Four years of achievements
Building a better future for Queensland

Achievements of the Bligh Government

September 2011
Contents

A strong Queensland 5
A green Queensland 11
A smart Queensland 13
A healthy Queensland 15
A fair Queensland 17
Better government 19
Reconstructing Queensland 21
These have been a tumultuous four years. We have faced the Global Financial Crisis and the most devastating natural disasters in living memory, and throughout it all our government has stayed focused on keeping Queenslanders in work, protecting our lifestyle and continuing the reforms that will secure our future.

Across the state Operation Queenslander is working to build Queensland back better and make our communities more disaster resilient. Our economic reforms have given us a strong foundation for our state’s next great leap forward and to grasp the opportunities of the new energy age.

Queensland has an incredibly bright future. The stars have aligned for our state’s prosperity and my government will keep working to make sure that all Queenslanders can share in that opportunity.

Anna Bligh MP
Premier of Queensland and
Minister for Reconstruction
A strong Queensland

Queensland has had the highest long-term average growth rate over 20 years of any of the Australian states and territories. Our robust economy and significant investment in infrastructure for the future is encouraging strong business investment, forecast to grow at 27.75 per cent, and export volumes to grow at a decade high rate of 10 per cent.

- **Investment in infrastructure** – we have invested more than $54 billion in infrastructure in the last four years.

  We have developed and supported new industries:

- **Facilitating the LNG Industry** – delivered a State Development area on Curtis Island and supported the industry through the delivery of a multi-user corridor. This Coal Seam Gas (CSG) to Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Industry is happening because the Bligh Government has put in place policy and regulation to ensure its safe operation. This industry is a new export industry that will deliver 18,000 jobs, $45 billion worth of new private investment and provide $750 million each and every year in new revenues across the state.

- **Low carbon future** – research supported by James Cook University in partnership with MBD Energy that has led to the construction of a one hectare algal biomass display plant beside Tarong Power Station, 180 km north-west of Brisbane. In simple terms the algae eats the carbon and then produces material that can be used in things like bio-diesel, stockfeed and bio-plastics. The products it can produce could also be worth many millions of dollars to the Queensland economy.

- **Renewables** – we helped fund a $120 million power renewable energy plant in Mackay that will generate more than 90 megawatts of electricity from sugar cane waste. Up to 30 per cent of the city of Mackay’s annual electricity supply may be generated through the cogeneration project at Mackay Sugar’s Racecourse Sugar mill and refinery.

- **Solar** – we are delivering solar across the state with more than 17,000 Queenslanders receiving solar hot water rebates. We are making our state schools more efficient with the installation of solar panels on 1198 state schools across the state. We also have Australia’s largest solar stadium with solar roof panels capable of producing 240 kilowatts at Metricon stadium. We are partnering with the University of Queensland in a 250 megawatt Solar Dawn thermal power station in Chinchilla, and rolling out community solar farms at Hervey Bay and Cloncurry.

And supporting our existing industries:

- **Aviation** – we have supported the ongoing development of the aviation hub in Queensland with the delivery of a $150 million Aerospace and Defence Support Centre at Amberley, in partnership with the Ipswich City Council, creating up to 3500 jobs. There are now more than 16,500 skilled jobs in aviation now across the state, in nation and international firms.

A competitive state

- **Keeping taxes low** – Queenslanders are on average $501 per capita better off than taxpayers in other states and territories. This improvement has increased by $100 per capita over the last four years.

- **Keeping business taxes low** – we have kept Queensland as the lowest payroll tax rate of any mainland state at 4.75 per cent. The Grants Commission, the independent federal government authority, assessed our payroll regime as being 20 per cent below the national average.

- **Infrastructure capacity building** – by improving private sector investment in export capacity with the float of QR National. In addition, private sector investment will also underpin expansions of capacity at Abbot Point in exchange for a long-term lease. Coupled with other leases, this arrangement has returned $15 billion to the State Budget.

- **Helping Queenslanders buy a home** – we have abolished stamp duty on homes valued up to $500,000 and have introduced a $10,000 building boost to encourage investment in new properties. This is in addition to the $7,000 first home grant that has been maintained. This is the biggest building assistance grant in Australia.
• Delivering affordable homes across the state – the Urban Land Development Authority has been rolled out across the state to deliver affordable homes for Queenslanders. This has seen 403 already delivered to the market and another 4839 lots or dwellings already approved.

