New recreational areas and trails are being created so Queenslanders can make the most of our great outdoors.

As we make room for the thousands of new people moving here, we mustn't lose the open leafy spaces and natural bush landscapes that we all enjoy, and which are integral to our natural ecosystems.

Alarming research has shown our much-loved icon, the koala, could be lost within 20 years in south-east Queensland, without a range of measures including better protection of their urban habitats from further development.

We must protect areas that support our unique native wildlife and fragile ecosystems.

We must also retain corridors of green space between neighbourhoods and regions that create a natural break in our built environment.

Parks close by where children can play, families can picnic and communities can gather for vibrant festivals and markets have become a feature of Queensland life.

We must not lose the best of Queensland living.

We must protect our lifestyle and environment.



## Protecting our lifestyle and environment

### 2020 Target

**Target:** Cut by one-third Queenslanders' carbon footprint with reduced car and electricity use.

Measure: Emissions from electricity use, fuel consumption and waste to landfill per household in Queensland. Source: Environmental Protection Agency.

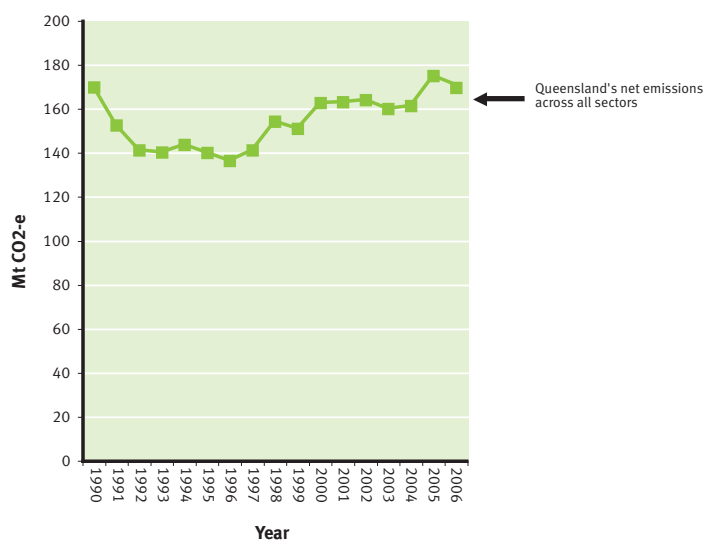
Lead agency for the target: Environmental Protection Agency.

### Our carbon footprint today

Queensland is the highest emitter of greenhouse gases in the nation.

We are responsible for creating 30 per cent of Australia's annual emissions (171 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) despite having only 20 per cent of its population.

Queensland emissions from 1990–2006



Source: State and Territory Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Department of Climate Change, June 2008

The majority of our direct emissions are generated by our stationary energy (power stations), agriculture and transport sectors. Major reforms, such as the creation of a Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, will reduce industry emissions.



Queensland households have a big role to play in tackling climate change.

The average Queensland household generates approximately 13.77 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. This is what we call our household carbon footprint.

A carbon footprint is a measure of the amount of greenhouse gas (or carbon dioxide equivalent) that's produced from our daily activities over the course of a year.

We have included emissions from:

- electricity use
- fuel for private vehicle travel, including trips to and from work, and
- waste that goes to landfill dumps.

The use of household gas is not included in the carbon footprint target, as it is a significant 'transition fuel' that will help Queensland build a low-carbon future. Generating electricity using natural gas produces up to 50 per cent less emissions than conventional coal-fired generation.

Not only will reducing our carbon footprint help the environment, it will also help our hip pockets. Cutting electricity and car use will put Queensland households in a better position when prices rise with the introduction of a national Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.

#### **Electricity: Average annual electricity related emissions per household – 8.24 tonnes**

Since 1999, overall annual electricity consumption in Queensland has grown by about 30 per cent. This has made Queensland one of the top three consumers of electricity in Australia. Demand in south-east Queensland now outstrips electricity consumption for the entire state of South Australia. The growth in household electricity use is largely a result of our appetite for more power – intensive appliances such as larger televisions, computers and air-conditioners.

#### **Fuel consumption: Average annual fuel related emissions per household – 4.23 tonnes**

Being the most decentralised state in the nation means we're more reliant on our cars to get around which contributes to our high emissions. On average Queenslanders travel more kilometres by passenger vehicle than any other state or territory – 14,800 kilometres per vehicle in 2006 – compared with the national average of 13,900 kilometres.

#### **Waste: Average annual waste related emissions per household – 1.3 tonnes**

The main source of waste emissions is the breakdown of solid waste in landfills. Queensland households are producing less waste and recycling more. In 2006 Queensland households sent eight per cent less waste to landfill and recycled 16 per cent more than the previous year. However more can be done. If every Queensland household used just one less plastic shopping bag per week when getting the groceries, 89 million less bags would be used each year.

Changing our behaviour in these three areas is where we can have the biggest personal impact on climate change.

**Meeting our target to reduce the average household carbon footprint by one-third would save 4.6 tonnes of emissions per household in one year. If every household reached the target the saving would be 10.1 million tonnes in 2020. That's more than all the residential emissions produced on the Gold Coast in one year.**

#### **Steps the Queensland Government has taken in just 12 months**

- Committed to a new \$60 million ClimateSmart Home Service, commencing in January 2009, to install energy saving devices in Queensland homes and advise homeowners on ways to reduce their carbon footprint.
- Invested \$7 million to build a solar thermal power station in Cloncurry, in north-west Queensland, which will supply the town's electricity needs 24 hours a day.

#### **Challenges to achieving this target**

**Understanding climate change:** While Queenslanders are becoming increasingly concerned about climate change and its impacts, they are unsure how they can make a difference. A survey by AC Nielsen on behalf of the Environment Protection Agency in 2006 found 83 per cent of Queenslanders were concerned about climate change and its impacts. However, over a third of the community (34 per cent) lacked detailed knowledge about what to do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or deal with climate change.

