

2021-2022 QUEENSLAND STATE BUDGET QTIC SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

The State Budget was handed down by the Hon. Cameron Dick MP, State Treasurer and Minister for Investment on Tuesday 15 June 2021. To see the Budget Papers in full, click [here](#). It must be noted both the state budget and the Queensland economy are in better shape than was anticipated a year ago. It is a more optimistic base for all sectors, including tourism.

HIGHLIGHTS

Positive:

- ✓ Financial commitment to the ongoing development of the workforce, including training and reskilling programs. QTIC welcomes the State Government's strong focus on skills training and labour market programs. The tourism industry is facing acute labour shortages, and taking these challenges into account, we are keen to see that investment providing crucial support to a sector that is typically very labour-intensive.
- ✓ There is also considerable support for small businesses via a series of grants and programs. These are important initiatives for an industry dominated by small businesses.
- ✓ A \$270 million funding allocations to the Great Barrier Reef and measures to support its health is essential and welcomed.
- ✓ A number of specific tourism-focused initiatives including funding for the Queensland film and television industry, live music venues, and the aviation sector are likely to have a positive flow-on effect to state tourism operators.
- ✓ A significant investment of \$300 million into the advancement of Indigenous peoples is earmarked under the 'Path to Treaty'. Tourism can act as a collaborative partner in achieving outcomes in this field.

Concerns:

- ✗ While the Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) funding is maintained for the 2021-2022 budget period, subsequent years appear to suggest a lower level of overall funding, requiring additional budget bids for top-up. It will be important to keep an eye on any changes to this funding in the coming years.
- ✗ Ongoing funding for tourism infrastructure projects is critical for economic growth and state confidence. We would welcome continued commitments in this area.
- ✗ Budget allocations need to be made available for identified initiatives developed under the future Queensland Government *Tourism Action Plan*. There needs to be a strong commitment by government building of tourism business capabilities and capacity development.



AT A GLANCE

POLICY AREA	TOURISM OUTCOMES
Industry development	<p>Partnerships \$350 million included as part of the <i>Industry Partnership Program</i>, which will support business, industry, and research institutions.</p>
	<p>Small business \$140 million in funding delivered over a two-year period as part of the <i>Big Plans for Small Businesses</i> strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$100 million <i>Business Investment Fund</i> for small-medium-sized businesses with significant growth potential. • \$25 million to increase skills and capacity through grants and other support for small businesses. • \$10 million to make the <i>Queensland Small Business Commissioner</i> permanent and develop and engagement framework that includes reinvigorating the <i>Queensland Small Business Advisory Council</i>.
	<p>Entertainment \$7 million to extend the existing support for live music venues.</p>
	<p>Film/TV industry \$71 million in funding set aside for the Queensland screen industry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$53 million delivered over two years as part of the ongoing <i>Production Attraction Strategy (PAS)</i>. • \$4 million delivered over two years for domestic productions as part of the <i>Screen Finance Fund</i>. • \$4 million delivered over four years to the new <i>North Queensland Regional Program</i>. • \$10 million over two years for the new <i>Post, Digital and Visual Effects (PDV)</i> program.
	<p>Tourism industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$15.9 million allocated to the <i>Good to Go Campaign</i> to showcase Queensland and drive demand. • \$10.2 million in Holiday Dollars travel vouchers to support operators in Far North Queensland, the Whitsundays, the Gold Coast, and Brisbane. • \$1.1 million for the <i>Great Barrier Reef Experience Program</i> to transform the reef into 'the world's biggest classroom' and increase bookings for local tour operators. • \$15 million (out of a projected \$25 million program) to 'build resilient businesses, regions, and communities by creating sustainable new jobs and increasing visitor expenditure through investment in tourism infrastructure that supports COVID-19 recovery'. • \$9.9 million dedicated to the Wangetti trail (Palm Cove to Port Douglas), including public and eco-accommodation facilities. This forms part of a total \$41.4 million joint project with the Australian Government. • \$9 million over three years for Queensland to host the World Science Festival.
	<p>Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$140 million in continued funding for the <i>Back to Work</i> program to be delivered over a four-year period, with the addition of mentoring, training and guidance, and practical support to obtain a drivers license or Blue Card. • Retaining the <i>Skilling Queenslanders for Work</i> program with a commitment of \$320 million in funding over four years. • Continued support for TAFE and apprenticeships, including \$100 million towards a TAFE <i>Priority Skills Fund</i> and <i>Pre-Apprenticeship Support and Social Enterprises Jobs Fund</i>, \$31.2 million to continue the <i>Apprentice and Trainee Payroll Tax Rebate</i> for a further 12 months, and \$21 million for providing free TAFE and apprenticeships to eligible residents under 25.
Industry workforce	<p>Jobs creation \$3.34 billion to support industry and increase jobs creation (partially funnelled through <i>Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs</i> fund. Jobs creation will also indirectly take place through multiple other programs, as indicated in the table.</p>



