



Business Queensland Connect

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Prevent, prepare, respond and recover when disaster strikes

With bushfires impacting areas of Queensland in recent days and weeks, Business Queensland has information available for local businesses on how to deal with bushfires.

Federal government financial support is available for anyone who has been affected by bushfires at the Westerns Downs and Darling Downs regions in the past week through [Disaster Recovery Allowance](#) support (opened 31 October).



It's time to GET READY!

We are asking businesses to think about how extreme weather could impact your business or life, make a plan to stay safe, and pack supplies so you don't get caught out.

Things you can do to be ready:

- Clean-up – Check around the business and yard and make sure it will hold up against the elements

For primary producers, if a bushfire damages your farm or causes losses, you can report it via the [Disaster Impact Survey](#). The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries collects this information to inform the process for activation of disaster recovery assistance.

Small businesses can access resources through the [Small Business Disaster Hub](#) to prevent, prepare, respond, recover and communicate so you can get back to business sooner when disaster hits.

For up to date warning information, monitor the [Queensland Fire and Emergency Services website](#).

- Sign-up – Subscribe to mobile weather notifications from the Bureau of Meteorology so you're informed and can act quickly
- Connect – Know your neighbours and connect with your community
- Get covered – Check your insurance to make sure your business and property can be fixed or replaced if it's damaged
- Think ahead – pack lifelong food and supplies, drinking water, batteries, and a torch and radio in case the power goes out.

Visit the [Get Ready Queensland website](#) for more useful information and tips.



Developing skills for the future of energy

Queensland is in the midst of a clean energy revolution. Supporting around 100,000 new jobs by 2040, Queensland's clean energy transformation will create opportunities for Queensland workers and for local businesses to support these emerging and critical industries.

With 95 per cent of infrastructure investment and 70 per cent of employment projected to be in regional areas, Queensland's regions will be at the forefront of opportunities from the creation of the state's SuperGrid.

Queensland's Clean Energy Workforce Roadmap provides direction to further develop the state's highly-skilled workforce to support the continued growth of Queensland's clean energy industry. Developed in consultation with over 90 stakeholder groups across Queensland, the Roadmap aims to address future workforce needs through comprehensive and targeted workforce, training and educational opportunities.

[Download the Roadmap](#) to find out how Queensland's move towards more renewable energy sources could impact your business.



Workforce planning and development

Two new workforce planning resources are now available to help regions and industry build the skilled workforce they need.

Anyone involved in regional economic, or community development will benefit from following the steps in Jobs Queensland's new [Workforce Planning for Regions guide](#). This tool considers the unique needs of Queensland's regions - economic diversity, employment opportunities and local challenges.

Workforce planning is a vital step to investing in a skilled workforce, and is essential to drive an industry's competitive advantage and sustainable growth. Those involved in critical industry decisions can rely on the [Workforce Planning for Industry guide](#) to help them address unique workforce challenges and identify industry-specific key growth opportunities.

These easy-to-follow resources will guide you to develop a tailored workforce plan suited to your region or industry.

Learn more about workforce planning [here](#).



World Social Enterprise Day

What if changing the world was as easy as popping to the shops?

Social enterprises are businesses created to do good. They come in many forms, from coffee shops to law firms, but each one exists to help solve a problem in our community. Every time you make a purchase from a social enterprise, you're supporting locals working hard to make the world a little bit better.

World Social Enterprise Day on 16 November is a part of Global Entrepreneurship Week. It is a day to raise awareness of businesses trading for a social or environmental mission and to recognise the important social and economic contribution that social enterprises make in Queensland.

Discover [Social Enterprise stories](#) or access the [Social Procurement Capability Program](#) which helps social enterprises to build skills and capability to access and engage in government and business procurement opportunities.



Resolution through mediation

The Australian Diamonds recently won their 11th Constellation Cup over the New Zealand Silver Ferns, rivalling the State of Origin in intensity. However, our top netball players are currently unpaid due to a breakdown in negotiations between the Australian Netball Players Association and Netball Australia regarding a Collective Player Agreement. The solution to this issue lies in both parties seeking mediation.

Mediation is often an eye-opener for first timers.



Frontline workers benefiting from building innovation

Regional Queensland's frontline government workers such as teachers, nurses and police officers are benefiting from the delivery of prefabricated modular homes using the [Modern Methods of Construction Program](#).

The homes are being built in partnership with 11 modular home manufacturers including the [QBuild Rapid Accommodation and Apprenticeship Centre](#).

