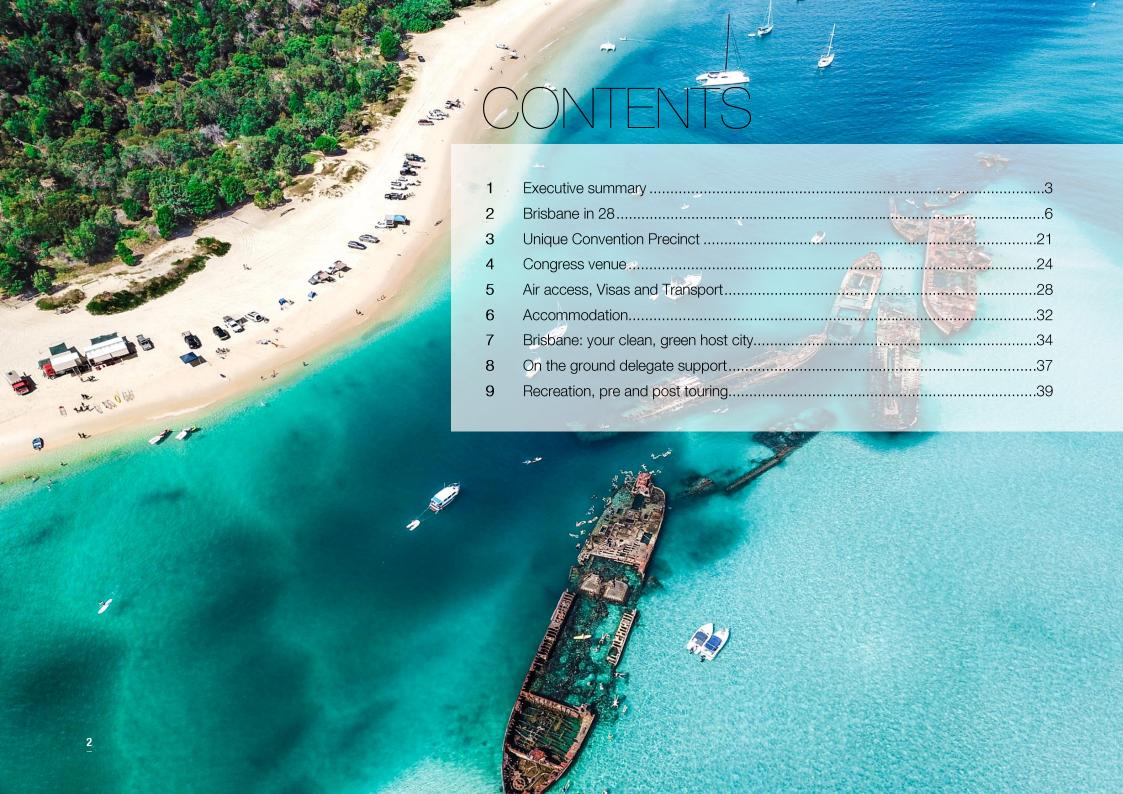




# Brisbane, Australia's invitation to host











# 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Brisbane offers international attendees and congress organisers the best possible outcome – a world-class convention infrastructure in a dynamic, compact, affordable and welcoming city that offers visitors an authentic taste of Australia.

Brisbane has a unique structure of local convention partners who have come together to demonstrate total support and commitment to the success of the Worldcon Brisbane in 28.

**Brisbane, Australia –** Brisbane is a vibrant, friendly, lifestyle city, home to four universities and Australia's largest medical research centre and a thriving industry hub, in the heart of Australia's premier tourist region. Brisbane is Australia's powerhouse city and capital of Queensland, with a worldwide reputation as a leader in science and technology.

**Air access –** Brisbane's award-winning airport and superior infrastructure provide a smooth and warm welcome to Brisbane for visiting attendees. Brisbane's International Terminal is serviced by 29 international carriers, offering over 300 direct flights to 34 international destinations each week. With excellent access to the Asia Pacific, Europe, and USA, attendees are offered the optimum in flexible travel itineraries. Operating 24 hours a day, Brisbane Airport is just a 20 minute drive from the city and Convention Centre.

**Unique convention precinct** – Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC) is ideally located in the unique riverside cultural and lifestyle precinct at South Bank. Home to Australia's newest and largest Gallery of Modern Art, more than 100 cafes and restaurants and stylish shops, South Bank is an inner-city oasis with green spaces, riverfront parkland, rainforest pockets and Australia's only city-based sand and swimming beach – complete with life guards!

**Australia's most awarded convention centre –** BCEC has been named the World's Best Convention Centre by the International Association of Congress Centres. Host venue for the G20 Summit, acknowledged as the 'Best Ever', BCEC is Australia's most flexible meetings venue offering unprecedented choice with an

impressive portfolio of meeting rooms and event spaces, with capacity for plenary sessions of up to 8,000.

**Affordable and accessible accommodation –** There are more than 260 hotels and over 21,000 accommodation rooms in Brisbane. A 305 room hotel is directly linked to the Centre and a 160 room hotel is located adjacent to the Centre, while 48 of the 230 hotels are within 2km or short walking distance of the Centre. Hotels are very affordable by world standards and range from five star to serviced apartments and budget type accommodation.

**Local transport -** Brisbane has an efficient, convenient and easily accessible transport network of buses, trains, taxis and the city's high speed scenic river catamaran service. A special travel 'Go Card' enables seamless travel across a variety of transport options. The Centre is central to a number of major transport hubs.

