

## B. How we prepared this report

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### About this report

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This report is the first in a series that will examine different aspects of government service delivery and support to Queensland's regions.

We prepared this report using information and insights we gather through our financial audits. It acts as a companion to our sector-based results of financial audit reports.

### Entities included in this report

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The information and insights included in this report were drawn from audits of all state and local government entities, with a particular focus on departments with a specified responsibility for regional economic development.

While this report primarily focuses on state government entities, we recognise that local governments are integral to the growth and prosperity of Queensland's regions. Our report, *Local government 2023* (Report 8: 2023–24), summarises the audit results of all local governments in Queensland.

### Our approach

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This report has been prepared in accordance with the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*.

We used the most recent reliable data available when analysing information by region. This results in some information dating back to 2021, the date of the last Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) census.

We have presented regions using Statistical Area 4 level (SA4) boundaries (areas typically having a population of more than 100,000 people) except for:

- Outback Queensland – where we provided analysis at the more detailed Statistical Area 3 level (SA3) when available
- Greater Brisbane – where we grouped 5 SA4 regions together (Brisbane North, Brisbane South, Brisbane East, Brisbane West, and Brisbane Inner City).

When we refer to 'Queensland's regions', it excludes Greater Brisbane. However, we occasionally include Greater Brisbane in graphs and figures for comparative purposes.

In some cases, we had to assign Queensland's local government areas to a region. [Appendix E](#) explains our approach.

We used the following data sets in preparing our report:

- Figure 1A – Queensland's population by region shows the population as at 30 June 2023 using data from the ABS.
- Figure 1B – Average annual population change and projected annual population change uses data from the ABS.



- Figure 1C – Major regional-focused industries and their contribution to gross state product uses data from the Queensland Government Statistician's Office for the year ended 30 June 2023. We show the 6 industries with the highest dollar contribution to gross state product that have a strong geographic link outside Greater Brisbane. For tourism, we used information from Queensland Treasury for 2021-22 as more recent data was not available. We based our list of prominent regions on information published by Trade and Investment Queensland and the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water.
- Figure 1D – Percentage of jobs in the top 6 industries in the regions (and Greater Brisbane) uses data from the ABS as at February 2023. We show the 6 industries with the highest number of jobs outside Greater Brisbane. The proportion is calculated compared to the total number of jobs across all industries. This is to show the higher concentration of jobs in some industries in the regions compared to Greater Brisbane.
- Figure 1E – Median weekly household income uses data from the ABS census 2021. For Greater Brisbane, we used the average of the 5 Brisbane SA4 regions. This shows how household income varies across the regions.
- Figure 2A – Number of facilities for frontline service entities with a significant regional presence uses information we accessed in March 2024 that departments published on their websites. Where necessary, we mapped individual locations using available data (such as postcodes) to SA4 to split the data into regions and Greater Brisbane. We focused on public services with a footprint of more than 100 locations across Queensland where Queenslanders are more likely to access the service locally.
- Figure 2B – Queensland Government workforce across Queensland's regions uses data as at March 2023, as published by the Queensland Public Sector Commission in the *Queensland public sector workforce profile*. It includes entities that are included in the Queensland Government's Budget Paper 2 plus other statutory bodies by agreement between those entities and the Public Sector Commission. It does not include all statutory bodies. It also excludes local governments, government owned corporations, and any entities they control.
- Figure 2D – Funding provided by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements uses data from the Queensland Government Investment Portal – Expenditure Data on the Queensland Government's Open Data website for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023. It only includes payments related to the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements and not other grants paid by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority. As this data set only includes local government areas, we have allocated local government areas to regions.
- Figure 2E – Funding provided by Queensland Government departments to support employment uses data from the Queensland Government Investment Portal – Expenditure Data on the Queensland Government's Open Data website for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023. As this data set only includes local government areas, we have allocated local government areas to regions. This includes all grant programs that we categorised as relating to 'employment'. It excludes payments made by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority that are included in Figure 2D. It also excludes payments made by departments under specific grant programs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have not audited these publicly available data sets for completeness and accuracy.

We published an *Understanding grants* dashboard alongside the report *State entities 2023* (Report 11: 2023–24) and have used data supporting this dashboard in our report. As part of publishing this dashboard, we cleansed the data we sourced from the Queensland Government's Open Data website to classify each grant into a sector and recipient type using the information provided by funding entities. We have also performed limited data cleansing over recipient names to ensure these are spelt consistently and that we can accurately count the number of grant recipients.