Research and development
• Study Queensland – invested in a program to encourage international students to undertake higher education in Queensland. This focus recognises the fact that education exports are now one of our five top export earners.
• An Australian first biopharmaceuticals facility – we are delivering a state of the art facility built in Brisbane that will manufacture biologic drugs. This recognises the fact that Queensland has more scientists and researchers than the OECD average.
• Eco science – we have opened Australia’s first eco science precinct at Boggo Road that will bring together more than 1000 scientists and researchers to work on major environmental issues including climate change, water and sustainable growth, an Australian First.
• Innovation grants – we have provided $2.5 million under the What’s Your Big Idea Queensland program, which has seen 600 businesses make applications and 22 winners each receiving up to $50,000 to help progress their big idea. In this year’s Budget, this funding has been increased by $3 million.
• Smart State – have allocated $100 million in this year’s Budget over the next 3 years for the next stage of the Smart State Strategy, including $20 million towards attracting more world leading researchers through fellowships and PhD scholarships, $50 million towards co-investment with industry, universities and the Commonwealth in high-priority projects and infrastructure, and $20 million towards ensuring Queensland’s strong research focus is converted into business innovation and jobs.

Investing in infrastructure
We have delivered Australia’s first statewide Infrastructure Plan, the Queensland Infrastructure Plan (QIP), which is currently out for consultation. We are building the infrastructure to improve the lifestyle of all Queenslanders and encourage business investment.

• Australians largest road project – we are delivering the Airport link road project which will see a tunnel from the inner city bypass to the airport. We have already delivered a $327 million road upgrade that saw the airport roundabout replaced with a fast diamond intersection improving the road network to the airport precinct. The Airport flyover opened all lanes nine months ahead of schedule.
• Busways for the future – we have delivered the next stage of the Eastern Busway from Buranda to Coorparoo on budget and six months ahead of schedule. We’ve delivered the Inner Northern Busway on budget and six months ahead of schedule. The Northern Busway from the Royal Brisbane Hospital to Kedron is currently under construction and on schedule for delivery in mid 2012.
• More trains – we have delivered 58 new three-car sets on the Citytrain services since 2007 and there are six new trains to be delivered this year. This means we have already delivered around 250,000 new seats into the network in the past four years. To service the regions we have ordered a new 12-carriage state of the art Tilt Train and have approved the refurbishment of the Spirit of the Outback.
• More buses – TransLink have delivered more than 530 new buses over the last five years, fully funded by the Queensland Government. That means more than 700,000 additional bus seats have been added to the network over the last four years. School Transport and qconnect have delivered 723 buses since 2007.
• Bruce Highway – we have delivered the plan to upgrade the Bruce Highway, which will see 10 bypasses or ring roads delivered over the coming years.
• Nations leading road building program – we will continue to invest more than any other state in the nation. Over the past four years we have invested more than $12 billion in roads, which is an increase of 38 per cent over the previous period.
Over the next five years we will complete 7,500 km of roads, equal to a quarter of the existing network. This builds on the delivery of:

- Innisfail Bridge
- Houghton Highway Bridge
- Ipswich Motorway upgrade from Wacol to Darra
- Mt Lindesay Highway upgrade
- Pacific Motorway upgrade from Nerang to Tugan
- Bundaberg Ring Road
- Airport Link
- Airport roundabout replaced
- Northern Busway
- Cairns Cruise terminal
- Townsville Port – redevelopment
- Springfield to Darra Rail – underway
- Gold Coast Rapid Transit – underway
- Eastern Busway
- Forgan Bridge duplication (Mackay)
- Gateway Bridge duplication – delivered on time and on budget and voted ‘infrastructure project of the year’ – now 18 lanes and a cycleway
- Kurilpa Bridge - on time, on budget, earned Australian Engineering Excellence Award
- Ted Smout Bridge
- Douglas Arterial duplication (Townsville)

- Cycleways – we have delivered Queensland’s first dedicated cycle centre in King George Square and have delivered, often in partnership with Councils, 342 km of cycling projects across the state, including completion of bikeways on Sir Leo Hielscher Bridge and Ted Smout Bridge. We have delivered the Kurilpa Bridge and Cairns has seen its first dedicated cycle way from the CBD to Aeroglen.

