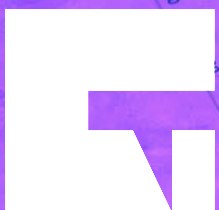


2024 State Election

Toowoomba Region Business Priorities



TOOWOOMBA
CHAMBER





Over 98%
of the
region's
businesses
are small

SMALL BUSINESS is a BIG Deal

We are an entrepreneurial city, a small business city that is the backbone of the Toowoomba regional economy. We are crucial to the region's sustainability and growth.

We know this, as the research undertaken by McCrindle as part of the Toowoomba Business Performance Sentiment Index identified that over 98% of the region's businesses are small. Yes, small businesses dominate the Toowoomba business landscape.

Small businesses are critical for the city's wealth generation and success. They also play an enormous role in our region by giving back to our community by supporting numerous community and sporting organisations and not for profit companies. That means when small business hurts our whole community hurts too.

The Toowoomba Chamber wants to see a turbocharged region, so businesses can expand, and more money can flow directly into the local economy. A region where business and people talk about Toowoomba being THE place for business, throughout Queensland and around the nation.

The Queensland Government plays a critical role in small business success. How? By communicating and engaging with small business to enable growth. By creating enabling regulation to bring economic prosperity to a region. And much more.

Our research indicates that housing, tax policy, government plans, and the red tape burden are key road blocks, holding Toowoomba business and Queenslanders back.

All Queenslanders depend heavily on small businesses to meet their personal and their family's day-to-day needs.

Queensland has over 420,000 small businesses which contribute in the order of 116 billion to the state economy each year, employing more than 40% of Queensland's workforce. We say small business **DESERVES BETTER.**

We are the independent voice of business in our region. We will continue to advocate loudly to ensure the voice of business is heard.

Myfanwy Rigby,

Toowoomba Chamber President



About the Chamber

The Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce is an independent organisation that advocates on behalf of local businesses at local, state, and federal levels to ensure the business community has a voice.

The Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce journey commenced on 12 October 1899, stirred into action by the business community due to the “special opportunities afforded by a digest of the ideas and experiences of an association of business” and the need that “a vigilant and united body can readily discuss anomalies and abuses which if left unchecked work to the detriment of the community”.

The Toowoomba Chamber of today, continues to build on those foundations.

The Toowoomba Chamber plays a critical role in connecting our members across the local business community to establish and grow strong, lasting networks as well as exploring opportunities to access supply chain networks and build business brands.

Our full program of events and dedication to outreach provides the platform to strengthen existing networks, develop new contacts, connect with business leaders, and continue to improve and learn to maximise growth opportunities.

With over 600 members, the Toowoomba Chamber is one of the largest regional Chamber of Commerce organisations in Australia and Queensland largest regional Chamber of Commerce.

We are proud partners of the Darling Downs Regional Alliance which represents over 1000 businesses in the Toowoomba Regional Local Government area.

Outreach
13 million

Members
600+

Established
1899

Summary of Key Toowoomba Region Business Needs

Over the past few months, the Toowoomba Chamber has been working to create Toowoomba Region Business Priorities to advocate for small business on matters at the upcoming state government election and beyond.

The work draws on feedback from the Board, our members, Toowoomba Regional Council, Southern Queensland Country Tourism, Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise, and Darling Downs Regional Alliance, and was tested with a selection of members from sole traders to large organisations.

Importantly, the Toowoomba Region Business Priorities consider our research such as the Toowoomba Business Sentiment Index, RSM Australia Tax Advocacy Advice, CBD Economic Profile, and the like. Research to enable a better understanding of the needs of the business community.

The Toowoomba Region Business Priorities addresses the areas of Payroll Tax Reform, Business Restructure Transfer Duty Reform, Maintenance and Sustainability of Rural Areas, Productivity Gains Through Regulatory Design, Health, Housing, and a Shovel Ready Infrastructure Pipeline. A series of requests have been identified to enable a clear understanding of the business needs to be addressed, the business impact, the facts and data, its connection to government, and how it can be done.

