

Report on a page

Queensland requires efficient and well-maintained infrastructure that is readily available when and where it's needed. It bolsters our economy, enhances our quality of life, and grows our communities. All 3 levels of government allocate substantial funding each year to the development of infrastructure. At the state level, the annual budget serves as a source of information on proposed Queensland Government projects for the years ahead. This report provides insights into significant infrastructure projects in Queensland, and an analysis of expenditure by the Queensland Government.

Queensland is experiencing a boom in capital expenditure

The Queensland Government has committed \$16.4 billion to major capital projects in its 2023–24 budget, marking an increase of over 30 per cent from \$12.6 billion in the 2022–23 budget. It is making substantial infrastructure investments to cater for growth, support the transition to a renewable energy grid, and prepare for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (the Games).

The large volume of capital projects in the pipeline for Queensland, along with other significant capital projects underway across Australia, means the construction sector will face several challenges for years to come. These include a very tight labour market and significant supply chain disruptions following the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and conflict in Ukraine. The Queensland Government must proactively manage these risks, and plan for realistic time frames to ensure it can successfully deliver its extensive infrastructure agenda.

More information is needed on capital projects

Clear and complete reporting on capital projects is critical to building public trust and ensuring accountability. Current reporting requirements in Queensland could be strengthened to require more complete reporting on capital projects. This particularly applies to the disclosure requirements for the annual capital statement (which details capital projects) and public–private partnerships (between private sector companies and the public sector).

Planning for the Games venues is underway

The Queensland Government has announced a \$7.1 billion venue infrastructure budget for the Games. Venues announced as part of the bid, including the Gabba, are undergoing a validation process to support investment decision-making. This is in place of a business case, usually required for such investments under the *Project Assessment Framework*. The government must finalise this process as soon as possible to ensure the Games venues can be delivered on time and on budget.

Cross River Rail project costs and timing have changed

The Cross River Rail project was originally expected to be completed in 2025, at a budgeted cost of \$6.888 billion (including private financing of \$1.499 billion). The rising costs of supplies and supply chain issues have affected the delivery of the project. The Queensland Government has committed additional funding of \$960 million, increasing the total budget to \$7.848 billion, with the project now expected to be completed in 2026. The Cross River Rail Delivery Authority is working with other stakeholders to coordinate and streamline activities across the different work packages of the project.