- Gold Coast Rapid Transit – with the first stage under construction. The Gold Coast University Hospital Station shell was finished last month on budget and two months ahead of schedule. Under the public-private partnership with GoldinQ, together we will deliver light rail to the Gold Coast and more than 6,300 direct and indirect jobs. The 13 km route will be completed by 2014.

- New rail lines and stations – we are continuing with the planning for delivering the 18 km Cross River Rail. This project will benefit all rail users from the Gold Coast to the Sunshine Coast. We have committed to a new rail line, the Moreton Bay Rail Link. The city train network has expanded its reach when we delivered new stations at Varsity Lakes and Richlands, with new stations under construction at Springfield and Springfield Lakes. In addition we have increased capacity by delivering duplicated rail lines between Salisbury and Kuraby and Mitchelton and Kepperra. We have renovated 52 rail stations and have another six upgrades underway.
• **Park ‘n’ ride** – we have delivered an additional 2500 car parks since 2009 to encourage people to use public transport. Another 560 park ‘n’ ride spaces are being built and a further 650 are being planned right now. Forty new car parks at Cooroy train station opened this week. We’ve delivered a $200 million station upgrade program that has improved facilities at almost one third of all train stations across South East Queensland.

• **Tourism infrastructure** – we have delivered the Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal and expansion of the heritage wharf. We have delivered Metricon Stadium on the Gold Coast that has seen the AFL bring the 17th club to Queensland. We are delivering a new Marine Precinct for Townsville and in partnership with the federal and local governments have redeveloped the Townsville Mall. We have delivered the $160 million Skilled Park Stadium on the Gold Coast and refurbished the $34 million Queensland Performing Arts Centre. We opened the upgraded Gold Coast Convention Centre, changing the face of the Brisbane exhibition and convention centre with a significant expansion that is almost complete, and are upgrading the Cairns Convention Centre with a $6.3 million boost in this year’s budget. We have upgraded the Cairns Airport and are currently upgrading the Whitsunday Airport. We are delivering the Rockhampton Riverwalk and upgrading the Cairns foreshore.

• **Securing our water supply** – we have delivered the South East Queensland Water Grid, which provides new sources or manufactured water, with more than 350 km of pipelines to move the water around SEQ connected to new water storage facilities. We have delivered a water pipeline to secure a drought proof water supply to Toowoomba.

• **Securing the sustainable resource communities** – by delivering $100 million in partnership with local governments and resource communities to deliver regional infrastructure.

• **Increasing capacity at our ports** – we have delivered upgrades at the Abbott Point Coal Terminal. We are progressing the expansion to the Wiggins Island Coal Terminal in partnership with coal port users and are partnering with industry to further expand the port capacity at Abbott Point.

• **Support for the mining sector** – in the last four years Queensland has seen significant growth in the mining sector: with 2936 mining approvals issued since 2007, an increase from 208 over the previous four years. The infrastructure to support the mining sector has seen growth of 18 per cent over the last four years with output of coal increase from 234 million tonnes per annum to 275 million tonnes per annum. Coal exports have increased by 20 per cent over the same period.
A green Queensland

We have the world’s most beautiful natural wonders and spectacular landscape that need to be preserved so that every Queenslander can enjoy them, today, tomorrow and for generations to come.

- **Protecting the reef** – by placing a 20 year moratorium on shale oil mining in the Whitsundays. In addition we have legislated to protect the reef from impact of chemicals, nutrients and sediment runoff that are causing harm to the coral.

- **Saving Moreton Bay** – we have established a network of marine parks, including 17 per cent green zone protection for Moreton Bay.

- **Purchased greenspace** – 650,000 hectares of nature refuges have been gazetted since 2007, with Queensland now having over 1,700,000 hectares of nature refuges statewide. In the past four years we have increased the national park estate by half a million hectares, meaning national park now accounts for 4.7 per cent of the state.

- **Ending sand mining on Stradbroke** – we have passed legislation that will see sandmining phased out on Stradbroke Island by 2025. This will allow most of the island to become national park and development of ecotourism will be the main industry. 50 per cent of the island will be declared a National Park by the end of this year.

