

Budget Highlights

Police and Corrective Services

Budget

04505





Police and Corrective Services

Message from the Minister

The 2004-05 Budget builds on the Beattie Government's election commitments to further strengthen the Queensland Police Service's crime fighting capacity and ensure our correctional facilities remain among the most secure in the world.



The record investment in policing of more than \$1 billion demonstrates the Government's continuing commitment to being tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime.

By September 2005, there will be 9,150 police officers in Queensland, with modern equipment and technological support, focused on ensuring the safety and security of the Queensland community and continuing the downward trend in crime.

The rate of property crime dropped seven percent in the first half of the 2003-04 financial year, compared with the same period in the previous year, with crimes against people down by four percent. The increase in the clear-up rate is also encouraging. For the same period, the clear-up rates in property offences and crimes against people both rose by one percent.

The Beattie Government will continue to support our police working in partnership with the community to prevent and combat crime, with eight new school-based police and eight new police beats this year, as the first instalment in the Government's election commitment.

The Service will also treat as a priority the protection of our children from abuse and neglect, by playing its part in the implementation of the Government's Child Protection Blueprint. This will include the appointment of 50 additional Juvenile Aid Bureau officers, the establishment of a Child Safety Unit, and the introduction of a new Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) model.

Queensland Police are increasingly well placed to respond to the threat of terrorism. The Government has made the Counter-Terrorism Coordination Unit permanent and allocated \$2.6 million in funding for the purchase of a 19-seat aircraft to replace the current 12-seat police plane. This will allow the quick deployment of the Special Emergency Response Team to anywhere in the State.

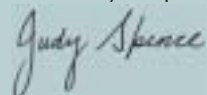
Our commitment to the highest security standards has ensured the continuation of the Beattie Government's record of no escapes from secure custody.

The Department of Corrective Services' massive \$475 million capital works renewal and development program is now complete. However, this year's Budget identifies further improvements, with \$10 million allocated to enhance security and safety at correctional facilities, which includes \$6 million for perimeter security.

This Budget provides for enhanced surveillance systems to detect and prevent unauthorised material entering correctional facilities, and lightning surge protection to reduce the likelihood of damage to high-tech security systems. The officer stations at Woodford Correctional Centre and intercoms at Borallon Correctional Centre will also be upgraded. In addition, this Budget provides for nine state-of-the-art perimeter patrol vehicles.

The Queensland Police Service and the Department of Corrective Services are dedicated to enhancing community safety and crime prevention, which are priorities of the Beattie Government. The 2004-05 Budget gives them the resources to fulfil that mission, responding to new trends in crime and new security challenges.

We will not become complacent and I am committed to working with the Queensland community as we seek new and better ways to prevent and solve crime, reduce reoffending and improve public safety.



The Honourable Judy Spence MP
Minister for Police and Corrective Services

With a billion dollar Budget in 2004-05, the Queensland Police Service will continue to protect our children and enhance the safety of the Queensland community through quality policing services.

The Government has increased the Queensland Police Service budget by 9.2% resulting in an operating budget of \$1.094 billion for 2004-05. The Service's overall operating budget has increased by \$92 million compared to the 2003-04 budget.

The Service's capital budget for 2004-05 is \$101.6 million, which is an increase of \$2.8 million or 2.9% on the comparable 2003-04 capital budget.

The budget will see funding for a number of election commitments. Major initiatives being progressed during 2004-05 include:

- increasing police numbers to reach 9,150 by September 2005. This exceeds the Government's 10-year staffing plan target by including provision for an additional 50 Juvenile Aid Bureau officers, bringing Queensland up to the national average for police to population ratio and then maintaining numbers above the national average. As at April 2004, there were 8,645 police in Queensland;
- implementation of the Government's Child Protection Blueprint, including the establishment of a Child Safety Unit, 50 additional Juvenile Aid Bureau officers and implementation of a new Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect model;
- enhancing the Service's capacity to respond to terrorist incidents by providing funding for the continuation of the Service's Counter-Terrorism Coordination Unit, and replacing a current 12-seat police plane with a 19-seat plane to improve the Service's payload capacity for air transport requirements such as the movement of the Special Emergency Response Team;
- acquisition of 15 Live-Scan fingerprint systems for use in major police establishments across Queensland;
- continued funding for the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Police;
- the appointment of eight additional School-Based Police Officers across the Far Northern, Central, Metropolitan North, Metropolitan South and Southern regions. A further eight School-Based Police Officers will be appointed in 2005-06;

- commitment of \$10 million in new funding, over three years, for operational support such as training and equipment, including radios, mobile telephones, and safety equipment such as bullet resistant vests; and
- commencing an \$11 million initiative to clear DNA profiling and crime scene sample backlogs with \$5 million allocated to Queensland Health (the John Tonge Centre) in 2004-05, and \$3 million allocated in 2005-06 and 2006-07 to the Queensland Police Service to cater for future profiling demands.

Technology in the fight against crime in Queensland

Queensland Government is committed to strengthening the crime fighting capacity of the Queensland Police Service through the use of technology at the frontline to solve crime.



The Government has provided \$29.5 million in 2004-05, \$7 million of which is from the Smart State Building Fund, for significant infrastructure projects including:

- establishing eight new Police Beats at Yorkey's Knob, Vincent/Heatley, Kingston, Point Lookout, Seaforth, Mooroolbool, Burpengary and The Strand;
- commencing the upgrade of the Southport Police Station;
- commencing the Stafford Police Station;
- constructing a Police Dog Development facility;
- completing a new watchhouse at Caloundra as a joint facility with the new courthouse; and
- constructing or purchasing a small police station at Hopevale.

The Government has also allocated \$15 million towards the continued implementation of the Service's Information Management Strategic Plan 2001-10.

Department of Corrective Services Budget Highlights

The Department of Corrective Services' budget for 2004-05 will enable the completion of major initiatives and the continuation of the maintenance of a safe, secure and humane correctional system.

Perimeter Security (\$6 million)

The Government maintains state-of-the-art security for the management of high-risk prisoners. There have been no escapes from secure custody facilities in Queensland for six years. The replacement and upgrade of perimeter security at secure custody correctional facilities demonstrates the Government's continued commitment to enhancing community safety.

In addition to perimeter security enhancement, correctional centre security will be improved with intercom upgrades at Borallon Correctional Centre (\$0.7 million), upgrades of officer stations at Woodford Correctional Centre (\$1.5 million) and lightning surge protection to reduce the likelihood of damage to high-tech security systems (\$1.8 million).

Integrated Offender Management System (\$2.5 million)

Offender management practices will be strengthened by the implementation of the Integrated Offender Management System in 2004-05. The integrated offender management strategy adapts current correctional practices to enable the delivery of a uniform and more effective way of managing offenders and their progress through the corrections system. Corrective services officers will be further supported by a new offender management database and tools that assess the criminogenic risk and needs. This year's budget provides for the ongoing operating costs of implementing this innovative system.



Secure prisons remain a priority of this Government.



**Queensland
Government**

State Budget 2004-05

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