In summary, the Key Toowoomba Region Business priority needs are:

- Apply the Payroll Discount to all the Toowoomba Local Government Area
- Create a Regional Infrastructure Fund
- Increase investment in rural areas – Infrastructure, food security, and climate variation initiatives
- Implement a Red Tape Taskforce and Productivity Commission
- Create a one campus Tertiary Hospital at Ballie Henderson
- Implement Housing reform – increasing land supply and enact stamp duty concessions
- Reform and invest in training pathways to meet business needs

Payroll Tax Reform

THE MATTER

In Queensland, there is a discount from the regular payroll tax rate for “regional” employers. There are significant, onerous requirements which employers must satisfy to be eligible for the discount. These include the employer must:

- have a “principal place of employment” in “regional Queensland”; and
- pay at least 85% of taxable wages to “regional employees”.

Under the current State Government arrangements “Regional Queensland” is the following areas Cairns, Central Queensland, Darling Downs Maranoa, Mackay – Isaac – Whitsunday, Queensland – Outback, Townsville, and Wide Bay.

Notably, Toowoomba is not included in any of these areas.

Despite Toowoomba being considered “regional” in many other respects, as above, it does not fall within the areas which are deemed “regional” Queensland in the context of the regional payroll tax discount. However, for example, similar towns such as Oakey, Pittsworth and Warwick are eligible. Oakey is notably only 20 kilometers from Toowoomba.

CURRENT BUSINESS IMPACT

- The payroll tax rate for “regional” employers is 1% lower than the rate applied to regular employers. This lower rate can make a significant difference to a business’ payroll tax liabilities and the businesses’ expenses.
- Directly impacting wages growth, employment opportunities, and business investment.
- Toowoomba small business owners are an estimated 33 million dollars worse off.

FACTS AND DATA

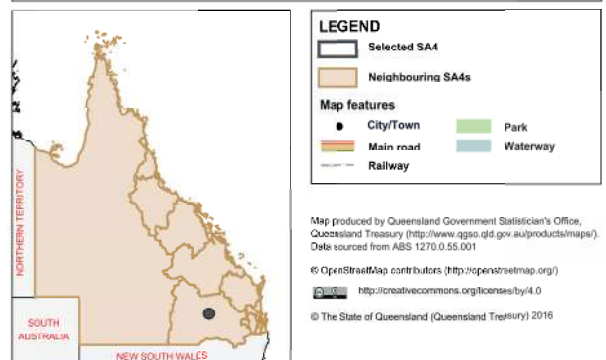
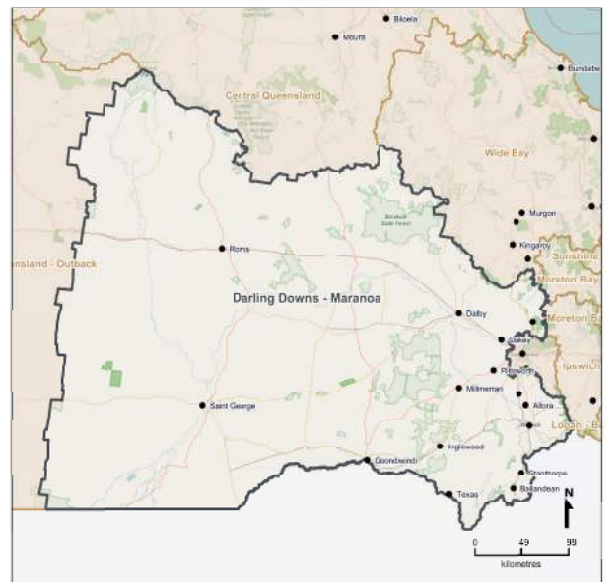
Toowoomba faces the same challenges as other regional areas when doing business, including attracting staff and paying increased amounts for energy and internet connectivity.

There is no consistent definition of “Southeast Queensland” or “Regional Queensland” in the context of the Queensland Government / legislation it is responsible for administering.

There are inequitable applications of the law, with Toowoomba based employers facing the same challenges that other “regional” employers encounter.

More than half of all Queenslanders regard Toowoomba as part of regional Queensland. In a survey of 1000 Queensland residents conducted in June 2024, when asked how they would describe Toowoomba, 52% describe it as Regional Queensland.

Queensland Statistical Areas, Level 4 (SA4), 2016 - Darling Downs - Maranoa (ASGS Code 307)



Source: Queensland Government

CONNECT WITH GOVERNMENT

The regional payroll tax discount is designed to support regional businesses considering the significantly harder conditions that these employers operate in a “regional” environment.