**Attitudes to public transport:** We need to address the reasons why people don't use public transport. In 2006 the most common reasons Queenslanders cited for not using public transport included services not being available when they needed them and driving being more convenient and comfortable.

**Rising electricity demand:** Queensland's electricity demand across households and industry is growing faster than any other state in Australia. Queenslanders currently use about 47,000 gigawatt-hours of electricity every year. If current trends continue, electricity consumption is expected to increase by 45 per cent to more than 68,000 gigawatt-hours by 2017–18. This expected growth in electricity (that is, 21,000 gigawatt-hours) is about the same amount of electricity currently consumed in south-east Queensland.

**Demand and access to public transport:** Demand for public transport, particularly in growth areas, is putting pressure on our public transport network. Public transport patronage in south-east Queensland has experienced unprecedented growth of 37 per cent since the introduction of Translink four years ago. The number of passenger trips on the TransLink network has increased to about 170 million per year. However in regional Queensland, access to public transport options is limited in many areas.



**Increasing consumption of processed foods:** We are consuming products that tend to be more processed and packaged than ever before, which means we use more energy and produce more waste for each kilogram of goods we buy.

## Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland

If we want to reduce the impact of climate change on Queensland, we all must take action to reduce our own impact on the earth.

The Queensland Government will play its part by:

- investing in renewable and low emission energy technologies to supply cleaner electricity to Queenslanders
- continuing to fund more public transport services, to reduce dependence on cars to get around
- supplying Queenslanders with the information and tools they need to reduce their carbon footprint
- encouraging reuse and recycling of resources to reduce the generation of waste
- improving its own carbon footprint, by reducing the emissions created by government buildings and vehicles.

We need the Australian Government to support our efforts, including by providing incentives for Queenslanders to switch to renewable energy supplies.

We need you to contribute too. This might be by riding a bike to work or by your community arranging a 'walking bus' where volunteers coordinate groups of school children to safely walk to school.

We want your ideas on what can be done to ensure that in 2020, Queenslanders' carbon footprint is reduced by one third.

## What can you do personally to reduce your carbon footprint?

Even the smallest changes can make a big difference:

- Buying a car that uses 2 litres less fuel per 100 kilometres will save around 14 tonnes of greenhouse gas over its life.
- If 15 per cent of Queensland households turned off all the appliances they don't use, such as computers and televisions, it would save 100,000 tonnes of emissions each year.
- If a household reduced the amount of rubbish in their wheelie bin by a quarter each week it would save 460kg of greenhouse gas emissions a year.

## Protecting our lifestyle and environment

### 2020 Target

**Target:** Protect 50 per cent more land for nature conservation and public recreation

Measure: National Park estate. Source: Environmental Protection Agency Estate Register. Land for public recreation. Register to be developed.

Lead agency for the target: Department of Infrastructure and Planning

### Our protected areas today

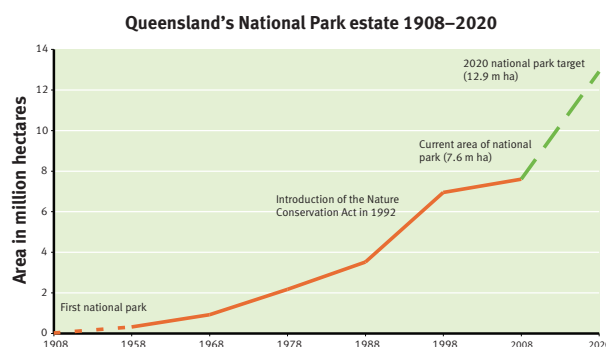
Earlier this year the Queensland Government committed to increasing land held in National Parks to 12.9 million hectares by 2020. This represents a 50 per cent increase on an earlier target that five per cent of land in Queensland would be held in National Park estate.

This target expands this commitment to include land for public recreation.

Queensland is home to 80 per cent of Australia's native birds, 70 per cent of its native mammals and just over half of its native reptiles and frogs.

This inheritance of wildlife carries with it a responsibility to protect and preserve it.

Queensland has a strong record of conservation, protecting one million hectares of National Park estate since 2000.



Source: Environmental Protection Agency

As at June 2008, 7.6 million hectares was dedicated to conservation through 282 National Parks.

In just the past few months, a further 200,000 hectares of National Park estate has been protected including a nationally significant rainforest wilderness area in the McIlwraith Range in Cape York.

**Meeting our target to increase land for conservation by 50 per cent will bring total land protected in National Park estate to 12.9 million hectares. That's twice the size of Tasmania.**

#### **Our land for recreation today**

While we have a comprehensive Queensland-wide picture of protected areas, information on urban green space such as parks, playing fields, walking and horse riding trails is held by different levels of government.

We do know that south-east Queensland has only about 19 per cent of public open space compared with 49 per cent for the Greater Sydney region.

We also know recreational land in Brisbane is unevenly distributed with 68 per cent located north of the Brisbane River despite 57 per cent of the population living south of the river.

As a critical first step towards protecting more land for public recreation, the government will create a statewide register of green space that provides a comprehensive snapshot of the state's recreational land bank.

#### **Steps the Queensland Government has taken in just 12 months**

- Committed to establish a major parkland at Springfield in the growing western corridor of south-east Queensland which will be 20 per cent bigger than Brisbane's Roma Street Parkland.
- Declared the new KULLA (McIlwraith Range) 160,000 hectare national park in Cape York – the largest undisturbed tropical rainforest area in Australia.

#### **Challenges to achieving this target**

**Development:** Far and away our biggest challenge is the rapid pace of urban development in our cities and towns. It is critical that as we grow we hold on to land for natural habitat and green space. Our unique lifestyle depends on it.

