

QUEENSLAND
of OPPORTUNITY

Australia's global gateway to
investment, trade, study and work

Copyright

© Trade and Investment Queensland 2025

This report is licensed by the State of Queensland (Trade and Investment Queensland) under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) 4.0 Australia licence. In essence, you are free to copy, communicate and adapt this report, as long as you attribute the work to the State of Queensland (Trade and Investment Queensland). To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/deed.en>

Translating and interpreting service

The Queensland Government is committed to providing accessible services to Queenslanders from all culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. If you have difficulty in understanding this report, you can contact us on (07) 3514 3147 between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday (except Public Holidays) and we will arrange an interpreter to effectively communicate the report to you.

Disclaimer

The information presented in this document is distributed by the Queensland Government as an information source only. The State of Queensland makes no statements, representations, or warranties about the accuracy or completeness of, and you should not rely on, any information contained in this publication. The Queensland Government disclaims all responsibility and all liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages and costs you might incur as a result of the information being inaccurate or incomplete in any way, and for any reason. Any reference to any specific organisation, product or service does not constitute or imply its endorsement or recommendation by the State of Queensland.

Published by the Queensland Government

August 2025

1 William Street,

Brisbane Queensland 4000 Australia



Welcome to Queensland	05
A message from the Premier	05
A message from the Minister	06
QueensLand of Opportunity	08
Experts in Trade	12
Why Queensland	15
Brisbane 2032	30
QueensLand of Investment	37
QueensLand of Learning and Research	43
QueensLand of Skilled Talent	49
Snapshot	54

CONTENTS



WELCOME TO QUEENSLAND

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER**

The story of Queensland captures the momentum of a state rich in resources and richer in talent, drive and opportunity.



The Honourable David Crisafulli MP

Premier of Queensland and
Minister for Veterans

Our state is entering a period of renewal and transformation ahead of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Queensland is on the front foot, ready to grasp every opportunity.

Right across our state, hard work is ingrained in Queensland's DNA. Our story is built on the resilience and ambition of our people, backed by a government committed to delivering.

Queensland is home to 19 of the world's most sought-after critical minerals and natural resources that will drive a new global future. Our diverse economy spans mining, agriculture, tourism, biomedical, biotechnology, defence industries and much more. Our rich blend of resources, talent and enterprise form the foundation of a prosperous future, supported by a government backing ambition with action.

Queensland offers a stable, supportive environment with transparent regulatory frameworks, natural assets, a highly skilled workforce and an unwavering commitment to collaboration for businesses across the globe.

With a culture of embracing new technologies, opening doors to new markets and building a thriving economy, Queensland is more than just a place to do business – it is a place to grow, to lead and to shape the future.

I invite you to see the potential for yourself and join us in this

QueensLand of Opportunity.

David Crisafulli



A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Queensland is open for business,
open to new ideas, and open to the world.



The Honourable Ros Bates MP

Minister for Finance, Trade,
Employment and Training

Our state is a dynamic force, driven by the ambition and innovation of Queenslanders who are shaping industries, powering exports and forging new partnerships.

Fuelled by an entrepreneurial spirit, our regions are fuelling our exports, and our industries are reshaping our economy, Queensland is not just a place for business — it's a launchpad for global success.

We are attracting record levels of international investment, expanding our export markets and earning a global reputation as a trusted, forward-thinking partner in a rapidly evolving global environment.

Our success is built on world-leading capabilities in energy, resources, agriculture, advanced manufacturing, defence industries, international education and training, and biomedical innovation. These are among the industries that will contribute to your **QueensLand of Opportunity**.





QUEENSLAND
of **OPPORTUNITY**



WHERE DOING BUSINESS IS
AS NATURAL AS SUNSHINE



QUEENSLAND OF OPPORTUNITY

This is the place to build a future, shape the world and belong to something bigger.

Ideas born in Queensland's research labs become breakthroughs – from life-saving vaccines to next-generation healthcare and sustainable agriculture.

Queensland is reshaping the way industries grow, how global partnerships take root, creating enduring value. For investors, the question isn't whether to choose Queensland – it's how soon you can start.

Queensland offers something rare: scale without congestion, pace without pressure, ambition with heart.

As our global trade and investment agency, **Trade and Investment Queensland** (TIQ) is our front door to the world and we are open for business.

With a network that spans 27 locations in 18 international markets across Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Middle East, as well as eight regional offices in Queensland, TIQ plays a vital role in connecting our state to the world.

TIQ's expert teams are at the forefront of championing Queensland companies, both domestically and internationally, facilitating high value partnerships and guiding businesses to navigate the unique opportunities our state offers.



