

# MyNews

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## Brisbane

### February property news

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# Queensland construction sector surges ahead

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Report source: Queensland Government media release: 03 February 2014 [www.statements.qld.gov.au](http://www.statements.qld.gov.au)

## **Queensland's property and construction sector is continuing to surge ahead according to ABS data released today.**

Treasurer Tim Nicholls said trend dwelling approvals were now at their highest levels in almost six years, and had been growing constantly each month since the Newman Government was elected.

"Our measured plan to strengthen the property and construction sector by cutting red tape, reducing the cost of doing business and speeding up approvals is continuing to have an impact," Mr Nicholls said.

"Queensland's trend dwelling approvals rose 3.8 per cent in December, which is the highest level since March 2008 and marks 24 consecutive months of increases, placing approvals at 58.6 per cent higher than December 2011.

"This figure was driven by private other dwelling approvals, such as townhouses or apartments, which

were 93.2 per cent higher over the year and at a record level in December 2013."

Mr Nicholls said the ABS data projected that housing construction activity was expected to strengthen even further in 2014, with sustained low interest rates and household income growth set to improve.

"The Newman Government is continuing to support this vital sector, with more than 4,200 Great Start Grants of \$15,000 already helping Queenslanders."

Mr Nicholls said the Government's pro-growth approach was delivering results for the state's economy, with ABS figures from its quarterly survey of job vacancies showing improvement in labour demand conditions, after job vacancies rose in the November 2013 quarter.

"ABS data also shows that three-quarters of all the jobs created in Australia in the year to December were created in Queensland," he said.

"As a result of our disciplined, methodical approach, businesses are growing and creating jobs.

"But while the Newman Government's sound economic policies are delivering growth for Queensland, the state's finances are still being constrained by an \$80 billion debt legacy.

"Even with a strongly performing economy and the Government's careful financial management, our ability to provide improved services and infrastructure is being hampered by our \$4 billion a year interest bill to pay for Labor's debt.

"We are taking a careful and planned approach to dealing with that debt so that we can secure Queensland's financial future."

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# Western Freeway makeover begins

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Report source: Queensland Government media release: 26 February 2014 [www.statements.qld.gov.au](http://www.statements.qld.gov.au)

## **One of Brisbane's busiest motorways will be upgraded to increase capacity and improve safety.**

Transport and Main Roads Minister Scott Emerson said the Western Freeway between Indooroopilly and Toowong would be widened from two-to-three lanes in each direction.

"This is a win for the people of the western suburbs, with about 70,000 vehicles using this stretch of road every day," Mr Emerson said.

"Increasing the capacity of the Western Freeway means less congestion on this busy road is on

the horizon, particularly when you include the Moggill Road interchange upgrade and Legacy Way tunnel which is nearing completion.

"I've ensured the \$55 million upgrade will also include upgraded noise barriers for residents.

"All existing noise walls along the Western Freeway between Toowong and Indooroopilly, impacted as part of the works, will be upgraded to concrete barriers, similar to those used for the Moggill Road interchange."

Mr Emerson said the upgrade would be delivered by Transcity, which was

delivering the Legacy Way tunnel and Moggill Road interchange upgrade for Brisbane City Council.

"Transcity's involvement will reduce the duration of construction impacts on the local community and travelling public," he said.

Construction, including early works, will begin this week and is expected to be complete prior to the Legacy Way tunnel opening in 2015.

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# Queensland economic growth is strongest in the nation

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Report source: Queensland Government media release: 27 February 2014 [www.statements.qld.gov.au](http://www.statements.qld.gov.au)

## **Queensland's economic growth continues to outstrip the rest of Australia, with new figures showing the economy had the strongest growth in the nation over the year to the September quarter 2013.**

"The Queensland economy grew by 4.1% during this period, compared to 1.9% for the rest of Australia over the same time," Mr Nicholls said.

"Looking at figures for the September quarter, Queensland Gross State Product increased by one% in trend terms, double the growth of 0.5% recorded by the rest of Australia.

"Queensland has now outperformed the rest of Australia for the past 10 quarters straight, showing the state's position as the economic powerhouse of the nation."

Mr Nicholls said household consumption was driving growth, with Gross State Expenditure rising 0.3% in the September 2013 quarter to be 1.3% higher over the year.

"Export growth was also strong, with a 3.1% increase in exports of goods and services overseas and interstate over the year to September 2013," he said.

"What we're seeing is business regaining confidence and committing to investing, employing and growing in Queensland.

"The Government's pro-growth approach is delivering results for the state's economy, with Queensland's trend employment growth in the year to January 2014 more than three times greater than the national rate.

"The Newman Government has worked in a disciplined and measured way to reduce debt."

"We are taking a careful and planned approach to dealing with that debt so that we can secure Queensland's financial future."

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# Mine expansion reflects resources strength in Queensland

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Report source: Queensland Government media release: 26 February 2014 [www.statements.qld.gov.au](http://www.statements.qld.gov.au)

## **Innovative technology to extract thick seams of coal will be used in Queensland for the first time thanks to a \$1 billion expansion of a coal mine in the Bowen Basin.**

Natural Resources and Mines Minister Andrew Cripps said the investment by BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance reflected optimism about resources and the value of the Government's election promise to grow the sector as one of the four pillars of the economy.

