

2023-24 State Budget

Queensland Tourism Industry Council Overview



QUEENSLAND
TOURISM INDUSTRY
COUNCIL

Acknowledgement of Country

The Queensland Tourism Industry Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and live across Queensland, and recognises their continuing connection to the land, waters and culture. We also pay our respects to all First Nations people, past, present and emerging.

About the Queensland Tourism Industry Council

The Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) is Queensland's peak tourism industry body and the leading advocate for Queensland's tourism and hospitality sector. QTIC represents the interests of the state's more than 60,000 tourism businesses across Queensland working in all sectors of the tourism and hospitality industry.

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Introduction

The 2023-24 Queensland Government Budget was handed down yesterday and includes several funding commitments aimed at supporting the growth of the tourism and hospitality industry. We breakdown and provide a summary of these major industry-related initiatives in our Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) overview.

Unsurprisingly, measures to ease cost of living pressures took centre stage in this election budget. Optimistically, the focus on financial relief for Queenslanders may be reflected in positive domestic tourism outlooks. The combined impact of financial relief and a significant budget surplus should also improve consumer confidence.

Although tourism did not feature prominently in this budget, QTIC welcomes the government's guaranteed funding of Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ), which has been set at \$125 million per annum over the next four financial years. The investment commitment provides much-needed certainty and security TEQ at a time when destination promotion is critical.

Housing and workforce challenges are currently the most significant hurdles to tourism success and remain an advocacy priority for QTIC. With affordable housing a key factor in attracting and retaining a workforce within both regional and South East Queensland destinations, the government's strong commitment to housing investment in the 2023-24 budget is appropriate. Likewise, a committed investment in workforce attraction and training within the budget is welcomed by our industry.

While the budget reflects the tight economic environment we currently operate in, it is disappointing to see that greater funding for small business support was not provided. As business conditions and confidence lower, investment in small businesses must be given greater importance.

QTIC will continue to work with other industries and all levels of government to advocate for and secure a strong operating environment for Queensland tourism businesses.



Brett Fraser
Chief Executive Officer
Queensland Tourism Industry Council



Elsa D'Alessio
Chair
Queensland Tourism Industry Council

Tourism, hospitality and events

Although direct tourism investment was not a focus of this budget, the government committed itself to several measures that support tourism, hospitality and events. Most notably, a guarantee of \$125 million per annum to Tourism and Events Queensland over the next four years.

Key investments include:

- \$125 million per annum over 4 years for Tourism and Events Queensland.
- \$20 million in 2023-24 to progress Towards Tourism 2032 strategy, including \$15 million towards the Tourism Experience and Infrastructure Grants program.
- \$2.6 million towards six projects as part of the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 Legacy Fund.
- \$12 million over 2 years (from 2022-23) towards 2023 Year of Accessible Tourism activities.
- \$2.44 million increased funding over 4 years towards BIGSOUND – Queensland Music Network annual industry conference and showcase.

Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games

- \$1.9 million over 4 years towards Brisbane 2032 venues infrastructure, including Brisbane Arena, Gabba redevelopment, and minor venues program.
- \$100.3 million over 4 years in additional funding and \$13.6 million ongoing per annum towards the Brisbane 2032 coordination office.
- \$7.5 million additional funding over 4 years to develop public safety and security arrangements for Brisbane 2032.

Housing

Housing affordability and availability have spiralled over the last year, with operators and employees facing increasing difficulties in accessing housing within both major and regional destinations. Affordable housing is a key factor in attracting and retaining a tourism workforce and must remain a budget priority.

Key housing investments include:

- \$60.5 million increased funding over 4 years and \$2 million per annum ongoing towards the QuickStarts Queensland program
- \$322 million funding for 500 social homes, with anticipated completion by mid-2025.
- \$54 million additional funding over 2 years for the Immediate Housing Response Package.
- \$51.3 million over 4 years for the second Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan (2024-27).
- Additional \$23.5 million over 4 years towards acceleration of social and affordable housing delivery.
- \$12.1 million additional funding over 5 years (from 2022-23) for emergency accommodation in inner Brisbane.

Workforce and training

New funding will be available for the Industry Workforce Advisor program, which has seen industry bodies such as QTIC providing operators with workforce support. Investment for key priority areas, including workforce attraction measures have also been announced in the budget.

Key investments include:

- \$86 million to renew and revitalise TAFE Queensland training infrastructure, \$16 million towards TAFE Queensland Cairns Great Barrier Reef International Marine College expansion.
- \$29.8 million over 3 years towards the vocational education and training (VET) modernisation and transformation program.
- \$1 million for Australian Training Works towards development of the Cairns Indigenous Training Facility.
- \$4.6 million for the Women in Trade Apprenticeships Mentoring Program over the next two financial years.
- \$5 million over 4 years (from 2022-23) towards strengthening school-industry partnerships and school to work transitions.
- \$6.5 million additional funding over 3 years (from 2022-23) for the Industry Workforce Advisor program.
- \$4.1m increased funding over 3 years (from 2022-23) towards the Gateway to Industry schools program.
- \$5.3 million additional funding over 4 years (from 2022-23) for implementation arrangements of the Queensland Workforce Strategy.
- \$3.4 million additional funding over 3 years (from 2022-23) for initiatives to support apprentice and trainee completions.
- \$3.5 million additional funding over 4 years (from 2022-23) for place-based skills and job creation initiatives.
- \$20 million over 2 years (met internally) towards the Workforce Connect Fund.
- \$4.4 million over 4 years to establish a Skilled Workforce Attraction Office within Trade and Investment Queensland, to strengthen the State Nominated Migration Program.