**Value for money –** Brisbane offers outstanding value for money for attendees and organisers alike. In comparison with Sydney and Melbourne we still offer cheaper accommodation rates, food and drinks; the price of a coffee or a beer is also cheaper. For organisers Brisbane offers more affordable services including printers, satchels and website retailers and service providers.

**Optimum climate** – Brisbane is Australia's only subtropical capital city with an average daily summer temperature of 27 degrees Celsius and average daily winter temperature of 21 degrees Celsius, ideal for pre and post touring activities and social and leisure activities. Brisbane has more sunny days than Florida and warmer winter days than the Bahamas and offers an idyllic climate during World Science Fiction Society Local Committee preferred Congress timing in August 2028.

**Australia – a unique experience –** Australia is a mature, politically and economically stable country, ranked first in the OECD Better Life Index, and rated 9th on the 2015 Global Peace Index out of 162 countries. It is culturally rich, with a 60,000-year history of ancient Indigenous cultures and a multicultural population base of 25 million. Its unique diversity of landscape abounds in natural beauty, contrasting colours and dramatic scenery.

**Outstanding international attractions –** Brisbane's ideal location as the capital of Australia's premier tourist region presents the ideal opportunity for attendees to enjoy a microcosm of Australia's iconic experiences. World heritage listed rainforests, amazing beaches, islands, wineries and the internationally famous Australia Zoo – home of the Crocodile Hunter – are all easily accessible within an hour of the city. You can even do day trips to the Great Barrier Reef from Brisbane.





# 2 BRISBANE IN 28

Known as the "Sunshine State", this warm, walkable city has all the sunshine and alfresco lifestyle that visitors to Australia expect from this sub-tropical, safe, vibrant and contemporary city. Featuring stylish hotels, an eclectic dining and entertainment scene and a rich cultural precinct, housing the southern hemisphere's largest Gallery of Modern Art, and some of the friendliest locals in the world ready to welcome Worldcon 2028 attendees!

### **NAME OF WORLDCON 2028**

To keep with tradition, we proposed the name of Worldcon Brisbane in 28 to be:

Aussiecon 5

### **PROPOSED CONVENTION DATES**

Thursday 27 July to Monday 31 July 2028

### WHAT IS YOUR PROPOSED CONVENTION HOST CITY?

Brisbane, capital of the Sunshine State of Queensland, in Australia.

# IS YOUR CONVENTION SITE IN A CITY CENTER LOCATION OR A SUBURB?

South Bank Parklands is located in the city centre, on the banks of the Brisbane River and is the location of the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.

South Bank is the city's green oasis and the hub for cultural and entertainment activities offering wide appeal for delegates to mix with the locals and enjoy this unique inner-city riverside precinct.

# **Key features include:**

- 17 hectares of riverfront parkland including various green spaces and rainforest pockets
- Australia's only inner-city swimming beach and lagoons complete with life guards!
- A range of cultural entertainment venues including the Queensland Museum and Australia's newest and largest Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA)
- More than 100 sidewalk cafes, restaurants and bars
- Weekend markets and weekly activation programs
- Riverside walkways and cycle paths
- CityCat ferries, train and bus stations all close to BCEC.

\*\*More information can be found in Section 3

# IF A SUBURB, WHAT ARE THE TRANSPORT OPTIONS INTO THE CITY CENTER?

The Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre is located in South Bank Parklands a short 5 min walk from the city centre. There are a number of accommodation options located around the convention centre with the proposed Worldcon 2028 Hotel Partner, Rydges South Bank attached to the convention centre.

The Brisbane Domestic and International Airports are located only 20 minutes drive from the city centre and South Bank precinct. Airtrain, Uber, Taxi's and Airport Shuttles operate from the Domestic and International Airports. The city of Brisbane is able to coordinate discounted Airtrain tickets for attendees (further information below)

#### HOW FAR IS THE SITE FROM THE CITY CENTRE?

10min walk across the river

#### WHAT ARE YOUR MAIN FACILITIES?

The Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (BCEC) named the World's Best Convention Centre 2016-2018, by the International Association of Congress Centres (AIPC), BCEC received the highest ratings in key performance areas in an international client based survey. BCEC's 26 years of experience brings together unmatched capability and a unique depth of industry knowledge and skills including leading edge technology and world-class catering.

An impressive portfolio of meeting rooms and event spaces meets the challenge of all events of any complexity or size. The purpose-built space is perfectly designed to accommodate a conference of the size and complexity of Worldcon, and the flexibility of the space at BCEC will allow for developments and variations in the conference, in an ever-changing world.

\*\*More information can be found in section 4

### **HOW FAR ARE YOUR HOTELS FROM YOUR MAIN VENUE?**

Rydges South Bank Brisbane will be WorldCon 2028's official hotel partner if our bid is successful. The hotel is located in the heart of Brisbane's arts and entertainment precinct and is linked directly to the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.

Brisbane has over 21,000 accommodation rooms available for attendees, including 4500 which are within a two kilometre radius and short walk from the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre. These include student style accommodation, apartment hotels, through to 5 star luxury hotels from international brands. There are a further 1000 hotel rooms due to open between August 2024 and the time of the proposed Worldcon in 2028, directly opposite the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.