"With the extension of the Broadmeadow Mine, BMA has demonstrated continued commitment to coal production and investment in Queensland for at least the next 20 years," Mr Cripps said.

"The Newman Government committed at the election to cut red-tape and to speed-up approvals to restore Queensland's resources sector as a world leader.

"This investment and the optimism in the resources industry shows that our commitment to the sector is delivering positive outcomes and thousands of jobs across the state.

"Mining is now a larger employer of full-time workers in Queensland than both the agricultural or hospitality sectors, which highlights the importance of the sector to economic growth in Queensland. "Last financial year BMA's operations contributed around \$9.3 billion in direct spending, mostly in regional communities."

Mr Cripps said the mine extension generated 650 jobs during construction and could also allow for an increase in production capacity.

"This expansion won't only support the growing resources sector, but has also been a boost to the construction industry, another economic pillar of the Queensland economy," he said. "In the past, the construction industry hasn't been a focus, however these sorts of construction projects provide jobs and improved infrastructure for Queensland."

Broadmeadow is an underground mine on the Goonyella lease near Moranbah that produces hard coking coal for export to the Middle East, Asia, South America, South Africa, Europe, Japan and India.

In addition to new surface infrastructure and flood protection, BMA has introduced a form of mining known as Longwall Top Coal Caving that makes the extraction of thick seams more economic.

Mr Cripps said the technology was the first of its type to be used in a Queensland mine and allowed for almost complete recovery of coal from thick seams.

"It is also renowned for its high productivity and for reducing operating costs, which are significant advantages for the coal mining industry," he said.

"The extension of three longwall panels at the mine means production will be lifted from 400,000 tonnes per annum to a new total capacity of 4.8 million tonnes per annum.

"Broadmeadow mine is just part of a \$5 billion investment by BMA in central Queensland, which includes a \$1.6 billion development of nearby Daunia and a \$2.5 billion expansion of Hay Points terminal."



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# Have your say on Queensland Property Law review

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Report source: Queensland Government media release: 12 February 2014 [www.statements.qld.gov.au](http://www.statements.qld.gov.au)

## **A**ttorney-General Jarrod Bleijie has released the first two issue papers for a review that will improve how Queenslanders buy, sell and manage property.

Mr Bleijie said it delivers on the Newman Government's commitment to review Property Law in Queensland.

"It is an exciting opportunity for property professionals, bodies corporate, property owners and the wider community to have their say in shaping this important review," he said.

"This government knows that property and construction are critical to Queensland's future economic growth and prosperity.

"Furthermore, this review delivers on our election promise to grow construction as one of the four pillars of the economy.

"For too long, these industries have been strangled by unnecessary red tape and regulation under the Former Labor Government.

"It's time we brought the property laws into the 21st century to help revitalise the market.

"I am pleased the first two issue papers on seller disclosure requirements and body corporate lot entitlements will kick start this review.

"We are proud to partner with the Commercial and Property Law Research Centre at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) who are experts in the field of property law.

Mr Bleijie said that QUT was initially focusing on the effectiveness of the current seller disclosure obligations and whether the current body corporate lot entitlement needed reform.

"We want all consumers to be properly informed when it comes to buying property," he said.

"This is about getting the balance right and having a system that promotes the future of the property sector.

"We are committed to delivering real improvements for Queensland's property and construction industries, and with this review we are well on our way to achieving this goal."

To have your say and keep up to date with the review, visit <http://www.justice.qld.gov.au/corporate/community-consultation/community-consultation-activities/current-activities/review-of-property-law-in-queensland>

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# Underground project needs a name.

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Report source: Queensland Government media release: 11 February 2014 [www.statements.qld.gov.au](http://www.statements.qld.gov.au)

## **O**ne of Queensland's largest infrastructure projects needs a name.

Transport and Main Roads Minister Scott Emerson and Brisbane Lord Mayor Graham Quirk will today launch a two-week competition which will see one Queenslanders become part of history by naming the Underground Bus and Train project.

"This is a once-in-a-generation project and it needs a unique name to match," Mr Emerson said

"The best name, chosen by an independent panel, will also win six months of free travel on the TransLink network and the two runners up will each receive go cards with \$50 travel credit.

"Through better planning as we promised at the election, we are delivering better infrastructure to

transform Brisbane's public transport system. "We're providing for the future, not living in the public transport past as Labor was.

"I'll also be entering a suggestion that represents the faster, more frequent, direct and reliable public transport that the project will provide for thousands of commuters."

The Underground project combines a railway and busway in a single, 15-metre-wide tunnel, running from Dutton Park in the south to Victoria Park in the north.

Lord Mayor Graham Quirk said the 5.4 kilometre north-south tunnel will have new underground stations located at Woolloongabba, George Street and Roma Street, providing a critical new link in South East Queensland's public transport network.

