

DEFENCE

Queensland's strategic defence
advantage: connecting industry,
capability and opportunity



Image supplied by Boeing Defence Australia

DELIVERING
FOR QUEENSLAND



Queensland
Government

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY PREMIER

Queensland delivers defence

Queensland is delivering Australia's defence future.

As Australia's fastest-growing state, Queensland offers a stable and competitive environment for investment. Supported by a skilled workforce, world-class infrastructure and abundant energy and natural resources, our state provides a strong foundation for defence, aerospace and advanced manufacturing industries. Queensland is creating the conditions for businesses to innovate, expand and secure Australia's sovereign industrial capability.

The Queensland Government is actively attracting private sector investment from around the world through targeted trade and investment strategies, with a focus on key markets including the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe and Asia. We are seeking new partnerships, technologies and sovereign capability that will strengthen Queensland's defence industry base and accelerate opportunities for growth.

Through Defence Q, we are providing defence industry with a clear and coordinated pathway to invest, establish and grow in Queensland, while positioning our state to make the most of significant national defence investment, including through AUKUS.

I invite you to explore the opportunities outlined in this prospectus and discover why Queensland is Australia's preferred destination for defence investment.



**The Honourable
Jarrod Bleijie MP**

Deputy Premier, Minister
for State Development,
Infrastructure and
Planning
Minister for Industrial
Relations, Queensland,
Australia.



Apache flying over the Townsville Field Training Area, Exercise Possum Guns
Image supplied by the Department of Defence, ©Commonwealth of Australia

Queensland:

A state built for defence

Located in Australia's northeast, Queensland is recognised as the sixth-largest state in the world by land area, comparable in size to Indonesia and larger than Western Europe or any state in the United States.

This scale supports nationally-significant defence training environments, industrial precincts and infrastructure across land, air and maritime domains.

Queensland's defence industry contributes approximately \$1.25 billion to the state's economy each year and is supported by a growing network of defence primes, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), research organisations and advanced manufacturers.

Queensland is home to about 42% of Army and nearly a quarter of Australia's Air Force personnel. Combined with the Naval presence Queensland hosts over 27% of the nation's Defence Force personnel. With the strategic Army, Air Force and Navy bases including Lavarack Barracks, RAAF Base Amberley and HMAS Cairns, Queensland is a critical enabler of Australia's National Defence Strategy.

Queensland also hosts the largest concentration of Defence training areas in Australia, enabling year-round and diverse training environments.

The state's proximity to the Asia-Pacific and Indo-Pacific regions positions Queensland as a gateway for international engagement and maritime security, directly supporting the ADF's Indo-Pacific regional and northern Australian security efforts. This access provides a compelling foundation for international partnerships, with Queensland jointly hosting the biennial Exercise Talisman Sabre which showcases our natural geostrategic advantages.

Defence Q helps industry, including our international partners to work across the Queensland Government to build strategic connections and progress investment opportunities.



Queensland at a glance



Lowest payroll tax
on mainland Australia



\$1.25 billion annual economic contribution
from the defence industry



Over one quarter of the nation's **Remote Aircraft Certificate (ReOC) holders** are located in Queensland



12 research-intensive universities, with multiple institutions regularly ranked in the world's top 250



Home to Australia's **largest Air Force base** and **the largest Army base**



163,000 defence and veteran personnel living in Queensland, the largest proportion of any State or Territory in Australia

Government support for defence investment

Defence Q gives defence investors a clear and coordinated pathway into government, providing access to strategic connections, project support and investment opportunities across Queensland.

This support is complemented by targeted government initiatives, including the flagship \$180.6 million Sovereign Industry Development Fund, which is partnering with the private sector to secure Queensland's sovereign industrial capability through catalytic infrastructure projects.

