

Premier and Minister for the Arts
The Honourable Anna Bligh
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Regional first home boost to kick off early

ROCKHAMPTON: Premier Anna Bligh has announced that the Regional First Home Owner boost will be available from tomorrow, 1 June.

Ms Bligh said the availability of the \$11,000 grant, which included the new \$4,000 regional boost, will be brought forward from 1 July to satisfy demand.

"We want to get this policy up and running, so it has an immediate impact on local communities," Ms Bligh said.

"We have been struck by the strong level of interest which is a good sign for construction jobs in Queensland's regional areas and our plan to take population growth pressure off South East Queensland

"But the last thing we want to see is people delaying contracts so they can qualify for the grant in July.

"We want regional Queensland to benefit from this policy immediately and that's why the \$11,000 grant will be available from tomorrow, 1 June.

"The best part is, it's simple to apply. Anyone looking to make use of the grant should head to www.osr.qld.gov.au."

Ms Bligh said the Regional First Home Owners Grant would help attract people to areas other than the south-east, and entice local first home buyers to stay in their communities.

"This is just one part of our strategy to alleviate pressure on the south-east corner, while stimulating economic activity in the regions," she said.

"By boosting the First Home Owners Grant we show we are committed to finding new ways to manage the huge population growth SEQ has experienced in recent years.

"With a city the size of Mackay moving to the South East each year we simply must look at ways to encourage growth into the other regions to take the pressure off SEQ.

"I believe this grant will be part of enticing first home owners to look outside SEQ and see the wonderful opportunities that exist in the other parts of the state."