\*\*More information can be found in section 6





#### WHO IS YOUR CONVENTION CHAIR?

Random Jones - (he/him) - Random's first Worldcon was an attendee at Aussicon 4 in Melbourne 2010. After hearing about the problems associated with Worldcon 2023 he got very, very angry, which is how he discovered he cared a great deal about it and decided to get involved. He has been involved in convention organisation on a smaller scale for decades, being heavily involved in organisation of Melbourne's roleplaying convention scene for almost 30 years, plus is also involved on the committee of Continuum, Melbourne's speculative fiction convention.

### WHO IS ON YOUR CONVENTION COMMITTEE?

"Tacks" Elwick (she/her) is part of the Continuum organising committee, and is involved in the Canberra Speculative Fiction Guild. If we could harness her energy levels and turn it into electricity, we'd never have to worry about the power bill ever again.

**Mel Davis (she/they)** is a long time sci-fi fan and keen con-goer, she is a Brit living in Brisbane, with previous convention experience as Treasurer for two popular Eastercons in the UK, and is currently responsible for running the Brisbane science fiction and fantasy meet up group.

**Rebecca "Selphie" Corke (she/her)** is an experienced accounts officer, specialising in accounts payable. She is a strong believer in getting the cheapest AND best solutions for every problem and is a bloodhound for money leaks. She is around to make sure we look after our money in the right way.

**Vix Richardson (she/her)** is a spec-fic author, as well as occasional panellist, cofounder and runner of various writing groups. She has a six year role in operations management of a major medical company and is in charge of operations for the bid committee. She is also responsible for any and all common-sense the bid committee requires, as it's fairly obvious we don't have any.

We have enlisted the assistance of former Worldcon committee members, and some former chairs, with a great deal of experience – these are:

- Rose Mitchell (she/her)
- Perry Middlemiss (he/him)
- PRK (he/him)

### **PASS-ALONG-FUNDS**

Yes, we plan to participate in Pass-Along Funds. At this stage the committee is unsure of what percentages we will be able to pass along.

### WHAT IS THE SPONSORING ORGANISATION

• **MacGuffins Australia Limited** is an Australian not-for-profit company that will be acting as the umbrella organisation for the bid and convention.

# IS THE SPONSORING ORGANIZATION TAX-EXEMPT FOR LOCAL TAXES, ESPECIALLY SALES TAX?

Tax-exemption of that nature is much more difficult in Australia. However,
Australian GST does not have to be lodged if the annual turnover is less than
\$75,000. As a result, we will not have to lodge GST for the period of the bid,
and will only have to account for it if selected as the site for 2028.

### WHAT IS YOUR WEBSITE AND/OR FACEBOOK GROUP?

Websitehttps://brisbane28.org/Mailing listhttp://eepurl.com/iStYpM

Facebook group <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/brisbanein28">https://www.facebook.com/groups/brisbanein28</a>

Facebook page <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Brisbanein28/">https://www.facebook.com/Brisbanein28/</a>

Twitter <a href="https://x.com/BrisbaneIn28">https://x.com/BrisbaneIn28</a>

BlueSky <a href="https://bskv.app/profile/brisbanein28.bskv.social">https://bskv.app/profile/brisbanein28.bskv.social</a>

# WHO SHOULD PEOPLE CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS (EMAIL PREFERRED)?

All questions can be directed to: info@brisbane28.org



# 2.1 TRAVEL

WHAT IS THE TYPICAL CURRENT AIRFARE TO YOUR CLOSEST AIRPORT FROM WORLD CITIES SUCH AS LONDON, BOSTON, LOS ANGELES, TOKYO, MELBOURNE, ETC.?

(Prices are current as of August 2024, and are in Australia dollars)

Dubai: \$1,148
 Doha: \$1,713
 Singapore: \$1,018
 Tokyo: \$779
 Los Angeles (LAX): \$1,721
 Vancouver: \$1,900

# DO INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS, AS WELL AS DOMESTIC, FLY INTO YOUR LOCAL AIRPORT?

Currently we have 30 direct international flights into Brisbane and this is continuing to increase rapidly in the lead up to hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. A second runway opened in 2020 providing Brisbane with the same flight capacity as Hong Kong and Singapore.

Brisbane Airport boasts the most domestic connections in Australia, and also the most direct connections throughout the Pacific Islands.

Our current direct flights are heavily concentrated throughout Asia Pacific, Middle East & North America, with most major international cities accessible with only one connection. Most common routes connect via Singapore or United Arab Emirates.

There are over 77,000 arrival seats into Brisbane per week, over half of which bring passengers through Asia as the transfer hub from major European destinations. Direct flights arrive several times a day from Asia, the Middle East, United States, New Zealand and the Pacific.

# WHICH AIRLINES? IF NOT, WHERE IS THE CLOSEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT?

19 airlines fly directly into and out of Brisbane airport

**United Airlines** Air Canada EVA Air **United Airways** Air New Zealand Jetstar Airways Cathay Pacific Airways Singapore Airlines Korean Airlines China Airlines Malindo Air Tiger Airways China Eastern Airlines Philippine Airlines Virgin Australia China Southern Airlines Qantas

**New Zealand -** Auckland (AKL), Christchurch (CHC), Queenstown (ZQN), Wellington (WLG),

**North America -** Dallas Fort Worth (DFW), Los Angeles (LAX), San Francisco (SFO), Vancouver (YBR).

Domestically, Brisbane connects to all the other Australian capital cities, as well as a lot of regional centres.

The airport is serviced by Brisbane's airport rail link, Airtrain, which provides a cost effective and efficient service to travellers transferring to the city and the Convention Centre.

