



# STATE GOVERNMENT BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS 2018-19: A TOURISM FOCUS

"We are very pleased to see Queensland's tourism opportunities feature very prominently in the Government's economic strategy and budget investment."

*Daniel Gschwind*  
QTIC Chief Executive

PHOTO: © Tourism and Events Queensland

## Tourism Programs

**\$94.6 million over five years** to progress programs under the Growing Tourism, Growing Tourism Jobs initiative including:

- Attracting Tourism Fund: \$48.6 million to provide incentives to attract new and international airline routes and cruise ships to Queensland.
- Regional Tourism Infrastructure and Experience Development Program: \$46 million to assist communities to grow tourism by developing new and improved tourism experiences.

## Tourism Infrastructure

- Reef Resort Rejuvenation Fund: \$25 million over three years to establish and deliver infrastructure for Great Barrier Reef islands. The fund will prioritise projects focused on growing, greening and cleaning.
- Great Keppel Island Recovery Package: \$25 million over three years for to deliver major tourism infrastructure improvements such as power and water connections to the mainland.
- Upgrades at the Australian Workers' Heritage Centre: \$2.2 million over two years.

Continuation of secure funding to TEQ until 2021-22.

## Events

**\$36 million over three years** to attract more major events to Queensland. This investment will drive growth of major events throughout Queensland making it Australia's Events Capital.

## Great Barrier Reef

To support the reef and manage the impacts of climate change, the Government is investing **\$330 million over five years**. A number of initiatives are outlined in the 2018-19 Budget, including:

- Joint Field Management Program: increased funding of \$26 million over four years and \$10.4 million per annum ongoing to protect and maintain marine and island ecosystems in the Great Barrier Reef.
- Water Quality: increased funding of \$13.8 million over four years to extend the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program.
- Climate Change Implementing Queensland's Response: increased funding of \$5.6 million over four years to enhance and strengthen delivery of the Queensland Climate Change Response which will include continued development and implementation.. of the Government Adaptation Action Plan.

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## Indigenous

- Industry partnerships worth \$142,950 to support Indigenous businesses.
- More than \$154,000 for Accelerate Indigenous Small Business Grants.
- Investment in research to support appropriate Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander owned business models.
- Development of a statewide Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander business network.
- \$900,000 in 2017-18 to work in collaboration with the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation to develop bushfire management plans for townships on North Stradbroke Island (Minjerrabah).

## Training

- \$180 million over three years to boost the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative to fund more apprenticeships and increase workforce participation.
- \$11 million to respond to high demand and support Back to Work in South East Queensland. Further, increased funding of \$20.5 million over three years to continue Back to Work in areas of South East Queensland with significant labour market challenge.
- \$5 million to introduce a Back to Work Mature Aged Worker Boost. Under the Boost, employers who employ an eligible unemployed mature-aged jobseeker are eligible for payments of up to \$20,000.
- \$1 million for a trial program designed to deliver targeted skills and specialist business advice and mentoring support to Queenslanders who want to create their own future job.
- \$85 million over three years in the redevelopment, refurbishment and expansion of six identified high-need TAFE facilities. Funding is provided for training sites at Pimlico, Cairns, Mount Gravatt and Toowoomba, and other training infrastructure within the regions of the Gold Coast and Redlands.

## Arts

- \$8 million over four years to support the Queensland Performing Arts Centre in extending its programming reach across the state, investing further in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performing arts and developing a musical theatre incubator.
- \$125 million over four years to build a new performing arts venue at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, benefitting Queensland artists and audiences.
- \$8 million over two years, for the construction of the new Rockhampton Art Gallery, subject to a \$10 million contribution from the Federal Government.
- \$1 million in 2017-18 for an infrastructure upgrade of facilities at Woodfordia. The department has internally reprioritised \$1 million which brings total funding to \$2 million.

## Sustainable Futures

- \$3.9 million over four years to continue delivering the ecoBiz program that helps small to medium sized businesses identify and achieve financial savings and eco-efficiency across energy, water and waste.
- \$9 million over three years to implement sustainability and energy efficiency measures at the Queensland Cultural Centre, South Bank, to improve energy performance whilst lowering energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

## Connectivity

- \$10 million over two years to develop a 15-year vision and initial Action Plan to identify and prioritise projects to be delivered as part of upgrades to the Bruce Highway.
- \$16 million over two years to develop a business case for future upgrades of the M1 corridor between Eight Mile Plains and the Logan Motorway.
- \$50 million over two years, taking total funding to \$380 million over the next five years, to help repair and maintain the Townsville to Mount Isa rail line.

## Innovation

- \$50 million over five years to continue funding programs under the Advance Queensland initiative. Measures funded will include expansion of 'The Precinct', the State's flagship hub for start-ups; driving the development of key technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data, drones and robotics in Queensland industry and programs focussing on innovation and the digital economy in our regions.
- \$40 million over two years to the Business Development Fund to support the growth of angel and venture capital funding available to Queensland businesses, thereby strengthening Queensland's entrepreneurial and start-up eco-system.

## Revenue Measures

- The Government is aligning the weekly fee for homestay accommodation provided to international students studying in regional Queensland from \$241 in 2018 to \$302 in 2019 to match the metropolitan homestay fee. Based on forecasted 2019 enrolments for both the International Students Programs and Study tours, it is estimated that the increase in homestay fees will deliver an approximate additional \$311,000 revenue in 2018-19. The increase in the homestay fee will be fully passed on to regional Queensland families.
- The Government is extending until 30 June 2019 the 50% payroll tax rebate on the exempt wages of apprentices and trainees. This is part of Government commitments to address youth unemployment and building Queensland's skills base, particularly in regional Queensland.