27.4705° S, 153.0260° E BRISBANE

EXPERTS IN TRADE





We are an export powerhouse.
We connect. We create. We lead.

As the world seeks security, resilience and value from its trade relationships, Queensland stands ready to shine.

If Queensland was considered a standalone country, it would place in the top 50 economies globally.

One quarter of Australia's resource exports come from Queensland. We're home to one in six Australian exporters, and one in five Queensland jobs support trade.

This culture of trade is part of what makes Queensland tick. In every region, in every town and city, there is a Queensland export business.

Queensland stands out with regulatory ease including one of Australia's lowest payroll tax rates, competitive logistics, and a business-friendly environment – making it one of the easiest places to trade in the southern hemisphere.

QUEENSLAND'S TRADE



Located at the cross-roads of the Asia-Pacific, Queensland's time zone, combined with the fastest east coast subsea data cable connection helps business to go further, faster



Unlocking new market opportunities through participation in high-value trade agreements



Delivering a quarter of Australia's resource exports and 41% of Queensland's exports are regionally based.



WHY QUEENSLAND



LOCATION

Closest Australian state to Asia-Pacific growth markets, with direct access to South East Asia, Japan, Korea and China



LIVEABILITY AND LIFESTYLE

Sunshine, space and an unmatched lifestyle where global talent and entrepreneurs thrive



GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Investment-ready with streamlined pathways, facilitation services and whole of government coordination



SECTOR STRENGTHS

Critical minerals and natural resources, mining, equipment, technology and services (METS), agriculture, biotechnology and biomedical, biofuels, defence industries, aerospace, education, services, advanced manufacturing and tourism.

**POPULATION**

5.6 million
(as at September 2024)

**AIRPORTS AND PORTS**

6 international airports,
21 ports and a network of
domestic airports



CLIMATE

Subtropical with
hot summers and
mild, dry winters



ECONOMY

Thriving industries include critical minerals
and natural resources, METS, agriculture,
biotechnology and biomedical, biofuels,
defence industries, aerospace, education,
services, advanced manufacturing and tourism

TRADE



Mining and METS

Queensland's METS capabilities have evolved to service the requirements of the resources sector globally across exploration, production and processing.

The METS sector employs more than 20,000 people in Queensland, making a significant economic contribution and cherishing a growing social license and strong governance at its core.



With a rich and diverse endowment of natural resources, Queensland's METS sector has evolved to serve the demands of this mineral diversity and the highly cyclical nature of the resources sector.

Many of the Queensland-grown innovative solutions can transfer to support mine operations globally, to improve productivity, safety, energy efficiency and decarbonisation. Queensland METS are best in class, advancing operational efficiency, remote asset monitoring, mine site rehabilitation, robotics and automation and process optimisation.

Case Study

Brisbane-based Mine Energy Solutions (MES) is a leader in cutting-edge dual fuel, substituting diesel with natural gas for mining haul trucks. The process reduces emissions without compromising productivity. As a long-standing TIQ client, MES has expanded internationally through expert guidance and global market insights.



One of the things I've always valued with the TIQ team, is their ability to marry the state's strategic goals with the global market context. They've shown us how our Queensland-grown innovation could meet demand in global markets. 

Mine Energy Solutions founder Adrian Abbott

TRADE



Agriculture and agtech

Queensland's agricultural heart spans more than 140 million hectares, with export values reaching \$8 billion in beef and \$2.6 billion in crops. Biosecurity, food security, and sustainability are the foundations of a resilient and trusted primary industries sector. They protect our reputation as a clean, green, safe, and sustainable food, fibre, and foliage producer, and uphold our competitive edge in global markets, ensuring our products meet the highest global standards.



The Queensland Government's bold 25-year strategy, Primary Industries Prosper 2050, aims to grow the sector's value to \$30 billion by 2030. This vision is supported by 5-year action plans focused on R&D, innovation, and technology to boost productivity and resilience. It also prioritises workforce development, strong policy to build investor confidence and support for regional communities to ensure a sustainable and profitable future for Queensland's food, fibre, timber, and fisheries industries.

Case Study

With the help of TIQ's Go Global Export Program, Queensland-based agtech company CERES TAG has stamped its name on the international stage, transforming livestock management through smart technology.

Its world-first direct-to-satellite livestock management platform tracks location, health and welfare of animals. The product was available in 33 countries within two years of operation.

CERES TAG worked with TIQ to access new markets, with introductions to stakeholders around the world.



CERES TAG leveraged Queensland's advantage of being a major beef exporter to grow globally. With the support of the Queensland Government, we're keen to create a hub of other international animal health intelligence organisations in the southern hemisphere. 

