

2024-25 Queensland Budget

Submitted to the Queensland Treasury

November 2023



QUEENSLAND
TOURISM INDUSTRY
COUNCIL

The Voice of Tourism

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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.

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QUEENSLAND TOURISM INDUSTRY COUNCIL

The Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) is pleased to offer this submission to the Queensland Government and the Treasury for consideration in the 2024-25 Budget.

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.

A BUDGET TO ENABLE A THRIVING VISITOR ECONOMY

Tourism is a dynamic and multifaceted industry, comprised of passionate people showcasing Queensland's rich history, unique destinations, and diverse First Nations cultures. A deep connection to communities and the lives of Queensland residents is evident through the array of services and commercial opportunities tourism provides. In addition, a commitment to research and innovation means that tourism plays a crucial role in creating new opportunities for Queensland.

Tourism also makes an invaluable contribution to national, state, and local economies. At YE June 2023, tourism throughout the state generated \$33.2 billion in Overnight Visitor Expenditure (OVE)¹ Contributing 4.6% of total GSP, tourism is Queensland's sixth largest export², but it is also a lens through which all other aspects of the economy are filtered. Queensland tourism serves as a cornerstone of economic growth and catalyst for other industries – driving demand in agriculture, construction, manufacturing, transport, retail, education and training, and beyond. For every dollar spent on tourism, an additional 85 cents is circulated elsewhere in the economy (YE June 2022).³

The industry is also relevant to many, if not all, government portfolios and involves all three levels of government, with net taxes arising from direct consumption of tourism products contributing \$909 million to federal, state, and local revenue.⁴ A prevailing government perspective appears to be that the Queensland tourism industry does not require further support, citing record-breaking consumer demand. However, the situation is more complex, as this assumption overlooks the impact of inflation on visitor expenditure and downplays significant business constraints and potential risks, which include:

- Public liability insurance premium costs skyrocketing due to market failure caused by increasing natural disasters and the costs associated with repairs and replacements.
- The number and increasing frequency and severity of disasters linked to climate change, and subsequent disruption to business.

¹ Tourism and Events Queensland 2023, [Queensland tourism economic key facts](#), viewed 20 October 2023.

² Tourism Research Australia 2023, [State tourism satellite account – Queensland summary](#), Australian Trade and Investment Commission, viewed 15 November 2023.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*



- Existing and projected economic challenges due to inflation, growing geopolitical unrest, rising cost of living, and housing availability and affordability.
- Business investment decline due to red tape from all levels of government, cost of construction, increasing cost of capital due to rising interest rates, and very limited project facilitation support from within government.
- A growing lack of available skilled workforce, compounded by an inadequate housing supply, to attract and retain staff.

Considering these challenges, the economic contribution of the visitor economy, the fast-approaching *Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games* and ambitious 2032 \$44 billion OVE targets⁵, it is imperative that the 2024-25 Queensland Budget decisively addresses constraints on tourism businesses to enable a thriving industry. Collaboration and communication are crucial for achieving these outcomes, with budget measures demonstrating a commitment to partnerships among key tourism stakeholders, all government levels, local communities, First Nations peoples, and the broader community. This approach will foster comprehensive planning, inclusive decision-making, and establish a legacy for Queensland underscored by sustainability, community engagement, and economic growth.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. INSURANCE AVAILABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY

Insurance coverage in a hardened global insurance market is the single-biggest challenge currently faced by Queensland tourism businesses. Limited options for available and affordable insurance, coupled with a greater risk of storms, cyclones, and floods, contribute to higher insurer costs, pushing premiums in Queensland well above the national average⁶ and hindering economic growth.

The 2021 QTIC [Insurance cover for the tourism industry](#) report demonstrated a significant rise in public liability costs for members between 2019-2021, with 7% facing increases of 70-830%.⁷ Similarly, 10% of businesses reported property insurance cost increases of 70-509%⁸, categorised as 'very high,' 'severe,' and 'extreme' based on the Insurance Council of Australia suggested affordability guide.⁹ The problem has steadily intensified over the intervening years, culminating in a situation of effective market failure that urgently demands government intervention.

- Fund a State and Federal Government Taskforce to concentrate efforts to explore measures to address affordability and availability, including options to abolish state government taxes on insurance premiums or redirected revenue, and removal of stamp duty and other taxes.
- Joint State and Federal Government intervention regarding public liability insurance, including development of a policy framework. This should include implementation of a new no-fault/capped liability scheme for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), similar to the New Zealand [Toka Tū Ake EQC](#).
- The government should explore a rebate system that helps the business owner underwrite the cost of insurance, ensuring continued operations in a slowing economy. The rebate system could be a matched dollar-for-dollar grant fund.