Queensland offers a unique and mature regulatory environment, deep industry expertise in the approval and operation of Major Hazard Facilities. This provides investors with clear approval pathways, established regulatory frameworks and access to a range of suitable industrial precincts, significantly reducing development risk and increasing certainty when selecting a Queensland location. As a Prescribed Project, the privately funded \$2.5 billion revitalisation of

the WWII-era Cairncross Dockyard demonstrates Queensland's ability to facilitate complex, maritime-enabling infrastructure projects.

Industry can access:

- ✓ coordinated engagement across government and government-owned corporations
- ✓ project facilitation to help navigate approvals and accelerate delivery
- ✓ opportunities for fast and streamlined approvals pathways
- ✓ assistance to identify suitable sites, land opportunities and development pathways
- ✓ connections to supply chains, local suppliers and industry networks
- ✓ strategic introductions to business, research and government partners.

The home of Australia's land capability

Queensland is Australia's national hub for land capability, bringing together large-scale training environments, advanced manufacturing, sustainment, and test and evaluation to support modern land forces.

It is also home to major defence primes like Rheinmetall Defence Australia, Thales, L3 Harris, Rheinmetall Noia Munitions, Boeing Defence Australia and Raytheon. This strong presence is supported by a network of SMEs who contribute significant input into Australia's defence industry supply chain.

Rheinmetall Defence Australia's Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence (MILVEHCOE) facility in Redbank, west of Brisbane, produces Boxer armoured Combat Reconnaissance Vehicles (CRV) for Australia's and Germany's defence forces. The MILVEHCOE serves as one of Rheinmetall's global centres for integration and production of turreted Boxers through its combined electronics and heavy vehicle production and testing capabilities.

Queensland's land capability is further strengthened by Australia's largest automotive manufacturing sector, extensive military training environments and specialist aviation training facilities, including Army aviation hubs in Townsville and Oakey.

The launch of the Army's Littoral Manoeuvre Group in Brisbane in March 2026 reinforces Queensland's role in future land and amphibious operations across the Indo-Pacific.

With a skilled workforce, advanced manufacturing capability and established supply chains, the state provides a strong foundation for capability development and sustainment.

CASE STUDY

Craig International Ballistics

Craig International Ballistics, based in Arundel on the Gold Coast, provides body armour and composite armour systems to protect individuals, vehicles and structures. Its armour systems are combat-proven, and its reputation for reliability and performance has made Craig International Ballistics a trusted supplier to the Australian Defence Force, law enforcement agencies, correctional services and commercial customers. Through the Sovereign Industry Development Fund, Craig International Ballistics has received funding to invest in Enhanced Small Arms Protective Insert (ESAPI) tooling, for the production of curved body armour to upscale their manufacturing capacity.



Body armour being manufactured on the Gold Coast

Building the future of advanced technologies including autonomous and uncrewed systems

Queensland is emerging as a leader in autonomous systems and uncrewed platforms, supported by a growing network of innovative manufacturers, technology developers and defence industry partners.

Industry, research and defence partners are working together to develop, test and manufacture advanced technologies, including autonomous systems, guided weapons, hypersonics and other emerging AUKUS Pillar II technologies. Supported by diverse operating environments, a skilled workforce and strong industry collaboration, Queensland is a place where new technologies can be developed, tested and brought to service.

Queensland is also home to Boeing Australia's MQ-28 Ghost Bat, an uncrewed collaborative

combat aircraft, with production to occur in Toowoomba. The Ghost Bat demonstrates Queensland's ability to design, manufacture and fly world-leading autonomous and uncrewed military aircraft.

These capabilities extend from small Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS) such as 'Mozzie' (small UAS), through to advanced platforms like the MQ-28. Together, these capabilities create opportunities across advanced manufacturing, defence technology, supply chains and export markets.

CASE STUDY

EPE Oceania

Veteran-owned EPE Oceania, in partnership with Grabba Technologies is using the Sovereign Industry Development Fund grant to accelerate the development, manufacture and export of their family of Australian-designed Mozzie Small Uncrewed Aerial Systems.



