

# FEDERAL PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION 2026-2027



# 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. In parallel, preparation is also underway for the opportunities presented by a successful Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games with Ipswich named as an official co-host city and a games delivery partner.

Strategically located in South East Queensland's western growth corridor, Ipswich serves as a gateway to vital agricultural regions, hosts Australia's largest RAAF base, and offers expansive land for industrial, commercial, and residential development. Its position at the intersection of three national transport routes links Ipswich to Brisbane, the broader SEQ region, and southern states, making it a critical node in Queensland's economic and mobility network.

Despite this potential, Ipswich's infrastructure and services are lagging behind its rapid growth trajectory. To address this, Council has identified a suite of evidence-based, catalytic projects that will shape the region's future. These initiatives target key challenges including underdeveloped transport corridors, sustainable economic development, and the infrastructure needed to support SEQ's emerging industrial precincts.

The City of Ipswich 2026-2027 Federal Pre-Budget Submission outlines a collaborative pathway with the Australian Government to deliver these transformative projects. Strategic investment will unlock improved liveability, enhanced productivity, and stronger social outcomes, not just for Ipswich, but for the entire South East Queensland region.

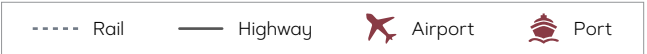
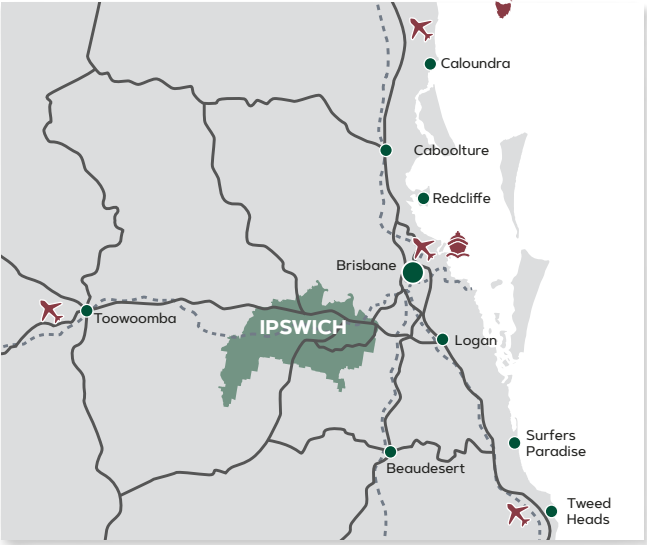
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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

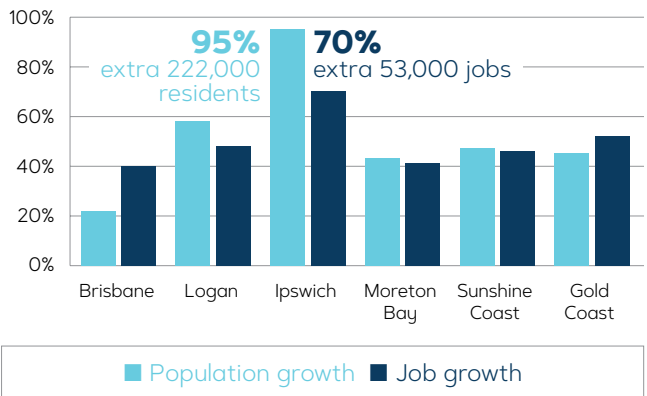


Ipswich City Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners as custodians of the land and waters we share. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, as the keepers of the traditions, customs, cultures and stories of proud peoples.

## ABOUT IPSWICH



## POPULATION AND JOB GROWTH 2021-2041



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

CURRENT POPULATION 268,186 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 Federal Government consideration in the 2026–2027 State Budget.

*“I would love to see a synthetic athletics track built in Ipswich. It would mean I wouldn’t have to spend so much time travelling to Brisbane to train. It would also be a great legacy for younger Ipswich athletes to have a world-class athletics facility right here in their very own city. It’s definitely something all levels of government should look at funding”*

Gout Gout, November 2025



## BRISBANE 2032 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES OPPORTUNITIES

As a proud co-host city and Games Delivery Partner the City of Ipswich is eager to ensure the community benefits from the opportunities presented by the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

OPPORTUNITY	OUR REQUEST	BENEFITS
Synthetic Athletics Track	<p>The City of Ipswich seeks \$10 million from the Federal Government for the planning, design, and construction of a \$20 million 400m synthetic athletics track to be located within the Ipswich region.</p> <p>This facility will address a critical infrastructure gap, support elite and grassroots athletic development, and contribute to the legacy of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.</p>	<p>The delivery of a synthetic athletics track has been identified by the City of Ipswich as a priority project in the context of Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games legacy opportunities.</p> <p>Council has resolved to advocate for a synthetic athletics track to be built in Ipswich and is in the process of identifying appropriate locations where a synthetic track could be located. This work is anticipated to be completed by early April 2026.</p> <p>With a shortage of synthetic athletics tracks in South East Queensland and none situated in the Ipswich region, this project represents a key piece of sports infrastructure legacy for the region.</p> <p>Currently, athletes need to travel a minimum of 40 minutes each way to access a synthetic athletics track at the Queensland Sport and Athletics Centre (QSAC), at Nathan. The City of Ipswich is on the lower end of socioeconomic measures and this provides a further barrier for young aspiring athletes to participate and train in athletics.</p> <p>A new synthetic track would also position Ipswich to support the 2032 Games in delivering an additional elite ready athletics training venue in South East Queensland.</p>

# 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 catalytic Regionally Significant Projects define Ipswich's future liveability and prosperity. It is a strategic location for Federal investment. Pre Budget-Submission outlines the city's priorities and opportunities for the Federal Government to invest and grow the Australian community. Each priority project is summarised in the below table.