⁵ Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport 2022, [Towards Tourism 2032: Transforming Queensland's visitor economy future](#), Queensland Government, viewed 14 November 2023.

⁶ Insurance Council of Australia 2023, [Insurance catastrophe resilience report 2022-23](#), p. 6.

⁷ Queensland Tourism Industry Council 2021, [Insurance cover for the tourism industry report](#), p. 24.

⁸ *Ibid*, p. 25.

⁹ Trowbridge, J 2021, [Role of the private insurance market – independent strategic review: Commercial insurance](#), Insurance Council of Australia, viewed 25 August 2022, p. 27.



2. WORKFORCE

The Queensland tourism industry constitutes 6.7% of total state employment with 206,200 direct and indirect jobs.¹⁰ Looking ahead, projections indicate employment in accommodation and food services will have the third fastest growth of all industries in Queensland by 2025-26.¹¹ Nevertheless, the Queensland tourism industry is confronted by sizable workforce shortages, totalling 4,800 job vacancies across the state.¹²

In October 2023, the youth unemployment rate for Queensland sat at 8.7%, compared to 3.7% for the state overall.¹³ A rapid response to disengagement is critical to young people's active engagement in work-readiness programs. Removal of barriers hindering progress and the attraction, retention, and development of a skilled workforce is essential to leveraging future opportunities.

- Continuation of the *50% Apprentice and Trainee Payroll Tax Rebate*, with targeted tourism industry communication campaigns.
- Ongoing support for the QTIC [Regional Tourism Careers Roadshow](#), which promotes tourism careers to secondary students throughout Queensland, forging vital connections between students, schools, and local employers. Tangible program outcomes include a significant rise in students actively considering careers in tourism and successful student industry placements.
- Encourage diversity and inclusion in the workforce by implementing programs that support underrepresented groups in accessing tourism-related employment opportunities, including employer guidance on creating inclusive workplace cultures.
- Dedicate funding to support individuals transitioning to new industries, leveraging their previous training to attract a diverse workforce. Financial support for retraining programs targeting experienced industry employees could also promote skill adaptability. There is an opportunity to develop awareness and retraining among mining sector redundancies and connect to green, local, and sustainable tourism roles.
- Investigate and develop programs to support the wellbeing of tourism and hospitality employees in Queensland. The joint University of Queensland and QTIC [Queensland Tourism Workforce Crisis Resilience and Recovery Strategy](#) (funded through Advance Queensland) provides valuable insights regard to inform future initiatives.
- Ensure greater coordination between social enterprises and the tourism industry.
- Work with all levels of government to determine regional migration priorities and streamline processes that are practical for the limited supply of available housing.
- Extend financial support for workforce upskilling, fee reductions, and demand-driving programs. This should include Federal Government collaboration to boost incentives for employer participation in apprenticeship programs and reduce workforce pipeline leakages.
- Partner with schools, industry stakeholders, and training organisations to support Trade Training Centres, especially in regional and remote areas.
- Explore strategies to actively engage, incentivise, and support Group Training Organisations (GTOs) in the cookery field, with the aim of enhancing cookery apprentice completions.
- Enhance student engagement in VET courses by connecting them with industry and providing meaningful work placements.

¹⁰ Tourism Research Australia 2023, [State tourism satellite account – Queensland summary](#), Australian Trade and Investment Commission, viewed 15 November 2023.

¹¹ Jobs Queensland 2023, [Anticipating Future Skills Series](#), Queensland Government, viewed 25 August 2023.

¹² Australian Bureau of Statistics 2023, [Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - September 2023](#), viewed 27 October 2023.

¹³ Australian Bureau of Statistics 2023, [Labour force, Australia – October 2023](#), viewed 16 November 2023.



3. SUPPLY AND INVESTMENT ATTRACTION

Industry has informed QTIC that developing new tourism infrastructure and offerings is becoming increasingly challenging, with red tape identified as a key constraint on operational status. Investment confidence in the industry is lacking without clear leadership and cross-government or interdepartmental coordination to address operational issues and regulatory complexities. In addition, an underemphasis on government supply-side activities leaves Queensland ill-prepared to seize opportunities arising from future consumer demand and attraction of new visitor markets.

To reach 2032 targets, it is critical to establish a robust tourism infrastructure pipeline and create investment conditions that not only stimulate new product development but also enhance existing offerings.