CERES TAG CEO and co-founder David Smith

TRADE



Biotechnology and biomedical

Queensland's burgeoning biotechnology and biomedical sector is forecast to grow by 40% by 2027. Already contributing \$1.44 billion to the state's economy, this sector is globally recognised for cutting-edge research and successful clinical trials.

Investment and established partnerships with Japan, Korea and Europe will see Queensland lead the way in medical innovation and global collaboration.

27.4477° S, 153.0376° E **BOWEN HILLS**



Queensland's advantages are supported by a world-class biomedical ecosystem which includes a fast, pragmatic regulatory pathway with rapid ethics approval and clinical data that meets leading international standards. This is complemented by superior scientific talent and excellent research and medical infrastructure, backed by world-class training, teaching and research facilities, and a highly skilled workforce. It's no wonder Queenslanders are returning home with their international experience.

THE AUDEARA STORY

Case Study

Brisbane health technology company Audeara is now a global success story, with its world-leading personalised sound technology available internationally. Its success has been supported by TIQ, with assistance navigating new markets and forging partnerships with key global brands.



“TIQ has been with us every step of the way — from the US and Japan to our recent partnerships in Taiwan and China.”

Audeara co-founder and CEO Dr James Fielding



Advanced manufacturing

With a robust strategy including targeted investment centred on backing industry and supporting regional jobs, Queensland is positioned as a global leader in advanced manufacturing.

Home to more than 16,000 manufacturers and 24 research institutes and precincts, alongside industry giants and some of the brightest minds, Queensland is at the forefront of cutting-edge industries.

The state has already experienced significant growth in aerospace, land management systems and secure communications.

Tourism

A new tourism strategy, Destination 2045, will redefine the future of travel, with a focus on growing Queensland's eco-tourism industry.

This strategy aims to boost visitor expenditure to \$84 billion by 2045, supported by a \$1 billion investment by the Queensland Government over four years.

Key investments will be made in new tourism product development and aviation attraction (\$200 million) and \$100 million will be spent over four years for event attraction from 2025-26.

This is part of a strategy to create a strong runway to prepare for the eyes of the world to be on Queensland in 2032.

The Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games is accelerating global visitation, building on a \$4.8 billion international tourism sector.





Services and support

Queensland's modern, vibrant economy is supported by a range of industries, including a diverse services sector covering international education and training (IET), international tourism, business services, professional services, telecommunications, computer and information services, and personal, cultural and recreational services.

28.1033° S, 153.4236° E BURLEIGH HEADS



In 2024, Queensland's service sector was valued at \$16.7 billion.

And it is forecast to continue growing. Queensland's largest export services category is the IET sector at \$6.85 billion and the state's fourth largest export behind coal, LNG and beef.

Case Study

Queensland's Medical Rescue demonstrates how local healthcare innovation can scale globally with strategic export support.

Through TIQ's network of global trade commissioners, Medical Rescue accessed key international, government and private sector decision makers.



Because of TIQ, we've been able to expedite our global operations and global reach faster than we ever could have dreamed or anticipated. It's a fantastic service."