#### **Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland**

In the face of these growth pressures, we need to take action today to keep Queensland green and preserve space to breathe in our communities.

The Queensland Government will play its part by:

- protecting more areas as National Park to secure our unique biodiversity
- protecting green space as part of regional planning processes throughout the state
- providing recreational facilities to enable Queenslanders to experience our great outdoors
- developing a full statewide inventory of all land held for public recreation.

We need local government to support our efforts, by prioritising the establishment of parks, nature reserves and other public recreation spaces as land is developed.

We want your ideas on what can be done to ensure that in 2020, 50 per cent more land is protected for nature conservation and public recreation.

**What ideas do you have to support the target to increase land for conservation and public recreation?**





## Smart – Delivering world-class education and training

Queenslanders are better educated and more skilled than they've ever been.

- 97 per cent of eligible Queensland children are now attending a full-time preparatory year before school – higher than the national average of around 93 per cent.
- Queensland students generally perform above the OECD average on international maths and science tests.
- About 21 per cent of 25-64 year olds have at least a bachelor degree as their highest qualification – up from 13 per cent in 1997.
- A further 30 per cent hold a high level vocational qualification at Certificate III, IV or advanced diploma level – up from 23 per cent in 1997.
- Queensland leads the nation in school-based apprenticeships and traineeships with 41 per cent of the national pool of commencements – that's double our population share.

### Our aspirations for our future have been rising

In response our education and training systems have been transformed.

**Prep:** We gave Queensland children the best start to school by introducing a full-time prep year and by lifting the school starting age.

**Year 12:** We led the nation with our landmark 'learning or earning' reforms that raised the education bar by making Year 12, or its equivalent, the minimum needed to succeed in life beyond school.

**Teachers:** We overhauled teacher registration to lift professional standards and attract more people from skilled jobs into the profession.

**Modern schools:** We're renewing our older schools with modern infrastructure makeovers and building high-tech new ones to accommodate our growing student population.

**Technology:** We brought schools into the information age and connected them to the world; the number of computers in state schools has doubled since 1999 and almost all computers are now connected to the internet.

**Academies:** We established new academies for gifted students in science, maths and technology, creative industries and health sciences to stretch them as far as their talents and abilities would take them.

**Training:** We overhauled vocational education and training by investing in the Queensland Skills Plan to better match training with industry needs. We're also funding thousands of extra trades training places to address skill shortages.

### We have made incredible progress, but there are challenges now and on the horizon

Globally, nations are building up their stockpile of human talent to put themselves in the best position to exploit the opportunities that new technologies and knowledge will bring and improve their competitiveness into the future.





Locally, mining and infrastructure investment is expected to fuel demand for skilled workers in Queensland for some time.

We must meet these challenges by investing in the greatest asset of our state – our people.

While our education and skill levels have improved, they are not nation or world leading.

We must invest in the early years to give our children the best start.

We must invest in skilling Queenslanders for the future.

We must tap into our vast pool of intellectual and creative talent to take our state forward.

### **Giving our children a headstart**

We have already taken a huge step to correct decades-long under-investment in early childhood education with the introduction of prep. But we need to go further.

We must now turn our attention to those years in a child's life before they start school, when they're discovering and exploring their world, when their minds are alive to learning.

We know the experiences in these years help shape their ability to move and learn, interact with other children and develop coping skills.

The evidence tells us these are the years where we can make the biggest difference to a child's future life chances.

This is where our investment will achieve the most lifetime returns.

Children who benefit from a quality early childhood education program are less likely to have contact with the criminal justice system and mental health services or require family support.

The early years are where we can make the biggest difference particularly to children living in our most disadvantaged families and communities.

### **Our skills will shape our future**

We must raise our aspirations and challenge the notion that there's a finite demand for skills, that there's only enough room at the top for a select few.

How can we drive innovation in our industries and businesses and create better jobs without an army of skilled, talented and motivated citizens?

We know technological advancements and increasing global competition for new knowledge will continue to place a higher premium on skilled workers into the future.

Workers with generic skills, in areas such as problem solving and communication, will be in high demand because their skills are not specific to one occupation.

Evidence tells us the more education people have the more they will be able to seize new opportunities, master new technologies and adapt to changing job needs.

Individually, we know people who are qualified have better jobs, are more productive and earn more money.

Our future relies on world-class education and training.



## Delivering world class education and training

### 2020 Target

**Target:** All children will have access to a quality early childhood education, so they are ready for school

Measure: Provision of early childhood education by a qualified teacher.

Source: Office of Early Childhood Education and Care.

Lead agency for the target: Office of Early Childhood Education and Care.

#### Early years education today

While 97 per cent of Queensland children now participate in a full-time preparatory year before Year 1, a smaller proportion of children attend kindergarten in Queensland than any other state in Australia.

There are currently 53,000  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  year olds in Queensland.

Of these only 29 per cent participate in a quality early education program, delivered by a qualified teacher.

In the rest of the nation, participation exceeds 85 per cent and is as high as 96 per cent in some states.

The majority of Queensland children enrolled in these programs attend a community kindergarten while a small percentage (seven per cent) attend a child care centre.

A further 48 per cent are enrolled in long day care or occasional hours care programs not delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher.

The remaining 23 per cent of children are believed to be cared for by parents, grandparents, family day care or other informal services.

**Giving all children access to a quality early childhood education will give them the best start to learning and life.**

#### Steps the Queensland Government has taken in just 12 months

- Began delivering a preparatory year of school to a full year group of students for the first time.
- Began construction of Queensland's first one-stop-shop for early childcare services at Caboolture and started the refurbishment program for the Nerang facility.

### Challenges to achieving this target

**Facilities:** Meeting this target will require a significant investment in new and expanded kindergarten services to accommodate the 12,000 children not currently accessing early education services.