- Annually maintain the funding allocation to the *Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund* and *Outback Tourism Infrastructure Fund* to continue the success of generating matched funding for capital projects across Queensland. Government investment and intervention are essential to nurture the next generation of iconic attractions and tourism experiences. QTIC recommends a \$20 million annual budget allocation for each of these funds.
- \$5 million should be allocated and available annually to underpin feasibility studies for potential new projects that align with the aspirations of the *Towards Tourism 2032* strategy.
- Develop targeted investment attraction strategies to encourage domestic and international investors to invest in the Queensland tourism industry and share with industry the pipeline and progress of the state in achieving investment.
- Implement Destination Management Plans (DMPs) in all Queensland tourism regions, with Tourism Infrastructure Plans (TIPs) developed beneath them. DMPs, as co-designed documents, offer guidance on regional stakeholder roles and tailored courses of action for tourism development. These plans garnered widespread support for identifying supply-side gaps and misalignments between Local Councils and Regional Tourism Organisations (RTOs).

4. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

The Queensland tourism industry is predominantly comprised of micro, small and medium businesses, with 9 out of 10 classified as small.¹⁴ Considering the difficulties faced at both individual and industry levels, tourism operators are already at full capacity focusing on day-to-day activities, which leaves little time to explore opportunities for strategic business planning and development.

- Establish a function within government to provide dedicated business guidance on navigating licensing, approvals, interpreting legislation, offering project facilitation support, ultimately remove impediments and protecting businesses from cost overruns.
- Create a streamlined regulatory framework to simplify processes for tourism businesses and investors. This should involve establishing a whole-of-government case management team to oversee upgrades and expansions of key tourism infrastructure.
- Develop a centralised platform for processing permits, licenses, and approvals, supported by funding for electronic assessment of all projects at all levels to reduce approval times.
- Establish tourism-specific incubation programs and innovation hubs that foster entrepreneurship and support the development of new businesses and startups.
- Allocate funding for direct business training and resources to help tourism businesses adopt technology and undergo digital transformation, enhancing existing products, facilitating the launch of new offerings, and boosting digital readiness.

¹⁴ Tourism Research Australia 2023, [Tourism businesses in Australia - June 2017 to 2022](#), Australian Trade and Investment Commission, viewed 16 November 2023.



5. TRANSPORT, MOBILITY AND CONNECTIVITY

Sustainable growth and seizing emerging opportunities hinges on continual investments in catalytic transport infrastructure and digital connectivity. To meet the demands of population growth and achieve *Brisbane 2032* targets, it is imperative to lay these foundations well in advance. A clearly defined direction and funding, derived from consultation with QTIC and industry is required.

- Extend the annual \$200 million allocation to the *Attracting Aviation Investment Fund* to support a competitive aviation market, servicing both major cities and regional destinations, with the aim of boosting aviation capacity beyond pre-pandemic levels. This program should provide incentives and competitive offerings to attract investment and stimulate growth in both international and domestic visitation.
- Continue to support the expansion of new international air routes to diverse markets for tourism and trade.
- Prioritise active transportation in regional Queensland by investing in low emissions public transit, in addition to dedicated cycling/micromobility infrastructure and pedestrian paths. Develop efficient transportation plans to minimise congestion, ensure long-term residential benefit, and enable greater connectivity and reduced environmental impact.
- Encourage development of innovative and sustainable infrastructure, such as green buildings, parks, and pedestrian-friendly zones, to create vibrant urban environments.
- Foster public-private partnerships to develop sustainable, mixed-use precincts that integrate residential, commercial, cultural, and recreational facilities, implementing urban renewal projects to revitalise key areas. This approach creates attractive precincts and public spaces, enhancing liveability, community spirit, and connectedness.
- Invest in digital infrastructure and broadband connectivity to ensure seamless communication and internet access for tourists and businesses.
- Fund inner region transport for effective traveller connection and dispersion.

6. HOUSING

A tight rental market and rising prices in Queensland have left potential tenants competing for limited properties. The vacancy rate sits at 1.0% overall in June 2023, with some regions as low as 0.1-0.2%¹⁵, resulting in 59.12% of renters experiencing rental stress.¹⁶ Housing issues exacerbate tourism workforce shortages and push local workers out of the market, impacting operators' ability to staff their businesses, affecting quality of tourism services and destinations reputation.