Medical Rescue executive director Michael Smith

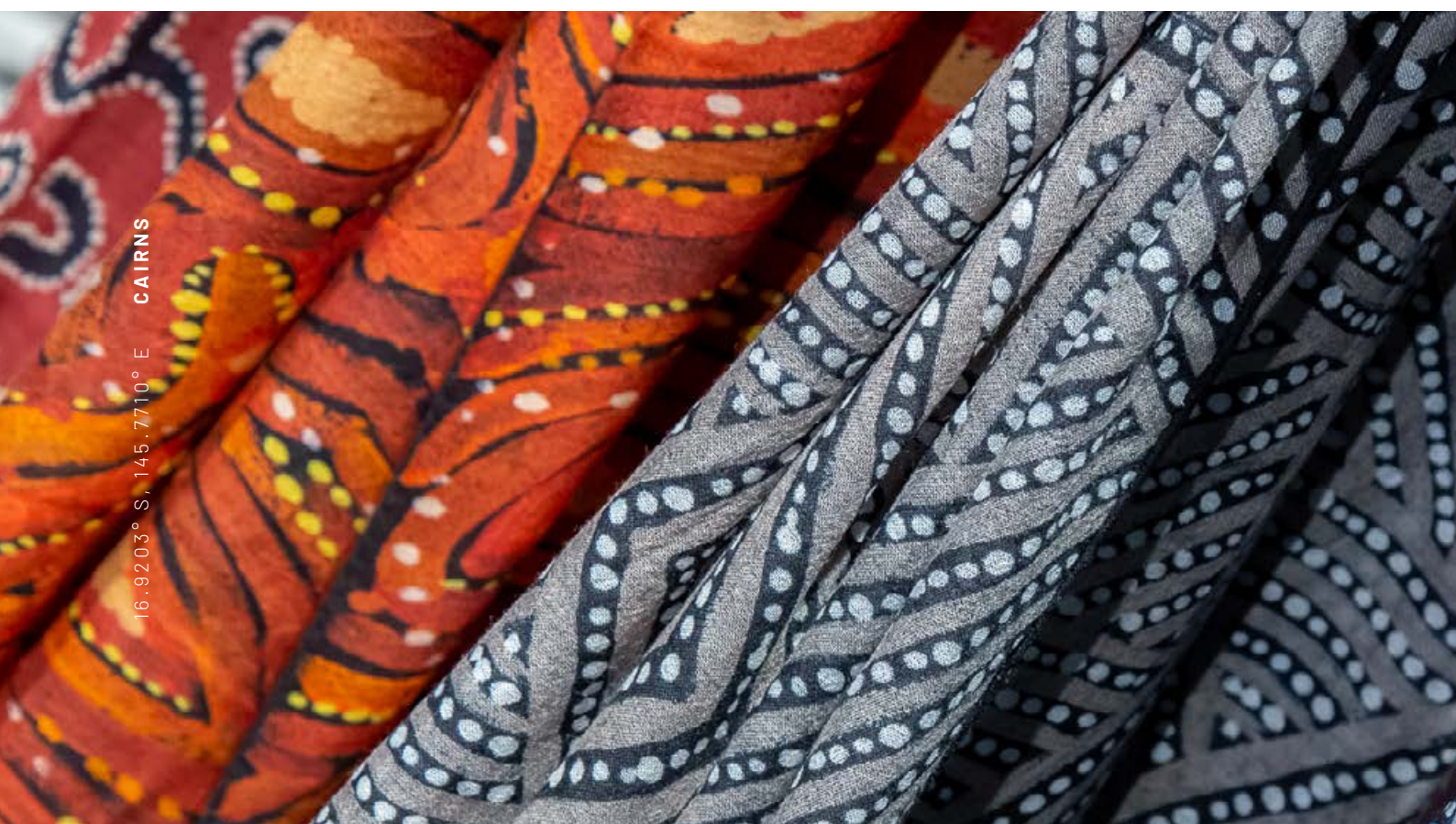


Regional and small businesses

As Australia's most decentralised state, Queensland's regions and small businesses are a critical part of the state's economy.

The strength of our regions is reflected in the number of vibrant businesses spread throughout Queensland – 41% of Queensland's goods exporters are based in the regions.

Small businesses, including over 750 First Nations businesses, make up 73% of the state's exporters.

