



DEFENCE

Trade and investment opportunities

QUEENSLAND
of OPPORTUNITY



Queensland
Government
Australia





A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



The Honourable Ros Bates MP

Minister for Finance, Trade,
Employment and Training

Queensland is playing an increasingly important role in Australia's defence capability, supported by world-class infrastructure, advanced manufacturing expertise and a highly skilled workforce.

Our state is home to major defence assets, including training facilities, advanced manufacturing capability and growing strengths in autonomous systems, space technologies and hypersonics research.

Queensland's strategic connection to the Asia-Pacific region, combined with stable governance, strong regulation and streamlined business processes, provides an attractive environment for investment.

With one of the largest concentrations of defence enterprises in Australia, Queensland offers significant capability across land systems, aviation, maritime technologies, uncrewed systems and advanced defence technologies.

Queensland is also strengthening sovereign capability through strategic partnerships with industry and research institutions, positioning for long-term sector growth and international collaboration in the defence sector.

The Queensland Government is open for business, and is supporting continued growth across the defence industry by facilitating investment, enabling innovation and strengthening capability.

Trade and Investment Queensland (TIQ) plays an important role in connecting global partners with Queensland's defence opportunities. Through its international network and market expertise, TIQ supports businesses looking to establish, invest and expand in Queensland.

I encourage you to explore our QueensLand of Opportunity and discover why Queensland is a trusted and capable partner for defence investment.



WELCOME TO QUEENSLAND

Located in northeastern Australia, Queensland is recognised as the sixth-largest state in the world by land area – comparable in size to Indonesia and larger than Western Europe or any state in the United States.

The state's defence industry is built on strong foundations and today stands as a substantial and rapidly growing sector.

The state's proximity to the Indo-Pacific region positions Queensland as a gateway for international engagement and maritime security, directly supporting regional security efforts and providing a compelling foundation for international partnerships and industry growth.

Home to 5.7 million people, Queensland offers a year-round tropical and sub-tropical climate, paired with an enviable lifestyle.



TIQ is the Queensland Government's global trade and investment agency, with a network that currently spans 30 locations in 21 international markets across Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Middle East. TIQ plays a vital role in connecting the world to Queensland.



QUEENSLAND OF OPPORTUNITY FOR DEFENCE

The global defence industry is entering a phase of strategic expansion, driven by increasing regional security demands, defence modernisation programs and rapid advancements in autonomous systems, cyber and space technologies.

Home to more than 42% of Australia's military personnel and major Army bases, Queensland is a critical enabler of the nation's defence capabilities. The state also hosts the largest concentration of defence training areas in Australia, providing year-round and diverse training environments.

Backed by stable governance and pro-business policies, Queensland offers a highly competitive operating environment, one of Australia's lowest payroll tax rates and a streamlined regulatory framework.

Partner with Queensland to unlock business success in defence.

At a glance



\$1.2 billion defence and aerospace industry, targeted to reach \$7 billion by 2028

Home to Australia's largest Air Force base, major army bases, and **more than 42% of Australia's army personnel**



Almost one fifth of Australia's growing uncrewed aerial systems industry is located in Queensland



Low Earth orbit and near-equatorial orbit launch advantages

Close proximity to strategic Asia-Pacific markets



Australia's first and only privately owned horizontal launch and guided-weapons test and evaluation range

Home to more than **300 aerospace enterprises** – around one third of Australia's industry





THE QUEENSLAND OF OPPORTUNITY



Land systems and armoured vehicles

- Heavy vehicle manufacturing and advanced capability in armoured vehicle sustainment, modification and tactical systems integration
- Home to Rheinmetall Defence Australia's Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence, producing Boxer CRVs and supporting military trucks
- Queensland hosts a range of ballistic protection, tactical communications, counter-IED and artillery shell forging capabilities
- Home to the Australian Army's primary deployable hospital and field medical capability



Aerospace

- \$178 million in annual exports of aircraft and spacecraft parts
- Home to more than 300 aerospace enterprises – around one third of the national industry
- The state hosts facilities for maintenance, repairs and overhaul primes including Northrop Grumman, Boeing and Lockheed Martin
- One of few global locations with a full range of technical capabilities to maintain, repair, overhaul, upgrade and test advanced military and civilian helicopters
- As Australia's Asia-Pacific gateway, Queensland is a centre for the regional aerospace industry
- A major hub for the Army's rotary-wing fleet including Apache, Chinook and Blackhawk



Maritime

- Sustainment capability for naval platforms, patrol vessels and amphibious craft
- National capability to test autonomous and remotely controlled surface and underwater technologies in a tropical marine environment
- Strong ecosystem supporting sonar, marine composites, underwater robotics and maritime mission systems
- Strategic access to east coast naval logistics hubs including Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville for fleet support and operation



Space and defence systems

- Queensland is rapidly building its presence in the global space industry, backed by key research and development organisations
- New opportunities exist around the development of space infrastructure and an industry supply chain to service it
- Queensland's east coast location - close to the equator and with radio-quiet zones and consistently clear skies - provides ideal conditions for launch and space operations