- Address current challenges regarding the availability of affordable, quality accommodation, particularly in regional and remote locations.
- Establish and allocate funding to a Queensland workforce accommodation fund, similar to the Victorian Government \$150 million [Regional Worker Accommodation Fund](#).
- Foster partnerships between government, the private sector, and tourism and housing stakeholders to jointly invest in workforce housing projects, such as complexes near major event venues or tourism-dependent destinations.
- Incentivise and support implementation of housing co-operatives or not-for-profit residential housing solutions that are people-focused, incorporate sustainability, foster community, and facilitate active/public transportation connectivity, like the [Nightingale](#) model.
- Create a housing group in the Tourism portfolio that collaborates with industry and connects across departments to find solutions and capitalise on underutilised accommodation options. This coordinated effort should consider the impact of returning international students and

¹⁵ Real Estate Institute of Queensland 2023, [Green shoots emerge in Queensland's rental vacancy rates](#), viewed 14 August 2023.

¹⁶ Digital Finance Analytics 2023, [A deeper dive on mortgage stress](#), viewed 14 August 2023.



accommodation pressures. Key goals should include reporting actions and opportunities, measuring current circumstances, and ensuring ample future housing before *Brisbane 2032*.

7. FIRST NATIONS TOURISM

In 2019, around 472,000 visitors in Queensland engaged in First Nations tourism experiences, comprising 13% of total international visitors.¹⁷ Increasing demand prompted the creation of the QTIC [Best Practice Guide for Working with First Nations Tourism in Queensland](#), reflecting the transformative impact of First Nations operators and the need for ongoing investment.

- Allocate funding to developing the business case for a First Nations-led media hub to ensure recognition of First Nations cultures is embedded in all Brisbane 2032 coverage, supported by investment into promotion, training and skilling to fulfil necessary roles.
- Sustainable funding base to ensure the success of First Nations tourism in Queensland be provided to QTIC to advocate and support operators, at \$500,000 per year.
- \$800,000 annual financial commitment to expanding employment and leadership opportunities for First Nations peoples in tourism throughout the state. QTIC is well placed to develop and deliver a state-wide training package.
- Ongoing investment towards the development of authentic, First Nations-owned and operated tourism businesses, including attractions, tours, and events with a matched funding grant program of \$10 million to encourage development opportunities.
- Guidance to support industry promotion of First Nations languages ahead of *Brisbane 2032*.

8. SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The Queensland tourism industry is significantly impacted by climate change, facing business disruption from increasingly frequent and severe weather events. Urgent measures are essential to minimise these effects on Queensland's diverse landscapes and unique tourism destinations.

- Embed sustainability and resilience as core criteria in all government grant programs.
- Extend the \$7 million *Tourism Recovery and Resilience Package* that was delivered in response to the 2021-22 flooding, but with revised eligibility criteria to include all Queensland Local Government Areas and create direct linkages to environmental and sustainability targets.
- A review of the current *Queensland Zero Emission Vehicle Rebate Scheme*, \$3,000 incentive, and eligibility criteria to include a broader vehicle range and support the transition to low emission for the tour and transport sector.
- Support research and development initiatives and provide funding to ongoing marine tourism sector efforts to implement emissions reducing fleet technologies.
- Develop comprehensive guidelines facilitating sustainable accommodation operations, encompassing design refurbishment and technology upgrade considerations.
- Allocate strategic marketing funds to promote good news stories on Great Barrier Reef, tourism to counter negative publicity regarding its health, and safeguard operator interests.
- Expand the Queensland *Electric Super Highway* to include more charging stations.
- Establish a funded program for Local Councils, RTOs, and tourism business collectives to collaborate and capitalise on shared clean energy infrastructure with broad tourism and residential benefit, such as community batteries.
- Provide incentives for tourism businesses to measure and reduce their carbon footprint year-on-year through verified means.
- Introduce tax incentives to encourage tourism businesses to adopt sustainable/circular economy practices, i.e., resource recovery, renewable energy, water management, and waste

¹⁷ Tourism & Events Queensland 2019, [Queensland Indigenous tourism trends](#), viewed 15 November 2022.



management infrastructure. This could be a state-based scheme like the Australian Government *Temporary Full Expensing Measure*, with an investment allowance (20% of depreciable asset value) to justify and offset initial capital outlay.

- Make a clear, decisive commitment to legislating Queensland sustainability targets, including a comprehensive policy framework for sustainability, carbon reduction, waste management, water conservation, and biodiversity protection.