These time-effective, state-of-the-art modern one, two and three-bedroom homes use sustainable materials and finishes, and meet the standards of the new National Construction Code 2022 for energy-efficiency and accessibility. Helping to ease the housing pressures, they can be stored offsite, ready to be transported to regional and remote communities.

Government departments can order a home or find out more by emailing the QBuild [Customer Relationships Team](#).



Free digital skills training for all Queenslanders

Queenslanders can now take advantage of free online digital skills training to help them meet the demands of today's digitally connected world.

Digital literacy can improve job prospects, open up remote working opportunities and make businesses more efficient and innovative.

Delivered through the Go1 learning platform, the training includes a range of short micro-credentials

Having a neutral person guide the conversation can help uncover mutually agreeable solutions. In a similar vein, the Queensland Small Business Commissioner (QSBC) offers mediation for small business leasing disputes, saving time and money. In the 2022-23 period, 71% of leasing disputes accepted by the QSBC were successfully resolved through informal means or mediation.

Mediation follows a structured negotiation process that lets both parties voice their concerns, explore solutions, and maintain control over their agreement. Mediators facilitate the process and may encourage information sharing, joint or separate sessions, and agreement documentation.

When negotiations hit a snag, mediation offers a chance to reset, often being quicker and more confidential than going to court or a tribunal. For more information, [contact the QSBC](#).



Tax-free threshold

Changes to your circumstances may mean that you need to adjust how much tax is taken out of your pay.

This includes if you started a second job and need to change your tax-free threshold, have or had a HELP loan, VET Student Loan, or Trade Support Loan, or have changed your residency status.

If this applies to you, talk to your employer about completing a withholding declaration. [Visit us](#) for more information.

designed to help you learn new digital skills including cyber security, data analysis, digital design and website development.

Some take just 10 minutes, or there are more in-depth courses which can take up four hours to complete, and you can do as many as you wish.

You can also take the free online [Digital Careers quiz](#) called MyCareerMatch.

When it comes to finding the right digital career it's useful to know how certain personality traits are suited to different roles - in many cases personality is just as important as having the right skills.

This training program is proudly funded by the Queensland Government.

[Register](#) for digital skills training today.

Diverse Queensland Workforce program

A diverse workforce can meet business needs and be rewarding.

Support is available to assist Queensland migrants, refugees and international students looking for work into employment.

Find out how the Diverse Queensland Workforce program can help your workforce needs.

[Learn more >>](#)

Events



Growing Queensland Business Roadshows 8 - 23 November 2023

Whether you are a small, medium or large business, a current supplier or a potential supplier looking to supply to your local council, the Queensland Government or the Australian Government, this exciting program will provide you with an opportunity to talk to subject matter experts, view a range of exciting key government initiatives, engage in a confidential mentoring session and learn about upcoming opportunities. [Attend an upcoming event](#) in Cairns, Townsville, Moreton Bay, Sunshine Coast or Mackay.



Securing services and supply chains for critical infrastructure

16 November 2023, 10.00am - 12.00pm

As part of [Critical Infrastructure Security Month](#), the Department of Home Affairs is hosting a free, online information for Queensland-based small and medium businesses in the supply chains of critical infrastructure. Participating businesses will leave with the information, updates and contacts they need to secure the services they offer to critical infrastructure owners and operators. Topics will include the critical role of SMBs to critical infrastructure security, and practical strategies to improve your business's cyber, personnel, physical and supply chain security. [Register to attend.](#)



Australian Training Awards

17 November 2023, 6.00pm - 11.00pm

Princes Wharf No 1, Hobart, Tasmania

For 30 years the awards have showcased best practice in VET, celebrated ordinary individuals achieving extraordinary things, and recognised businesses and training organisations that are leaders in their fields. The Awards pay tribute to the students, apprentices and trainees, employers, teachers, trainers, TAFEs and RTOs who have worked tirelessly across the nation's VET sector. [Buy tickets here.](#)



Destination IQ 2023

22 November 2023, 8.30am - 9.00pm

Cairns Convention Centre

You're invited to the annual First Nations tourism conference, the [Queensland Tourism Industry Council's Destination IQ](#). Join delegates from all backgrounds and across the state, as we discuss opportunities, hear the latest trends, and recognise First Nations tourism successes. If you've been thinking of expanding into the First Nations tourism arena and widening your knowledge and connections, don't miss Destination IQ 2023 and [register now!](#)



DestinationQ 2023

23 November 2023, 7.45am - 5.30pm

Cairns Convention Centre

Ready to take your Queensland tourism business to the next level? [Join us](#) at Queensland's leading tourism event to network with industry experts, discover international tourism trends, gain innovative strategies, uncover the benefits of accessibility and sustainability, and grow your business as we head towards Brisbane 2032.