Robotics and autonomous systems

- Almost one fifth of Australia's growing uncrewed aerial systems (UAS) industry is located in Queensland
- Home to the largest commercial UAS test facility in the southern hemisphere
- Continued UAS development with Australia's pre-eminent aerospace autonomy group at the Queensland University of Technology
- Diverse and deep research and development experience and industry capabilities across land and aerial robotic and autonomous systems



Hypersonics and advanced propulsion

- Home to launch vehicle developers and hypersonic capability
- The University of Queensland is a world leader in hypersonic technology and reusable rocket research, boasting a hypersonic wind tunnel
- The University of Southern Queensland focuses on hypersonic propulsion systems, rocket fuel development, astrophysics, machine-learning and advanced materials





A skilled and growing workforce

Queensland's defence and aerospace industry employs more than 5,000 people and continues to attract the next generation of skilled professionals.

Queensland has the talent pipeline needed to drive future growth. The state has six universities ranked in the world's top 500 and more than 360 international education and training providers. By 2028-29, 2.3 million Queenslanders – representing three quarters of the workforce – will have a post-secondary qualification.

Backed by a \$5 billion investment, the Queensland Government's *Right Skills Strategy 2025-2028* brings together government, industry, registered training providers, educators and students to further strengthen the state's capacity to meet industry demands.

For businesses and investors requiring additional international expertise, Queensland offers tailored support to attract global talent. Dedicated assistance is available to international employers and investors, guiding them through workforce migration options and helping secure specialist skills to grow their operations in Queensland.

Queensland's defence infrastructure

Queensland is a strategic hub for Australia's defence capability, offering sophisticated infrastructure across land, air, sea, cyber and space domains.



Extensive defence aviation infrastructure, including RAAF Base Amberley – Australia's largest Air Force base, supporting air mobility, surveillance and strike capabilities



Strategic seaports, including Brisbane and Townsville, supporting naval logistics, amphibious operations and maritime sustainment



Defence rail and freight corridors integrated with national logistics networks to support rapid mobilisation and supply chain resilience



Robust road infrastructure enabling defence transport and access to remote training areas and bases



Secure and resilient energy and telecommunications infrastructure with more than 15,000 circuit kilometres of transmission lines and 147 substations supporting defence facilities and operations, high-speed submarine cable links and secure defence-grade communications systems



Defence precincts and training areas including Shoalwater Bay and Greenvale, offering multi-domain training environments for joint and allied exercises



Queensland's east coast location – close to the equator and with radio-zones and consistently clear skies – provides ideal conditions for launch and space operations



Specialised test and evaluation infrastructure, including the ReefWorks tropical marine test range and the Black Sky Aerospace MaxQ Test and Evaluation Range, supports the development, validation and certification of defence, aerospace and autonomous systems



- A. Insitu Pacific, Brisbane
- B. EPE Trusted to Protect, Brisbane
- C. Gilmour Space, Queensland
- D. Brisbane Airport

Support and incentives

Queensland actively backs industry growth through a coordinated suite of government programs, strategic partnerships and tailored investment facilitation.

This whole-of-government approach brings together policy, infrastructure, funding and industry capability to support businesses at every stage - from early research and development through to commercialisation and global expansion.

The Queensland Government's Sovereign Industry Development Fund (SIDF) demonstrates this commitment. With over \$180 million dedicated to strengthening sovereign industrial capability, the fund has supported projects that enhance Queensland's ability to deliver critical, high-value industries.

The SIDF demonstrates the Queensland Government's long-term investment in priority sectors and its focus on building globally competitive capability.

Alignment with Australia's defence strategy

Queensland plays a pivotal role in supporting Australia's national defence objectives through strategic infrastructure, workforce development and industry capability. The state's defence initiatives align with the priorities outlined in the Australian Government's 2026 *National Defence Strategy* and are informed by the *Defence Strategic Review 2023*, including enhanced readiness, sovereign capability and regional security.

Queensland also partners with the Australian Space Agency, strengthening national space capability and infrastructure while positioning the state as a key player in Australia's defence future.

Queensland's defence industry is supported by pro-business policies, streamlined approvals and a strong rule of law, providing certainty for defence contractors and global partners. The state fosters inclusive workforce participation, including targeted programs for veterans, contributing to a resilient and skilled defence workforce.

High regulatory standards and transparent governance frameworks underpin Queensland's reputation as a secure and reliable base for defence investment. These frameworks also reflect Queensland's fair and safe working conditions and local community engagement. This approach reinforces Queensland as a trusted, future-focused partner for global defence.

Case study

Boeing Australia is growing Queensland's presence in the global defence market.

In 2020, Boeing Australia entered into an arrangement with the Queensland Government to support the establishment of the primary final assembly facility for the Boeing Airpower Teaming System, renamed to the MQ-28A Ghost Bat, subject to market orders. The MQ-28A Ghost Bat is the first military aircraft to be designed, developed and manufactured in Australia in more than 50 years.

The depth and breadth of talent and innovation in the state are among the many reasons Boeing decided to launch this collaboration in Queensland.

