



Building Stronger Regional Communities

Budget Outcomes 2014–15

The 2014–15 Budget has delivered the foundations of the Australian Government's national vision for a strong economy and working to build stronger regional communities.

Building a strong economy

The strength of the nation's economy is dependent upon the productivity of our regions. The Australian Government is focussed on boosting the nation's economic strength. We are fostering initiatives and improving our competitiveness with benefits to be felt in regional Australia both now and in the future.

The Australian Government is:

- promoting economic development through the \$1 billion National Stronger Regions Fund starting in 2015–16. The Fund will invest in small-scale infrastructure projects at a local level and will create economic development opportunities for people living in regions;
- contributing to the long-term productivity of rural businesses by investing an additional \$100 million in the rural research and development corporations;
- supporting key infrastructure that strengthens local and regional economies through the \$314 million Community Development Grants Fund; and
- delivering \$106 million, as part of the Economic Growth Plan for Tasmania – aimed at creating new jobs and delivering long-term economic growth for the region.

Investing in Infrastructure of the 21st Century

The Australian Government will make significant investments to build the infrastructure of the 21st Century. Targeted road and rail projects will connect our regions, improve efficiency, boost productivity and create jobs. The Australian Government is:

- building much needed infrastructure networks across Australia, with an initial investment of \$50 billion, with many benefits for regional communities;
- committing an extra \$350 million in 2015–16 for the Roads to Recovery Programme this is on top of the Australian Government's earlier commitment of \$2.1 billion, this will directly fund local councils to undertake essential, locally chosen road works; and
- improving mobile coverage in regional, remote and outer metropolitan areas through the \$100 million Mobile Black Spot Programme. The Programme will improve coverage along major transport routes, in small communities and in locations prone to natural disasters.

Building Stronger Regional Communities

Budget Outcomes 2014–15

Australia is open for Business

The Australian Government is lifting the regulatory burden on business and driving opportunities to maximise Australia's competitive advantage by:

- removing the carbon tax and mining tax to encourage investment across regional Australia;
- establishing the \$2.55 billion Emissions Reduction Fund, to support practical actions by businesses to lower their energy usage and increase productivity;
- encouraging mining exploration by junior mineral exploration companies with \$100 million over three years to boost greenfields mineral exploration activities throughout regional areas;
- developing a One-Stop Shop to streamline environmental assessments, promote development and secure investment across regional Australia; and
- committing to cut red tape costs by \$1 billion a year to enhance competitiveness across all businesses.

Providing a safe and secure Australia

The nation's economic prosperity relies on maintaining a safe and secure environment for all regions. The Australian Government is:

- investing \$20 million in the Stronger Biosecurity and Quarantine initiative, providing resources to manage field responses in regional areas and safeguard the competitiveness of Australian agriculture;
- supporting farm businesses, families and communities experiencing hardship from drought with the \$320 million drought support package; and
- strengthening the Murray Darling Basin communities by investing over \$2.34 billion on water infrastructure projects. This will ensure ongoing rural water use and will have positive outcomes for industry, communities and the environment.

These initiatives deliver on the Government's commitment to drive Australia's growth and build stronger regional economies and communities.

For further information: www.infrastructure.gov.au