# ARE DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM THE CITIES ABOVE FLOWN INTO YOUR LOCAL AIRPORT?

**Qatar Airways** 

Brisbane's award-winning International Airport is located just 13 kilometres or 20 minutes from the city centre and from the Convention Centre. With superior airport infrastructure and operating 24 hours a day, Brisbane Airport directly services 30 international destinations each week and 51 domestic destinations. As at January 2020, the airport accommodates some 22 million travellers each year, including 5.6 million international passengers.

# INTERNATIONALLY, BRISBANE HAS DIRECT FLIGHTS TO AND FROM THE FOLLOWING CITIES:

Middle East - Doha (DOH), Dubai (DXB)

**Asia -** Denpasar (DPS), Guangzhou (CAN), Ho Chi Minh City (SGN), Hong Kong (HKG), Manila (MNL), Osaka (KIX), Seoul (ICN), Shanghai (PVG), Singapore (SIN), Taipei (TPE), Tokyo (NRT),

**South Pacific -** Apia (APW), Espiritu Santo (SON), Honiara (HIR), Munda (MUA), Nadi (NAN), Nauru (INU), Noumea (NOU), Port Moresby (POM), Port Vila (VLI),



**Emirates** 

HOW FAR IS YOUR CONVENTION SITE FROM THE NEAREST AIRPORT/TRAIN STATION AND WHAT IS THE LIKELY COST OF GETTING TO THE HOTELS BY BOTH PUBLIC TRANSPORT, SHARED RIDE SERVICE (LYFT/UBER/ETC.), AND TAXI FROM THAT AIRPORT/TRAIN STATION?

Brisbane Airport (BNE) is approximately 13km to the east of the Brisbane CBD, and is approximately 20 minutes via the Airtrain, to and from South Brisbane Station, which is located beside the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre. Solo tickets are approximately \$26 per person, one way, with discounts available when bought online from their website, and for groups of 2 or more travelling together. The City of Brisbane can coordinate discounted transfer tickets via Airtrain for attendees of conventions such as Worldcon.

Con-x-ion offers door-to-door service to and from Brisbane Airport, to Brisbane accommodation, but also to the Gold Coast in the south, Sunshine Coast in the north, and Toowoomba to the west. Cost for a trip between the airport and Rydges South Bank is currently \$32 each way. A taxi or Uber/Didi rideshare between the airport and the venue would be approximately \$65 each way.

# WHAT IS THE VISA SITUATION FOR CITIZENS OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO ATTEND YOUR CONVENTION?

Under Australia's universal visa system, all visitors to Australia must have a valid visa to travel to and enter Australia. No countries are excluded from Australia on political or religious grounds.

The Australian Government Department of Home Affairs offers organisers a central resource to manage this process as seamlessly as possible. The Department's International Event Coordinator Network (IECN) will provide event organisers with information on visa options and application requirements for event participants including delegates and exhibitors, speakers, performers and event staff.

There are several visa options available to people wishing to visit Australia. The appropriate visa option will depend, among other things, on the person's purpose for visiting Australia and the length of stay. This is to ensure all attendees are aware of the correct application procedures and can apply well in advance of their expected travel.

The IECN can also provide updates on the progress of visa applications, confirmation of the lodgement of visa applications by event participants, and liaison with Australian visa offices overseas to resolve issues arising in the visa application process.

# WHAT COUNTRIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ESTAS (ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AUTHORIZATIONS WHICH ARE GENERALLY A FORMALITY)?

Under Australia's universal visa system, all visitors to Australia must have a valid visa to travel to and enter Australia.

Attendees and speakers that will not be working, performing or otherwise be paid to contribute at Worldcon 2028 may be eligible to apply for the following visa options:

**The eVisitor visa** is free of charge, and allows you to stay for up to three months at a time, and visit Australia as often as you wish within a 12 month period. You must be a citizen of and hold a valid passport from one of the following countries to be eligible for an eVisitor visa:

Andorra	Austria	Belgium
Bulgaria	Croatia	Cyprus
Czech Republic	Denmark	Estonia
Finland	France	Germany
Greece	Hungary	Iceland
Ireland	Italy	Latvia
Liechtenstein	Lithuania	Luxembourg
Malta	Monaco	The Netherlands
Norway	Poland	Portugal
Romania	Republic of San Marino	Slovakia
Slovenia	Spain	Sweden
Switzerland	United Kingdom – British Citizen	Vatican City

Requirements apply and can be viewed here:

https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/evisitor-651#Eliaibility.





**Australia offers an ETA (Electronic Travel Authority) subclass 601** which allows you to visit Australia as often as you wish within a 12 month period, and stay up to 3 months each time you enter Australia. You must hold a valid passport from one of the countries below to be eligible for an ETA. You cannot apply for an ETA with a non-citizen passport, certificate of identity or other travel document, such as a Titre de Voyage. Countries eligible for an ETA include:

Andorra	Austria	Belgium
Brunei	Canada	Denmark
Finland	France	Germany
Greece	Hong Kong SAR of China	Iceland
Ireland	Italy	Japan
Liechtenstein	Luxembourg	Malaysia
Malta	Monaco	Norway
Portugal	Republic of San Marino	Singapore
South Korea	Spain	Sweden
Switzerland	Taiwan (excluding official or diplomatic passports)	The Netherlands
United Kingdom – British Citizen	United Kingdom – British National (overseas)	United States of America
Vatican City	, ,	

Requirements apply and can be found here:

https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/electronic-travel-authority-601#Eligibility

A Business Visitor Stream (Visitor visa subclass 600) allows you to visit for business reasons and stay for up to three months at one time. Some nationals have also been given an extension of visa validity (check the website link below). This Visa is most appropriate for those delegates without access to either the ETA subclass 601 visa or the eVisitor visa.