2023 Queensland Tourism Awards

24 November 2023, 6.00pm - 10.00pm

Cairns Convention Centre

Operating for 38 years, the Queensland Tourism Awards recognise the outstanding achievements of the state's tourism industry. Be in the room as winners are announced across 31 categories including attractions, tour and transport, accommodation, restaurants, culture, and marketing. [Secure your seats today.](#)



Disability Action Week 2023 25 November - 2 December 2023

Celebrate Queenslanders with disability and the contributions they make in our families, communities, workplaces and to our state's economy. Employers are encouraged to consider how improving access will boost their bottom line, both by recruiting and retaining staff with disability and taking steps to be accessible to customers living with disability. Start [planning your events](#) today.

Awards

Queensland Greats Awards 2024

The Queensland Greats Awards recognises the efforts and achievements of remarkable individuals and institutions for their invaluable contribution to the history and development of our great state. Do you know an inspirational Queenslanders who should be recognised for their significant commitment to Queensland? It could be an industry expert or leader, colleague or a community organisation that has positively influenced our state. Learn more and [nominate today](#).



Funding



Queensland First Nations Agribusiness Scholarship

Funding is [now open](#) for expressions of interest. Each scholarship is valued up to \$2,600.

There are a set number of scholarships to be provided – the applications will be considered by a panel.

This scholarship is available to First Nations people who:

- Own, operate or work in an agriculture-based enterprise, particularly in bushfoods and botanicals in Queensland
- Own, operate or work in a business using bushfoods and/or botanicals in their products, especially those who source and manufacture these products through their business
- Own land and are interested in developing and growing a commercial bushfood and/or botanical based business
- Are individuals who participates or has an interest in the commercial bushfoods and botanicals sector.

This scholarship is provided by First Nations Bushfood & Botanicals Alliance Australia (FNBBAA) and is supported by the Queensland Government through the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.



Applications now open for new \$5 million Accessible Tourism Elevate Fund!

The Year of Accessible Tourism keeps getting better!

The Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport's NEW \$5 million Accessible Tourism Elevate Fund provides organisations with the opportunity to elevate their accessible tourism experience.

The Fund includes [two grant schemes](#) for eligible applicants to apply for, depending on where they are on their accessible journey:

- The Access Starter Grants are suitable for organisations starting their accessibility journey, with a fixed payment of \$5,000 available (closes 6 December)
- The Access Project Grants will take an organisations accessibility initiative to the next level, with funding of up to \$250,000 to implement high impact accessibility improvements (closes 21 December).



Grants for small to medium manufacturers

Queensland's small to medium manufacturers wanting to increase competitiveness and efficiency can benefit from two grant programs currently open for applications:

- [Made in Queensland Round 6](#)
- [Manufacturing Energy Efficiency Grant Program Round 1](#)

Made in Queensland (MiQ), now in its 6th round, is a \$101.5 million grant program for Queensland-based manufacturers looking to increase competitiveness, productivity and innovation. Matched funding grants of \$50,000 to \$2.5 million are available to adopt industry leading equipment, technologies, systems and processes supporting energy efficiency, export, reshoring, supply chain improvements, sustainability and decarbonisation. Stage 1 applications close 11 December 2023.

The \$7.1 million Manufacturing Energy Efficiency Grant Program (MEEG) supports manufacturing businesses to implement energy efficiency equipment and measures to reduce energy costs and operational emissions. Matched funding grants of \$5,000 to \$25,000 are available. Applications close 30 June 2024 or when funding is fully allocated.



Small Business Skills and Training Boost

Small businesses with an aggregated annual turnover of less than \$50 million will be allowed an additional 20% tax deduction for external training courses delivered to employees by registered training providers.

The boost applies to eligible expenditure incurred from 7:30 pm AEDT on 29 March 2022 until 30 June 2024 and must be:

- for the provision of training to employees of your business, either in-person in Australia, or online
- charged, directly or indirectly, by a registered external training provider that is not you or an associate of yours
- already deductible for your business under taxation law.

Learn how to apply [today](#).



This email was sent by the Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training
Level 12 | 85 George Street | Brisbane | Queensland

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For more information:
Visit business.qld.gov.au or call 1300 654 687

