

**2025–2026**

# **STATE BUDGET**

Pre-Budget Submission

# INTRODUCTION

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ipswich will grow at a faster rate than any other council in Queensland over the next twenty years. By 2046, our population is forecast to reach 533,802 – nearly double its current size. With such rapid growth, it is critical that infrastructure keeps pace to meet demand and support our expanding population.

Ipswich is positioned in the rapidly expanding western growth corridor of South-East Queensland (SEQ). It is the gateway to our neighbouring agricultural regions, home to the nation's largest RAAF base, with a vast amount of land for industrial, commercial and residential growth.

Ipswich is located at the intersection of three national land transport road routes, connecting Ipswich to our southern states, the wider SEQ region and Queensland's capital, Brisbane.

However, existing infrastructure and services are not keeping up with our rapid population growth. Council has adopted an evidence-based approach in determining its priority projects which are catalytic and region-shaping opportunities.

These major infrastructure projects require investment from the State Government to address our underserved road and public transport corridors, our approach to sustainable economic outcomes and our build for SEQ future industrial area. Investment towards our priority projects from the State Government will improve liveability, economic productivity and social outcomes across Ipswich and the greater SEQ region.

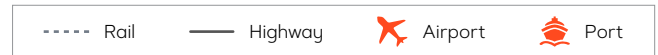
The City of Ipswich 2025–2026 State Pre Budget submission focuses on opportunities to work collaboratively with the State Government to deliver shared priorities and outcomes.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

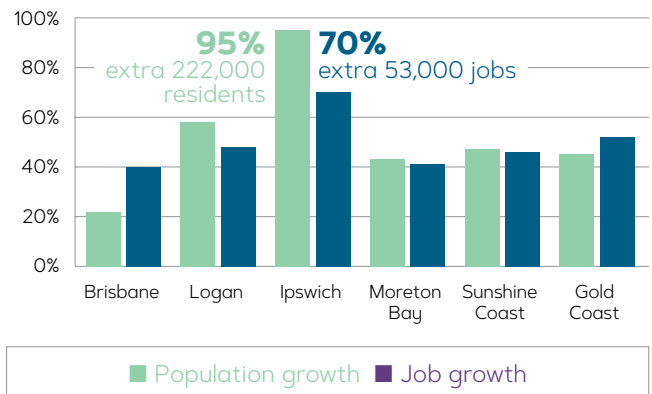


Ipswich City Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners as custodians of the land and waters we share. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, as the keepers of the traditions, customs, cultures and stories of proud peoples.

## ABOUT IPSWICH



## POPULATION AND JOB GROWTH 2021–2041



Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2023 edition; Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional population, 2021.

CURRENT POPULATION 263,757 RESIDENTS	BY 2046, EXPECTED POPULATION IS 533,802 RESIDENTS
MEDIAN AGE 33	\$15.08 BILLION GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT
95,532 TOTAL LOCAL JOBS	13,049 LOCAL BUSINESSES

### TOP INDUSTRIES 2023–2024 (BY FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT)

1. HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE 18%
2. EDUCATION AND TRAINING 11.5%
3. MANUFACTURING 10.6%
4. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND SAFETY 10.3%

## IPSWICH ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

The City of Ipswich welcomes the opportunity to present our priorities for State Government consideration in the 2025–2026 State Budget:

THE OPPORTUNITY	OUR REQUEST
<b>Ipswich to Springfield Central Public Transport Corridor (I2S)</b>	Council requests the State Government urgently commence the detailed business case for the Ipswich to Springfield Central Public Transport Corridor. Following the \$10 million committed in the SEQ City Deal, council is seeking a partial commitment in the forward estimates towards the delivery of this critical public transport corridor project.
<b>Waste and Circular Economy Transformation</b>	Progress waste sector priorities under the SEQ City Deal towards a carbon neutral and net zero emissions target.
<b>Critical and Enabling Infrastructure</b>	Critical upgrades to our strategic highway network are overdue for the Warrego Highway, Cunningham Highway and Centenary Motorway. Council is seeking the State Government to commit to forward planning the sequencing and delivery of growth for the Ripley Valley Priority Development Area.
<b>Ipswich Central Second River Crossing</b>	Council requests the State Government urgently commence the detailed business case for the Ipswich Central Second River Crossing.
<b>North Ipswich Sport and Entertainment Precinct</b>	Council continues to seek delivery funding for the next stages of the development to deliver a northern, eastern and southern seating area, upgrades to Len Johnson Oval and improved connectivity to the Ipswich Train Station and Ipswich Central.
<b>Ebenezer Regional Industrial Area (ERIA)</b>	Deliver catalytic infrastructure for the ERIA, progress the Inland Rail project and deliver the Ebenezer Intermodal Terminal.