Terms and conditions apply for each of the above visa's with the details available for viewing at: <a href="https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-finder/visit#">https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-finder/visit#</a>

#### WHAT COUNTRIES WOULD REQUIRE VISAS?

Unless you are an Australian citizen, you will need a valid Australian visa to enter the country. New Zealand passport holders can apply for a visa upon arrival in the country. All other passport holders, regardless of age, must apply for a visa before leaving home. You can apply for a range of Australian visa types via the ETA app or on the Department of Home Affairs website, both of which will be linked to our Conference website if hosting Worldcon 2028.

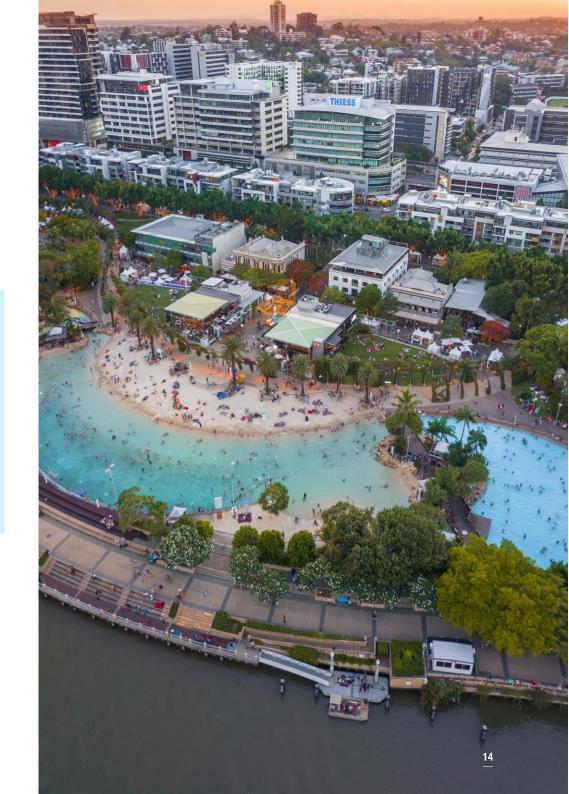
# HOW LONG DOES IT NORMALLY TAKE TO GET A VISA, AND AT WHAT COST?

- **eVisitor visa: free of charge.** Processing time will vary however our conference website will provide a link to the Visa Processing Time Guide Tool which can assist.
- Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) subclass 601: There is no Visa
   Application Charge, however there may be an application service charge of
   AUD20. In most cases, you will be advised of the result of your ETA application
   immediately, though always recommended that you apply well ahead of when
   you want to travel.
- Business Visitor Stream visa: AUD195.00. Processing time will vary however our conference website will provide a link to the Visa Processing Time Guide Tool which can assist.
- \*Costs provided are as at July 2024.

# 2.2 FACILITIES

# WHAT HOTEL(S) ARE BEING USED FOR THE CONVENTION?

Rydges South Bank Brisbane will be WorldCon 2028's official hotel partner if our bid is successful. The hotel is located in the heart of Brisbane's arts and entertainment precinct and is conveniently linked to the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, the host venue for WorldCon.



<sup>\*\*</sup>More information can be found in section 5

Rydges South Bank has a variety of room styles and suites to suit your requirements, with many having panoramic view of the Brisbane city skyline and iconic Wheel of Brisbane, Mount Coot-tha and West End village area. Delegates will be able to enjoy a cocktail poolside, room service and complimentary WIFI, and will be only steps away from a range of dining experiences, from casual to fine dining.

The Worldcon 2028 Brisbane Bid Committee have also secured offers from a range of additional hotels which range from student style accommodation through to luxury five star, and all only a short walk from the proposed conference venue. This additional accommodation includes apartment style; perfect for those wishing to share, or have extra space and facilities such as a full kitchen and laundry facilities.

### HOW MANY ROOMS, WHAT TYPE, ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES, ETC.?

We have secured indicative room blocks and accommodation rates at the proposed official hotel, Rydges South Bank, which is linked via walkway to the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC). This hotel offers both standard Queen and Twin share options, as well as accessible rooms.

In addition to this, we have sourced additional room blocks at a wide variety of hotels within walking distance of BCEC, including student style accommodation, traditional hotels, and apartment hotels and ensuring that all price points are represented.

#### DO THESE RATES INCLUDE BREAKFAST?

Indicative rates provided by Rydges South Bank are room only rates, however there are a wide variety of breakfast options within the hotel and close by which cover all budgets.

### DO THEY INCLUDE INTERNET ACCESS IN THE ROOM?

Rydges South Bank have offered complimentary internet access in their room rates. This varies amongst the hotels offered throughout Brisbane, however most will offer this as complimentary or at a small additional price.

#### **HOW FIRM ARE THESE RATES?**

Rates offered are indicative only at this stage of the negotiating process (as is traditional in the long lead up to major events in Australia).

### WHAT ADDITIONAL TAXES AND FEES ARE THERE?

Australian law states that advertised costs must be the full cost, inclusive of all taxes, so it is unlikely that additional fees will be required. Additionally, Australia is a non-tipping culture, and tips are considered to be a reward for service above and beyond the expected, so are not expected.