MAKE THE REQUEST

The Queensland Government review the definition of “Regional Queensland” and ensure that Toowoomba, a town that is, for all other intents and purposes, considered “regional”, is included as “Regional Queensland”. From a policy perspective, this would benefit local, often small family businesses, and be welcomed by the wider Toowoomba population.

The regional employer payroll tax discount will reduce the cost of employment for businesses located in the Toowoomba area. Further, as the regional employer payroll tax discount requires that 85% of the wages paid be to regional employees, Toowoomba employers will be encouraged to employ local people, which will in turn stimulate the local economy. Economic growth and development depend on the effective use of the labour force, and where businesses can employ local, regional, employees, the whole community benefits.

IDENTIFY HOW IT CAN BE DONE

Queensland Government clearly define Toowoomba as being regional.

Queensland Government apply the payroll discount to all the Toowoomba Local Government area.



FROM OUR BUSINESS OWNERS

“The application of the regional payroll tax discount would help me be more competitive when seeking new staff.”

Small Business Owner.

“There is so much confusion as to if we are part of southeast Queensland or a region which creates business uncertainty.”

Small Business Owner.

“When will the bureaucrats and politicians understand that we are the second largest inland and regional.”

Small Business Owner.

“So sick of being used by governments to suit their own purposes, bring back the payroll discount now.”

Small Business Owner.

“We are just being used as a political pawn.”


Small Business Owner.



OUTLINE THE BUSINESS BENEFIT

- ✓ Estimated saving to business in Toowoomba of 33 million dollars.
- ✓ Wealth generator for business.
- ✓ Employment creator.
- ✓ Enhanced investment in the region.

Business Restructure Transfer Duty Reform



THE MATTER

In Queensland, transfer duty is imposed on dutiable transactions, with the transfer of Queensland dutiable property being a type of dutiable transaction. Dutiable property includes interests in land in Queensland, Queensland chattels and Queensland business assets, such as customer contracts, goodwill, debtors, and other intangible assets.

The Queensland Duties Act, like many other state and territory duties acts around Australia, contains two exemptions from duty which are applicable to intragroup transfers where such are intended to affect a business restructure / consolidation.

CURRENT BUSINESS IMPACT

In Queensland, the exemptions operate significantly differently from other states / territories. Unfortunately, the conditions which must be satisfied for a transaction to be eligible for the corporate reconstruction / consolidation exemption in Queensland are arguably far more onerous than any other state / territory.

Currently, in Queensland, to be eligible for the corporate consolidation / restructure exemption, the entities involved must have been members of the same corporate group for at least three years and must remain members of that corporate group for three years following the relevant transaction. In addition, Queensland uniquely excludes units trusts from accessing the exemptions.

This has the effect that many businesses wind up having to pay transfer duty and landholder duty on transactions, that, had they effected in any other state / territory, would be eligible for an exemption / concession. This unfairly prejudices Queensland businesses trying to restructure / consolidate their business to achieve business / economic goals.

The onerous requirements of the exemptions arguably discourage companies from doing business in Queensland. This inevitably impacts the Queensland economy and means there are missed opportunities for growth and creating efficiencies.

FACTS AND DATA

In Queensland, the exemptions operate significantly differently from other states / territories. Unfortunately, the conditions which must be satisfied for a transaction to be eligible for the corporate reconstruction / consolidation exemption in Queensland are arguably far more onerous than any other state / territory.

There is also an exemption from transfer duty available to eligible small business entities undertaking restructures, provided they carry on a business in or from a place in Queensland.

To be eligible for the small business restructure exemption:

- the restructure must be the transfer of small business property from a sole trader, partnership, or discretionary trust structure only to a company structure;
- the business must make supplies to Queensland customers; and
- the company must be a new company or one that is 'dormant'.

Small business property includes real property, motor vehicles and plant and equipment. Assets such as residential property (even if a property is used for commercial and residential purposes) and other passive assets are not able to access the exemption.

Further, the exemption is not available if the assets:

- are transferred from an entity with business assets valued at more than \$10 million;
- are transferred from an entity with annual turnover of more than \$5 million;
- are being transferred to a company that has traded before; and / or
- are being transferred out of a company or unit trust structure.

A transferee must be a new or dormant entity, coupled with the restrictions on the turnover of the transferor, places unnecessary burdens on businesses trying to access the exemption. It discourages Queensland companies from doing better business through more efficient structures, by adding the cost of transfer and / or landholder duty as a barrier.

