

## Question on Notice

No. 696

Asked on 23 May 2024

**MR B O'ROURKE** asked the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (HON G GRACE) –

QUESTION:

With reference to Queensland's \$90b+ 'Big Build'—  
Will the Minister advise (a) how much will be invested overall in the Central and Western Queensland region and (b) how much has been allocated in the 2023-24 financial year for this region?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Budget supports good jobs, provides better services for all Queenslanders including the Central and Western Queensland region and protects our great lifestyle across the state.

Investment will bring a generational change, creating more jobs, better communities and stronger regions. Over the 13 years to 2027–28, the government will have supported over \$225 billion in infrastructure works across the State.

For the 2024-25 budget the Queensland Government is investing in a record level of economic and social infrastructure as it continues to deliver the transformational Big Build. The 2024–25 Queensland Budget will underpin the development of the state, with a total capital program of \$107.262 billion over four years of which Central and the Outback regions will benefit.

Queensland Treasury has advised that individual regional allocations are not available for the forward estimates period as the regional allocation will be confirmed yearly as projects are delivered and new projects initiated.

For the Central Region the 2023-24 budget of \$2.0 billion has increased to \$2.3 billion in the 2024-25 budget.

For the Outback Queensland Region, of which the Western region is a part of, the \$676 million in Big Build expenditure in 2023-24 is now \$947 million in the 2024-25 budget.

Some of the projects and programs the Big Build is currently providing include:

- \$39.5 million in 2024-25 out of a \$122 million total spend towards upgrading Rockhampton - Yeppoon Road.

- Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline: \$311.1 million in 2024-25 out of a \$983 million total spend to construct the Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline, delivering water from the Lower Fitzroy River to Gladstone Area Water Board's existing network.
- Construction of the \$1.73 billion Rockhampton Ring Road is progressing in Central Queensland, thanks to a boost in joint funding from the Queensland and Australian governments. The first \$280 million package of works started in November 2023, with 85 per cent of the total contract value awarded to local businesses.
- Rockhampton Hospital Mental Health Ward expansion: \$39.8 million in 2024-25 out of a \$91.9 million total spend for the refurbishment and delivery of an expansion to the Rockhampton Hospital mental health ward.

More projects and programs are listed in the Regional Action Plans (Central Queensland), available on the Queensland Treasury website (<https://budget.qld.gov.au/budget-papers/#regional-action-plans>). Details of current and future infrastructure for the Central and Western Queensland region are provided in the Big Build Queensland website <https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/regions/big-build/central-and-western-queensland>.

The Central and Western Queensland Infrastructure Plan (released in March 2023) also outlines the Queensland Government's infrastructure planning and program responses to the strategic regional priorities identified by the region, further supporting investment in Central and Western Queensland.