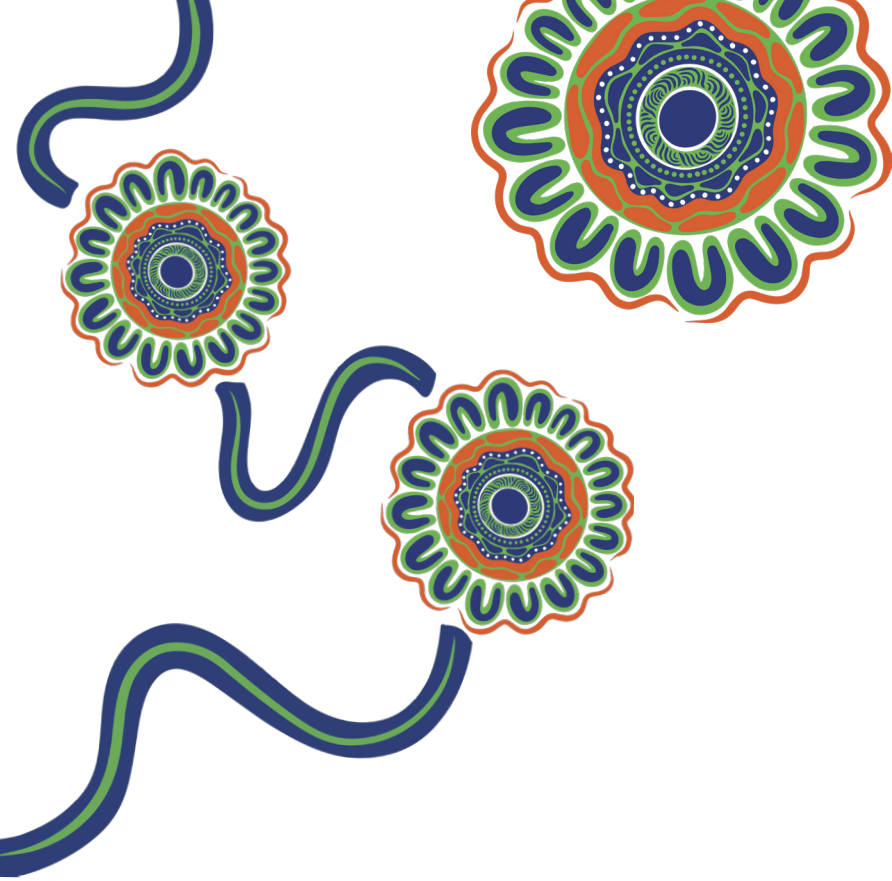


2024-25 State Budget

Queensland Tourism Industry Council
Overview



QUEENSLAND
TOURISM INDUSTRY
COUNCIL



Acknowledgement of Country

QTIC acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Queensland. We recognise those who shared stories, welcomed guests on Country, and were stewards of the earth for millennia before us, and their continued connection to land, waterways, and culture.

Contact details for QTIC

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Introduction

The Queensland budget was handed down yesterday, with cost-of-living relief a major focus of spending.

While we welcome investment in economic development and key infrastructure projects, the budget is unfortunately light on support measures for small business and tourism.

We know that strengthening business capabilities delivers a positive flow on effect for economies. Unfortunately, the budget has missed an opportunity to invest in measures to improve the operating environment for tourism businesses.

For the past 12 months, QTIC has been advocating for the allocation of funding to key infrastructure projects and we welcome the infrastructure support measures included in this budget. The dedication of funding to improve major roads and the connectivity of Queensland, and funds to drive 2032 Olympic and Paralympics Games legacy projects is critical and welcome.

It is pleasing to see the confirmation of funding levels for Tourism and Events Queensland that were put in place in the forwards last year, increased funding for Growing Future Tourism Projects, additional funding for Bush Tourism, and release of funding for First Nations tourism.

As we head into the state elections in October, QTIC will continue advocating on the key issues impacting Queensland tourism – delivering infrastructure improvements, supporting business capabilities, seeing the return of international visitors, driving workforce attraction and skilling, and ensuring operators have access to affordable and adequate insurance.



Brett Fraser
Chief Executive Officer
Queensland Tourism Industry Council



Elsa D'Alessio
Chair
Queensland Tourism Industry Council

Tourism

Key announcements include:

- Increased funding of \$15 million over 2 years to provide financial support to eligible Queensland tourism operators, not-for-profit organisations and local governments to deliver new and enhanced tourism infrastructure or experiences through the *Growing Future Tourism Program*.
- Additional funding of \$10 million over 2 years to support the delivery of the Bush Boost and Queensland's long term *Towards Tourism 2032: Transforming Queensland's visitor economy future* tourism industry strategy by providing support for the development of new and enhanced tourism products or supporting infrastructure that will increase visitation in Queensland's regions outside South East Queensland.
- Release of \$3 million centrally-held funds in 2024-25, matched by a co-contribution from the Australian Government, to improve the quality of First Nations tourism experiences, deliver a range of initiatives and new events and support employment across Queensland.

Disaster support and resilience

Key announcements include:

- Additional funding of \$100 million over 3 years from the *Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Efficiencies* jointly funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments to support a suite of high priority disaster resilience and mitigation infrastructure and non-infrastructure programs and projects.
- Increased funding of \$21.1 million for the Better Queensland Parks - Fire Management Uplift Program to support critical firefighter needs and manage bushfire risk, improve community safety and safeguard natural and cultural values, including World Heritage values.

