



OTIC STATE BUDGET 2026-27 ANALYSIS



QUEENSLAND
TOURISM INDUSTRY
COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE VIEW

The 2026-27 Queensland State Budget delivers some important wins for tourism, particularly through significant investment in the infrastructure, environmental assets and enabling conditions that support our visitor economy.

While there is limited new direct tourism funding, opportunities exist for tourism operators to benefit from broader government investment across related sectors. Significant commitments in ecotourism and national parks, transport connectivity, reef protection, major events infrastructure, and Brisbane 2032 legacy projects are expected to strengthen Queensland's tourism offering and support long-term industry growth.

One of the standout commitments is funding for protected areas and ecotourism infrastructure. Queensland's natural assets are among our greatest competitive advantages, and investment in these experiences will help reinforce our position as a world-leading nature-based tourism destination while supporting regional economies.

The Budget also maintains investment in Tourism and Events Queensland and Queensland's tourism delivery framework. At a time when tourism funding and destination marketing budgets are under increasing pressure elsewhere in Australia, this stability provides confidence for industry and supports long-term planning.

Importantly, many of the investments that matter most to tourism sit outside the tourism portfolio. Improvements to transport infrastructure, continued investment in the Great Barrier Reef, major events facilities and Brisbane 2032 preparations all contribute to creating better visitor experiences and improving access across the state.

The Budget aligns with a number of priorities identified in QTIC's State Budget Submission, particularly around tourism infrastructure, transport connectivity,

workforce development and nature-based tourism.

However, there is still more work to do. QTIC will continue advocating for stronger investment in tourism workforce initiatives, aviation connectivity, insurance affordability, business resilience and First Nations tourism development to ensure Queensland remains globally competitive.

Overall, this Budget strengthens many of the foundations that underpin our visitor economy. We look forward to continuing to work with the Queensland Government to ensure tourism remains a key driver of jobs, investment and prosperity for communities across Queensland.

Natassia Wheeler
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Ecotourism, national parks and visitor infrastructure

Growing world class protected areas and ecotourism

- \$20.7 million over 3 years operational funding
- \$7.9 million ongoing annual funding
- \$118.4 million over 4 years capital funding
- Supports protected areas, visitor infrastructure, ecotourism opportunities and projects such as the Wangetti Trail

More Ranger, Better Neighbours

- \$1.9 million over 3 years
- \$1.1 million ongoing annually
- Supports management of national parks, visitor assets and visitor experiences

Queensland Reef and Catchment Water Quality Program

- \$330.5 million over 5 years
- Protects one of Queensland's most important tourism assets
- Supports long-term sustainability and competitiveness of reef tourism

Major events and Brisbane 2032 Legacy

Queensland Legacy Fund

- \$300 million
- Supports sporting and event infrastructure across Queensland
- Creates opportunities for event attraction and regional visitation

Stadiums Queensland

- \$163.3 million operational funding over 4 years
- \$88.3 million capital funding over 4 years
- Supports major events, sports tourism and

Brisbane 2032 readiness

Racing Future Fund

- \$100 million
- Supports event infrastructure across regional and metropolitan Queensland

Beef Week 2027

- \$4.5 million for Beef Week 2027

Business events and convention infrastructure

Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre

- \$4.8 million capital upgrades

Cairns Convention Centre

- \$1.5 million capital upgrades
- Supports Queensland's business events sector and high-yield visitation

Transport and destination access

New Gold Coast Stations

- Total project value \$590.6 million
- Improves visitor access to key tourism precincts and the Gold Coast Airport corridor

The Wave

- Continued investment confirmed
- Improves visitor movement and connectivity across the Gold Coast

Gold Coast Transport Plan

- Continued investment confirmed
- Supports visitor mobility and Brisbane 2032 outcomes

Mooloolah River Interchange

- Continued investment confirmed
- Improves access to the Sunshine Coast

Mooloolah River Entrance Deepening

- Continued investment confirmed
- Supports marine tourism, boating and charter operations

Road Maintenance Program

- \$93.6 million over 4 years
- Supports drive tourism and regional destination accessibility

Regional tourism infrastructure

Port Hinchinbrook Revitalisation

- \$64 million over 2 years
- Supports marine tourism, boating access and economic development in North Queensland

Cape Freight Subsidy Extension

- \$19.6 million over 3 years
- Reduces operating costs for tourism businesses in remote northern Queensland

Screen tourism and cultural tourism

Screen Queensland Studios

- \$9.9 million over 3 years
- Supports screen production attraction and associated screen tourism opportunities

Screen Industry Attraction and Development

- Additional funding provided
- Value not publicly disclosed

Queensland Cultural Centre Infrastructure

- \$38.7 million

- Supports Brisbane's cultural tourism offering

Glasshouse Theatre

- \$500,000
- Supports regional cultural tourism and events

Workforce and visitor economy capability

Training and Future Skills Investment

- \$104.8 million
- Opportunity to support tourism and hospitality workforce development

International Education Support

- \$2.8 million
- Supports an important workforce pipeline for tourism and hospitality businesses



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