Aviation and aerospace
Opportunities in Queensland
Queensland’s aviation and aerospace industry

Queensland is home to nearly 30 per cent of Australia’s aviation and aerospace companies.

It is a major centre for Australia’s:
- civil and military aerospace industry
- civil and military rotary wing (helicopter) industry
- aviation training services
- research and development (R&D) of emerging aviation technologies.

Queensland has approximately 23 per cent of the Australian total of aviation and defence-related jobs and almost 30 per cent of all Australian pilots are based here.

Queensland provides significant opportunities for new and existing businesses with capabilities including:
- aircraft and engine maintenance, repair and overhaul—including modification
- avionics manufacture
- development of aircraft structures, systems software and airframes—including advanced composites
- aeronautical design
- manufacture and precision engineering
- pilot training
- aerospace education at secondary, tertiary and post-graduate levels
- logistics support
- development of unmanned aircraft systems.

The emergence of the Asia-Pacific region as a focus for international aviation growth is a key opportunity driver in Queensland. Other drivers include increased global demand for aviation training, local development of emerging and advanced aviation technologies, international and national route development and airline basing, and increased defence demand for aerospace manufacture, modification and maintenance.
Strategic locations

Queensland’s airports are strategically located to service its many metropolitan and regional locations, with accessible industrial land located both on and off-site. It is Australia’s most decentralised state and has many areas that focus on aviation and aerospace, such as:

- Brisbane—Queensland’s capital city, gateway to the Asia-Pacific region and headquarters to global aerospace companies
- Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast—strengths in rotary and fixed-wing pilot training and aero skills training
- Wide Bay Burnett—emerging centre for Australia’s general aviation industry and potential unmanned aircraft systems test and training location
- Rockhampton and Townsville—extensive support to Queensland-based defence activities
- Cairns—a leading aviation and aerospace centre of excellence with overflow capacity at Mareeba.

Regional airports are also located at Mackay, Gladstone, Toowoomba, Charleville, Roma, Emerald, Longreach and Mount Isa.
Some of the many global companies now located in Queensland include:

- Airbus Military
- Asia-Pacific Aerospace
- Australian Aerospace
- BAE Systems Australia
- Boeing Defence Australia
- Boeing Research and Technology Australia
- Boeing Training and Flight Services
- CAE Australia
- Frequentis Australasia
- GE Aviation
- Hawker Pacific
- Insitu Pacific Limited
- Interturbine Advanced Logistics
- Jetstar

- Qantas (Brisbane heavy maintenance)
- Qantas Defence Services
- Raytheon Australia
- Sikorsky Helitech
- Singapore Flying College
- Tasman Aviation Enterprises (TAE)

- Vector Aerospace
- Virgin Australia.
Queensland’s maintenance, repair and overhaul industry

Queensland is well-positioned to become a major global maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) centre. Over the past 10 years, significant MRO facilities have been attracted to Queensland, generating over $100 million in capital expenditure and over 2000 jobs. More aircraft manufacturing companies are now based in Queensland than any other state in Australia.

Queensland offers strong international and national route development and bases for airlines. It is the only state with four international airports operating regular commercial flights, with another two airports capable of managing commercial international flights.

Queensland is home to the only Bombardier-accredited facility in the southern hemisphere—Hawker Pacific. Other businesses with a proven MRO capability in Queensland include:

- Qantas heavy maintenance facility (Brisbane)
- Virgin Australia maintenance facility (Brisbane)
- Sikorsky Helitech helicopter facility (Brisbane)
- Asia-Pacific Aerospace helicopter facility (Brisbane)
- Australian Aerospace helicopter facility (Brisbane)
- Tasman Aviation Enterprises (TAE) (Amberley and Brisbane).
Snapshot

- The worldwide MRO market is estimated to reach $55.2 billion by 2015.
- Aircraft traffic is set to climb with Brisbane Airport Corporation estimating that by 2029–30, passenger numbers will exceed 45 million.
- Asian airlines are expected to represent 33 per cent of worldwide traffic by 2028.
- The Asia-Pacific MRO market is forecast to account for $12.4 billion of total MRO industry dollars by 2014.
Queensland’s airline industry

Queensland’s compatible time zone and close proximity to a number of Asian countries makes it Australia’s gateway to Asia. Queensland is well positioned to service Asian markets during normal business hours, and United States and European markets after hours.

Queensland is Australia’s premier tourism destination. The local tourism industry attracts over 20.3 million domestic and international overnight visitors annually and directly contributes $8.4 billion to the Queensland economy. To support demand, Queensland is committed to expanding access from key markets in Japan, Korea and the United Arab Emirates, while encouraging non-stop services from China and increasing services with the United States and Europe. In 2012, a number of new direct international flights commenced including:

- China Eastern flying direct from Shanghai to Cairns
- Hawaiian Airlines flying direct from Honolulu to Brisbane
- Scoot Airlines flying direct between the Gold Coast and Singapore.