CONNECT WITH GOVERNMENT

The Queensland government applies tax in the form of transfer duty on dutiable transactions, with the transfer of Queensland dutiable property being a type of dutiable transaction. Dutiable property includes interests in land in Queensland, Queensland chattels and Queensland business assets, such as customer contracts, goodwill, debtors, and other intangible assets.

The Queensland Duties Act, administered by the Queensland Government, like many other state and territory duties acts around Australia, contains two exemptions from duty which are applicable to intragroup transfers where such are intended to affect a business restructure / consolidation.

MAKE THE REQUEST

While the small business exemption is welcome, these thresholds are too low to capture many of the businesses that are likely to restructure. With these low thresholds, these thresholds are more “micro business” exemptions rather than small business exemptions. By way of contrast, the Australian Taxation Office defines small business as being those businesses with turnover of up to \$10 million. We suggest the Queensland Government take a consistent approach.

To remain relevant into the future, we also suggest the thresholds are indexed to CPI, particularly as we are in a high inflation environment. Without indexation, these thresholds will become obsolete and more difficult for businesses to access.

IDENTIFY HOW IT CAN BE DONE

In relation to the corporate consolidation / restructure exemption:

- the three-year pre and post association tests should be abolished; and
- The exemption should be expanded to include unit trusts.

In relation to the small business restructure exemption:

- the restriction that the transferee be a new / dormant entity should be removed; and
- the restrictions on the turnover of the entity from which the assets are being transferred should be removed.



FROM OUR BUSINESS OWNERS

“If it was not for the company tax burden, I would have restructured my business and employed other staff.”

Small Business Owner.

“When will a government be brave enough to have a serious conversation about tax reform and in particular, transfer duties and the like.”

Small Business Owner.



OUTLINE THE BUSINESS BENEFIT

- ✓ If the productivity burden around the corporate consolidation / restructure exemptions and the small business restructure exemption is removed, the exemptions will inevitably be easier to access. This will mean the cost of doing business in Queensland will decrease and bring Queensland in line with other states / territories. This, in turn, will have a range of economic benefits, both for companies internally, and in the state economy.
- ✓ Encouraging more businesses to operate in Queensland and businesses already operating in Queensland to operate more efficiently will significantly benefit the economy, as sustainable economic growth relies on productivity / efficiency improvements.



Maintenance and Sustainability of Rural Areas

THE MATTER

The Toowoomba region has a rich resource base driven by agriculture and resource management. The rural areas are abundant with resources, with Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is the region's number 1 industry by business count.

The region's unique townships like Oakey, Pittsworth, Millmerran, Highfields, Crows Nest, Clifton, Greenmount, Goombungee, Cambooya, Clifton, Yarraman and other smaller townships, not only support and service the surrounding resources, but are themselves a major tourist attractors and core to the area's history.

The region's rural areas and townships need constant attention, support, and care.

CURRENT BUSINESS IMPACT

- Poor connectivity in rural areas and towns (eg roads and services) is restricting long-term growth and sustainability.
- Poor quality infrastructure like roads.
- Reduction in tourist opportunities.
- Insignificant investment in long term food security and green infrastructure.

FACTS AND DATA

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is the region's number 1 industry by business count. In 2023, there were more than 3,500 businesses from this sector located in our region.

In 20/21, Toowoomba 'economy id' identified the total value of agricultural output in Toowoomba was \$1.091 million.

65% of Toowoomba business leaders recognise primary industries as the future of the region.