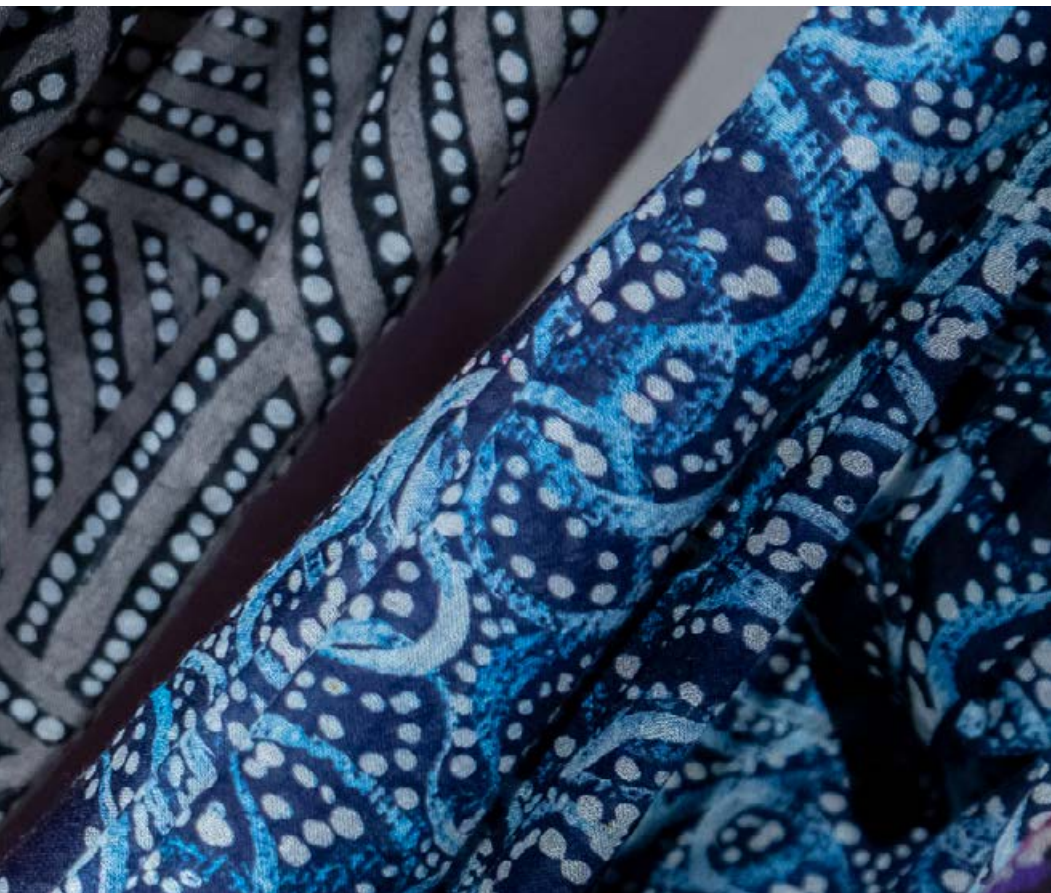


16.9203° S, 145.7710° E CAIRNS

Case Study

Cairns-based, indigenous-owned and operated fashion and gift company, Mainie, puts authenticity at the core of their business.

With each design and artwork directly sourced from traditional Aboriginal women artists, founder Charmaine Saunders, a Gunggari woman, has navigated numerous challenges to innovate and break into international markets, especially as a regionally-based exporter.



TIQ offices were instrumental in helping the North Queensland-based business facilitate global logistics and ensuring the smooth shipment of large stock.

Mainie founder Charmaine Saunders



BRISBANE 2032



QUEENSLAND
of BIG DREAMS

A GOLDEN ERA



Brisbane 2032

Brisbane 2032 is not just a sporting event – it is the heart of a transformational period already driving infrastructure investment, attracting international attention, and reshaping Queensland's economic landscape.

The Olympic and Paralympic Games is a once in a generation state opportunity. It will spotlight Queensland as a premier investment, tourism and talent destination with a projected \$4.6 billion boost in international tourism and trade.

TIQ is leading the 2032 international trade and investment program, showcasing Queensland's vast opportunities and fostering global partnerships with local industry.

Queensland's approach to the Games is grounded in economic discipline and long-term value, focused on sustainability, inclusion and regional benefit. It includes:

- The 2032 Delivery Plan with venue upgrades and new sporting precincts like Brisbane Stadium and across regional Queensland to ensure benefits are shared across communities
- New housing developments, transport links and public spaces designed for generational use
- Clean, smart and connected infrastructure with measurable environmental, social and guidance impact.



Eyes on trade and tourism

Brisbane 2032 will deliver the largest infrastructure investment in Queensland's history and is a landmark opportunity for strategic infrastructure development to drive future growth.

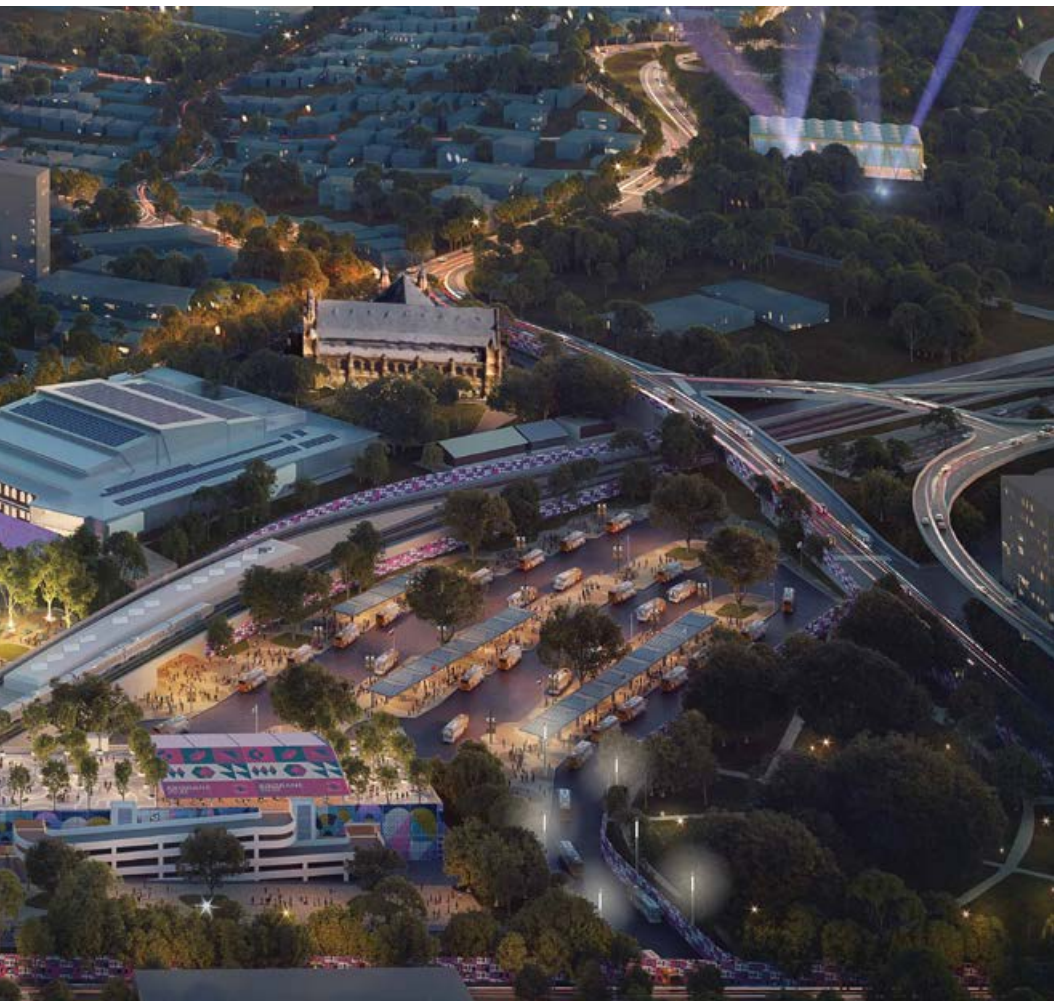
It is forecast to generate a \$4.6 billion economic increase in trade and tourism by 2042 for Queensland.