**Regional access:** To reach families in rural and regional communities innovative early education services such as mobile kindergartens and virtual learning will need to be explored.

**Teachers:** Sufficient numbers of four-year qualified early childhood teachers will be needed to staff an expanded early education service across both kindergartens and child care centres. Attracting and retaining qualified teachers to work in remote areas and child care centres will be a challenge.

### Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland

Starting today the Queensland Government is taking its first steps towards delivering world-class education and training by committing to a major expansion of kindergarten services in Queensland.

The commitment includes:

**New kindergarten services:** The Queensland Government in partnership with the Australian Government will expand kindergarten services across Queensland to accommodate the 12,000 children not currently accessing any childhood or care services.

**Incentives for child care:** The Queensland Government will work with the Australian Government to ensure child care centres receive financial support to employ a qualified early years teacher and provide a recognised early education program.

**Support for families in need:** The Queensland Government is committed to developing integrated Early Years Centres where parents can access early education services, child care, child health services, parent programs and other family support in one location. New facilities for two services in Caboolture and Nerang are under construction with a further two centres planned for Browns Plains and Cairns.

**Early years office:** A new Office for Early Childhood Education and Care will be established to bring early years and child care services under the one umbrella. The office will manage the roll-out of the new kindergarten services and support the child care sector.

We need the Australian Government to support our efforts by providing appropriate funding to deliver this massive expansion in early childhood education services.

We need our early education partners, including C&K, the child care sector and state, Catholic and independent schools to work with us to provide the best early education services for Queensland children.

We need individual Queenslanders to give their children the best start by enrolling them in a quality early childhood program.

What can you do to encourage a love of learning in your children?

### Delivering world class education and training

## 2020 Target

**Target:** Three out of four Queenslanders will hold trade, training or tertiary qualifications.

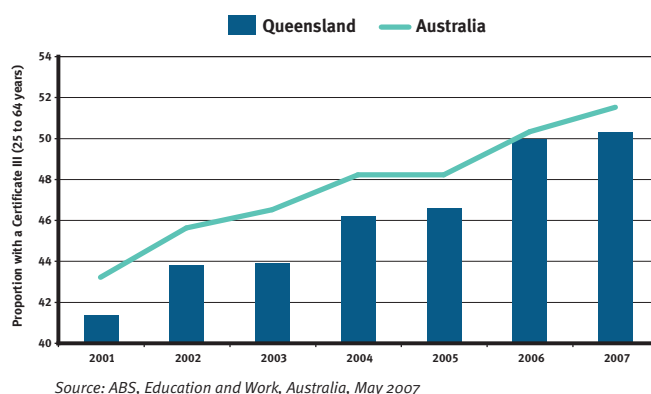
Measure: Proportion of 25-64 year olds with a Certificate III or higher.

Source: ABS Survey of Education and Work

Lead agency for the target: Department of Education, Training and the Arts

### Our skills profile today

The gap between the qualification levels of Queensland and the rest of Australia has narrowed in recent years.



In 2007, 50 per cent of Queenslanders aged 25-64 held a qualification at Certificate III level or higher.

This put us about middle of the pack in the state and territory rankings behind the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia.

However, growth in our skill levels has been strong over the past seven years, helping us to make up ground.

The proportion of Queenslanders with a Certificate III and higher has grown by almost nine per cent from 41 per cent in 2001.

Meeting our target to boost the proportion of Queenslanders with trade, training or tertiary qualifications to 75 per cent would increase innovation and growth in our economy.





## Steps the Queensland Government has taken in just 12 months

- Launched an updated Queensland Skills Plan committing \$280 million over the next four years to:
  - modernise TAFE facilities across the state
  - deliver innovative training programs to meet skill shortages in the nursing, engineering and ICT professions.

## Challenges to achieving this target

**Fewer older people with qualifications:** Queensland has a higher proportion of older people without training or tertiary qualifications than the rest of Australia.

**Strong labour market:** The skills shortages and lucrative wages available in some sectors of today's tight labour market have enticed young Queenslanders out of education and training and into the workforce. A survey of Year 12 graduates from 2007 shows the proportion of students transitioning to education and training has declined from 65.3 per cent in 2006 to 60.6 per cent in 2008.

## Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland

If we want our population to have the skills to mix it with the world's best, we need to act now.

The Queensland Government will play its part by:

- ensuring more young Queenslanders complete Year 12 or an equivalent level of achievement as an essential building block for post-school qualifications
- funding and delivering flexible, high quality, post-school training, that works for employers and those seeking training
- increasing the number of vocational education and training places available to Queenslanders.

We need the Australian Government to support our efforts, including funding more university places in occupations suffering skill shortages.

We need industry and the community to contribute too.

If you are a business owner, you could support your workers to upgrade their skills. If you are an employee or unemployed, you could seek out the wide range of post-school educational options available.

We want your ideas on what can be done to ensure that in 2020, three out of four Queenslanders hold trade, training or university qualifications.

## How can you improve your skills?





## Healthy – Making Queenslanders Australia's healthiest people

Queenslanders enjoy good health and an enviable quality of life.

We're living longer, but this is under threat, especially for some.

About three million Queenslanders are living with a long-term chronic condition, such as high blood pressure.

That's 70 per cent of our population.

A significant proportion of these people have a chronic disease, such as heart disease or Type 2 diabetes.

Chronic diseases are serious, largely preventable illnesses that require lifelong medical care.

Many, such as heart and lung disease and some cancers, are caused by unhealthy lifestyles.

### Preventable diseases are on the rise

There have been some positive gains in recent years on heart disease with Queensland rates predicted to decline substantially over the next 10 years.

There's greater awareness in the community about looking after your heart – about eating well, being active and seeing your doctor regularly to get in early before small issues turn into big health problems.