# WHAT DOES PARKING COST AT YOUR MAIN HOTEL AND/OR CONVENTION CENTER?

Parking rates for Monday – Sunday, in AUD 2024/2025 rates:

0 - 2 hours \$15.00
2 - 3 hours \$20.00
3 - 4 hours \$25.00
4+ hours \$35.00

# DO YOU HAVE A SIGNED (CONTINGENT) CONTRACT OR LETTER OF INTENT SPECIFYING THE ABOVE?

This is outlined in the venue contract upon signing, however we currently have verbal agreement with the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre for the planned dates.

# WHAT IS THE DISTANCE FROM THE NEAREST DOOR OF YOUR MAIN HOTEL(S) TO THE CLOSEST ENTRANCE OF THE CONVENTION SITE?

Rydges Hotel South Bank is connected via walkway to the BCEC. In addition there is approximately 4500 hotel rooms within less than 10 minutes walk of BCEC, and over 21,000 hotel rooms in the city.

# WHAT ARE THE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS FOR THOSE WHO PREFER NOT TO WALK OR WHO HAVE MOBILITY DIFFICULTIES?

Pedicabs operate in Brisbane for a bicycle-powered trip (https://greencabs.com.au/locations/brisbane/) and electric scooters can be hired easily. In addition both taxis and Uber are readily available, and the City of Brisbane offers of complimentary access on our Kitty Kat ferry network and City Loop Bus.

### WHERE WILL YOUR LARGE EVENTS BE HELD?

Events are currently planned to be at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

### PLEASE DESCRIBE THE RESTAURANT SCENE NEAR YOUR SITE.

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC) is ideally located in the unique riverside cultural and lifestyle precinct at South Bank. Home to Australia's newest and largest Gallery of Modern Art, more than 100 cafes and restaurants and stylish shops, South Bank is an inner-city oasis with green spaces, riverfront parkland, rainforest pockets and Australia's only city-based sand and swimming beach – complete with life guards!

# WHAT ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR EVENING SOCIALIZING AND PARTY SPACE?

These arrangements will be made closer to the event.

# PLEASE DESCRIBE THE POLICIES / LAWS REGARDING SMOKING IN YOUR HOTEL(S), CONVENTION CENTER, AND CITY.

Smoking is banned in Australia in most social situations and inside all public buildings. By Australian law smoking is not permitted in any hotels. The BCEC has a dedicated outdoor smoking area available to attendees.



# WHAT TYPE OF WEATHER CAN WE EXPECT DURING YOUR CONVENTION? WHAT IS THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE DURING THAT TIME OF YEAR

Brisbane is Australia's only subtropical capital city with an average daily summer temperature of 27 degrees Celsius (80F) and average daily winter temperature of 21 degrees Celsius (70F), ideal for pre and post touring activities and social and leisure activities. Brisbane has more sunny days than Florida and warmer winter days than the Bahamas and offers an idyllic climate during Worldcon 2028 in August 2028.

### WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MAIN TOURIST ATTRACTIONS OF YOUR CITY?

Brisbane's ideal location as the capital of Australia's premier tourist region presents the ideal opportunity for delegates to enjoy a microcosm of Australia's iconic experiences. World heritage listed rainforests, amazing beaches, islands, wineries and the internationally famous Australia Zoo – home of the Crocodile Hunter – are all easily accessible within an hour of the city. You can even do day trips to the Great Barrier Reef from Brisbane.

# ARE YOU PLANNING TO HAVE ANY MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNTS FOR CERTAIN DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS, SUCH AS HISTORICALLY MARGINALIZED GROUPS, YOUNG ADULTS, SENIORS, OR MILITARY?

Yes. Events of the magnitude of Worldcon are rare for this region, and it is our intention to make sure as many people as possible get the chance to experience it.

Full details are yet to be finalised, but at the very least there will be discounts for first-time Worldcon attendees, attendees from the region (including Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands), and people from historically under-represented groups.

HOW DO YOU PLAN TO RECRUIT STAFF? WILL THERE BE A DISCOUNT MEMBERSHIP RATE FOR STAFF? DO YOU PLAN CRASH SPACE FOR STAFF? ETC.

At the moment we are looking for enthusiasm and willingness to participate. As we determine what specific roles we need we will look for people to fill those roles. Recruitment will pick up closer to site selection so that we have a full contingent of people ready to hit the ground running if we are the chosen site.

Staff will receive discount memberships and other perks to offset the effort put in to making the event a success.

# WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR YOUR CONVENTION? HOW DO YOU PLAN TO MAKE IT HAPPEN?

Australia is home to the oldest living culture in the world. Australia's First Nations people have called this land home since time immemorial, with records of habitation of this continent going back over sixty thousand years. Their oral tradition meant their primary method of preserving knowledge was through stories.

That is a common thread we share with them, and that storytelling begins in the far-distant past and continue through the future to the unknown beyond. We wish to highlight that thread, and the stories we all share within this fandom.

We plan on highlighting local voices, not just Australian ones, but also including New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. Running an event like Worldcon requires a certain population base to support the endeavour, and a lot of the region does not have that capability. As a result, we want those communities to look to Brisbane in 28 as their Worldcon as much as it is ours.

There is planned to be an indigenous stream within the programming, and a highlight on indigenous art and culture throughout the event.