The Queensland Government is committed to delivering excellence for Queenslanders by strengthening trade, tourism, investment and capability.

With our partners, we are helping Queensland businesses prepare for the opportunities as well as providing pathways for international investment.

BRISBANE 2032







QUEENSLAND
of INVESTMENT

INVEST



Smart capital is choosing Queensland.
For scale. For certainty. For the future.

Queensland's diversified economy, rich resource base, skilled workforce and long-term infrastructure pipeline driven by the Brisbane 2032 legacy program makes the state one of the most attractive investment destinations in the Indo-Pacific.

Backed by our "Team Australia | Team Queensland" approach, government and its agencies work together to provide streamlined pathways, project facilitation and post-investment support.

INVESTMENT SNAPSHOT



Queensland is at the forefront of **driving investment into Australia by 2032**



Queensland is a key contributor to Australia's **\$1.3 trillion in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** with strengths in mining, real estate, manufacturing, ICT and transport



Queensland is home to **19 of the world's most sought-after critical minerals and natural resources**, including world-class vanadium deposits, used for everything from steel alloys in space vehicles through to tools and storage of diversified, sustainable energy.

Foundations for investment success



STABLE & COMPETITIVE

AA+ credit rating (S&P, Feb 2025)

One of Australia's lowest payroll tax rates — starting at just **4.75%** (lower for regional projects)

Low-cost, high-capacity industrial land

Transparent regulatory environment and **fast-tracked approvals** for strategic projects



CONNECTED

21 ports, 6 international airports and digital infrastructure **connections to Asia and the world**

Fastest submarine cable from eastern Australia to Asia, second fastest to the US



TALENT-READY

More than **360 education and training providers**

Strong **STEM** graduate pipeline

Visa pathways for skilled migration



ESG-ALIGNED

Circular economy and diversified energy supply chain priorities

Nature-based solutions, sustainable tourism, and low-emissions agriculture

Diverse sources of energy

Queensland's investment climate is shaped by a **strong ESG** outlook.





Sector Opportunities

RESOURCES & CRITICAL MINERALS

- 19 of the world's most sought-after critical minerals and natural resources
- World leader in metallurgical coal and gas accounting for 25% of Australia's resource exports
- Growing global demand for Queensland vanadium, graphite, rare earths and battery inputs