- **Reduced the carbon footprint of Queensland homes** – with more than 260,000 of households taking advantage of our Climate Smart Home Service, saving money for Queenslanders and reducing power consumption and emissions.

- **Delivered solar rebates** – to reduce power consumption and bills in the home, lifting the number of Queensland home with solar panels from 1000 systems to over 100,000 in just four years. In addition more than 180,000 homes now have a solar hot water system.

- **Developed a strategic cropping land policy** – we recognise that the state’s best cropping land is an important resource for growing food and fibre and supports economic growth for regional communities. We want to find a balance between our agricultural, resource and development industries and will introduce Australian first legislation by the end of 2011.

- **Preserved Wild Rivers** – we have put in place legislation to protect Wild Rivers, and completed declarations to protect key rivers such as the Wenlock River for future generations. In partnership with the federal government, we are progressing World Heritage Listing for Cape York. Wild River areas include some of Australia’s most unique ecosystems, rare and threatened plants, birds and marine and estuarine species.

- **Protecting our coastal areas** – with development restrictions on coastal hazards and areas of high ecological significance.

- **Protecting our landscape** – strongest and most comprehensive regulatory framework for the Coal Seam Gas industry, anywhere in Australia, and were the first state in Australia to ban BTEX chemicals.

- **Biodiversity strategy** – we have released for consultation Queensland’s first biodiversity strategy that will plot important targets for biodiversity outcomes for the next 10 years.

- **Conservation as a priority** – we have introduced new protections on high value regrowth, maintained a ban on broad scale clearing, protected high conservation areas of Western Hardwoods and have introduced a waste strategy to reduce waste to landfill.
A smart Queensland

My government has modernised our education system to ensure all Queensland children have access to a high quality education program. That’s why we have rolled out Prep, are now rolling out kindergarten and have begun on the path of moving year 7 into High School, the biggest overhaul of education in Queensland’s history.

- **Delivering kindergarten services** – we are in the process of rolling out an additional 240 kindergarten services across the state so every Queensland child can access a service, whether it be in a dedicated kindergarten or in a day care centre. In the last four years we have seen the number of children participating in a kindy program increase from 29 per cent to 44 per cent. It is anticipated that we will reach 65 per cent participation by the end of this calendar year with more than 39,000 places available to Queensland children.

- **Achieving our performance targets** – Queensland was the only state to achieve all of its Commonwealth performance targets on literacy and numeracy last year and has continued to be the most improved state in the country for the last two years.

- **Literacy reforms** – we have rolled out the Ready Readers program, which trains community volunteers to support students in early reading programs in Queensland schools. We have also implement Turnaround Teams who work with school leaders and staff to help identify, implement and review strategies to improve student performance.

- **Rolled out summer schools** – to improve literacy and numeracy. Summer schools have assisted over 7500 students to improve literacy and numeracy since 2009 in a program that delivers 72 summer schools across the state annually.

- **Year 7 to high school** – we are implementing the transition of year 7 to high school and will begin trials next year at 20 sites as we move to statewide implementation in 2015.

- **Mandating apprentices on Queensland Government jobs** – we have kept our promise on building skills by requiring 10 per cent of employees on government jobs are apprentices or trainees. In addition we are on track to deliver 5000 new apprentices across government agencies over three years.

- **Delivering Early Years Centres** – we have delivered four Early Years Centres at Caboolture, Browns Plains, North Gold Coast and Cairns to provide early education and care, parenting and other family support.

- **New and better school facilities** – we have delivered 13 new schools in the last four years. In addition to major upgrades at existing schools across the state, we are building an average of three new schools each year to ensure that Queensland stays ahead of growth.

- **VET** – Queensland is leading the nation in a number of areas of Vocational Educational and Training (VET), recording the largest national increase in VET qualifications completed between 2007 and 2009 with a 75 per cent increase in apprenticeships. Over the same time period Queensland’s portion of all completions rose from 10.9 per cent to 20.1 per cent of the national total. We have also achieved a higher pass rate than the national average, and higher than both New South Wales and Victoria.