Small business

The budget contains a number of measures to support small businesses. Budget support is predominately aimed at assisting operators in reducing energy bills through energy efficiency incentives.

QTIC welcomes the continued investment in small business support and wellness packages, as well as funding for micro-credentialing programs. The onboarding and upskilling of staff remains an advocacy priority for QTIC.

Key measures for small businesses include:

- \$5 million for Cyber Security support for small to medium enterprises over 2 years.
- \$1.435 billion funding towards cost-of-living electricity rebates for businesses (\$650 for approx. 205,000 businesses) and households (\$550 all households, \$700 vulnerable households).
- \$35 million additional funding over 3 years (from 2022-23) towards the Queensland Business Energy Saving and Transformation Program.
- \$6.8 million additional funding over 3 years (from 2022-23) towards a small business support and wellness package.
- \$5.9 million increased funding over 2 years (from 2022-23) to extend the Micro-credentialing Pilot Program.
- Financial support to establish the Queensland Indigenous Business Network

Infrastructure and development

With a focus on cost of living relief, the budget does not allocate substantial funds for significant new infrastructure projects.

Key announcements include:

- \$3.3 million in 2023-24 towards the Rural Economic Development Grants Program and employment/agribusiness development in regional Queensland.
- \$12.5 million over 6 years to deliver Stage 1 of the Torres Strait Islands Marine Infrastructure Program.
- \$54.3 million additional funding over 3 years for Stage 1 Browne Park redevelopment for rugby league and other sporting and entertainment events.
- \$2 million additional funding to complete options assessment and feasibility study to improve Queensland Cultural Centre flood resilience.

Transport

Allocation of funds to improving transport and regional connectivity will directly assist tourism's ongoing revitalisation.

Key investments include:

- \$58.1 million over 4 years and \$16.8 million per annum ongoing towards regional urban bus service contracts.
- \$6 million increased funding towards the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme.
- \$5 million additional funding over 3 years (from 2022-23) for completion of the Long Distance Passenger Rail Program business case.
- \$500,000 additional funding towards Torres Strait Ferry funding program.

Arts and culture

As consumer sentiment for cultural products grows, it is important for Queensland to remain competitive by leveraging off this expanding market. QTIC welcomes the allocation of funding for Queensland's cultural products and precincts.

Key announcements include:

- \$2 million increased funding to the Queensland Performing Arts Centre for growth and development of First Nations initiatives and digital capacity.
- \$4.6 million increased funding over 5 years for the Queensland Museum Network First Nations Repatriation Program.
- \$335,000 increased funding for the Queensland Museum maintenance program.
- \$920,000 additional funding over 4 years and \$260,000 per annum ongoing to connect Queenslanders to art through the digital transformation initiative.
- \$4.4 million increased funding over 2 years (from 2025-26) and \$2.2 million ongoing thereafter for the cultural tourism program strategy and exhibition funding.
- \$9 million increased funding over 3 years (from 2024-25) for the World Science Festival.

Environment and sustainability

Investment in the sustainable commercial use and management of Queensland's natural assets is an advocacy priority for QTIC. The budget supports several sustainability and environmental management measures that will contribute to the long-term success of industry.

Key announcements include:

- \$14.4 million over 4 years for continued revitalisation of national parks and improvement of visitor experiences and infrastructure.
- \$32.8 million over 5 years towards continuation of the Queensland Protected Area Strategy 2020-30 and management of World Heritage Areas.
- Increased funding of \$2.5 million over 4 years for management of the Currumbin Eco-Parkland.
- \$234 million increased funding over 5 years towards the Waste Package for council and industry investment in infrastructure/programs to reduce waste and meet recovery targets.
- \$9.2 million over 5 years and \$3 million per annum ongoing to improve swimmer safety, including the shark control program.
- \$38.6 million increased funding over 4 years towards managing Country with First Nations peoples.
- Increased funding of \$49.9 million over 4 years towards Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program expansion.
- \$17.1 million over 4 years towards Quandamooka partnerships on Land and Sea Country.
- \$11.7 million additional funding over 3 years towards First Nations inclusion and economic development in water management.

Resilience and crisis management

The budget contains several significant investment packages aimed at improving the resilience of Queensland infrastructure and mitigating disaster risk. Funding is also aimed at increasing crisis management capabilities.

Key investments include:

- \$152 million package allocated to the jointly funded Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Efficiencies with the Australian Government.
- Increased funding towards emergency management reforms and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, totalling a \$578 million funding package (\$493.2 million held centrally) over 5 years.
- \$2.8 million increased funding over 3 years to enhance the bushfire safety and preparedness campaign.

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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