



MEDIA RELEASE: 2021-22 QUEENSLAND BUDGET

TREASURER NEEDS TO LOOK TO THE HORIZON ON INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 15 JUNE 2021

The Queensland Government has secured the first stage of the economic recovery, but will need to rapidly scale up its infrastructure investment to deliver on its 2032 Olympic Bid, after the 2021 State Budget delivered a \$3.3 billion reduction in funding, says industry think tank [Infrastructure Partnerships Australia](https://www.infrastructure.org.au).

“While the Treasurer has delivered a welcome turnaround in economic growth, the premature withdrawal of infrastructure funding risks derailing Queensland’s recovery,” said Infrastructure Partnerships Australia, Chief Executive Adrian Dwyer.

“With the state set to grow to 8 million people by 2050 and an Olympics on the horizon, now is the time to push the accelerator on infrastructure funding, not shift down a gear.

“Today’s reduction in funding sees the tide go out, when we know that population growth and the Olympics means the tide will have to come back in.

“In-out funding means we are playing infrastructure funding Hokey Pokey – and that does little to help the confidence required to deliver the Olympics in 2032.

“The Palaszczuk Government will allocate \$31.9 billion in general government expenditure to infrastructure over the next four years, a decrease of \$3.3 billion, or 9 per cent, compared to the previous Budget.

“The quantum of infrastructure funding will need to significantly increase to meet Queensland’s future needs – and will be even more important if the sunshine state is successful in its 2032 Olympics Bid”.

“It’s vital that we take a long-term lens to the Olympics legacy and ensure we deliver the infrastructure South East Queensland requires to become a globally recognised region.

“To bake in the gains from this recovery, the Queensland Government should use the mandate it won at the last election to pursue reforms that will bolster its productivity over the long-term.

“Without wider funding and tax reform, the state will remain fiscally hamstrung and be forced to rely on the Federal Government to deliver on the needs of 8 million Queenslanders in 2050,” Mr Dwyer said.

Infrastructure Partnerships Australia is the nation’s leading infrastructure think tank, providing independent policy research focused on excellence in social and economic infrastructure.





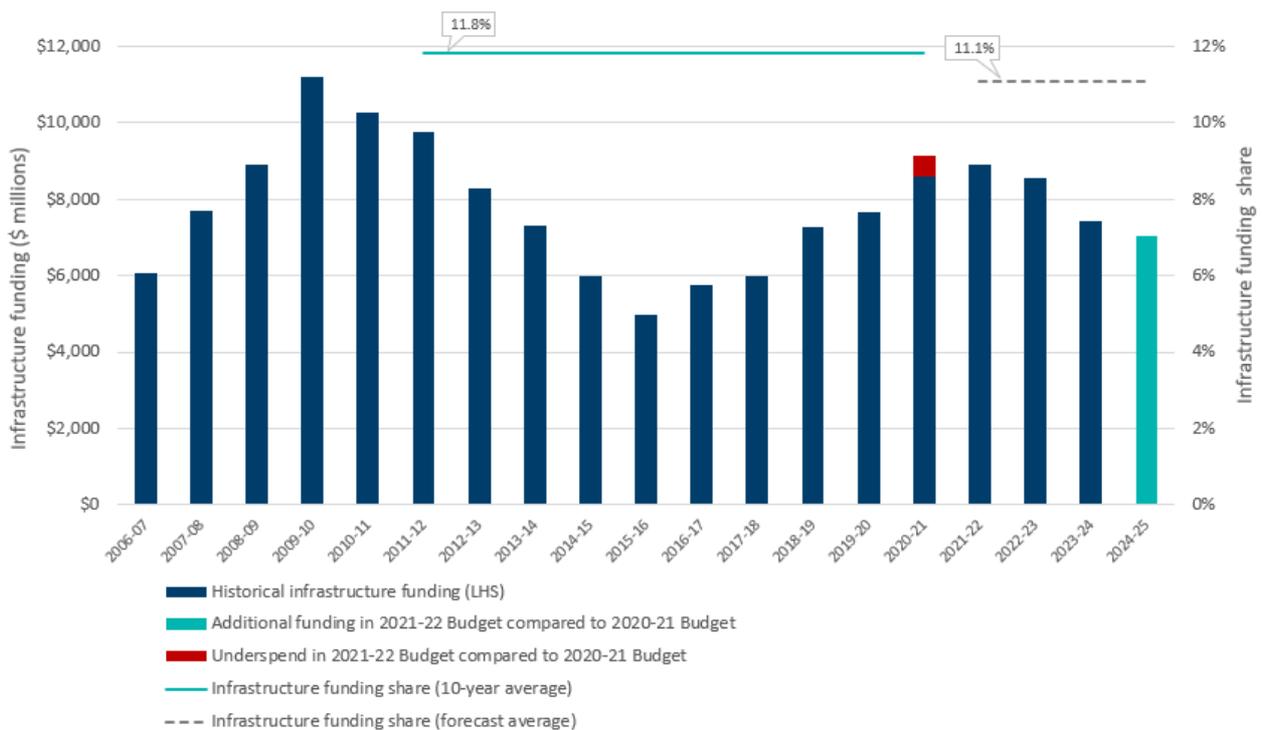
MEDIA CONTACT:

Michael Player

Michael.player@infrastructure.org.au

0424 698 189

Queensland General Government infrastructure funding (2006-07 to 2024-25)



Source: Infrastructure Partnerships Australia’s analysis of 2021-22 Queensland Budget

Note: Infrastructure Partnerships Australia’s estimate for the total infrastructure spend is lower than the Queensland Government’s claimed \$52 billion infrastructure program over four years. That is because our estimates do not include spending by state-owned enterprises – such as energy generators and water utilities – for which capital spend is funded by user charges. Instead, our calculation is a tally of general government expenditure and acquisitions under financial leases. This provides a sound basis for comparison, and appropriately isolates the analysis to infrastructure that is paid for by taxes rather than paid for at the point of use. This approach is consistent with our analysis in other jurisdictions, but the discrepancy appears higher in Queensland due to the higher proportion of government-owned enterprises in the state.