Despite these improvements, the overall burden of preventable chronic disease in Queensland is predicted to rise by more than 20 per cent between 2006 and 2016. Major increases in Type 2 diabetes are fuelling much of this growth.

### Too many Queensland lives are being cut short

More than 4000 Queenslanders died prematurely from preventable diseases in 2004.

These deaths accounted for about nearly half of all deaths occurring before the age of 75 in Queensland.

That's a sobering thought.

We have the highest rate of death from skin cancer and the second highest from heart disease and stroke in the nation.

### Medicine has told us our lifestyles are compromising our quality of life

Consider this:

- **Smoking:** One in five men (14 years and over) and one in seven women smoke daily
- **Weight:** Six in 10 men (15 years and over) and about four in 10 women are overweight or obese
- **Exercise:** About seven in 10 men and women (15 years and over) exercise very little or not at all
- **Diet:** Just over five in 10 men and four in 10 women (15 years and over) don't eat enough fruit and about nine in 10 Queenslanders (18 years and over) don't eat enough vegetables.

### The statistics paint a pretty grim picture

They're hard to believe when you consider we live in a state with the best climate for outdoor pursuits and have some of the best locally grown produce on our doorstep.

Unless as a community we put a higher value on our health, the prognosis for our future and our children's future is bleak.

- If our poor diets and lack of exercise continues, this generation of children may be the first to die younger than their parents.





- Poor diet, inactive lifestyles and rising obesity is predicted to fuel a 55 per cent increase in the Type 2 diabetes disease burden in Queensland over the next 10 years.

Given some of the incredible medical breakthroughs we've seen in recent years, there is a strong likelihood that advances in medical research will lead to improved diagnosis and treatment of preventable diseases in the future.

There is promising research into cancer, particularly around the detection of very small quantities of biomarkers (generally proteins) associated with tumours which could enable doctors to detect them long before symptoms appear.

There is also promising research into heart disease and diabetes, particularly in the emerging field of pharmacogenomics.

This area of research will mark the advent of personalised medicine, tailoring drug therapy to a person's individual genetic make-up.

While technological and scientific advancements may bring us closer to solving some of our biggest health problems in the future, we can't simply wait for a 'miracle cure'.

### **Prevention is everyone's business**

Many illnesses can be prevented by making lifestyle changes, like eating better, exercising more, drinking less alcohol, quitting smoking and avoiding unprotected sun exposure.

As a society we need to make the healthy choices the easy choices.

We need to make eating fresh fruit and vegetables easier than driving through the nearest takeaway.

We need to make walking or cycling to work easier than driving the car.

We owe it to our loved ones to take better care of ourselves.

Our families, our jobs and the future of our state rely on us being healthy.

### **Preventable diseases are putting pressure on our hospitals**

Rising cases of preventable diseases combined with our growing and ageing population are expected to result in a doubling in hospitalisations over the next 20 years.

That's why getting in early and making small changes to the way we live now is so important.

But the Queensland Government recognises its responsibility to support people to make healthy choices and ensure when sickness does strike, Queenslanders get the best care, where and when they need it. Too many patients are still waiting longer than they should for elective surgery and emergency treatment.

We can do better.

### **Good progress has been made on rebuilding our health system**

The \$10 billion Health Action Plan has delivered record funding, widespread reform and an army of new health workers.

Halfway through the plan we have already seen an extra 5200 nurses, 1600 doctors and 1900 radiographers, physiotherapists, speech therapists, dieticians and other allied health workers join our medical workforce.

They're now treating and helping 15,500 Queenslanders a day. That's 1700 more than three years ago. But we need to keep improving our health services so that more Queenslanders get the right care in the right place at the right time.

We must set our sights high and become Australia's healthiest people.

## Australia's healthiest people

### 2020 Target

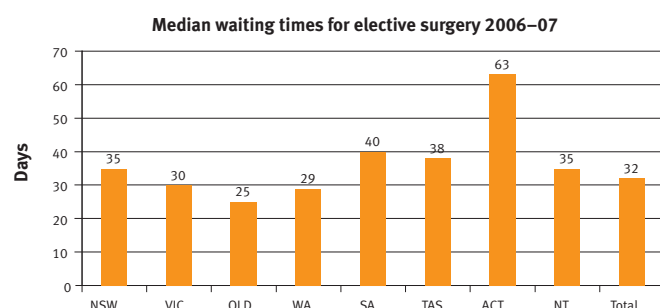
**Target:** Shortest public hospital waiting times in Australia.

Measure: Median waiting times and percentage of patients seen within clinically recommended times for elective surgery and emergency treatment.  
Source: The state of our Public Hospitals Report. Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

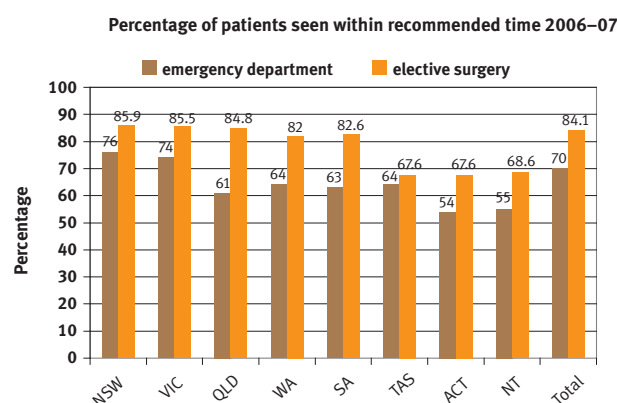
Lead agency for the target: Queensland Health.