Small business and training

Key announcements include:

- Additional funding of \$203.1 million over 2 years, as part of a total investment of \$370 million, to the *Queensland Skills Strategy 2024-2028* to support small businesses manage the cost of doing business, and build capability, capacity and resilience.
- Additional funding of up to \$10 million over 3 years from 2024-25 to develop and implement cyber security infrastructure for small to medium enterprises. Forms part of a total investment of \$250 million over 3 years under the *Queensland Small Business Strategy 2024-27*.
- Additional funding of \$1.4 million over 2 years to deliver the Regional Jobs Expos initiative to showcase current and future employment opportunities.
- Funding of \$50 million over 4 years is being re-prioritised to the *Backing Business in the Bush Fund* to support Queensland-based small to medium enterprises to deliver business improvement projects in regional Queensland.
- Increased funding of \$3.3 million in 2024-25 to the *Rural Economic Development Grants Program* to increase regional employment and agribusiness development in regional Queensland.
- Increased funding of \$2.267 billion to deliver electricity bill support for Queensland households and small businesses. Around 205,000 eligible Queensland small businesses will also receive a \$650 credit on electricity bills in 2024-25.

Infrastructure and resources

Key announcements include:

- Additional funding of \$62 million over 4 years from 2024-25 and \$14 million per annum ongoing to 2032-33 for the preparation of additional Project Validation Reports and establishment costs for the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority.
- Additional funding of \$3.4 million over 2 years for continuing management of development agreements for the *Queen's Wharf Brisbane Integrated Development Project*.
- Centrally-held funding has been allocated for a legacy program to support and drive legacy outcomes as identified in the *Elevate 2042: Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Legacy Strategy*.
- Additional funding of \$1.8 million in 2023-24 for Economic Development Queensland to prepare a concept design for the River Reach Corridor Walkable Spine, connecting the Gabba to Roma Street via South Bank and the Cultural Centre.
- Additional funding of \$5 million in 2024-25 to undertake site security and safety works and pest and vegetation management associated with the former Great Keppel Island Resort Pty Ltd lease areas.
- Additional funding of \$500,000 in 2024-25 to support the restoration of camping amenities at the Adam's Beach camping reserve.

Housing and public works

Key announcements include:

- Additional funding of \$1.688 billion over 5 years and \$130.4 million per annum on-going towards housing and homelessness services and responses, addressing key housing pressures including supply, and enhancing the focus on planning and development outcomes.
- Additional funding of \$8.2 million over 3 years to implement the *Shaping SEQ 2023 Update*.

Arts and culture

Key announcements include:

- Increased funding of \$28 million for the *Screen Queensland – Production Attraction Strategy* to help grow a pipeline of large-scale film and high-end television productions in Queensland.
- Increased funding of \$8 million to continue the Post, Digital and Visual Effects (PDV) incentive to harness the economic, industry and employment benefits of Queensland's PDV industry.
- Additional funding of \$8.2 million over 2 years for the construction of the Coen Art Centre.
- Additional funding of \$1.6 million in 2024-25 to support infrastructure upgrades at the Woodford Folk Festival's Woodfordia. Further funding of up to \$1.6 million is held centrally for live music business support grants.
- Increased funding of \$2 million to the Queensland Performing Arts Centre in 2024-25 for continuation of the Clancestry Festival and other First Nations events and programs.
- Increased funding of \$500,000 to the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art in 2024-25 to support continued service delivery at the Australian Cinematheque and the Children's Art Centre.
- Additional funding of \$5 million over 3 years for building fabric works at Queensland Museum Cobb + Co and the Queensland Museum Workshop.

Transport

Key announcements include:

- Increased funding of \$69.5 million over 4 years and \$24.3 million per annum ongoing to increase bus services and associated infrastructure in Ipswich and Logan.
- Additional funding of \$2 million in 2024-25 to support an audit of all state public transport infrastructure to assess compliance requirements to meet the relevant Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport.
- Funding of \$318 million over 3 years from 2024-25 to progress the Gympie Road Bypass Project to the next stage.
- Additional funding of \$2.750 billion over 8 years for the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line Project.

Climate and environment

Key announcements include:

- Increased funding of \$31.3 million over 4 years and \$8.4 million per annum ongoing to continue planned actions under the *South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy*.
- Increased funding of \$23.5 million over 4 years and \$6.3 million per annum ongoing to continue implementation of the Threatened Species Program 2020-2040 to protect and recover Queensland's most threatened flora and fauna.
- Additional funding of \$14.5 million over 5 years from 2023-24, to support the *K'gari Dingo Management Enhanced Actions* plan, with funding to support the conservation of dingoes (wongari) and management of public safety on K'gari through additional Butchulla and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service wongari education rangers.
- Increased funding of \$2.8 million over 2 years to support environmental conservation on private land and implement the Australian Government's *Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures*.
- Additional funding of \$2.4 million over 2 years, held centrally subject to the Cape York Peninsula being added to Australia's UNESCO State Party Tentative list, to progress World Heritage Nomination.

About QTIC

The Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) is the peak industry body and leading advocate for the tourism, hospitality, and events sectors in Queensland, committed to the growth and sustainability of the state visitor economy. Our efforts focus on powerful lobbying, policy development, and collaboration with key industry stakeholders to create a favourable business environment for operators.

As a not-for-profit, membership-based organisation, we take pride in ensuring that the concerns and needs of our members and the broader tourism industry inform all relevant policy debates and that businesses have strong representation in decision-making processes. By promoting the value and importance of tourism in government forums and to the wider community, we help to create a vibrant, diverse industry that benefits all.

Through delivery of workforce and skilling programs, advocating for attraction and infrastructure investment, and working with the private sector to develop innovative solutions to tourism priorities, QTIC continues to serve members and industry. We also provide expert advice and support, including workforce and business development opportunities and access to vital industry insights.

Working as a voice to government, we help to ensure Queensland remains a go-to destination and that operators have the resources to meet evolving consumer demands.



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