- **Green army** – we have delivered 3000 green army training and work placements across the state. In addition we have supported Indigenous employment, particularly around the Wild Rivers with the employment of 40 Wild River Rangers.

- **Skilling Queensland** – overhauled the delivery of skills training to deliver skills training to targeted industries with the establishment of the new industry led skills commission.

- **Building a skilled workforce** – we have put in place a 125 per cent payroll tax rebate for apprentices to encourage skills growth supported in the private sector.
A healthy Queensland

We want to make sure Queenslanders are Australia’s healthiest people. We are doing this by addressing preventable illness as a first step and by providing world class health care for those Queenslanders where ever they live in the state.

- **Improving access to surgery** – through implementing programs like Surgery Connect we have slashed elective surgery waiting lists. Recent Commonwealth figures found Queensland has the shortest elective surgery waiting lists in the nation.

- **Building new and expanding existing hospitals** – we have delivered upgrades to the Cairns Hospital and secured an additional health services site. We have expanded Townsville Hospital, the Yeppoon Hospital, Bundaberg Hospital, Prince Charles Hospital, Mackay Hospital, Rockhampton Hospital, Mount Isa Hospital and the Robina Hospital.

- **Three new tertiary hospitals are underway** – the Gold Coast University Hospital is currently the largest building project on the Gold Coast and on track for completion in 2012. The $1.4 billion Queensland Children’s Hospital currently under construction in South Brisbane will bring together the history, skills and expertise of the staff of the Royal Children’s Hospital and Mater Children’s Hospital into one purpose-built facility. It is on schedule to open in 2014. The $2.03 billion to deliver a new tertiary hospital on the Sunshine Coast will help meet growing demand. The project is currently out to market for a Public Private Partnership (PPP) partner and we have identified shortlisted bidders to deliver the 738 bed facility in stages with the first 450 beds to open in 2016.

- **World class care for Queensland children** – the world class Children’s Hospital is underway in South Brisbane and on the northside of the city we have started building the new $45.6 million children’s emergency inpatient and outpatient services at the Prince Charles Hospital. We’re also expanding children’s health services at Caboolture, Redcliffe, Ipswich and Logan.

- **Reforming the health system** – introduced legislation into the Parliament to change the face of public health by better involving local communities in decisions about health service planning and delivery through Local Health and Hospital Networks.

- **Improving dental health** – we have introduced fluoride into water supplies across the state and will continue this program to protect Queenslanders dental health.

- **Taking care of our newest Queenslanders** – we have rolled out and delivered new hearing tests for all newborns and we’ve also doubled the number of cochlear implants for Queensland kids. We’ve also introduced a program to provide free whooping cough vaccines to all parents and carers of new babies. We have rolled out a ‘Books for Babies’ program to encourage our newest Queenslanders to read and improve lifelong learning.

- **Recruited more staff for work in Queensland’s health system** – in the last four years more than 5000 extra doctors, nurses and allied health staff have joined Queensland Health.

- **Protecting the health of children** – introduced tough new anti-smoking laws that banned smoking in cars with kids.

- **Tackling obesity** – launched a $7.5 million Diabetes Action Plan to tackle the fastest growing chronic disease in Australia and partnered with celebrity chef Jamie Oliver to deliver a food revolution for Queenslanders. In addition we are funding the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program in schools across the state to promote and influence healthy balanced diets.

- **Investing in new technology** – we’re leading the country in telehealth, having expanded the telehealth network, to now provide specialist medical consultations through 960 telehealth video units at 229 facilities across the state.
**A fair Queensland**

While Queensland is enjoying great prosperity, not everyone is sharing the rewards. We have worked to deliver opportunities across the state for every Queenslander.