9. ECOTOURISM

Ecotourism offers compelling economic motivations to preserve biological diversity and rich cultural heritage, while being closely aligned with shifting consumer preferences.¹⁸ The 2023 Queensland Audit Office 'Growing ecotourism in Queensland' report clearly states that "the Queensland Government has no statewide policy on ecotourism that clearly defines how the state's tourism and environmental entities will work towards its vision, inhibiting ecotourism planning and coordination".¹⁹ In addition, "the entities have also not developed a clear roadmap to direct how they will act to achieve the state's ecotourism vision".²⁰ Cross-government and interdepartmental action is needed to initiate and deliver on ecotourism products inside and outside of national parks, centred on environmental protection and visitor understanding of how their impact is being negated.

- Allocate funding for a cross-government taskforce to streamline processes for new ecotourism projects. The taskforce should prioritise reducing red tape, removing impediments caused by interdepartmental liaisons, and supporting industry to launch high quality products that benefit First Nations communities and the environment.
- The Premier made an Election commitment to support the Whitsundays Skyway project, yet it has stalled within government. Funds should be allocated to cross-government case managers, demonstrating leadership in managing approvals for strategic tourism infrastructure in sensitive locations.
- Establish a \$20 million dollar-for-dollar fund to drive new investment in sustainable product development showcasing Queensland's natural beauty, Approved projects should focus on achieving Net Zero footprint, incorporating First Nations expertise and guidance, and providing an educational visitor experience.
- Allocate funds to address maintenance issues in deteriorating island resorts and establish a cross-government task force with clearly defined key performance indicators, involving the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport, the Department of Environment and Science, and the Coordinator-General's Office. It is critical to maintain strong focus on achieving these outcomes within a two-year period, to ensure Queensland islands are restored to pristine condition without relying on the appeal of new infrastructure.

10. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Measures incorporated in the 2024-25 Queensland Budget should align with current industry strategies, ensuring that appropriate resources are in place to support industry stakeholders in delivering priority items. These strategies include:

- [Towards Tourism 2032: Transforming Queensland's visitor economy future](#)
- [Queensland First Nations Tourism Plan 2020-2025: Voices of today, stories of tomorrow](#)
- [Ecotourism Plan for Queensland's Protected Areas 2023-2028](#)
- [Elevate2042: Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games legacy strategy](#)

¹⁸ International Ecotourism Society 2023, [What is ecotourism - The International Ecotourism Society](#), viewed 17 November 2023.

¹⁹ Queensland Audit Office 2023, [Growing ecotourism in Queensland Report 12: 2022-23](#), Queensland Government, p. 1.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

11. LOCAL PROCUREMENT

Queensland is home to diverse, innovative businesses – increased procurement targets would support a strong state economy, generate employment, and demonstrate the high quality of product on offer.

- Exclusive provision of beverages from Queensland distilleries should be mandated for Queensland Government-owned venues. The current situation represents a missed opportunity to actively support industry development and showcase locally produced goods.
- Set an 80% procurement target from Queensland suppliers, manufacturers, and service providers moving forward, with preference to those who prioritise sustainability, have relevant certifications, or directly benefit local communities through circular economy initiatives and job creation.
- Increase procurement spend with First Nations-owned businesses from 3% to 5%.
- Increase procurement spend with Queensland SMEs from 30% to 40%.



SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Theme	Recommendations
1. Insurance availability and affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish State and Federal Taskforce to address insurance affordability and availability. Explore options to eliminate taxes on insurance premiums and abolish stamp duty. Collaborate on public liability insurance intervention with a new no-fault/capped liability scheme for SMEs. Develop a policy framework for joint government action. Implement a rebate system for business owners to offset insurance costs in a slowing economy, using a matched dollar-for-dollar grant fund.
2. Workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue 50% <i>Apprentice and Trainee Payroll Tax Rebate</i> with targeted tourism communication campaigns. Support QTIC Regional Careers Roadshow for tourism careers awareness and industry connections. Implement programs for diversity and inclusion in tourism employment. Allocate funding for individuals transitioning to new industries, emphasising retraining and skill adaptability. Develop programs for tourism and hospitality employee wellbeing, drawing from the UQ/QTIC <i>Queensland Tourism Workforce Crisis Resilience and Recovery Strategy</i>. Greater coordination between social enterprises and the tourism industry. Collaborate with all levels of government to determine regional migration priorities. Extend financial support for workforce upskilling, fee reductions, and demand-driving programs. Partner with schools, industry stakeholders, and training organisations for Trade Training Centres, especially in regional and remote areas. Engage and support Group Training Organisations in the cookery field to enhance apprentice completions. Boost student engagement in VET courses through industry connections and meaningful work placements.
3. Supply and investment attraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain annual funding for <i>Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund</i> and <i>Outback Tourism Infrastructure Fund</i> at \$20m each. Strengthen government leadership in approving strategic tourism infrastructure in sensitive locations. Allocate \$5m annually for feasibility studies aligned with the <i>Towards Tourism 2032</i> strategy. Develop targeted investment attraction strategies with transparent progress reports. Implement Destination Management Plans and Tourism Infrastructure Plans in all Queensland tourism regions. Allocate funds for maintenance in deteriorating island resorts and establish cross-government taskforce with defined KPIs for restoration processes.
4. Business development and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a government function for dedicated business guidance on licensing, approvals, and project facilitation. Establish a streamlined regulatory framework for tourism businesses and investors. Develop a centralised platform for processing permits, licenses, and approvals with funding for electronic assessment. Establish tourism-specific incubation programs and innovation hubs for entrepreneurship and business development. Allocate funding for direct business training to enhance digital readiness and technology adoption.
5. Transport, mobility and connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend annual \$200m allocation to <i>Attracting Aviation Investment Fund</i> for competitive aviation market. Support expansion of new international air routes for tourism and trade.

