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Statistical Note QLD STATE BUDGET 2020-21 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ⁽¹⁾ IN THE CAIRNS REGION

The 2020-21 Queensland State Budget has seen a substantial increase in capital expenditure allocated to the Cairns SA4 region compared with previous years. However, the following table indicates that this simply brings expenditure per capita up to just above average levels for regional areas⁽²⁾.

Table #1: Queensland State Capital Expenditure for Regional Areas ⁽²⁾ Compared

Region	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21	
	Total Expenditure \$M	Per Capita	Total Expenditure \$M	Per Capita	Total Expenditure \$M	Per Capita
Toowoomba/ Darling Downs SA4s	\$1,154	\$4,041	\$661	\$2,315	\$572	\$1,993
Wide Bay SA4	\$488	\$1,644	\$515	\$1,736	\$820	\$2,742
Central Qld SA4	\$918	\$4,070	\$975	\$4,325	\$1,002	\$4,414
Mackay SA4	\$453	\$2,626	\$462	\$2,679	\$418	\$2,416
Townsville SA4	\$736	\$3,113	\$765	\$3,234	\$566	\$2,388
Cairns SA4	\$412	\$1,635	\$633	\$2,512	\$750	\$2,952
Total/ Average	\$4,161	\$2,855	\$4,011	\$2,800	\$4,128	\$2,794

In fact, per capita expenditure in the Cairns region has been running at a very low level in the previous years and well below regional averages.

The following table indicates that over the past seven (7) years, the Cairns SA4 region is still about \$1 billion below what it would have been at regional per capita averages.

Table #2: Cairns SA4 Region Budgeted Capital Expenditure Compared with Averages for Queensland Regional Areas ⁽²⁾

Year	Cairns SA4 Region Actual \$M	Cairns SA4 Region Per Capita	Regional Average Per Capita	Cairns SA4 Region If at Regional Average	Cairns SA4 Regional Deficit \$M
2014-15	\$480	\$1,979	\$2,675	\$649	(-\$169)
2015-16	\$330	\$1,351	\$2,298	\$562	(-\$232)
2016-17	\$352	\$1,428	\$2,462	\$607	(-\$255)
2017-18	\$451	\$1,808	\$2,351	\$587	(-\$136)
2018-19	\$412	\$1,634	\$2,855	\$720	(-\$308)
2019-20	\$633	\$2,512	\$2,800	\$706	(-\$73)
2020-21	\$750	\$2,952	\$2,799	\$711	+\$39
Total deficit \$					(-\$1,134)

Note (1): Queensland Budget Paper 3 Capital Statement – Table 2 Capital Purchases by Region.

Note (2): Excludes Greater Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast & Outback Queensland.