The Grabba Mozzie

Where future capability is tested and proven

Queensland is home to specialised facilities including the Queensland Flight Test Range, Military Environmental Test Centre (MILTECS) and the Australian Institute of Marine Science's ReefWorks, supporting the testing and validation of emerging technologies.

These facilities help businesses test new technologies, reduce development risk and bring new products into service more quickly.

The Queensland Flight Test Range (QFTR), located at Cloncurry is Australia's first commercially available test and evaluation facility for Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS). MILTECS provides a purpose-built range and lab environment to support training and the development, testing, proving and assurance of robotic platforms, sensors and effectors, all within 100km of Brisbane. Reefworks, near Townsville is Australia's only tropical marine test environment. Other capabilities, both public and private are being identified and developed.

Queensland is gaining recognition for its strength in hypersonics and space, attracting national and international attention. Companies such as Hypersonix Launch Systems are partnering with NASA and the U.S. Department of Defence to develop scramjet technology capable of propelling a vehicle up to 12 times the speed of sound. Queensland is home to Black Sky Aerospace's nation-leading test and evaluation capability, supporting the development and testing of advanced defence technologies.

Combining leading research, advanced manufacturing expertise and a skilled workforce, Queensland provides a complete environment to design, develop, test and sustain next-generation defence technologies.

CASE STUDY

Black Sky Aerospace MaxQ

Black Sky Aerospace MaxQ is establishing Australia's first and only privately owned horizontal launch and guided-weapons test and evaluation range near Thargomindah, Western Queensland, supported by the Sovereign Industry Development Fund. The 3-million-acre site will enable defence and aerospace technology to be tested in Queensland, building a nationally significant capability and positioning Queensland as a national leader in test and evaluation activities.



Black Sky Aerospace's rocket launch in Thargomindah

Queensland's regional defence advantage

Queensland is Australia's most decentralised state, with more than half of its population living outside the Greater Brisbane region in major regional centres, such as Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Maryborough and Toowoomba.

Supported by extensive road, rail, air and port infrastructure, these regional centres provide industrial land opportunities, access to skilled workers and the benefits of locating within the region of significant defence activities.

Queensland's network of regional centres, industrial capability and research expertise help support Defence operations across the state.

Positioned at the gateway to the Indo-Pacific, Queensland's regions have strong connects to both domestic and international markets,

supporting trade, investment and resilient supply chains across Australia and the Asia-Pacific.

Regional Queensland has obvious geostrategic advantages and anchors critical defence assets and manufacturing centres which support local jobs and the broader defence supply chain.

Together, Queensland's regional strengths provide opportunities for businesses to invest, expand and participate in national defence programs.

CASE STUDY

Norship

Norship has received support through the Sovereign Industry Development Fund to upgrade and expand their existing naval-certified servicing yard in Cairns, Far North Queensland. The project will deliver expanded wharf space, Defence-certified hardstand areas, and modernised workshop facilities to increase capacity for the maintenance and support of naval vessels with this investment continuing to position the Far North as a centre for maritime maintenance activities to support the ADF and Australia's pacific allies.