- **Abolished the ambulance levy** – keeping the service for all Queenslanders but abolishing the fee charged on each power bill saving Queensland householders and businesses $110 a year.
- **Launched the new Queensland Multicultural Policy**
  **A multicultural future for all of us** – will introduce legislation that recognises Queensland’s multicultural community and raise public awareness of the importance of Queensland’s cultural diversity, of citizenship and community participation.
- **Supporting disability services** – we have invested $52 million over the past four years in the Growing Stronger initiative to support those requiring assistance.
- **Mental health** – the Queensland Plan for Mental Health is being delivered and a total of $632 million has been invested in the last four years. This has included establishing 245 coordinated housing and support places and more than 500 community based mental health positions and 146 new mental health beds.
- **Social housing** – in just the last four years, we’ve built or bought more than 7000 new social housing dwellings, providing a home for more than 24,000 people. 862 new affordable dwellings have already been delivered in Queensland through the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS). We anticipate a further 3583 dwellings will be completed during 2011–2012. Building these new homes in 2011–2012 will further stimulate the economy and create 7000 full time jobs in the construction and related industries in the next financial year.
- **Making justice more accessible** – a more accessible and user friendly system with the amalgamation of 23 Tribunals into a single Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal.
- **Supporting the community sector** – with the delivery of a $414 million funding boost to the community sector to workers who provide care to our most vulnerable Queenslanders.

**A safer Queensland**

- **Delivered Global Positioning System (GPS) trial** – building on the tough laws that have been introduced to increase monitoring and now the government is out to tender for the provision of GPS monitoring system.
- **Making a night out safer** – with the introduction of Drink Safe Precincts in Gold Coast, Townsville and Brisbane to provide the necessary support to young people who have a night out. These trials are ongoing, but early indications are positive.
- **Crack down on weapons** – we have tightened laws and introduced higher penalties for weapons offences, tougher knife laws and controls on laser pointers through new legislation.

While Queensland is enjoying great prosperity, not everyone is sharing the rewards. We have worked to deliver opportunities across the state for every Queenslander.
Better government

Implemented the broadest integrity reforms in the nation.

- **Right to Information legislation** – we reformed Freedom of Information laws to strengthen the public’s right to access government-held information, promoting openness, integrity and accountability. We also introduced Queensland’s first Information Privacy Act to safeguard the confidentiality of personal information held by Government.

- **Lobbyist reform** – we implemented the most stringent lobbyist regime in Australia by enshrining in legislation a Lobbyist Register, the Lobbyists Code of Conduct, and a designated, independent statutory officer, the Integrity Commissioner, to administer the Lobbyist Register and monitor interaction of lobbyists and government, and provide advice about integrity issues.

- **Campaign finance reform** – we have reformed the financing of election campaigns and enrolment processes to ensure all eligible voters have their voice heard, by limiting political donations to parties and candidates and capping expenditure on election campaigns.

- **Peoples Question Time** – in January 2010 we introduced a new initiative to make the government more accessible to the public. People’s Question Time gives people, no matter where in the state they live, the opportunity to submit questions to a panel including the Premier, Ministers and guest experts and then watch a live online webcast where questions are answered. Eight People’s Question Time sessions have been held, spanning topics as diverse as education, sustainability, reconstruction and population growth. More than 1200 questions from the public have been submitted, and more than 7200 people have watched the live stream videos online.

- **Governing from the regions** – we have taken the government to our regional communities and have governed from Gladstone, Cairns, Townsville and Rockhampton. We have taken the entire parliament and all Members of Parliament to Mackay and Cairns, allowing regional Queenslanders to participate in the parliamentary process. We have strengthened community engagement with government processes by taking Community Cabinet meetings to regions such as Torres Strait, Barcaldine, Mackay, and the Fraser Coast.

- **Parliamentary reform** – we have strengthened Queensland’s legislative process with reforms to the parliamentary committee system, which improves the scrutiny of legislation and the executive government, and ensures public views can be heard.
Reconstructing Queensland

After the 2010–2011 summer of natural disasters, we are determined to build Queensland back better and more resilient for the future. The impact, financially and socially, is on a scale never before seen in this state.

• **Building Queensland back better** – we have undertaken a massive rebuilding task following the disasters of 2010–2011 that has seen 8482 km of roads recovered, 4421 km of rail track recovered and 89 bridges and culverts made trafficable.

• Some of the largest roads packages Australia has ever seen are now being rolled out to permanently repair Queensland’s vital road network –
  - Mackay region – $300 million in works supporting 1050 jobs.
  - Fitzroy region – $928 million supporting 3000 jobs.
  - Far North Queensland – $463 million supporting 1380 jobs.
  - North West Queensland – $195 million support 435 jobs.