## THE BRISBANE 2032 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

With all venues and infrastructure confirmed in the 2032 Delivery Plan including Brighton Homes Arena in Ipswich, we can focus on delivering a lasting legacy for our city through integral infrastructure upgrades that improve connectivity across the region, and support our growing population.

The inclusion of Brighton Homes Arena as a potential Games venue reinforces the need for investment in infrastructure to improve connection between Ipswich and Springfield Central. The delivery of the Ipswich to Springfield Central Public Transport corridor is integral for access to Brighton Homes Arena, supporting our highest growth area and providing a strategic link to the rest of South East Queensland.

Continued investment in critical and enabling infrastructure, such as upgrades to the Cunningham Highway, Warrego Highway, and Centenary Motorway, will not only improve access to Olympic venues but also strengthen transport links across South East Queensland. The Warrego Highway, a key corridor between Brisbane, Ipswich and Toowoomba will be vital in supporting the movement of athletes, officials, and spectators.

Beyond the Games, Ipswich is focused on delivering a strong sporting legacy. The 2032 Delivery Plan through the Games On! Program has committed to enhancing regional sporting and community facilities to create a legacy outcome for Rosewood Showgrounds, Ipswich Musketeers Baseball Club, North Tigers Junior Rugby League and Queens Park. In addition, the recently announced design for the North Ipswich Sport and Entertainment Precinct presents a major opportunity to support pre-Games training while encouraging greater community participation in sport.

It is essential that we continue investing in Ipswich to support both the Games and our city's fast-growing population.



# BUDGET SUBMISSION SUMMARY: A ROADMAP TO A CITY OF

Ipswich is located in the heart of South East Queensland, well positioned between regional Queensland and Brisbane. The evidence-based Regionally Significant Projects define Ipswich's future liveability and prosperity. It is a strategic location for State investment. The Ipswich Regional Infrastructure Strategy outlines the city's priorities and opportunities for the State Government to invest and grow the Australian economy and to support the region, summarised in the below table.

THE OPPORTUNITY	OUR REQUEST	THE ASK
<b>Ipswich to Springfield Central Public Transport Corridor (I2S)</b>	<p>● Council is seeking a project delivery funding provision of \$2-3 billion* in the outer years of the State and Federal budget forward estimates.</p>	<p>The SEQ City Deal has committed \$10 million towards the Ipswich to Springfield Central Public Transport Corridor.</p> <p>Council is seeking funding from the State Government for project delivery in the Budget, towards the delivery of this critical public transport corridor project.</p> <p>The Options Analysis currently in development will inform the Detailed Business Case for the Ipswich to Springfield Central Public Transport Corridor.</p>
<b>Waste and Circular Economy Transformation</b>	<p>● Progress waste sector priorities under the SEQ City Deal towards a carbon neutral and net zero emissions target.</p>	<p>Partner with the Queensland Government to expedite the introduction of legislation to in-vessel the composting of organic waste.</p> <p>Progress the waste sector priorities under the SEQ City Deal.</p>
<b>Critical and Enabling Infrastructure</b>	<p>● Critical upgrades to our strategic highway network are overdue for the Warrego Highway, Cunningham Highway and Centenary highway.</p> <p>Council is seeking a State Government commitment to forward plan the sequencing and delivery of growth for the Ripley Valley Priority Development Area.</p>	<p>We thank the Federal Government for a \$200 million commitment to upgrade the strategic highway network across the State.</p> <p>State investment is required for the following key strategic roads to support growth and wider Queensland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Critical upgrades to the Cunningham Highway including Yamanto to Toowoomba duplication to four lanes and upgrades to the Amberley Interchange including planning, design and delivery of interchange configurations at Ripley Valley.</li> <li>■ Urgent attention and upgrades are required for the Warrego Highway Corridor, to ensure that the highway is safe, resilient and efficient for the future.</li> <li>■ Centenary Motorway requires immediate action pertaining to the planning and upgraded interchanges to service this rapidly expanding growth area.</li> <li>■ Forward planning of critical infrastructure including roads, water and sewerage. In particular, attention should be given to the forward planning for the infrastructure traversing the Ripley Valley Priority Development Area, as well as the infrastructure supporting the growth of the area.</li> </ul>
<b>Ipswich Central Second River Crossing</b>	<p>● Council requests the State Government urgently commence the detailed business case for the Ipswich Central Second River Crossing.</p>	<p>Council acknowledges the commitment of \$4M in state investment towards the Second River Crossing to be allocated in the 2025-2026 budget.</p> <p>A Detailed Business Case into a Second River Crossing will look to address the challenges of population growth in the Ipswich CBD.</p> <p>The Ipswich Central Second Crossing is a new addition to the Infrastructure Strategy to enable it to progress from Gate 1: Defining Problems and Opportunities to Gate 2: Developing Solutions.</p>
<b>North Ipswich Sport and Entertainment Precinct</b>	<p>● Council continues to seek delivery funding for the next stages of the development.</p>	<p>The Federal Government's \$20 million investment has been further supported by the State Government. The State's investment was the final step needed to unlock the precinct. This \$40 million investment will deliver the modernisation and upgrades to the precinct in the form of a new western grandstand and field lighting.</p> <p>Council continues to seek delivery funding for the next stages of the development including seating area, upgrades to Len Johnson Oval and improved connectivity to the precinct.</p>
<b>Ebenezer Regional Industrial Area (ERIA)</b>	<p>● Deliver the catalytic infrastructure for the ERIA, progress the Inland Rail project and deliver the Ebenezer Intermodal Terminal.</p>	<p>Council is requesting commitment for the provision of activating trunk infrastructure and the proposed Ebenezer Intermodal Terminal. The catalytic project component is the Inland Rail. The project is currently in reference design stage which includes the Inland Rail connecting the west of Toowoomba with the west of Ipswich. The important development of the Ebenezer Intermodal Terminal and Freight Precinct.</p>

# OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

based approach to identifying the city's catalytic  
Ipswich City Council 2025–2026 Pre Budget-Submission  
the Ipswich community. Each priority project is

- NO SIGNIFICANT COMMITMENTS RECEIVED
- PARTIAL COMMITMENTS RECEIVED

## THE BENEFITS

field Central Public Transport Corridor.

h the outer years of the forward estimates within  
project.

ness Case for this public transport corridor

This mass transit solution in the I2S corridor will connect Ipswich to Springfield Central via Ipswich's residential expansion areas of Ripley and Redbank Plains.

The Federal Government together with the State Government and Ipswich City Council has committed \$7.5 million to deliver a Detailed Business Case for a public transport corridor between Ipswich and Springfield Central.

The project will inform the delivery of priority infrastructure for the rapidly growing region, which will provide critical public transport services between key regional and local centres, strengthening the ongoing growth and development of the area.

egislation to compel waste operators

Ipswich received 47% of 4.76M tonnes of Queensland's waste with little to no community benefit. This will transform the waste industry into an innovative, efficient and sustainable circular economy. Ipswich is placing sustainability at the heart to contribute towards the Brisbane 2032 climate positive agenda.

de the Amberley interchange.

rt connectivity within the region

Ebenezer Creek section of highway, including  
which services RAAF Base Amberley, and the  
y and Swanbank to support our growth corridor.

ay, part of the Brisbane to Melbourne National  
or all road users.

anning of highway duplication, including new and  
a.

d wastewater and transport infrastructure. In  
State Controlled Road network surrounding and  
e Ipswich to Springfield Central Corridor.

Ipswich is a high growth city that requires investment in its strategic roads to ensure that people and freight continue to move safely and efficiently.

Continued investment from the State Government will assist in the delivery of infrastructure to service new development, with a specific focus on the delivery of transport infrastructure to accommodate our community. This is a real opportunity to continue to support the growth of Ipswich (including the Ripley Valley Priority Development Area), to provide affordable housing and improve the quality of life for our residents.

the Detailed Business Case, however requests that

congestion, flooding impacts and to cater for

A multi-modal flood-immune second river crossing in Ipswich Central will future-proof the inner-city road network against population growth, increasing flood risks and unsafe driving conditions due to increasing congestion.

Australia Priority List. Progressing this project will  
Gate 2: Identifying and Analysing Option.

ed with an additional \$10 million secured from the  
ock \$10 million of funding from Ipswich City Council.  
the North Ipswich Sport and Entertainment Precinct

pment to deliver a northern, eastern, and southern  
the Ipswich Train Station and Ipswich Central.

Concept design for the western grandstand and floodlights has been delivered by Ipswich City Council.

This investment will deliver a national-standard sport and entertainment precinct anchored around a boutique stadium which will revolutionise access to sporting and entertainment content in Queensland's sporting heartland.

structure to support the productivity of Inland Rail  
plements the largest freight project in Australia,  
ides the Helidon to Calvert 47km stretch of Inland  
rtant progress of the Inland Rail will support the

The ERIA is a future industrial area for SEQ. This catalyst infrastructure will enable an employment-generating industrial precinct in support of national supply chains, Inland Rail, and the proposed Ebenezer Intermodal Terminal, while providing trunk infrastructure to nearby residential expansion area. The ERIA will increase economic output, generate more jobs and provide direct access to national supply chains.



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