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**November 2009**

## Toward Q2 eNews

### Welcome to the November edition of Toward Q2 eNews.

Just over 12 months ago I launched *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland*. It's my government's vision for Queensland's future. A year ago we also saw the beginning of the global financial crisis.

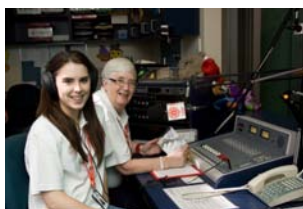
Although the financial landscape has changed significantly my government's determination has not wavered. The 10 Q2 targets are even more important in hard times.

Some of the steps we have taken *Toward Q2* include rolling out the \$60 million ClimateSmart Home Service with more than 102,000 Queenslanders already registered, and actively delivering on our \$18.2 billion infrastructure investment – the largest capital program in the country.

As a state, the strength and resilience of our economy will determine our quality of life as we move into the next decade. And we are well placed to continue the achievements of the first decade of the century as we become a strong, green, smart, healthy and fair state.

**Anna Bligh MP**  
Premier of Queensland

## Q2 Partners profile



**A partnership between Volunteering Queensland and Bendigo Bank is helping achieve the Q2 target to increase by 50 per cent the proportion of Queenslanders involved in their communities as volunteers.**

Volunteering Queensland has developed VolBiz, an online register where businesses and community organisations can express their interest in linking through volunteering.

The concept was proposed by Bendigo Bank to encourage businesses to give up a few hours a week to provide their services in the local neighbourhood, or donate their expertise where it is most needed.

Business and corporate volunteering can be anything from mentoring, to performing pro bono work, or contributing staff skills and resources to a community organisation.

If you are interested in finding out more about VolBiz or how you, your business or your staff can be involved, visit Volunteering Queensland's website

at [www.volqld.org.au](http://www.volqld.org.au)

To find out more about the Q2 Partners program or to become a Q2 Partner visit [www.towardq2.qld.gov.au](http://www.towardq2.qld.gov.au).

## More national parks for Queenslanders



**Queensland's national parks now cover more than eight million hectares of the state - that's much bigger than Tasmania and more than a third the size of Victoria. Queensland has the largest national park area of anywhere in Australia.**

The latest 22,000 hectares of land to become national or conservation park is located throughout South East Queensland, and in the Emerald, Miriam Vale and Airlie Beach areas.

More land of high biodiversity value is now protected for future generations to enjoy and it gives some of our vulnerable species a better chance of survival.

It is also directly contributing to our Q2 target to protect 50 per cent more land for nature conservation and public recreation.

Photo by Michael Marston

## Bike path networks opening across the state



**Queenslanders have told us they want integrated bike paths and roads. We have listened and we are taking action.**

Our investment in the \$556 million South East Queensland Cycle Network Program is delivering an integrated cycle network from Noosa, through Greater Brisbane, Ipswich and Toowoomba to the Gold Coast by 2026.

As part of this network, the Cabbage Tree Creek Bikeway was recently opened at Taigum, making it easy for joggers, walkers and cyclists to access local destinations, the Moreton Bay Cycleway and the Boondall Wetlands Reserve.

Keep your eyes open for other paths recently completed or nearing completion including:

- Toowong cycle and pedestrian overpass
- Princess Alexandra Hospital cycleway
- Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital cycle centre
- Green Road cycle and pedestrian underpass

This expansion in cycleways will make it easier for people to avoid traffic congestion and is contributing to the Q2 target to cut by one-third Queenslanders' carbon footprint through reduced car use and electricity.

You can read more about the South East Queensland Cycle Network delivering these projects through [the Department of Transport and Main Roads](#).

Photo © Derek Orr

## Queensland Health report shows improvement to patient flow



**The government is committed to the Q2 target for Queensland to have the shortest public hospital waiting times in Australia. We are working hard to improve our public hospital services and cut elective surgery and emergency waiting times.**

The latest Auditor-General's report *Management of patient flow through Queensland hospitals*, shows that Queensland outcomes in patient care are among the best in the nation.

Our elective surgery waiting times continue to be the best in Australia, and in one year, we have improved our emergency department waiting times from sixth to third best in the country.

While the results are positive there is still a way to go to achieve our target of the shortest public hospital waiting times in Australia.

Queensland Health will implement all recommendations in the report to ensure streamlined services and more efficient systems in the future.

You can view the full report on the [Queensland Audit Office website](#).

## Low Carbon Diet helps reduce Queenslanders' carbon footprint



**The Low Carbon Diet puts your lifestyle on a CO<sub>2</sub> diet to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions you and your home produce by 2000 kgs in just 30 days. This directly contributes to the Q2 target to reduce our carbon footprint by one-third with reduced car and electricity use.**

The program guides participants on how to make changes to their daily activities to save money on household electricity and water bills and reduce household greenhouse gas emissions.

Switching to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL), walking, cycling or catching public transport, recycling more, switching to GreenPower and being smart with water usage around the home can all make a big difference.

Applications for the final round of the Low Carbon Diet Community Funding Program close on Monday 7 December 2009, with grants of up to \$10,000 available for tertiary institutions, not-for-profit community groups (including sporting clubs) and local councils to promote and undertake the Low Carbon Diet within their organisation or community.

For more information about the Low Carbon Diet and its Community Funding Program visit [ClimateSmart.qld.gov.au](http://ClimateSmart.qld.gov.au)

The low carbon diet is part of the [ClimateQ: toward a greener Queensland](#) strategy.

## Share your ideas

**What can we do individually, as communities and as a state to put Queensland out in front?**

Share your ideas:

- **online** [Share your ideas form](#)
- **by phone** 1800 082 105
- **by mail** Performance and Delivery Office, PO Box 15185, City East QLD, 4002

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