### Our public hospital waiting times today

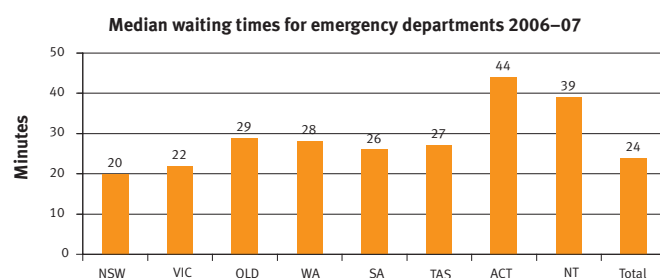
Queensland had the shortest elective surgery median waiting time performance in 2006–07.



Source: AIHW Australian Hospital Statistics 2006–07



Source: AIHW Australian Hospital Statistics 2006–07



Source: AIHW Australian Hospital Statistics 2006–07

The median waiting time for elective surgery was 25 days. This was better than the national average of 32 days and lower than all states and territories.

Almost 85 per cent of patients were seen within the clinically recommended timeframe.

Again this was better than the national average, but put Queensland third behind New South Wales and Victoria.

However, this performance is not matched in Queensland's emergency departments.

The median waiting time for emergency treatment was 29 minutes.

This was longer than the national average of 24 minutes and better than only the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

Only 61 per cent of Queenslanders were seen in an emergency department within the clinically recommended time, putting us below the national average.

### Steps the Queensland Government has taken in just 12 months

- Exceeded elective surgery targets in the first six months of a new Surgery Connect initiative established to reduce the backlog of long-wait patients on elective surgery waiting lists.
- Opened a new emergency department at Robina Hospital, upgraded emergency departments at the Redcliffe and Redlands Hospitals, commenced work on an upgraded Bundaberg emergency department, and allocated funding to upgrade the Cairns Hospital emergency department.

### Challenges to achieving this target

**Demand for services:** The number of patients admitted to Queensland public hospitals is growing faster than our population. Public admissions grew by six per cent in 2007–08. This compared with population growth of about two per cent.

**Care where and when it's needed:** Not being able to access GP services where and when people need them often means people end up in emergency hospital departments for routine issues. In addition, on any one day it's estimated there are about 430 nursing home type patients in Queensland public hospitals. This affects the availability of hospital beds for very ill patients as well as access to elective surgery and compounds congestion in emergency departments.

**Ageing population:** Our ageing population will require more care in the future. People aged 65 and over account for about one third of all hospital stays and half of hospital bed days.

**Preventable diseases:** Hospitalisations for preventable chronic diseases are forecast to increase dramatically in the future. Hospitalisations for renal failure are predicted to increase four-fold and Type 2 diabetes almost three-fold.

**Falling share of Commonwealth funding:** The Commonwealth share of public hospital funding in Queensland has fallen from about 50 per cent to about 35 per cent over the past decade. This is putting pressure on Queensland public hospital services.







## Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland

While our elective surgery waiting times compare well to the rest of Australia, we must take action – starting today – to maintain this performance and improve waiting times in our emergency departments.

The Queensland Government will play its part by:

- continuing to increase funding – already at record levels – for our public hospitals
- building and rebuilding hospitals throughout the state,
- contracting the private sector to cut waiting lists to improve access to public hospital services
- expanding the range of health services available in the home, workplace or community, so public hospitals can focus on those in most need
- encouraging Queenslanders to live healthier lifestyles so they can avoid the need to be admitted to hospital.

We need the Australian Government to support our efforts, including by providing adequate GP services, to reduce the need for Queenslanders with minor ailments to attend public hospital emergency departments.

We need the community to contribute too. This might be by adopting a healthier lifestyle or by accessing health services through GPs or community health services, so that emergency departments can concentrate on those with urgent needs.

We want your ideas on what can be done to ensure that in 2020, Queensland public hospital waiting times are the shortest in Australia.

**What support do you need to lead a healthier lifestyle to avoid needing hospital care?**

## Australia's healthiest people

### 2020 Target

**Target:** Cut by one third obesity, smoking, heavy drinking and unsafe sun exposure.

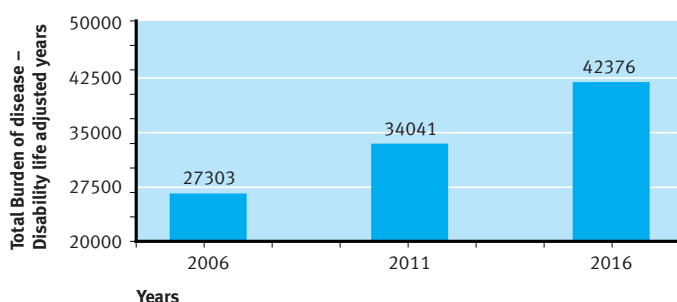
Measure: Proportion of Queenslanders who are overweight/obese, high risk/risky drinkers, daily smokers and get sunburnt. Sources: Australian Social Trends, Australian Bureau of Statistics, and National Sun Protection Survey, Cancer Council of Australia.

Lead agency for the target: Queensland Health

### Our health today

The dramatic rise in preventable diseases, such as Type 2 diabetes, is the biggest health issue of our times and a threat to our health system and the economy of our state.

Growth in the burden of disease due to Type 2 diabetes



Source: Queensland Health and AIHW, National Drug Strategy Household Survey

The Type 2 diabetes disease burden is predicted to increase by a massive 55 per cent between 2006 and 2016.

This is primarily due to our increasingly inactive lifestyles and rising levels of obesity.

Queenslanders are not Australia's healthiest people.

Latest national data provides the following report on our health.

#### Overweight/obese (2005)

Men: 60.3 per cent (second highest in the nation)

Women: 41.3 per cent (second lowest in the nation)

#### Daily smokers (2007)

Men: 18.9 per cent (third highest in the nation)

Women: 15.4 per cent (fourth highest in the nation)

#### Heavy drinkers (2007)

Men: 11.5 per cent (third highest in the nation)

Women: 12.1 per cent (third highest in the nation)

### Sun damage

15 per cent of Queenslanders were sunburnt on the weekend during summer in 2006–07 (equal second highest in the nation with Western Australia and Northern Territory).

