

# TOOWOOMBA REGION

# TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS PROFILE

2022

## TRANSPORT HUB FOR SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND

The Toowoomba Region is emerging as a major transport hub for South East Queensland by leveraging off the region's strategic location as the western gateway to the \$263 billion South East Queensland economy; proximity to the Surat and Cooper Basins; and prime position on the Melbourne to Brisbane freight route.

In 2020/21, the Transport and Logistics industry employed over 3,300 people and generated \$357 million in value added. The industry also supports the export of products to the domestic and international markets, where Toowoomba exported \$7.7 billion in 2020/21.

## ENABLING THE REGION'S RECOVERY FROM COVID-19

COVID-19 had a significant impact on the Transport and Logistics industry. The industry value added and employment dropped, respectively, by 24% and 16% between the March and June quarters of 2020. However, international air freight increased significantly by 176% in 2020, driven by the increase in premium agricultural product export to the growing Asian market. Moreover, the pandemic has accelerated the increase in demand for online shopping, further increasing the demand for freight services. Toowoomba's specialised Transport and Logistics industry are well placed to capture this opportunity by leveraging off the region's strategic location and infrastructure.



## TOOWOOMBA'S TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS INDUSTRY IN 2020/21



**\$357M  
VALUE ADDED**



**3,204 JOBS  
EMPLOYMENT**



**EXPORT  
\$292M**

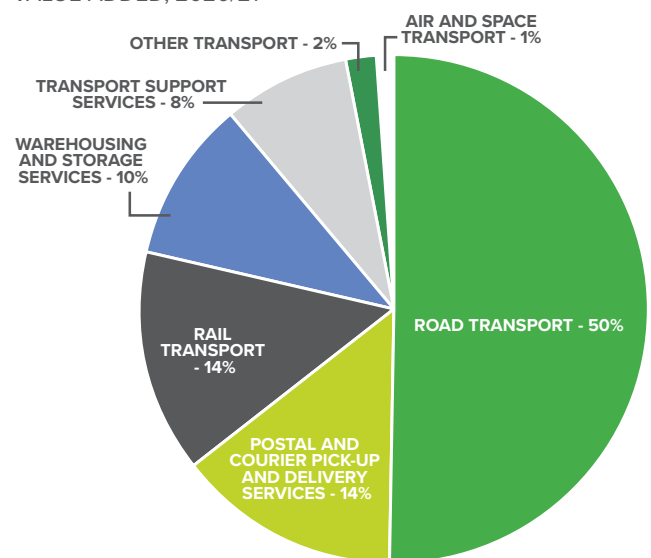


**INTERNATIONAL  
AIR FREIGHT  
3,384 TONNES**

### DIVERSE RANGE OF TRANSPORT

The Road Transport sector contributes the majority (50%) of the total Transport and Logistics industry value added, based on the strategic geographic location along the Melbourne-Brisbane freight route. Other modes of transport are increasingly become important, with the opening of Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport and the projected Inland Rail project. Looking forward, the completion of major infrastructure projects should support growth in the future.

### DIVERSE RANGE OF TRANSPORT % OF TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS INDUSTRY VALUE ADDED, 2020/21



SOURCE: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) 2022. Compiled and presented by .id (informed decisions).

### SUPPORT COMPETITIVENESS IN THE EXPORT MARKET

Exports to domestic and international markets are a strategic driver of economic growth in Toowoomba. In 2020/21, exports generated \$7.7 billion for the economy, a growth of \$3.0 billion compared to 2010/11. The efficient freight services provided by the Transport and Logistics industry enable and contribute to the region's competitiveness in exports. In particular, Toowoomba's largest export sectors, Mining, Agriculture and Manufacturing, rely on the distribution service provided by the Transport and Logistics industry to meet the growing demand from domestic and international markets.

## WELLCAMP AIRPORT EXPANDED ITS TRADE HUB ROLE

The \$200 million-plus Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport (WTB) is jet-capable, available for regular passenger services, charter flights, fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) and international airfreight services and will further embed the region's higher order economic function as a major regional city. The airport is already having a significant effect on the region:

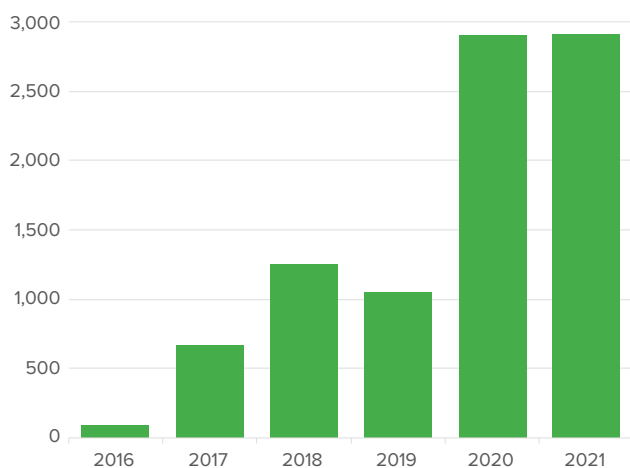
- After commencing passenger flights in November 2014, the airport now offers more than 80 direct flights a week to destinations including Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Townsville and western Queensland.
- Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport offers Queensland's only dedicated 747-8F international freighter service. Since November 2016, Cathay Pacific has operated weekly air-cargo services to Hong Kong, a gateway to more than a billion consumers in China.

