



Investing in Queensland's future

Project overview

The Port of Brisbane's Channel Enhancement Project (CEP) is a proposed long-term infrastructure program designed to prepare the Port for future trade and population growth in South East Queensland.

Led by Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd (PBPL), the CEP is planned as a 25-year staged program to ensure the shipping channel continues to operate safely, efficiently, and sustainably while meeting the evolving needs of the global shipping industry.

The project aims to:

- Improve shipping efficiency
- Reduce vessel emissions
- Maintain the Port of Brisbane's role in global trade.

Key project elements

The Channel Enhancement Project includes:

- Deepening and widening existing navigational channels
- Enhancing the East Knoll Bypass Channel
- Minor channel realignments to improve navigational safety and flow

The CEP has been declared a coordinated project by the Queensland Government and a **controlled action** by the Commonwealth Government. As a result, a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared to inform future approval decisions.

Connecting Queensland to the world

The Port of Brisbane is Australia's largest multicommodity port and plays a vital role in enabling trade, supporting jobs, and strengthening Queensland's economy.

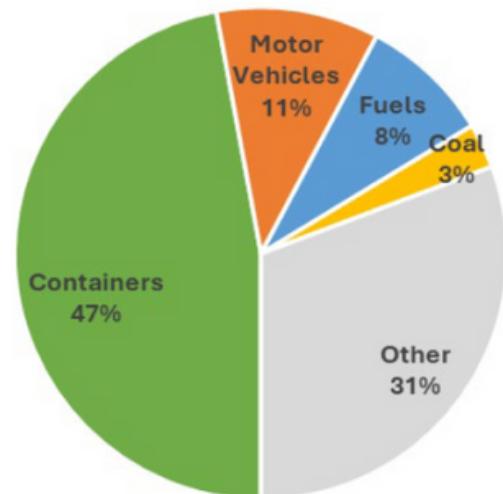
In FY25:

- Around **\$73.5 billion** in international cargo moved through the Port
- Total trade volume increased **7.8%** to **34.9 million tonnes**
- Container trade reached a record **1.62 million TEUs**

More than 450 different commodities are handled at the Port, connecting Queensland businesses to 140 countries worldwide.

Container vessels account for approximately 47% of all ship visits to the Port of Brisbane.

FY25 Percentage of Port of Brisbane visits by cargo type



A snapshot of the future: From 2024 to 2060

SOURCE: FTI CONSULTING ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND FORECAST
FORECAST PRODUCED SOLELY FOR PORTBRIS 2060 AND NO OTHER PURPOSE.

Population statistics

Australian population

2024
26.8m

2060

40.5m

Queensland population

2024
5.5m

2060
8.3m

Trade and passenger volumes

Containers annually

Planning for future growth

2024
1.6m+TEU

2060
~5m+TEU

Bulk commodities annually

2024
14m tonnes

2060
~18m tonnes

Cruise passengers annually

2024
400k

2060
1.872m

Port of Brisbane's Vision 2060 forecasts Queensland's population growing to 8.3 million by 2060, driving a projected tripling of container trade.

This expected growth is a key driver for the Channel Enhancement Project.

Importantly, increased trade volumes do not necessarily mean more ship visits. Over the past 20 years:

- Container volumes have more than doubled
- The number of container vessel visits has declined by 10%.

This reflects ongoing global shipping trends toward larger and more efficient vessels.

Responding to global trends

To maximise efficiency and reduce costs, the global container fleet is shifting toward larger vessels. Ships of up to 14,000 TEUs are anticipated to become regular visitors to Australia's east coast.

While Brisbane has traditionally accommodated vessels between 3,000 and 6,000 TEUs, ships of up to 9,000 TEUs are already calling more frequently.

Without channel enhancements Brisbane risks being bypassed by larger vessels or could shift toward a feeder role, serviced by smaller ships and increased vessel movements.

In these scenarios, there will be increased pressure on the costs of shipping impacting trade businesses and ultimately customers.

Supporting Queensland's trade future

The Port of Brisbane's strategic geographic location and strong connections to major trading partners make it uniquely positioned to support Queensland's future growth.

The Channel Enhancement Project is designed to ensure the Port remains sustainable, competitive, efficient, and resilient—supporting Queensland's economy, the global shipping industry, and port customers for decades to come.

More information

PBPL will progress the proposed Channel Enhancement Project through the Queensland Government's coordinated project processes.

Detailed information about the EIS process is available at www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/coordinator-general.

Information about the proposed Channel Enhancement Project is available at: www.portbris.com.au.