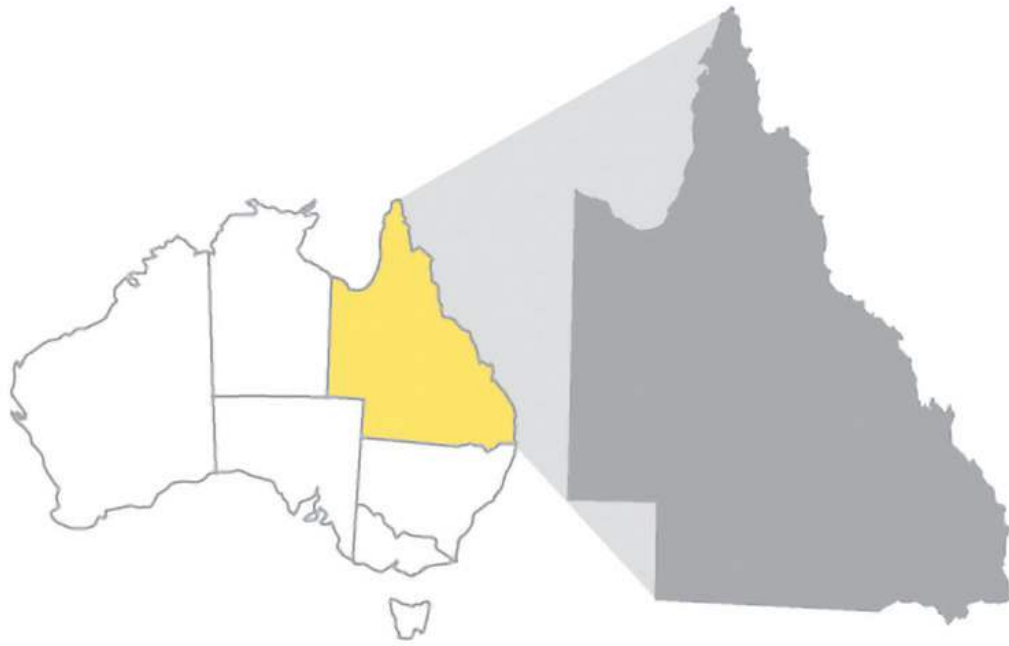
Rural areas, their resources and townships are significant contributors to the region's character and economic prosperity.

Tourism in the areas townships and rural areas can play a significant part to an area's vitality and opportunity.

CONNECT WITH GOVERNMENT

The Toowoomba region's rich history is built on the back of surrounding high quality agricultural areas. These areas are supported by regional centres of Oakey, Pittsworth, Millmerran, Highfields, Crows Nest, Clifton, Greenmount, Goombungee, Clifton, Yarraman, Cecil Plains, and other smaller townships.

The maintenance of infrastructure needed to support this fundamental part of the region's identity, lifestyle and growth must continue to be valued for their important role in our region's economic wealth.



Source: Toowoomba Regional Council

MAKE THE REQUEST

Create larger Government service hubs in the regions, implementing place decision making.

Increase funding to rural townships and their associated and surrounding infrastructure.

Invest in food security in the region.

Invest in climate variation practices and green infrastructure in the region.

Invest in emergency services infrastructure in the region.

Invest in regional public infrastructure

IDENTIFY HOW IT CAN BE DONE

Grow state government departments in regions.

Implement government place-based decision-making frameworks

Give greater priority to road, tourism, and other rural and township infrastructure needs.

Fund food security and climate variation initiatives.

Develop emergency and like services in our towns.

Create a Regional Infrastructure Fund.



FROM OUR BUSINESS OWNERS

"The surfacing and repairing of rural roads should be a key priority."

Small Business Owner

"Most elected officials do not care about the rural areas and regional towns."

Small Business Owner

"Many farmers are actively engaged and pursuing green infrastructure solutions without government support."

Small Business Owner

"Does the government even care about food security?"

Small Business Owner



OUTLINE THE BUSINESS BENEFIT

- ✓ Decisions on matters of state interest consider local circumstances.
- ✓ Improved rural and regional infrastructure providing better connectivity and a safer environment for all.
- ✓ Better access to state government decision makers.
- ✓ Improved production and logistics for food producers and suppliers.
- ✓ Safer communities.

Productivity Gains Through Regulatory Redesign



THE MATTER

A regulatory environment that is excessive and unnecessarily complex, restricts business confidence and where inefficiently implemented, inconsistently enforced and with poor response times and lengthy delays, is a cost burden on business and increases costs of delivery services and products to the ratepayer.

Improving regulatory design will create the right incentives for investment.

CURRENT BUSINESS IMPACT

- Increased costs mean job losses.
- Increased regulation equates to less productivity.
- Inefficiently implemented, inconsistently enforced regulation, with poor response times and lengthy delays from government, results in the cost burden on business increasing.
- Regulation developed in a vacuum and poorly communicated creates confusion and increased costs on business which is passed onto the local ratepayers.

FACTS AND DATA

82% of businesses say that red tape costs have increased since 2021 and the financial administration compliance burden has increased 100% from \$25,000 to \$50,000 in the same period.

43% of businesses have confirmed they spend six or more hours a week on regulatory compliance.