📍 MQ28-A Ghost Bat, Boeing Australia

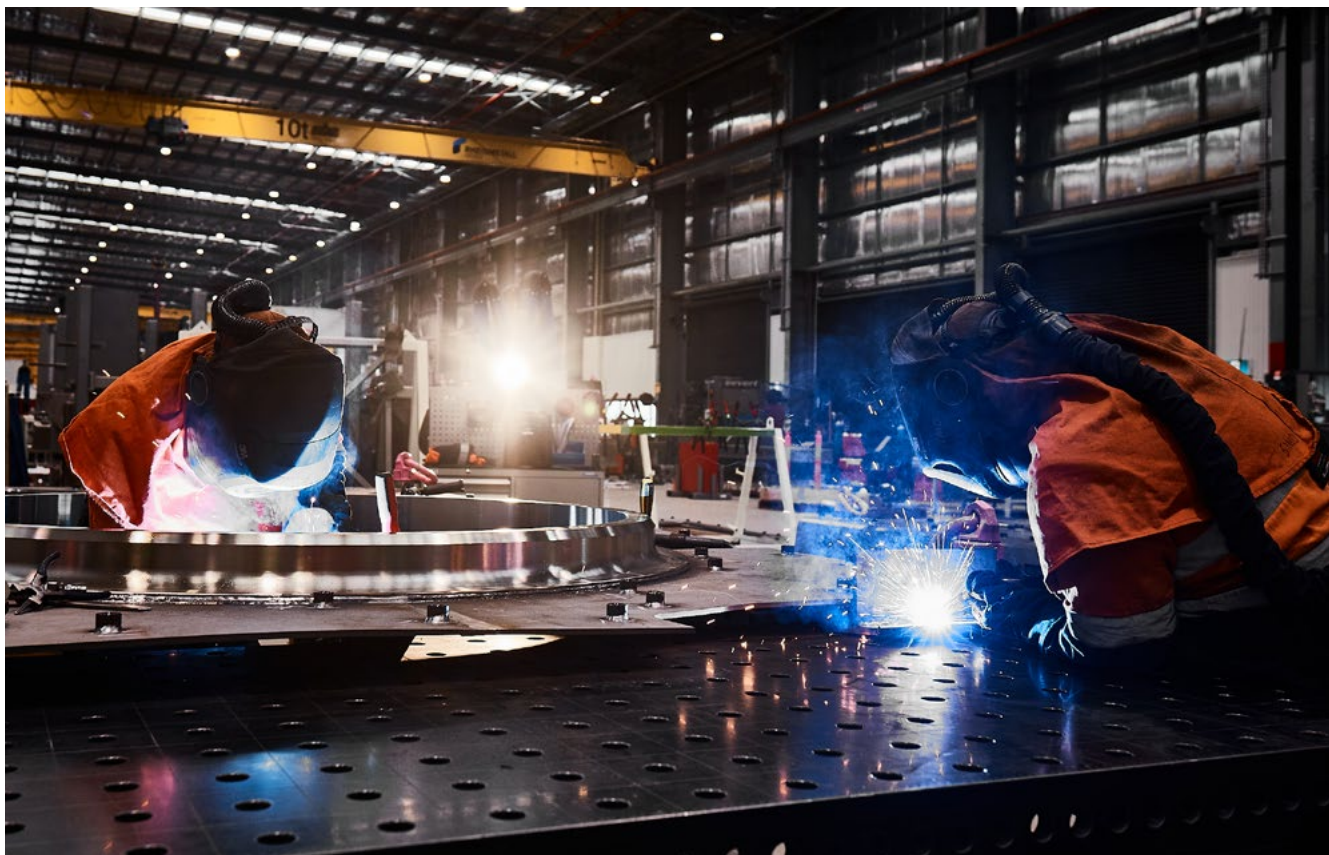


Case study

Queensland is home to the most advanced military vehicle manufacturing facility in Australia.

Under a long-term partnership with the Queensland Government, Rheinmetall Defence Australia has established its Australia-New Zealand headquarters and Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence in Ipswich.

The \$170 million facility supports key Rheinmetall contracts, including manufacturing 211 Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicles for the Australian Army, 100 Boxer heavy weapons carriers for the German Army, sustainment of 3,500 Australian Army logistics trucks, delivering a multi-ammunition soft-kill system, and manufacturing Lance turrets for the Hungarian military.



📍 Rheinmetall Defence Australia, Ipswich



GET GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR DOING BUSINESS WITH QUEENSLAND

TIQ is the Queensland Government's global business agency, facilitating high-value partnerships and guiding businesses to navigate the unique opportunities our state offers.

Whether you are new to Queensland or looking to expand your business or investment across the state, TIQ can help you find the right business opportunity to help meet your objectives.

TIQ supports potential business partners by helping you:

- 1 connect with export-ready businesses and investment-ready projects
- 2 access sector-specific market intelligence and regulatory insights to inform decisions
- 3 engage through site visits, missions and strategic introductions
- 4 leverage government programs and cross-agency support
- 5 access tailored assistance for business case development, market entry and expansion

TIQ offers these services at no cost to you.





Is your business ready to take advantage
of the Queensland of Opportunity?

**Learn more about support for
your future success through
Trade and Investment Queensland.**



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