There has also been growth in carrier activities with Jetstar, Tiger Airways and QantasLink increasing services domestically out of Queensland. Cathay Pacific, Etihad Airways and Virgin Australia have also increased services internationally to Europe and South-East Asia. Demonstrating its commitment to the airline industry, the Queensland Government has allocated $8 million to an Attracting Aviation Investment Fund, which aims to attract new international airline routes to Queensland and expand existing routes.

The airline industry in Queensland benefits from:
- no curfews at Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Cairns airports
- strong airline support through superior MRO facilities, supporting supply chains, and aviation training and services
- availability of industrial land
- large investments in airport redevelopment
- a strong tourism industry.

Major airports

- **Brisbane International Airport** is the third busiest and one of the few curfew-free airports in Australia. It is a major hub for international air services, and caters for 31 airlines that fly to 44 national and 29 international destinations. Annual passenger numbers are tipped to reach over 45 million by 2030. The Brisbane Airport Corporation has committed $4.2 billion toward a 20-year infrastructure program. It has already delivered the International Terminal Expansion Project and Northern Access Road Project,

**Snapshot**

- International airline seat capacity into Queensland increased by approximately 60 per cent from 2003 to 2012.
- Around 2500 flights arrived each week in Brisbane from domestic locations in 2012.
- The weekly domestic seat capacity into Queensland destinations was around 325,000 seats in 2012.
- The Australian airline industry had total revenues of $18.1 billion in 2011.
as well as new terminals. In addition, a new runway and aviation-related industry precincts are in development. The AirportlinkM7 free-flow toll road was completed in 2012 and provides easy access between the airport, city and other major roads.

- **Cairns Airport** is Australia’s leading regional airport with eight international airlines servicing a range of overseas locations including Tokyo, Hong Kong, Guam, Port Moresby, Auckland, Shanghai and Singapore via Darwin. A $200 million redevelopment of the domestic terminal in 2010 resulted in five modern aerobridges catering for new aircraft types and improved aircraft access, exceptional security and state-of-the-art passenger handling technology.

- **Gold Coast Airport** is the sixth busiest and one of the fastest growing airports in Australia. In 2010 it was named Major Airport of the Year by the Australian Airports Association and won Best Regional Airport in the 2011 World Airport Awards. The rapid growth in passengers through the airport has led to several commercial developments such as an extension of the main runway, which allows more direct route opportunities into Asia and increased international airfreight activity. In addition, the Gold Coast Airport officially opened a new $100 million passenger terminal redevelopment in January 2010. These extensive expansions have paved the way for an increase in direct international flights to and from Asia, the Middle East and India.

- **Rockhampton Airport** caters for both the mining and defence sectors. Rockhampton is the central access point to the Bowen Basin and Galilee Basin coalfields and has Australia’s major military training area, Shoalwater Bay, located to the north of the city.

- **Sunshine Coast Airport** is a curfew-free airport that supports a number of regular public transport services and a variety of general aviation activities. In 2012 the airport introduced international flights to New Zealand, and now manages around 87 000 aircraft movements and close to one million passengers per annum. The airport’s long-term development objective is to build a new runway to facilitate new international routes and support the growing regional economy of the Sunshine Coast. Short-term plans include upgrading the taxiways, aprons, terminal and infrastructure to support the growth associated with the current runway.

- **Townsville Airport** is North Queensland’s regional hub offering capital city connections and an access point to the Great Barrier Reef. It has dynamic general aviation maintenance activities and also services a significant regional defence presence. Townsville Airport has capacity to commence new international routes in the future.

**Regional carriers**

Other regional airports include Mackay, Hervey Bay, Gladstone, Bundaberg, Charleville, Roma, Emerald, Longreach and Mount Isa. These airports are serviced by several regional airlines including Regional Express (Rex), QantasLink, Airnorth, Skytrans and Alliance Airlines. A number of Queensland airports support fly-in fly-out operations to regional mines.
Queensland is at the forefront of the aviation training industry.

There is a strong emphasis on aviation by tertiary education institutions and many English language programs are on offer. International pilots in Queensland are required to have English proficiency.

Queensland’s training infrastructure and regional airports are highly accessible and a number of competitive education, training and simulation firms operate here. Flying schools benefit from over 300 days of good flying weather each year in most locations.

The Queensland Government is committed to providing education and training to strengthen its aviation and aerospace industry. It has invested:

- **$20 million** to establish Aviation Australia—a unique world-class training organisation designed to support the rapid growth of the aerospace industry in Queensland and the Asia-Pacific.

- **$18 million** to fund the Aerospace Gateway Project. The project includes the establishment of Australia’s first dedicated aviation high school, Aviation High, and the introduction of aerospace subjects during years 11 and 12. The project helps young Queenslanders achieve a career in the aviation industry including caterers, cabin crew, pilots, meteorologists, aviation lawyers and engineers.

