

QUEENSLAND'S BIG BUILD

EMPOWERING QUEENSLAND'S SMALL BUSINESSES



Small businesses are vital to delivering Queensland's Big Build

Queensland's Big Build is the biggest decade of infrastructure delivery in our history, underpinned by a **4-year capital works** program.

We are building more hospitals and housing, upgrading schools, building better transport and more renewable energy right across the state.

The more than **200,000 small businesses**¹ operating in the construction; rental hiring and real estate; and professional, scientific, and technical services industries are well positioned to benefit from this record investment.

Small businesses outside these industries will also benefit, providing other critical goods and services needed to deliver on these projects while employing locals and further stimulating economic activity across the state.

The new *Queensland Small Business Strategy 2024–27* has key actions over three years to support and enable Queensland small businesses to share in the growth and prosperity on offer across our state, including our rural and regional communities.

Queensland

Good jobs
Better services
Great lifestyle



Queensland
Government

The Big Build is delivering good jobs for Queenslanders and opportunities for small business



In 2023–24, the Big Build capital program will directly support around

58,000 jobs across Queensland.

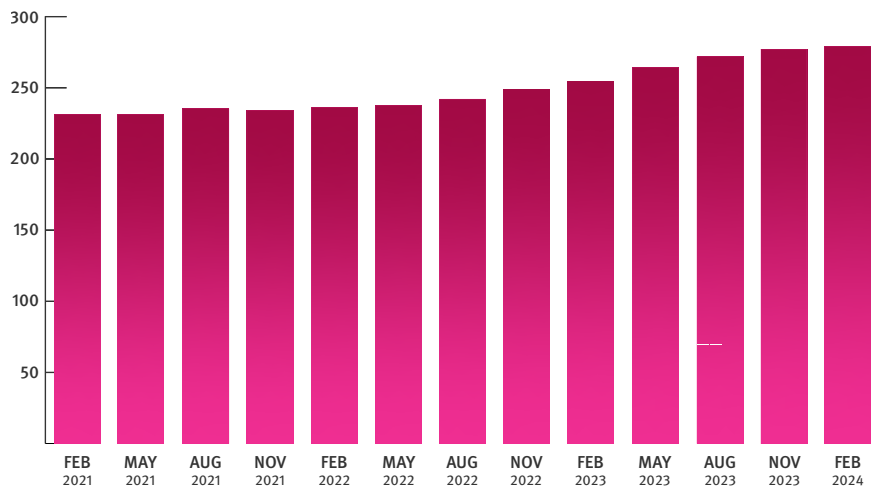


Construction employment grew by almost 9.9 per cent last year, with close to 25,000 more Queenslanders employed in the industry².

This growth is providing opportunities for many small businesses, including:

- Electricians
- Carpenters and joiners
- Construction
- Plumbers
- Painters
- Builders and plasterers.

The Big Build is supporting jobs growth in a range of areas, including the Construction industry²:



Queensland small businesses

There are more than **482,000** small businesses in Queensland¹, over **97%** of all businesses.

Small business in Queensland employed **1,026,000** people, around **42%** of the private sector workforce³.

Small businesses contributed around **\$117 billion** to the Queensland economy^{3 4}.

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics – 8165.0 Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits July 2019 to June 2023, released 22 August 2023. Definition of small business: businesses employing fewer than 20 employees.
² Australian Bureau of Statistics – 6291.0.55.001 - EQ06 - Employed persons by Industry group of main job (ANZSIC), Sex, State and Territory, November 1984 onwards, Quarterly Release February 2024. Released 28 March 2024.
³ Australian Bureau of Statistics – 8155.0 Australian Industry, 2021–22.
⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics – 5220.0 Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2021–22.

There is an unprecedented pipeline of opportunities emerging for small businesses across the State.