• **Supported our heroes** – by recognising their contribution to the natural disasters and dramatically boosting State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers. More than 800 expressions of interest for new SES recruits received to date, with an estimated 200 new SES volunteers in place by 1 November 2011.

Support for those impacted by natural disasters

• **Premier’s Disaster Relief Fund** – we established the Premier’s Disaster Relief Fund that amassed $276 million and was distributed to 40,000 Queenslanders who had their lives impacted by floods and cyclones. More than $2 million was delivered each week on average, with the fund fully distributed within the first seven months.
• **Housing support** – was provided to many displaced households, with 375 new social housing places allocated since December 2010 for natural disaster victims. In addition, 4791 rental bond loans and 901 rental grants have been advanced to disaster declared postcodes. The Department of Communities has delivered Essential Household Contents Grants of up to $5000 each to 10,372 households, and Structural Assistance Grants of up to $14,000 to nearly 900 households to date.

• **Community support** – $36 million Community Wellbeing and Recovery Packages delivered, including funding for more mental health positions, a mental health advertising campaign during Easter holidays, more financial counselling services, Community Development Officers for impacted communities and flexible funding to local governments to conduct community events and memorials.

• **Business support** – 5025 flood or cyclone-affected small businesses and 7615 primary producers and 276 not-for-profit groups have received grants of up to $25,000 each. Operation Clean-Up in North Queensland has also seen 673 requests actioned to date for assistance in removing debris from farms and tourism operations.

• **Environmental response** – only 12 of the 162 national parks affected by natural disasters remain closed, with four additional parks reopened in the last month, including three in Cape York/Savanna and one in Central Queensland. 246 km of fencing has been repaired in the Murray Darling region and in the Lockyer Valley 26 km of stream clearing has occurred, with 180 tonnes of debris removed.
Delivering a more disaster-resilient Queensland –

- Committed to implementing all recommendations from the Floods Commission of Inquiry Interim Report before the next wet season, including:
  - a ‘Get Ready Queensland’ advertising campaign
  - a total of 19 new flood boats by the end of 2011, an extra five by February next year, and a further 32 thereafter
  - 18 new disaster training courses delivered approximately 400 times across Queensland
  - a total of 2000 additional participants in the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements course by 1 November 2011, in addition to the 900 participants who have completed the course since May 2011
  - an estimated 200 additional SES volunteers, available for activation by 1 November 2011, following a highly successful SES recruitment campaign which has seen nearly 800 expressions of interest to date
  - a total of 253 swift water rescue technicians (level 2) in place by the end of November 2011
  - personal floatation devices (including for children) and waterproof radios for all frontline personnel during disasters
  - 100 helmet kits for Queensland Fire and Rescue Special Operations Unit by 1 November 2011.
To date the government is already making significant progress on a number of recommendations, including:

- interim review of dam manuals
- clear lines of responsibility for the Minister to affect changes to dam levels, with legislation to be brought forward in the next sitting of Parliament
- training of disaster management staff/volunteers – over 2000 participants, and review of local government disaster management plans – 22 completed to date
- Police Communications Centre will be boosted, with training for 310 staff being completed by 1 December 2011
- Department of Transport and Main Roads improved road information service via phone and web and a Memorandum of Understanding with New South Wales to provide cross-border information
- agreement reached between all agencies on single point tasking protocol for Emergency Helicopter Network
- Emergency Management Queensland has developed consistent activation terminology for local disaster management guidelines
- Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Queensland Fire and Rescue and Emergency Management Queensland
• Emergency Management Queensland has finalised its draft evacuation guidelines for approval by the State Disaster Management Group.

• **Support for local governments** – $2.7 billion in estimated funding to be provided to local governments for local reconstruction. More than $490 million in grant advance payments have been made to date. The state and federal governments will provide Brisbane City Council with up to $145 million to fast-track reconstruction of the Brisbane ferry terminals and the Brisbane Riverwalk, as part of a $315 million package to help local governments repair non-Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) eligible utilities and infrastructure. Other councils benefiting from this exceptional circumstances package include the Cassowary Coast, with $15 million to repair the Dunk Island and Clump Point jetties as well as restore the Cardwell beach foreshore, and Rockhampton, with $900,000 for the restoration of Rockhampton Airport.