In addition, there are many fandom organisation and conventions within Australia and the region, and we want each of them to make their mark on this Worldcon and make it, at least in part, their own.

(Also, fairy bread. Everything is possible with fairy bread.)

# WHAT IS A NOTABLE ASPECT OF YOUR LOCAL FAN CULTURE AND HOW DO YOU PLAN TO INCORPORATE IT INTO YOUR CONVENTION?

Australia is a massive country, only slightly smaller than the continental United States, and yet has a population less than California. It is mostly concentrated on the east coast, with pockets spread around the other coasts and very little in the centre of the country. Despite the distances Australia still manages to have multiple genre conventions every year, and has had a vibrant and thriving community for many decades.

Australian fandom very much exhibits the Australian character of looking at hardships and trouble and saying "we'll work something out" and then digging in and actually making a success of things despite everything.

To that end, we want every single Australian fandom to be able to look at Worldcon in Brisbane and know that this was possible because of them.

# DO YOU HAVE A CODE OF CONDUCT? IF SO, IS IT AVAILABLE ONLINE AND IF SO, WHERE?

Yes: <a href="https://brisbane28.org/conduct/">https://brisbane28.org/conduct/</a>

### WHAT DO DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION MEAN TO YOU?

They are vital.

Australia is the land of the oldest living culture in the world, and sci fi typically attracts people from every single walk of life, with the queer, disabled and other marginalised communities well and truly finding a home here. As a result of these things, it would be insulting at the very least to not have diversity and inclusion as exceedingly high priorities.

In addition, multiple members of the committee are members of the queer community, so from that angle we consider diversity and inclusion vital. Queer rights in Australia rank amongst the highest in the world, with homosexuality being legal in all states, and same-sex marriage legal since 2017.

#### HOW ARE YOU WORKING TOWARDS YOUR GOALS IN THESE AREAS?

By including diverse voices at every opportunity; by making sure that indigenous people are well represented as Guests of Honour, Featured Artists, and panelists, and making an indigenous programming stream to ensure their voices are heard; by demanding that a panel on any such community includes that community.

By listening, and learning, and letting own voices be heard.

# WHAT WOULD CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENTS LOOK LIKE IN THESE AREAS?

A convention where marginalised people feel comfortable being themselves.

A convention with streams covering the indigenous people of the region, queer people in speculative fiction, disability and fiction, and more.



# WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS, IF ANY, REGARDING HANDLING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?

Australia came very close to eradicating Covid-19 on these shores, and we on the bid committee wish to ensure our convention does everything we can to limit its spread.

To that end, we plan to make masking mandatory throughout the convention (except when other issues make that impossible), and provide free masks for all attendees.

# HAVE YOU PLANNED FOR A VIRTUAL COMPONENT TO YOUR CONVENTION?

Yes. We understand that not everyone is going to be able to attend in person, no matter how much they want to.

To that end a virtual component is an absolute requirement of the convention.

# IF APPLICABLE, ARE YOU PREPARED TO RUN A SITE SELECTION PROCESS SHOULD IT BE REQUIRED?

Yes

# IF APPLICABLE, HOW DO YOU PLAN TO FACILITATE THE HUGO FINALISTS INPUT TO YOUR CONVENTION?

By asking them for input and listening to anything they have to say. The Hugo Awards are one of the important, mandatory, parts of any Worldcon, so listening to the finalists seems like the done thing.

Also, we're probably going to ask Ursulla Vernon to do another talk, maybe on slime moulds again, possibly on wombats. We're not sure yet.





IS THERE ANY RESTRICTION ON YOUR USE OF SOFTWARE THAT IS FROM OUTSIDE YOUR COUNTRY? ARE THERE ANY RESTRICTIONS IN YOUR COUNTRY ON THE TYPE OF SOFTWARE, COLLABORATING ON SOFTWARE, OR USE OF OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE?

None.

DO ANY OF THE LOCAL, REGIONAL OR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS IN YOUR COUNTRY HAVE RESTRICTIONS/LAWS WHICH WOULD IMPACT WORLDCON ATTENDEES AND ESPECIALLY ANYONE FROM A MARGINALIZED GROUP? ADDITIONALLY, ARE THERE ANY UNWRITTEN/UNSPOKEN, BUT COMMONLY KNOW BIASES AGAINST MEMBERS OF MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES?

None.

ARE YOU ABLE TO ACCEPT DIRECT PAYMENT FROM OUTSIDE YOUR COUNTRY FOR MEMBERSHIPS OR OTHER PURCHASES VIA CREDIT CARD OR OTHER ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS?

Yes.

Means of handling this has already been investigated and will not provide an obstacle to the convention.





# 3 UNIQUE CONVENTION PRECINCT

The site of Worldcon 2028 is at South Bank Parklands, located in the city centre, on the banks of the Brisbane River and is the location of the **Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre**.

# 3.1 A CLEAN, GREEN OASIS

South Bank is the city's green oasis and the hub for cultural and entertainment activities offering wide appeal for attendees to mix with the locals and enjoy this unique inner-city riverside precinct.

## **Key features include:**

- 17 hectares of riverfront parkland including various green spaces and rainforest pockets
- Australia's only inner-city swimming beach and lagoons complete with life quards!
- A range of cultural entertainment venues including the Queensland Museum and Australia's newest and largest Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA)
- More than 100 sidewalk cafes, restaurants and bars
- Weekend markets and weekly activation programs
- Riverside walkways and cycle paths
- CityCat ferries, train and bus stations all close to BCEC.
- Free ferry network Brisbane's KittyKat © network is free to the general public and zigzags the city reach of the Brisbane River.