35% of Toowoomba businesses have identified that compliance and regulation costs is negatively impacting on their business operations.

The Toowoomba Performance Sentiment Index Findings and Toowoomba Annual Survey of businesses demonstrate that 'red tape and administrative burden' remains the number one issue of concern for local businesses.

CONNECT WITH GOVERNMENT

The State Government, Queensland Small Business Commissioner, small business friendly program commits to limit unnecessary administration and implement business improvement processes and is a review tool for administration and regulatory requirements policies, procedures, and red tape.

Government plays a significant role in implementing the right training, correct qualification recognition, and in addressing training and qualification gaps within the current system.

These challenges are further magnified in regional and rural areas, where the demand for qualified and skilled staff continues to outpace supply, underscoring the need for targeted support and investment in training and education to meet the unique needs of these communities.

MAKE THE REQUEST

Commit to implementing the Small Business Friendly Program across all State government Departments and report quarterly on achievements.

Create a mechanism to interrogate and remove excessive, unnecessarily complex regulation to build business confidence and our region's competitiveness locally, in Queensland and nationally.

Commit to an inclusive and collaborative approach to drafting and reviewing regulation that is open and transparent.

Create mechanisms for greater accountability around implementation, regulatory response times and understanding the financial impact of new regulation on business and the community in general.

Implement educational reforms for university education for Queensland students and improve trade-based education pathways.



FROM OUR BUSINESS OWNERS

"Currently applying for permits is slow and clunky and costly to small businesses."
Small Business Owner

"The State Government is a barrier and never an enabler. Why aren't they helping small business succeed"
Small Business Owner

"Every time my wife runs an event the amount of paperwork she has to fill in would make your eyes water. Quite sad really what it has done is way over the top!"
Small Business Owner

"Regulations are not fit for purpose, disadvantaging small business owners."
Small Business Owner

"HR and IR Laws changes are confusing and lack certainty, affecting every business I know."
Small Business Owner

"Compliance costs are soaring and combine that with ineffective and inefficient government and poor policy developed without our input means less jobs."
Small Business Owner

IDENTIFY HOW IT CAN BE DONE

Create a 'Red Tape Taskforce' with business and the State Government to interrogate and remove unnecessary regulation.

Involve the business community in the drafting of new regulations, upfront, in the development of policy.

Create a Business Liaison Program, like the mode used by the Reserve Bank of Australia.

Create a Minister for Reform to be the lead in creating Better Regulation and Reducing Red Tape through oversight and quarterly reporting.

Become a Small Business Friendly State Government.

Re-introduce the productivity commission.

Work with business to increase investment in regional, rural and remote education and training systems that are responsive to industry needs, providing relevant, high-quality education and qualifications that align with contemporary workforce demands.



OUTLINE THE BUSINESS BENEFIT

- ✓ Efficient regulator protects Toowoomba jobs.
- ✓ Efficiently implemented, consistently enforced regulation, with agreed turnaround times reduces the cost burden on the business and the ratepayer.
- ✓ Regulation developed together in an open and transparent way develops rapport and understanding by all parties, creating the right 'fit for purpose' regulation.
- ✓ Better Regulation and Red Tape oversight and reporting will ensure constant attention is paid to regulatory and business impacts in decision making.

Health

THE MATTER

Health Care and Social Assistance is the fifth industry by business count, and biggest employer in Toowoomba.

The sector services Toowoomba, west to the Northern Territory and South Australian Border and south to the New South Wales Border.

CURRENT BUSINESS IMPACT

- The new Toowoomba hospital addresses issues of age, size, and suitability of existing infrastructure to service the needs of Toowoomba and the region.
- The allocated funding for dual hospital sites encompassing both the city and Baillie Henderson locations, remains unclear and uncertain.

FACTS AND DATA

Health is the biggest employer in Toowoomba.

It is the fifth biggest industry sector in Toowoomba.

It supports the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders, west to the Northern Territory and South Australian border and south to the New South Wales border.

Around 7 million people – or 28% of the Australian population – live in rural and remote areas, which encompass many diverse locations and communities (ABS 2023h). These Australians face unique challenges due to their geographic location and often have poorer health outcomes than people living in metropolitan areas. Data show that people living in rural and remote areas have higher rates of hospitalisations, deaths and injury and have poorer access to, and use of, primary health care services, than people living in Major cities (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare).