INFRASTRUCTURE

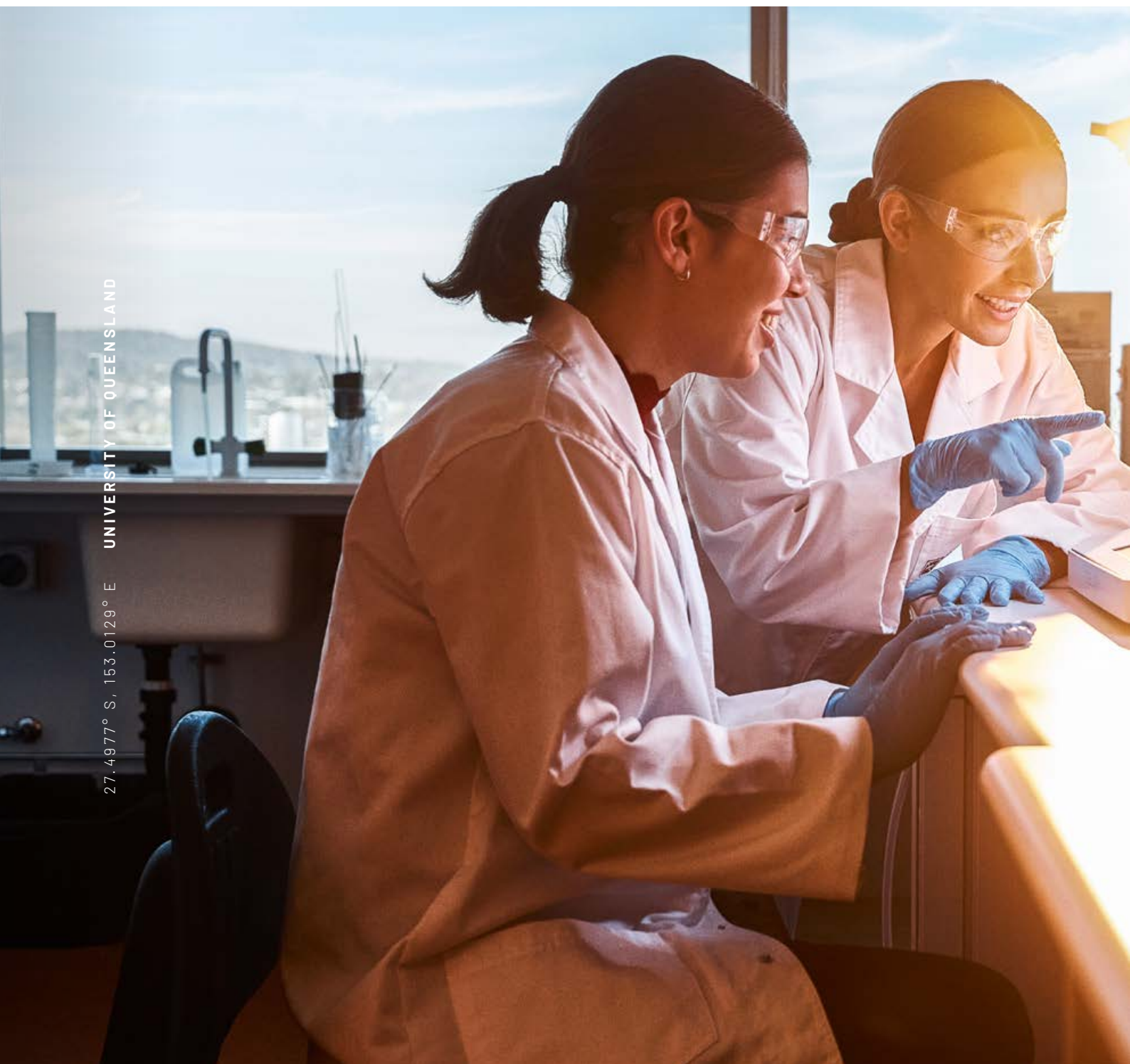
- Multi-billion dollar investment pipeline leading into Brisbane 2032 with flagship projects, new cross-river public transport and new housing and logistics precincts

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

- Strong ecosystem of diversified energy sources, aerospace and defence-linked manufacturing
- Growth in medtech, AI, robotics and agtech supported by research translation and government partnerships

BIOFUELS AND SUSTAINABLE AVIATION

- Taking part in national strategies for sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), including bio-refineries in regional Queensland
- Supported by aviation operators, R&D groups and export-ready feedstock supply chains.





QUEENSLAND
of **LEARNING AND RESEARCH**

STUDY



A place where education is more than a service — it's a way of life.



Queensland is the perfect environment for international students to grow – professionally and personally – through world-class institutions, industry-aligned programs, vibrant student communities and global research leadership



As one of Australia's most sought-after international education destinations, Queensland welcomes international students from more than 160 countries.

IET is Queensland's largest services export, valued at \$6.85 billion in 2024 – supporting jobs in education, tourism, retail, housing and beyond.

Whether it's marine science on the Great Barrier Reef, biomedical breakthroughs in world-leading health research, or AI innovation in regional towns – students in Queensland work on what matters, with the support of a system that sees them as future leaders, not just enrolments.



START HERE, GO ANYWHERE



Where education meets adventure
– hands-on experiences, stunning
locations and pathways to global careers.

International students enjoy vibrant cities, beautiful beaches, clear skies and clean air, as well as vibrant, inclusive communities.

They grow professionally and personally through world-class institutions, industry-aligned programs and global research leadership.