In conjunction with Queensland Government-supported projects, Queensland universities, including Queensland University of Technology, Griffith University and the University of Queensland, offer aviation-related education. Courses include aviation management, avionics, aerospace medicine and aviation science.
Snapshot

- Queensland is home to Aviation Australia—a dedicated technical and cabin crew training facility with campuses in Brisbane and Cairns.
- Aviation Australia currently provides engineering and cabin crew training to over 60 airlines and aerospace companies, governments, defence forces and regulatory authorities in countries around the world.
- In 2011–12, 41 per cent of Aviation Australia’s revenue was from its export products.
Queensland’s general aviation industry

Queensland is regarded as the emerging centre for Australia’s general aviation industry. The Queensland Government is committed to strengthening regional areas with sound infrastructure development, industry development and transportation links. General aviation plays a key role in this vision, and already contributes significantly to the economic and social development within Queensland’s regions.

Many of Queensland’s regional operators service more communities in Australia than the major domestic operators. Queensland’s regional operators provide:
- essential access to markets and services
- vital aeromedical assistance and health services
- transport and freight services to the resource industry
- bushfire and search and rescue operations
- exploration via airborne surveying
- pipeline and other infrastructure inspections
- law enforcement and border patrols
- business and recreational travel
- airport facilities
- flight training.

Snapshot
- Regional passenger numbers have increased by 67 per cent over the past 10 years.
- Over four million Australians rely on regional air services.
- Queensland is home to the RAAA convention—the country’s premier general aviation event.
Queensland’s unmanned aircraft system industry

Over the next 10 years, global unmanned aircraft system (UAS) expenditure is predicted to double from $6.6 billion annually to $11.4 billion. The Asia-Pacific region is forecast to represent the second largest UAS market after the United States.

More than 30 per cent of Australia’s growing UAS industry is located in Queensland. Insitu Pacific and Boeing Defence Australia play a pivotal role as lead suppliers of UAS to the Australian Defence Force.

Queensland is playing a prominent role in developing Australia’s UAS research through:

- **Smart Skies Initiative** — a collaboration between Boeing Defence Australia, Boeing Research and Technology, and ARCAA that aims to develop critical UAS flight safety systems and technologies
- **Project ResQu** — a collaborative research partnership between the Queensland University of Technology; Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO); Boeing Research and Technology; and Insitu Pacific Ltd, which aims to develop sense and avoid technologies in UAS and allow them to land safely in emergency situations
- **UAV Challenge** — an initiative between ARCAA, Aviation Development Australia Ltd and AUVS-A promoting the development of UAS technology for search and rescue missions
- **CSIRO’s Autonomous Systems Laboratory**.
Why Queensland?

Economy
The Queensland economy offers investors a sound, safe, long-term investment climate and has the added advantage of being a part of a stable and resilient country. Despite a slowing of the global economy during 2011, Australia’s economy has continued to record moderate growth. In 2012, the state had an above average population growth rate compared to the rest of Australia. In 2012, exports to all countries totalled almost $65 billion.

Regions
Queensland is Australia’s most decentralised state. The state’s many regional locations present a variety of investment and lifestyle opportunities.

Infrastructure
Queensland currently spends more on infrastructure than most other states or territories in Australia. The Queensland Government is continuously upgrading hard infrastructure (transport, energy and water) while also supporting soft infrastructure development (telecommunications, innovation and R&D).

Government
The Queensland Government partners with key industries to provide ongoing support. It invests in knowledge-intensive industries and supports plans for long-term economic development. Australia’s intellectual property laws reflect international best practice to protect intellectual property rights. Australian-based firms benefit from the most comprehensive intellectual property protection available.

Business friendly
The aviation and aerospace industry underpins the Queensland Government’s four economic pillars of resources, agriculture, tourism and construction. It is pivotal to tourism, essential for the resources sector and an important service provider to agriculture. The Queensland Government is promoting a business-friendly environment by cutting red tape, streamlining project facilitation and providing access to state decision makers for investment planning and development.

Queensland has the lowest payroll tax rate in Australia at 4.75 per cent and has one of the highest thresholds. Queensland companies are not required to pay this tax until wages and salaries total $1.1 million per annum. This threshold will increase by $100 000 per annum until it reaches $1.6 million in 2019.

Workforce
Queensland has a highly skilled, motivated, employment-ready workforce. Queensland has world-class tertiary education, and universities work with local companies to tailor courses to suit specific skills requirements. Businesses based in Queensland also benefit from a stable industrial relations climate.

Lifestyle
Queensland is the lifestyle capital of Australia, boasting world-renowned beaches, national parks, rainforests, reefs and a sub-tropical climate. The state’s enviable lifestyle entices people to visit and migrate from all over the world. It truly is a multicultural, vibrant and diverse place, which greatly enhances the ability to do business globally.
About us

The Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning works closely with large national and international companies looking to relocate, expand or develop their businesses in Queensland. We provide information to companies about Queensland’s capabilities as an investment location and assist companies to establish in the state.

Queensland snapshot

- 4.56 million people
- 1.734 million km² in size
- $287.2 billion Gross State Product 2012

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