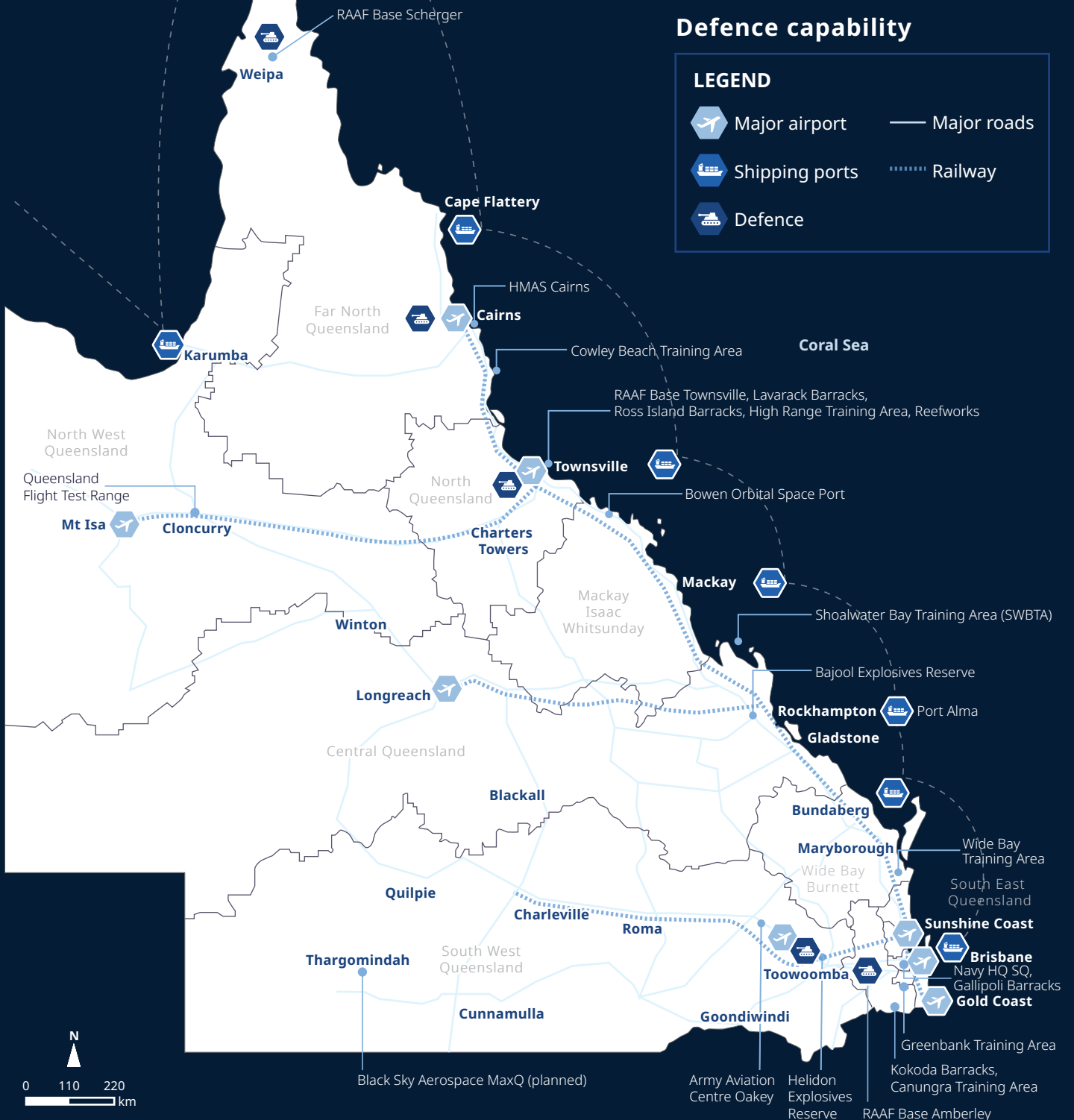
Norship Marine travel lift in Cairns



Defence capability

LEGEND

- Major airport
- Shipping ports
- Defence
- Major roads
- Railway





Australian Army personnel depart a Light Landing Craft onto Cowley Beach during Exercise Sea WADER 26.
Image supplied by the Department of Defence, ©Commonwealth of Australia.

Invest in Queensland's defence future

Queensland is well-positioned to lead the nation in defence investment through strategically significant partnerships with defence primes, investors and SMEs and allied nations to deliver the next generation of defence manufacturing capability.

With strategic geography, established and globally renowned industry, highly-skilled workers, strong regions and a new government focused on delivery, Queensland offers one of Australia's strongest defence investment propositions.



Turbines being serviced at the TAE Aerospace facility in Bundamba



Queensland delivers defence

Partner with Queensland to unlock your next defence investment opportunity.

Learn how Defence Q can support your defence journey in Queensland.



Website: www.qld.gov.au/DefenceQ

Connect with the team: defenceq@dsdip.qld.gov.au

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