Top Industries

-  **3,622**
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
-  **2,799**
Construction
-  **1,788**
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services
-  **1,348**
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services
-  **1,292**
Health Care and Social Assistance

CONNECT WITH GOVERNMENT

The Queensland Government is responsible for the overall management of the Queensland Public Health system, regulating health services, providing oversight of local health networks, and delivering preventative services.

MAKE THE REQUEST

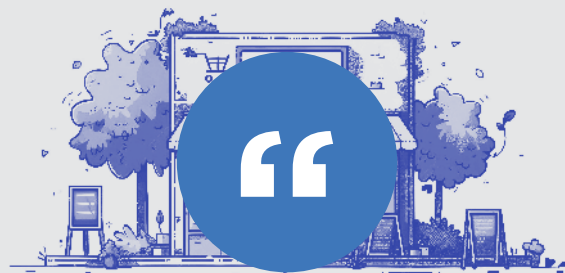
Bring forward the necessary funding to build Bailee Henderson Hospital in its original form.

Undertake a Community Impact Assessment to guide the relevant governing bodies on infrastructure and transport investment decisions of retaining the existing hospital facility.

IDENTIFY HOW IT CAN BE DONE

Bring forward all the funding for one new hospital at Bailee Henderson.

Do not split the hospital location between Base Services and the Ballie Henderson sites.



FROM OUR BUSINESS OWNERS

"Splitting the hospital between the current Base Services Hospital and Ballie Henderson is not common sense."

Small Business Owner

"Build the hospital now, not over the next decade."

Small Business Owner

"Look for new solutions to rectify ramping saga, like utilization existing medical practices."

Small Business Owner

"Splitting our hospital campus is illogical and non-sensical, and is not conducive to the best patient care."

Small Business Owner



OUTLINE THE BUSINESS BENEFIT

- ✓ Healthier community.
- ✓ Allied health service attractor.
- ✓ Use of local services and supply chains.



Housing

THE MATTER

Many sectors of the business community understand the impact of a lack of housing is a deterrent to business attraction, is a disincentive to attracting a workforce, impacts on the ability of businesses to deliver their service, affects the image of the city, and inhibits business growth and success.

CURRENT BUSINESS IMPACT

- Inability to attract a workforce.
- Queensland's image.
- Homelessness and affordability.
- Young people housing hopelessness.
- Business attraction and employment.
- Stifles investment, growth and business success.

FACTS AND DATA

In 2021, Toowoomba did not have sufficient supply of residential land.

In 2021, Toowoomba used constrained land, like Koala Habitat, to boost the residential land supply figures.

In 2021, the Toowoomba business community compiled a range of solutions to address the business impacts from lack of housing.

In 2022, Toowoomba was identified as having the highest amount of rental stress in the country.

In 2022, an affordable housing supply in Toowoomba was questioned as housing prices soared in part due to lack of supply.

In 2023, physical homelessness on the streets of Toowoomba is highly visible.

CONNECT WITH GOVERNMENT

The Queensland State Government has a responsibility to play an active role in public housing delivery, planning regulation, stamp duty and land tax, infrastructure and the like.

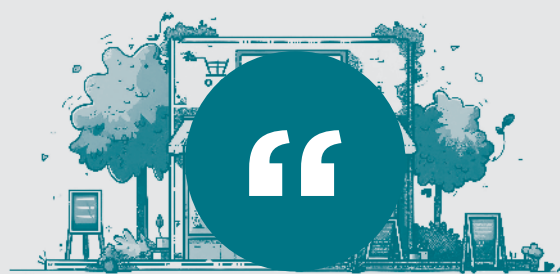
State Government works with local government to facilitate locally developed land supply determinations.

MAKE THE REQUEST

- Simply housing approvals.
- Fast-track housing approvals and other planning disputes.
- Increase the stamp duty concession for first home buyers in new and established areas.
- Let the private sector assist in the delivery of more sustainable levels of public housing or workers accommodation in mixed tenure neighborhoods.
- Fund regional infrastructure.

IDENTIFY HOW IT CAN BE DONE

- Ensure local government is accountable for land supply decisions.
- Create a Queensland Planning Commission to simplify housing approval regulations and other disputes and fast-track planning approvals.
- Increase the stamp duty concession for first home buyers by providing a concession up to \$750,000 when purchasing a new or established residence.
- Implement a requirement for 15% of all new residential developments to be for public housing or workers accommodation.
- Invest in private sector partners to deliver housing.
- Create a Regional Infrastructure Fund.