### Steps the Queensland Government has taken in just 12 months

- Committed to the toughest anti-smoking laws in Australia which will ban smoking in cars carrying children and granting councils power to regulate smoking in malls and bustops.
- Opened a new cycle centre in Brisbane's King George Square, in partnership with the Brisbane City Council, to enable more Brisbane residents to combine exercise with their trip to work.

### Challenges to achieving our target

**Prevention is everyone's business:** As a society we need to make the healthy choices the easy choices. Everyone – governments, communities and individuals – must take responsibility for better health outcomes.

**Childhood obesity:** Children learn from their environment. Childhood obesity is on the rise. Overall, in 2006 21 per cent of Queensland children aged 5–17 years were overweight or obese, including 20 per cent of boys and 23 per cent of girls.

### Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland

The Queensland Government has already taken the first steps towards making us Australia's healthiest people.

This commitment includes:

**Healthier kids:** Asking for community feedback about whether to regulate junk food advertising during children's television shows. Almost three out of four food advertisements during children's programs are for junk food and drinks (a seven per cent increase on the previous 12 months).

**Healthy Communities Awards:** Launching a new statewide competition that rewards towns, schools and workplaces for healthy living initiatives. Prize money will be dedicated to community infrastructure and programs that promote improved health and well-being.

We will add to these commitments by rolling out new programs in the community and the workplace to encourage and support people to live healthier lives.

We need the Australian Government to support our efforts by reforming medical benefits to boost chronic disease prevention and management.

We need the community to play a role by eating healthier food, exercising more, drinking responsibly and being sun smart.

What would make exercising easier in your life?



## Fair – Supporting safe and caring communities

Queensland is experiencing the highest levels of economic prosperity in a generation.

Wages have been rising, more people are working and the economy is powering.

But the rising wave of material prosperity which has swept through our state has not lifted up everyone with it.

### **There remain entrenched pockets of disadvantage in our communities**

Despite unemployment being at a 34-year-low and demand for workers being at an all-time high, there are still communities where unemployment is greater than 10 per cent and participation in the workforce is less than 60 per cent particularly in our Indigenous communities.

Some people face barriers to joining the workforce.

These barriers may include not having basic literacy and numeracy skills, having low self-esteem and no access to affordable child care.

Research has shown children who grow up in homes without a working parent are at greater risk of poverty.

They're more likely to perform poorly at school, be welfare dependent or work in low-income jobs, have contact with the criminal justice system and be teenage parents.

Once set in train, this cycle of disadvantage often rolls on from one generation to the next.

This entrenched disadvantage is the most complex and difficult to address.

It takes unique approaches, compassion and time to break this cycle of disadvantage.





**If we want to create a new future for our state, it must be an equal future for all**

We must provide the support unemployed families need to take the first steps towards creating a better and brighter future for themselves and their children.

We must make the path to employment easier and less daunting for those who aren't working.

We must help everyone who is able to work get a job so they can contribute to and share in the state's prosperity.

**But caring for our community is broader than just looking after those most in need**

It's also about being a good neighbour and citizen.

It's about getting to know the people living near us and in our communities and keeping an eye out for each other so we know when something's wrong.

This makes us feel more connected to each other, which also makes us feel safer.

Caring for our community also means investing our time, talents and energy into helping out when it's needed.

Volunteers make an enormous contribution to the cultural, social and economic life of our state.

It's estimated that volunteer work was worth about \$13.4 billion to the Queensland economy in 2006. This was equivalent to about 300,000 jobs.

Apart from these important economic benefits volunteering also helps build stronger, more connected and caring communities.

Whether it's helping out at the school tuckshop, coaching a sporting team, being a member of the local State Emergency Services, or running errands for an elderly neighbour, volunteers provide an incredibly valuable service.

Many of our charitable organisations and community groups would not be able to operate if it weren't for volunteers willing to give freely of their time and skills.

Queenslanders have a strong history of volunteering, but we could all do a bit more.

We must renew our spirit of service if we want Tomorrow's Queensland to be a fairer and more caring state.

## Supporting safe and caring communities

### 2020 Target

**Target:** Halve the proportion of Queensland children living in a household without a working parent.

Measure: Proportion of children under 15 years living in a jobless household.

Source: ABS Survey of Income and Housing.

Lead agency for target: Department of Employment and Industrial Relations.

#### Disadvantage in our communities today

More than 130,000 Queensland children aged under 15 years are living in a home without a working parent.

These children represent 16.2 per cent of all Queensland children aged under 15.

While this has fallen from 19 per cent in 1997, this is above the national average of 15.8 per cent and higher than New South Wales, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory.

In some cases there may be positive aspects for some children living in a home with a parent who doesn't work.

For example, parents may have taken time off to care for their children or to undertake study to improve their job opportunities.

However research shows that children living in jobless households are at greater risk of disadvantage. They're less likely to do well at school or in the workforce and more likely to end up in the criminal justice system.

To give these children the best chance at success in the future we must renew our efforts to assist jobless parents into the workforce.

#### Steps the Queensland Government has taken in just 12 months

- Launched a new four-year \$18 million strategy – Participate in Prosperity – to help disadvantaged Queenslanders join the workforce.
- Established an innovative early intervention program in the Logan-Beenleigh area to help young parents and young people with a mental illness get on their feet.

#### Challenges to achieving this target

**Long-term unemployed:** In 2007, the long-term unemployed represented about 14 per cent of all people unemployed in Queensland. People who are unemployed long-term must overcome greater challenges to getting a job such as loss of confidence and motivation, a lack of recent work experience, or outdated skills.