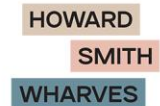


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise active transportation in regional Queensland with low emissions public transit and cycling infrastructure. • Encourage innovative and sustainable infrastructure for vibrant urban environments. • Foster public-private partnerships for sustainable mixed-use precincts and urban renewal projects. • Invest in digital infrastructure and broadband connectivity for seamless visitor communication and enhancing tourism business capacity. • Fund inner region transport for effective traveller connection and dispersion.
6. Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address accommodation shortages, especially in regional areas. • Establish and allocate funding to a Queensland workforce accommodation fund. • Foster partnerships for joint investments in workforce housing projects. • Incentivise housing co-operatives or not-for-profit solutions with a focus on sustainability and community. • Create a housing group in the Tourism portfolio to support collaborative solutions. • Address returning international students' impact on accommodation and plan for <i>Brisbane 2032</i> housing needs.
7. First Nations tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate business case funding for a First Nations <i>Brisbane 2032</i> media hub. • Sustainable funding of \$500,000 annually to QTIC for First Nations tourism support. • Commit \$800,000 annually for expanding employment and leadership opportunities for First Nations peoples in tourism. • Invest in authentic First Nations-owned tourism businesses with a \$10 million matched funding grant program. • Provide guidance for industry promotion of First Nations languages ahead of <i>Brisbane 2032</i>.
8. Sustainability and climate resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed sustainability and resilience as core criteria in all government grant programs. • Extend \$7m <i>Tourism Recovery and Resilience Package</i> with revised eligibility criteria. • Review <i>Queensland Zero Emission Vehicle Rebate Scheme</i> to support the tour and transport sector. • Support R&D initiatives for emissions-reducing fleet technologies in marine tourism. • Develop comprehensive guidelines for sustainable accommodation operations. • Allocate marketing funds to promote positive tourism Great Barrier Reef stories, counter negative publicity, and safeguard operator interests. • Expand Queensland <i>Electric Super Highway</i> with more charging stations. • Fund a program for Local Councils, RTOs, and tourism business collectives to collaborate on shared clean energy infrastructure. • Provide incentives for tourism businesses to measure and reduce carbon footprint. • Introduce tax incentives to encourage tourism businesses to adopt circular economy practices, similar to the <i>Temporary Full Expensing Measure</i>. • Commit to legislating Queensland sustainability targets.
9. Ecotourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and fund a taskforce to streamline ecotourism project development and remove existing impediments. • Address the stalled Whitsundays Skyway project with allocated funds for cross-government case managers. • Establish a \$20m matched fund for sustainable product development, emphasising Net Zero footprint, First Nations involvement, and educational visitor experiences. • Allocate funds to address maintenance issues in deteriorating island resorts within a two-year period and establish a cross-government taskforce to manage processes.
10. Strategic alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align 2024-25 Queensland Budget measures with industry strategies and support stakeholders in delivering priority items.
11. Local procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandate exclusive provision of beverages from Queensland distilleries for Government-owned venues. • Set an 80% procurement target from Queensland suppliers, manufacturers, and service providers, prioritising sustainability and community outcomes. • Increase procurement spend with First Nations businesses from 3% to 5%. • Increase procurement spend with Queensland SMEs from 30% to 40%.

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CORPORATE NETWORK



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