FROM OUR BUSINESS OWNERS

"We need workers who don't have to commute".

Small Business Owner

'Open up accommodation and infrastructure to support the same as soon as possible.'

Small Business Owner

'Long term vision and planning to make our region strong into the future.'

Small Business Owner

'Council is a constant blocker, never a supported.'

Small Business Owner

'Help us unlock the limited land supply to deliver housing in Toowoomba.'

Small Business Owner

"The lack of housing supply in Toowoomba continues to be a significant issue which is limiting the growth potential of Toowoomba and the Darling Downs", Small Business Owner."

Small Business Owner



OUTLINE THE BUSINESS BENEFIT

- ✓ Employment attractor.
- ✓ Improved city image.
- ✓ Enhanced investment in the region.
- ✓ Housing for all.
- ✓ Build business confidence.



Shovel Ready Infrastructure Pipeline



THE MATTER

Infrastructure spending will future proof the region. New catalytic infrastructure grows the economy, and an identified pipeline of projects ensures the continued flow of employment in the region.

The Queensland Government can create confidence in the business community by committing to and working hard to secure major projects are planned, and shovel ready to benefit the region.

CURRENT BUSINESS IMPACT

- Loss of business confidence.
- Lack of long-term regional vision inhibits investment.
- Makes the region uncompetitive across the nation.
- Drives investors to other regions.

FACTS AND DATA

Infrastructure refers to roads, transportation, power and water supplies, phone towers, internet, buildings such as hospitals, police stations, fire stations, art galleries, parks, and the like. These types of infrastructure are vital systems that play an important role in economic development and business growth.

Investment in infrastructure enables business to grow, cities and regions to flourish and improves collective wealth. It enables greater productivity and growth in the delivery of goods and services.

The right infrastructure facilities business growth provides jobs and reduces economic disruption helping to maintain an equilibrium.

Infrastructure investment stimulates the economy as seen by the Toowoomba Bypass which provided an estimated \$2.4 billion dollar boost to the region.

CONNECT WITH GOVERNMENT

The Queensland Government has committed to an Olympics for all Queenslanders which commits to invest in, plan, build, manage, and maintain infrastructure to support Queensland's lifestyle and growth.

The Queensland Government plays a critical role in infrastructure investment to build community resilience and prosperity and has a track record in building regional sports stadiums, tourism infrastructure of state significance, hospitals, transport and enriching communities with arts and culture initiatives.

MAKE THE REQUEST

Work with all stakeholders to deliver faster rail between Toowoomba and Brisbane by 2032.

Work with stakeholders to deliver water security for Toowoomba and the region.

Work with all stakeholders to deliver an improved public transport system to move the people within Toowoomba and surrounding townships.

Invest in the completion of business cases for a sports stadium, equine centre, convention centre and regional arts gallery.

Create an infrastructure fund to facilitate regional projects and competitiveness.

Contribute to funding the Cressbrook Dam Safety Project.

IDENTIFY HOW IT CAN BE DONE

Provide quarterly public updates on progress of major infrastructure investments in Toowoomba.

Where opportunities to partner with other levels of government arise, prioritise the project management planning and approvals to allow progress to occur.

Invest in private sector delivery partners to complete the design and business cases for a sports stadium, equine centre, convention centre and regional arts gallery in Toowoomba.

Create a Regional Infrastructure Fund.



FROM OUR BUSINESS OWNERS

'As a CBD business owner for over a decade, the need for a legacy project like this that delivers for the community and business sector has been long awaited.'

Small Business Owner

'As Toowoomba has grown, events have drawn larger crowds while infrastructure lags behind.'

Small Business Owner

'Ratepayers are developing anxiety symptoms over inaction on transitioning to green technology and infrastructure.'

Small Business Owner

'If we don't get the framework for future infrastructure development right now the cost of fixing it later will be greater.'

Small Business Owner

'Plan transport corridors and future water infrastructure.'

Small Business Owner

'Council needs a solid direction. Where are we headed?'

Small Business Owner



OUTLINE THE BUSINESS BENEFIT

- ✓ Infrastructure investment in the region.
- ✓ Jobs growth.
- ✓ Build business confidence.
- ✓ Improved regional competitiveness.



Connect with us.