"Brisbane's infrastructure has some great names, from the historic William Jolly, Captain Cook and Queen Victoria to modern infrastructure named after Clem Jones, the Go Betweens, Eleanor Schonell and Legacy Way," Cr Quirk said.

"While delivering this project will be a job for some of the most skilled engineers in the world, naming it will be down to the expertise of everyday Queenslanders.

"This project is a great example of different levels of government working together to address the city's public transport capacity issues."

Once completed, the project will lay the foundation for an international-standard 'turn up and go' transit system for Brisbane.

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# Government roadmap for economic growth released

Report source: Queensland Government media release: 11 February 2014 [www.statements.qld.gov.au](http://www.statements.qld.gov.au)

**The Queensland Government has today released a clear strategy and action plan to achieve sustained high levels of economic growth over the next decade.**

Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning Jeff Seeney said the Governing for Growth Economic Strategy and Action Plan identified at least 100 new priority reforms, actions and programs that will help revitalise the Queensland economy.

“Reining in unsustainable levels of government spending was our first priority, followed closely by a clear strategy to boost economic growth across the four pillars of the Queensland economy – construction, tourism, agriculture and resources.

“Our disciplined, methodical approach has ensured we are well on track to making Queensland the number one performing economy in the nation.

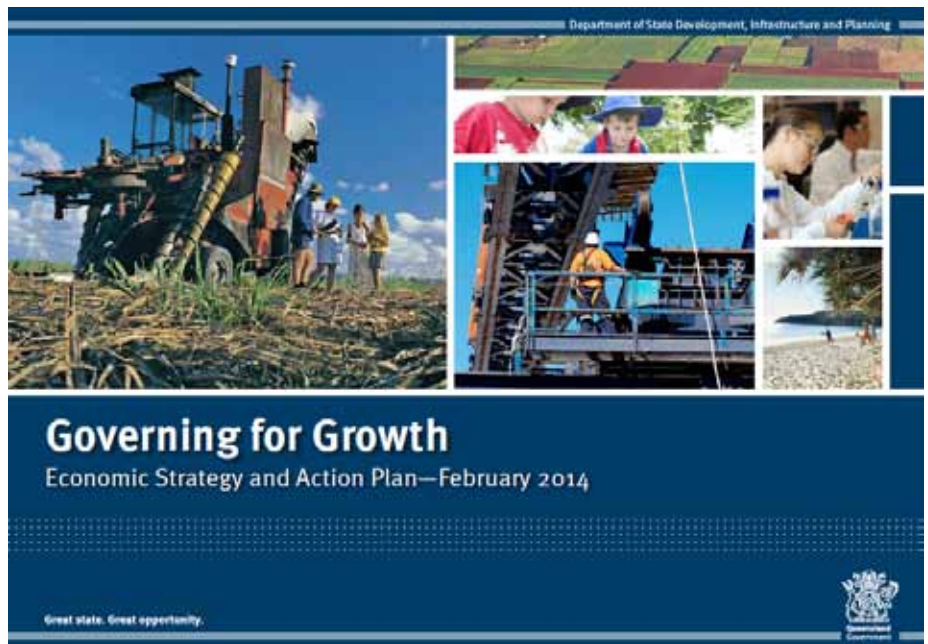
“We have recorded the fastest economic growth in the country and three-quarters of all the jobs created in Australia in the year to December were created in Queensland.

“The Governing for Growth strategy released today builds on the Governing for Growth economic framework released in July 2013 and complements the Newman Government’s fiscal strategy.

“This Action Plan will ensure our economy is strong enough to finance the infrastructure and services that Queenslanders will need into the future.”

The Strategy and Action Plan has the following clear objectives:

- To provide the best business environment in the nation to start or grow a business
- To ensure Queensland has the infrastructure that best connects people to jobs, businesses



to markets and visitors to our exceptional destinations

- To ensure the State Government plays its full role in delivering strong, prosperous and resilient regional economies.

Mr Seeney said Governing for Growth was a whole-of-government strategy that ensured all government departments and entities are focused on growing the state’s economy and delivering the aspirations and targets to be set out in The Queensland Plan.

“The State Government has a critical role to play in establishing the right economic policy settings and programs to lay the foundations and steer the economy on a path to higher growth,” he said.

“We recognise that the private sector is the engine room of economic growth, and the Queensland Government is determined to shape our state economy with reforms in areas such as planning and development, property, regulatory environments, science and innovation, infrastructure and education.”

Key initiatives in the Governing for Growth Economic Strategy and Action Plan include:

- Development of a State Infrastructure Plan
- Delivery of key strategic infrastructure projects, including the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing and the Underground Bus and Train project
- Unlocking new growth opportunities including Flinders Gilbert Agriculture Zone, Galilee Basin Development Strategy and Western Cape Resources Cluster
- Facilitate major resorts and other development projects
- Capitalise on key regional assets, including priority port development areas and state development areas.

The Governing for Growth Economic Strategy and Action Plan is available at <http://www.dsdip.qld.gov.au/governingforgrowth>



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