**Rising childcare costs:** Average childcare fees for long day care services in Queensland jumped almost 50 per cent between 1997 and 2006 to \$214 a week. This increase combined with further rises over the past few years has made child care unaffordable for some families. Inability to access affordable child care is a significant barrier preventing some unemployed parents from working or getting the training they need to enter the workforce.

#### Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland

To ensure fewer Queensland children are living in homes without working parents by 2020, all levels of government, industry and the community must work together.

The Queensland Government will play its part by:

- targeting employment programs at particularly disadvantaged and long-term unemployed Queenslanders to get them into the workforce
- providing unemployed parents with training and support, including contributions to childcare and transport costs, to help them into the workforce
- funding traineeships through subsidies to local government authorities and not-for-profit community organisations to employ disadvantaged jobseekers as trainees
- establishing Early Years Centres in areas of high growth that bring together a range of early childhood services, including family support, health referral services, play groups and child care, under one umbrella.

We also need the Australian Government to support our efforts by increasing support for return-to-work programs for unemployed parents.

We need businesses to create flexible work options that encourage parents back into the workforce. This could include creating job sharing opportunities for parents or staggering working hours to accommodate family responsibilities.

We need individuals and families to take up the support and opportunities on offer to create a better future for themselves and their children.

**What could your business or community do to support unemployed parents back into work?**





## Supporting safe and caring communities

### 2020 Target

**Target:** Increase by 50 per cent the proportion of Queenslanders involved in their communities as volunteers.

Measure: Rates of volunteering. Source: ABS General Social Survey.

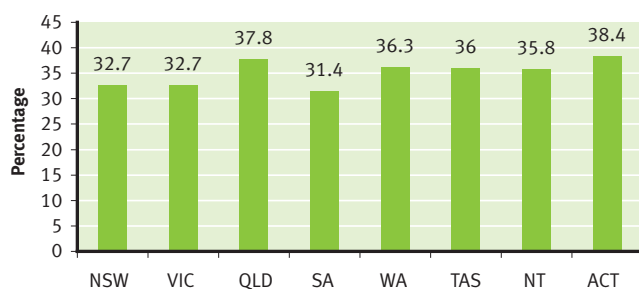
Lead agency for target: Department of Communities.

#### Queensland volunteers today

Volunteering gives all Queenslanders the opportunity to give something back to their communities.

We have a good record as volunteers.

Volunteering rates in Australia 2006



Source: ABS General Social Survey 2006

Nearly four out of 10 Queenslanders gave up their time to help others in 2006.

Only the Australian Capital Territory put in a slightly better effort.

The proportion of people willing to lend a hand has been rising steadily over time – from 26 per cent in 1994 to 31 per cent in 2002 and almost 40 per cent in 2006.

Volunteering levels are high in both regional and metropolitan areas of the state.

Volunteering also adds to our social glue, by providing opportunities for all Queenslanders to be active and involved in their communities.

There are many ways to volunteer – from helping out at the local school fete or joining a local Neighbourhood Watch group, to becoming a Rural Fire Service volunteer.

Whatever activity volunteering involves, it all helps support Queensland communities.

#### Steps the Queensland Government has taken in just 12 months

- Introduced a payroll tax exemption to employers whose workers volunteer in the State Emergency Service or Rural Fire Service.
- Granted an extra \$1.6 million to assist Surf Life Saving Queensland to provide additional beach patrols and equipment through grants to clubs.

#### Challenges to achieving this target

##### Low rates of volunteering among young and older Queenslanders:

Volunteering levels are uneven across different age groups. The highest rates were in the 35–44 year age group (47 per cent), with lower rates among people aged 18–24 years (31 per cent) and people aged over 65 years (27 per cent).

**Ageing population:** As our population gets older, there will be greater demand for volunteers, particularly in the aged care and support sector. However, our ageing population also offers opportunities for older Queenslanders to continue being active in their local communities through volunteering.

**Busy lives:** Queenslanders are working longer hours and leading busier lives. Changing patterns of paid work and the use of technology are also likely to affect how people volunteer in the future. It will be important to find ways that allow Queenslanders to volunteer while acknowledging their other work and personal commitments.

#### Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland

Tomorrow's Queensland needs caring, safe and inclusive communities, that help each other out when times are tough.

We need to build on our current record of high volunteer rates, to attract, recruit and retain more people as volunteers, particularly the young and older people.

The Queensland Government will play its role by:

- continuing to grow our volunteer workforce in organisations such as the State Emergency Service and the Rural Fire Service
- encouraging volunteers from all backgrounds to provide further diversity to the volunteer workforce
- promoting the economic, social and environmental benefits of volunteering
- working with the community sector to help supply the stream of volunteers that it relies on.

However, we need individuals in the community to play a role to meet this target too. This could be by joining a local creek protection group or coaching children's sporting teams.

**What type of volunteer work could you do in your community?**

## Toward Q2 - how you can help shape Tomorrow's Queensland

The future of our state is everyone's business. That's why we want you to bring forward your best ideas about how to meet the ambitious targets outlined in this plan.

We need everyone to put their minds to the big challenges ahead and what we can do individually, as communities and as a state to put Queensland out in front.

We want our state to be the best it can be. But we need everyone to get involved to help shape Q2 – the Queensland you love today, only better.

The Queensland Government will be hosting forums across the state during September and October to talk with Queenslanders about this plan.

We want to hear your thoughts first-hand about how we can meet the targets to start moving Toward Q2.

You can obtain a hard copy of this plan or get further information about Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland by:

- telephoning 1800 082 105
- visiting **[www.towardQ2.qld.gov.au](http://www.towardQ2.qld.gov.au)**
- participating in public forums — for dates and venues visit the website.



# *Toward* **2**

[www.towardQ2.qld.gov.au](http://www.towardQ2.qld.gov.au)

Tomorrow's Queensland