Preserving nature and culture	Waste management and resource recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$93.6 million to grow the waste management and resource recovery sector while reducing waste, as part of ongoing investment and implementation of the <i>Queensland Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy</i>.
	Land management and protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$60 million in additional funding allocated to the <i>Land Restoration Fund</i>. • \$270 million to maintain the <i>Queensland Reef Water Quality</i> program and implement environmental protections for the Great Barrier Reef over a five-year period. • \$55.1 million towards a capital works program designed to protect and restore the state's environment.
	Parks and recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4.3 million invested in high-priority land acquisitions for the expansions of the protected area land portfolio. • \$3.8 million allocated to replacement of major vessels for maritime parks management. • \$5.6 million towards delivery of buildings and park infrastructure to support visitor recreation, management, and access to parks and recreation areas jointly managed by traditional owners and government departments.
	Renewable energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An additional \$2 billion added to the <i>Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs</i> fund. • 2.6 million for the sustainable development of the emerging hydrogen industry, via the <i>Queensland Hydrogen Taskforce</i>. • \$22 million for detailed design and cost analysis for pumped hydro at Borumba Dam. • \$500 million to establish a new <i>Carbon Reduction Investment Fund</i> with returns to support the existing <i>Land Restoration Fund</i>, leveraging private finance and investment into a financially sustainable carbon market.
Infrastructure	Regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$200 million in additional funding for <i>Works for Queensland</i>, contributing to job-creating maintenance and minor infrastructure works in regional areas. • \$70 million over three years allocated to delivering improved water supply and security in regional Queensland, via the <i>Building our Regions</i> Program. Investment will go towards works specifically identified by local councils to improve water infrastructure. • Up to \$71.4 million for the <i>Drought Assistance and Reform Package</i>, including a further \$50 million per annum over four years for drought preparedness and emergency drought loans.
	Public works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$8.987 billion for capital works in areas outside of Greater Brisbane, representing 61% of the total capital spend and supporting the creation of approximately 29,800 jobs • \$52.2 billion for a capital infrastructure program over four years. • An additional \$150 million in additional funding for investment into new infrastructure and community assets, via the <i>SEQ Community Stimulus Program</i>. • \$45 million to build and upgrade training facilities in schools across the state, including in regional areas.
	Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10 million over two years for the <i>Aviation Route Support Package</i> to rebuild international aviation connectivity. • \$22 million to support a new coastal shipping service, with the flow-on benefit of maritime jobs creation. • \$200 million allocated to upgrading the Bruce Highway. • \$200 million for the <i>Inland Freight Route</i> (Charters Towers to Mungindi), in partnership with the Australian Government.
	Disaster recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20 million towards the <i>2021 Queensland Betterment Fund</i>, jointly funded with the Australian Government. This will contribute to improving disaster resilience and reducing the cost of future reconstruction of public assets damaged by natural disasters. • \$13.8 million allocated to the maintenance of Queensland public cyclone shelters.