

# USQ contributes strongly to economy

THE University of Southern Queensland injected more than \$268 million into the local economy last year, according to figures contained in the university's 2012 annual report.

Tabled in State Parliament, the report marks 12 months of academic achievement and strong economic management for the university as well as giving a comprehensive review of USQ's performance over the past year.

It is the university's first annual report since Professor Jan Thomas commenced as Vice-Chancellor in mid-January last year.

Prof. Thomas said USQ's operating revenue had increased by 17 percent on the previous year.

"Total revenue to USQ from the Australian Government increased to \$197.6 million brought about largely by student number increases and grant funding. In 2012, USQ had a total enrolment of 27,649 students."

Prof. Thomas said that compared to 2011, overall student load increased by 4.2 percent. However, the university's international student load decreased by 1.3 percent mainly as a result of changing visa entry requirements and the impact of the strong Australian dollar.

The report shows that USQ achieved an operating surplus of \$38 million.

Professor Thomas said the financial stability of USQ coupled with a carefully constructed investment portfolio would allow the university to plan for continued growth in student numbers and research activity well into the future.

"By 2016, USQ anticipates that its total annual revenue will increase to more than \$305 million.

"In order to plan for and accommodate this growth, the university has adopted a long-term plan in line with the university's strategic goals to ensure we are developing a teaching and research profile the envy of many in the education sector," Professor Thomas said.

The Vice-Chancellor said 2012 has been a year of change designed to promote growth and adapt to a rapidly expanding university sector.