Queensland is the home of small business growth. In the year to June 2023, the number of small businesses in Queensland **grew by more than 10,000** to more than 482,000. **This is the strongest growth of any state in Australia¹.**

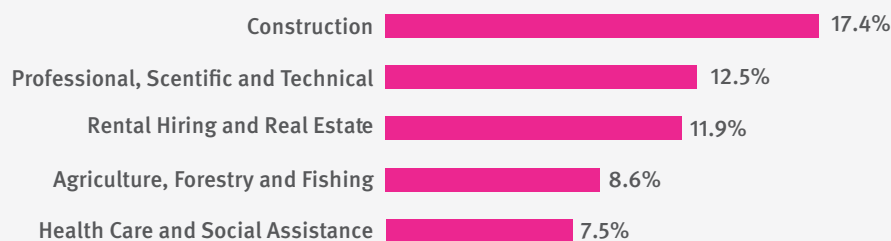
In 2023–24, the Queensland Government **assisted more than 10,000 small businesses** through its grant programs, mentoring and coaching support, Business Launchpad, and other assistance measures.

Construction is the top industry sector for small business in Queensland, with many trades people working for themselves¹.

The Queensland Government is committed to providing a pipeline of skilled workers to create the construction workforce Queensland needs.

While construction and related industries will be needed to get the infrastructure up and running, **small businesses will also reap the rewards** of having a skilled workforce at hand, and benefit from opportunities to grow their business as providers of goods and services at the local level will be considerable.

Top five industries for small businesses across Queensland in 2023¹



Indigenous business helping to address housing shortage

Moreton Bay Region Indigenous business, Wrightway Painting, is helping to build homes that will provide affordable housing for First Nations families in the Caboolture area.

Thanks to the support of the local Principal Indigenous Program Officer, owners Josh Wright and Tamara Dean made a business connection with local builder Murricon Constructions to provide painters and trades assistants for their modular homes project.

Not only are they benefiting from the 1:1 business connection with Murricon Constructions, but their Indigenous painting business is now part of a broader supply chain providing housing and positively impacting First Nations families in Queensland.

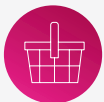
Our new Queensland Small Business Strategy is supporting small businesses to harness new opportunities:



Lowering the cost of doing business by providing a **\$650 electricity rebate** for eligible small business, delivering the **ecoBiz program** to help reduce energy costs and save money on energy, waste and water costs, and helping to reduce business costs through delivery of the **Queensland Business Energy and Savings Transition program**.



Offering **Free TAFE** to help Queenslanders to access training and get started on the pathway to their chosen career, including in the construction industry.



Focusing on **procurement and supplying to government** to increase small business procurement opportunities and their ability to supply goods and services to continue to build on the almost \$7 billion already injected into Queensland-based small and medium businesses in 2022–23.



Continuing to foster innovation, build connections and engage with the small business community through the delivery of **Queensland Small Business Month** and the **Queensland Small Business Advisory Council**.



Building on the \$140 million *Big Plans for Small Business Strategy 2021–2023*, we are continuing to increase the operational capability and capacity of small business through **grant programs, mentoring and coaching support**, the **Business Launchpad**, and a new **Cyber Security Support Program**.



Delivering one-on-one case management support for small business focused on **mental health and financial security**.



Delivering additional funding for grants to support small business to implement workforce solutions under the **Workforce Connect Fund**; and extending the **Workforce Evolve Program** to help employers achieve future-ready, sustainable and inclusive workforces.



Continue the delivery of the **Back to Work Program** to provide assistance to small businesses to attract, employ and retain workers facing disadvantage in the labour market.



Increasing investment and support for our diverse small business groups, including **Indigenous small businesses and social enterprises**, will help create jobs and economic opportunities and build a diverse workforce.



The new **Queensland Small Business Strategy 2024–27** will help small business to seize the procurement and supply chain opportunities available from the Big Build program over the next four years.

Learn more at desbt.qld.gov.au/small-business-strategy

The **Business Queensland website** makes it easier to do business, providing 24/7 access to online information and resources including how to start and run a business, grants, mentoring, workforce guides and more. **Learn more at business.qld.gov.au**

Find out more about Queensland's Big Build at qld.gov.au/BigBuild