THE OPPORTUNITY	OUR REQUEST	THE ASK
<b>Ipswich to Springfield Central Public Transport Corridor (I2S)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council is seeking project delivery funding from the Federal Government based on the construction costs once the Detailed Business Case is completed.</li> </ul>	<p>The SEQ City Deal has committed \$10 million towards the Ipswich to Springfield Central Public Transport Corridor.</p> <p>Council is seeking project delivery funding from the Queensland and Australian Governments to cover the construction costs in the Detailed Business Case, once complete.</p> <p>Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads is due to commence the I2S project.</p>
<b>Critical and Enabling Infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is an urgent need to invest in the planning, design and delivery of critical infrastructure upgrades for the Cunningham Highway, Warrego Highway, and Centenary Motorway as well as the Ripley Valley Priority Development Area.</li> </ul>	<p>We thank the Federal Government for a \$200 million commitment to upgrade the road network in Queensland.</p> <p>Federal investment is required for the following key strategic roads to support the growth of Queensland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalisation of the detailed design for the Mount Crosby Interchange</li> <li>Rehabilitation works on the Bremer River Bridge</li> <li>Immediate action on the planning of corridor duplication and the Centenary Motorway</li> <li>Upgrades to the Ripley Road interchanges at both the Cunningham Highway and Warrego Highway</li> </ul>
<b>Ipswich Central Second River Crossing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council requests funding from the Federal Government to deliver the Ipswich Central Second River Crossing following the completion of the Detailed Business Case.</li> </ul>	<p>\$4 million in funding has been provided by the Queensland Government to support the development of the Ipswich Central Second River Crossing. Council requests Federal Government funding towards construction costs once the Detailed Business Case is completed.</p> <p>A Detailed Business Case into a Second River Crossing will look to address the need for a new crossing to support population growth in the Ipswich CBD.</p> <p>The Ipswich Central Second Crossing is a new addition to the Infrastructure Program. It will 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council continues to seek delivery funding for the next stages of the development.</li> </ul>	<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 deliver the North Ipswich Sport and Entertainment Precinct. This \$40 million investment will deliver the modernisation of the precinct in the form of a new western grandstand and seating area, upgrades to the southern seating area, upgrades to Len Johnson Oval and improved connections to the precinct.</p> <p>Council continues to seek delivery funding for the next stages of the development, including the construction of the new western grandstand and seating area, upgrades to the southern seating area, upgrades to Len Johnson Oval and improved connections to the precinct.</p>
<b>Ebenezer Regional Industrial Area (ERIA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress the Inland Rail project and deliver the Ebenezer Intermodal Terminal.</li> </ul>	<p>Council is appreciative of the \$10 million commitment towards a joint business case for the Ebenezer Intermodal Terminal at Ebenezer Regional Industrial Area to support Inland Rail.</p> <p>An update on time frames is sought from the Federal Government following the completion of the business case.</p>

# OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

...e-based approach to identifying the city's  
...stment. The Ipswich City Council 2026–2027  
...an economy and to support the Ipswich

- NO SIGNIFICANT COMMITMENTS RECEIVED
- PARTIAL COMMITMENTS RECEIVED

## THE BENEFITS

...gfield Central Public Transport Corridor.  
...alian Governments based on the construction  
...e the Detailed Business Case in 2026.

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 \$10 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.

...ade the Amberley Interchange.  
...port connectivity within the region and wider  
...to be complete mid-2026

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.

As one of Queensland's fastest-growing cities, Ipswich requires timely infrastructure delivery to accommodate new development, particularly within the Ripley Valley Priority Development Area. Continued support from the Federal Government will enable the provision of affordable housing, stimulate economic activity, and improve quality of life for residents - ensuring Ipswich remains a connected, resilient, and future-ready city.

...ntenary Motorway/Augusta Parkway Interchange  
...and Centenary Highways.

...wards the Detailed Business Case. Council  
...e Detailed Business Case is complete.  
...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.

...e Australia Priority List. Progressing this project  
...s to Gate 2: Identifying and Analysing Option.

...ted with an additional \$10 million secured  
...ded to unlock \$10 million of funding from  
...tion and upgrades to the North Ipswich Sport  
...field lighting.  
...opment to deliver a northern, eastern, and  
...ectivity to the Ipswich Train Station and

Procurement of the construction contractor for the \$40 million Western Grandstand has been finalised and demolition will commence January 2026.

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.

This development will increase Ipswich's ability to host 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games events and could also feature as a training ground for athletes in 2032, delivering legacy benefits to the region for decades to come.

...ess case to consider the development of an  
...d Rail.  
...g the independent review.

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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