Students from more than 160 countries study marine science, biomedical breakthroughs, AI innovation and more through education providers developing leaders and innovators.

Queensland offers:

- Diverse learning from primary school through to vocational and higher education, including research
- 350-plus world-class international education, training and research providers
- A globally-connected economy and strong career development avenues
- More diverse study locations than any other state in Australia
- One of the most advanced research ecosystems in the southern hemisphere
- World-leading student experience, supported by government and local study clusters.


 I picked Australia, specifically Queensland,
 for its weather and the job opportunities.
 Brisbane's booming with new opportunities. 

Manan Bhatia, studying software engineering in Brisbane – Queensland, Australia

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION IN QUEENSLAND

- IET is Queensland's largest services export valued at \$6.85 billion in 2024
- Queensland international student enrolments grew 9.1% to 157,658 from 2019 to 2024
- 30% of international students and 50% of registered education and training providers are located outside of the capital city
- Two Queensland cities are ranked in the top 100 best student cities in the world – Brisbane at #25 and Gold Coast at #93

STUDY QUEENSLAND

- 1800 QSTUDY is a free 24/7 hotline for international student support for wellbeing, accommodation, transport and more
- Study clusters in Cairns, Townsville, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, and the Gold Coast provide a wide range of services to connect international students
- Targeted industry engagement and skill-building opportunities to support international student employability.





SKILLS



Come for the job. Stay for the lifestyle. Thrive in the potential.

The outlook for skilled talent in Queensland has never been brighter.

A rapidly growing population, a dynamic economy topped by preparations to host Brisbane 2032 are the ingredients for skyrocketing demand for skilled talent across priority sectors.

Queensland is a place where skilled workers and business migrants can grow their careers, invest in communities and contribute to something bigger.

The Brisbane 2032 legacy infrastructure program alone will create thousands of jobs and drive long-term demand for a diverse, adaptable and future-ready workforce.

The outlook for Queenslanders is bright, with continued economic growth and job demand predicted in the Olympic decade. There has never been a more exciting time to live and work in Queensland.

Growing Queensland's workforce



Queensland is forecast to have a gap of **156,240 workers** (in the four years to June 2028)



Ongoing jobs growth saw employment growth average **3% in 2024–25**



Unemployment rate forecast to **remain low**, from 4% (2024–25) to 4.75% (2028–29)



Construction workers are forecast to be in demand to 2043 with a **forecast gap of 18,200** (Construction Skills Queensland)



Fast growing industries include health care and social assistance with employment forecast to increase +12.5% by 2027–2028

WORK



Queensland is calling

Queensland's migration program is strongly aligned to current and future workforce demand.

Skilled migrants are matched with regional employers, helping address labour shortages and grow local economies in priority sectors including:

- Health and aged care
- Construction and infrastructure
- Advanced manufacturing
- Agriculture and food production
- Technology and cyber security
- Tourism and hospitality.

Migration Queensland's Skilled Workforce Attraction Office works with industry to promote the state as a leading destination for international talent. It educates industry and employers on the value of a diverse workforce and visa pathways to help address critical workforce gaps.

In FY24-25 business visa nominees contributed:

- **\$100 million** in new investment
- **\$714 million** in asset transfers
- **143** full-time and **334** part-time jobs.

"With support from Migration Queensland,
I secured a skilled visa, moved to Rockhampton,
and found work in my field. Queensland helped
me restart my career and my life."

Civil engineer Deepa R.

Migration Queensland



Nominates migrants for **visa pathways**, provides settlement support and matches talent to opportunities across every corner of the state



In 2023-24, over **23,000 migrants** intending to live in Queensland were granted visas under Australia's permanent migration program



These migrants represented **151 nationalities**



In 2024-25, **Migration Queensland** nominated **1,200 skilled migrants**



Skilled migrants from **64 countries** contributed to providing a work-ready workforce.



Snapshot



\$105 billion
in goods exports in
2024-25 – led by coal, LNG,
metals, beef and crops



19
of the world’s most sought-
after critical minerals and
natural resources



6,730
goods exporters,
with 41% based in
regional Queensland



\$6.85 billion
international education and
training exports – Queensland’s
#1 services export



2.5%
economic growth in
2024-25 – above the
national average



157,658
international student
enrolments in 2024
from 160+ countries



AA+ credit rating
with competitive payroll
tax (4.75%)



360-plus
education and
training providers



21 seaports
and 6 international
airports support
global trade access



\$100 million
in business visa
investment, supporting
477 jobs in 2024-25



25%
of Australia’s resource
exports originate in
Queensland.



1,200
skilled migrants
nominated to support
workforce needs.



BRISBANE 27.4705° S, 153.0260° E

QUEENSLAND
of OPPORTUNITY

