

The South East Queensland region covers 22,420 square km, extending 240 km from Noosa in the north to the Gold Coast and New South Wales border in the south including Tweed Heads (an adjacent urban area to Gold Coast/Brisbane), and 140 km west to Toowoomba.

South East Queensland is renowned for the quality of its healthy natural environment and relaxed lifestyle. The region boasts a subtropical climate described as “beautiful one day, perfect the next”.

In this healthy environment is contained a golden coastline and marine waters encompassing unique sand islands and the magnificent surf beaches of the Gold and Sunshine Coasts. Also the “green behind the gold” offers diverse fauna and flora, spectacular mountain ranges and national parks. This region offers a healthy and enjoyable outdoor lifestyle in a clean environment with clean air and water. With such a wonderful lifestyle on offer, it is appropriate this region includes the Gold Coast which is the fastest growing city in Australia.

Queensland experiences the largest population growth of all Australian states, and is called home by 4.1 million people or approximately 20% of Australia’s 21 million people. The South East Queensland region accounts for 67% of the state’s population (around 2.8 million). Two-thirds of Queensland’s population growth is in the South East region. Brisbane and the Gold Coast average between 15,000 – 17,000 additional residents per annum. The region has experienced significant population growth over the last two decades. This growth is fueled predominantly by inter-state migration, mostly from the southern Australian states and secondly by overseas migration. This equates to over 1,000 new arrivals each week. This rapid growth is constantly transforming South East Queensland and with it comes the need to house this ever expanding population and provide infrastructure and services to ensure the quality of this sought-after South East Queensland lifestyle is preserved.

South East Queensland has been described as the main economic engine for the state of Queensland. In recent years, South East Queensland’s economy has grown faster than the Australian average. This high growth in part is attributed to consumption as a result of its high population growth. There is a wide variety of employment throughout the region: tourism, service industries, construction, IT, research & development, marine and aerospace industry, to name only a few. However there are now new types of jobs, related to the emergence of new technologies and markets and the Queensland Government’s objective of strengthening and diversifying the Queensland economy. The population increase is expected to generate demand for an unparalleled amount of new jobs. Many of these jobs will be in traditional industries and also new emerging industries. The South East Queensland economy is strong, diversified and resilient as it continues to grow and is predicted to remain Australia’s fastest growing economy in the foreseeable future.

Along with population growth, an abundance of employment opportunities and a strong economy comes the most primary of all human needs, shelter – a roof over our head. After 2 years of slower growth, house, apartments and unit prices are commencing stronger growth. The rush is on to develop new communities and redevelop existing well located, established areas in an attempt to try and keep pace with the population boom. Rents are also continuing to rise which is good news for property investors. The projected increase in population in South East Queensland, combined with the continuing trend towards smaller households, will require construction of even larger numbers of dwellings in a region where suitable land is in short supply and demand is very high.

The South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program (2006-2026) is a 66 billion dollar plan for infrastructure investment in South East Queensland over the next 20 years. The Infrastructure Plan is a key component of the regional planning process in South East Queensland and outlines the Queensland Government’s infrastructure priorities to support the South East Queensland Regional Plan. The Plan details future investment in transport, water, energy development, information and communication technology and social and community infrastructure.