The airport has experienced strong growth in domestic passengers. Around 115,000 domestic passengers travelled through the airport in 2018/19 before COVID-19. The outbreak of COVID-19 and the travel restrictions to combat the spread of the virus had a significant impact on the domestic passengers using the airport. In 2020/21, the number of passengers travelling through the airport dropped to 15,500.

However, international air freight has increased significantly in calendar year 2020, moving around 2,900 tonnes of freight through the airport. This increase is 1,854 tonnes, or 176%, more than calendar year 2019. The strong international air freight movements continued in 2021, with 2,911 tonnes moved through the Wellcamp Airport. In comparison, the total international air freight in Australia dropped by 22% in 2021 compared to 2019, where only Toowoomba Wellcamp and Sydney Airport experienced an increase in international air freight.

### INCREASE OF INTERNATIONAL AIR FREIGHT DESPITE THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

INTERNATIONAL AIR FREIGHT, TONNES, WELLCAMP AIRPORT, 2016 TO 2021



SOURCE: BITRE, 2022 Airport Traffic Data. Compiled and presented by .id (informed decisions).



The Toowoomba Wellcamp Trade Distribution Centre officially opened in July 2021. The \$18 million Centre aims to boost rapid access to international markets for agricultural producers. The new facility will be used to consolidate and distribute premium export goods including beef, dairy products, fresh fruit and vegetables, pork and packaged nuts.

## TOOWOOMBA BYPASS

The \$1.6 billion Toowoomba Bypass is a major state/region/city shaping project jointly funded by federal and state governments. The 41 km route opened to traffic on 8th September 2019 and is set to drive growth in the region's transport and logistics capabilities linking Brisbane, the Darling Downs and Surat Basin on the road freight network, playing a key role in accelerating the growth of regional Australia.

## INLAND RAIL PROJECT

The Australian Government has committed to building a once-in-a-generation piece of national infrastructure by constructing a 1,730 km rail freight connection between Melbourne and Brisbane via central-west NSW and Toowoomba.

The Inland Rail will be constructed over a 10-year period, with around 2,300 jobs expected to be created in the Darling Downs region during local construction. The Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd. (ARTC) has been tasked with progressing pre-construction activities for the Inland Rail programme. The Inland Rail Intergovernmental Agreement was signed in December 2019 with the project expected to create approximately 2000 local jobs. It is estimated that construction will contribute around \$5 billion to the local economy with construction set to commence in 2022. Completion of the project will see freight delivered from Melbourne to Brisbane in less than 24 hours, saving around \$80 per ton in freight costs and significantly improving capacity and demand for distribution hubs to open up in regional cities like Toowoomba.



## TOOWOOMBA ENTERPRISE HUB

Construction of vital infrastructure for the Toowoomba Enterprise Hub was completed in late 2019 with funding assistance from the Queensland Government. The \$16.7 million upgrades supported around 50 jobs and solidified the Toowoomba Region as one of Queensland's leading logistics and industrial hubs.

## INTERLINK SQ

InterLinkSQ is a 24-hectare intermodal freight terminal linking rail, road, air and sea, strategically located 13 km west of Toowoomba. The facility comprises a master planned premium transport, logistics, warehousing and industrial estate and will house 3 km of state-of-the-art rail infrastructure utilising the current West Moreton rail line and capitalising on the proposed Inland Rail project. The combined InterLink Terminal and Industrial Park will provide seamless integration between roadside and portside, and include extensive storage, maintenance and provision facilities. Overall investment in the project is expected to be near \$1 billion by its completion in 2025, potentially creating more than 1,500 jobs.

Seaway Group has signed an agreement with InterlinkSQ to build and operate a \$235 million intermodal terminal on the Toowoomba site, with

construction due for completion in late 2021. Once the road and rail terminal is operational, Seaway will offer a daily freight shuttle service to the Port of Brisbane.

## AATLIS

AATLIS is a world first, industry-led collaborative-solutions precinct designed to help navigate sustainable and profitable pathways being developed by the FKG Group. With a core focus on leading (5G) connectivity and data intelligence systems based around its Tier III Pulse Data Centre, AATLIS aims to create productivity gains in the agri-food value chain through digital technology adoption and circular economy collaboration. A 42-hectare intensive horticulture project, to be built over four stages, featuring six glasshouses and eventually employing 500 people, has been approved by Council for inclusion in the precinct.

The precinct will be a multi-faceted, world-class technology, innovation and fresh food district which will incorporate an integrated agriculture community, transportation and freight access and low cost energy solutions.

### SOURCES:

Toowoomba Enterprise Hub - <http://www.toowoombaenterprisehub.com.au/>  
Economic and employment data - National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2022

Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2016  
BITRE, 2022, Airport Traffic Data

