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## **A Genuine Progress Indicator Study of Queensland, 1986-2005**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This paper reveals the results of a Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) study of Queensland for the period 1986 to 2005. The results indicate that the per capita GPI for Queensland increased by 16.9% over the study period which equates to an average growth rate of just 0.8% per annum. Alarming, Queensland's per capita GPI peaked in 1999. This suggests that sustainable well-being has been declining in Queensland in recent years.

In view of the major influences on Queensland's GPI, there is an urgent need for Queensland to minimise native vegetation clearance, to increase energy efficiency, and reinvest more of the proceeds from non-renewable resource depletion into long-term productive assets. From a social perspective, the problem of underemployment should be addressed, while support should be given to retraining programs that promote poorer Queenslanders into better-paying occupations (thereby helping to reduce the gap between rich and poor).

There is also a need for the Queensland Government to invest in critical infrastructure, such as public assets that boost education and training opportunities, and to assist farmers with the uptake of more sustainable land-use and irrigation practices. The Queensland Government should also take a lead in the development of resource-saving technologies — either directly itself or indirectly through tax breaks — in order to facilitate the more efficient and sustainable use of Queensland's natural resource assets.