# 3.2 TRANSPORT & PARKING

There are a number of transport options for Worldcon2028 attendees across, not only the South Bank Precinct, but across the city, and include:

- Green Cabs
- Electric Scooters
- Rideshare experiences such as Uber, Didi, free ferries and taxi cabs

BCEC offers undercover parking for over 1500 vehicles ranging from \$0-\$35.00 per day. South Bank's secure car park, which offers more than 800 underground spaces (including eight disabled bays) ranges from \$6.00 to 36.00 per day.

# 3.3 VIBRANT DINING PRECINCT

South Bank is home to more than 100 cafes and restaurants within 5 mins walk of the convention centre. However within a 10min walk in any direction from South Bank you will encounter a plethora of vibrant dining precincts showcasing the best of cuisine from across the globe.







# 4 CONGRESS VENUE

# 4.1 BRISBANE CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE

Named the World's Best Convention Centre, BCEC has received the highest ratings in key performance areas in an international client based survey.

BCEC's 26 years of experience brings together unmatched capability and a unique depth of industry knowledge and skills including leading edge technology and world-class catering.

An impressive portfolio of meeting rooms and event spaces meets the challenge of all events of any complexity or size. Our purpose-built space is perfectly designed to accommodate a convention of the size and complexity of the Worldcon . The flexibility of the space at BCEC will allow for developments and variations in the convention, in an ever-changing world.

Smoking is not permitted indoors at the BCEC, with dedicated outdoor smoking areas.

# 4.2 DEDICATED EVENT MANAGEMENT

An experienced professional Event Planning Manager and Audio Visual Project Manager will be assigned to Worldcon 2028 to assist and guide in the planning of the event.

A key element in the overall success of the event rests with what the BCEC describes as its best asset – its staff. From the first moment of contact to the closing ceremony, you will encounter a streamlined communication process which delivers an unforgettable experience for both organisers and attendees.





# 4.3 AWARD-WINNING FOOD & BEVERAGE

BCEC has been named the World's Best Convention Centre 2016 - 2018 as part of the internationally recognised Association Internationale des Palais de Congress (AIPC). Based on an international client survey, the Centre was the top performer in Food & Beverage, receiving double the percentage ratings of other international convention centres.

Prepared by our team of highly experienced and talented chefs, our menus offer guests a uniquely fresh and authentic taste of Queensland cuisine.

- Maximum flexibility of food choices across different event types
- Healthy option menu showcasing Queensland farm fresh produce, developed in collaboration with the Centre's consultant nutritionist
- Customised menus to suit all budgets and all requirements
- Extensive experience in special cultural and dietary requirements.

# 4.4 VALUE ADDS

At BCEC we are committed to delivering the best possible venue experience through a range of offerings:

- Free wireless access throughout the Centre for all attendees
- Access to the Centre's Plaza Gallery which houses one of Australia's most significant collections of Indigenous Art. The Gallery which served as the Leaders Lounge during the G20 doubles as a unique private dining venue for up to 40 people.



# 4.5 PRESENTATION TECHNOLOGY AND EVENT PRODUCTION (AV)

With the largest in-house production operation in Australia, BCEC's very own Audio Visual & Production Services team, are committed to providing the best creative and collaborative experience for our clients. With more than 26 years' venue experience there is no challenge that our team has not tackled with outstanding success.

The Audio Visual & Production Services team is a unique and integral part of our event delivery process. Our team of specialists are on hand to assist you with all technical, design and planning phases of the event, working closely with you and our highly skilled technical team on-the-ground to produce a memorable event of the highest quality.

The BCEC's Creative Hub specializes in pre and post production services, content management across our three dedicated Speakers' Presentation Centres and secure networking. Along with a vast inventory of vision, audio and lighting systems integrated into each event space, we are able to minimise labour expenditure and maximise delegate engagement.

### **EVENT TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS - HYBRID**

The BCEC AV team can offer all the facilities and services to delivery everything that Random may need for your virtual or hybrid event including

- Video conferencing
- Web streaming to live audiences off site
- Remote presentations from off-site speakers beamed to your event at BCEC
- Web streaming with video conferencing

BCEC's team has done it all, with events both big and small. Let our 26 years' experience help you and your team deliver a seamless event through the use of our technology studios and suites.

# 4.6 SUSTAINABLITY AND CORPORATE SOCAL RESPONSIBLITLY

BCEC is a globally responsible organisation with established credentials in the area of corporate social responsibility.

We believe that community and social values are fundamental to the successful day to day operations of the Centre and a vital part of providing a world-class facility, delivering the best possible convention and event experience.

Winner of the Energex Award for Sustainability in the Lord Mayor's Business Awards on two separate occasions and EarthCheck Platinum Certified, BCEC is committed to caring for the environment and its community.

We work with our clients, guests and suppliers to minimise the impact of events in the following ways:

- 80% of our produce is sourced from local suppliers where possible
- Memorandum of Understanding with key suppliers to achieve mutually agreed sustainability goals
- Long standing partnership with hunger relief agency, Foodbank donating 141,000 meals to date to help feed Brisbane's homeless
- The only convention centre in Australia to have a state-of-the art food dehydrator which reduces kitchen waste by 85%, producing a dry, nutrient rich biomass which is used as a soil enhancer on Brisbane's city and South Bank Parklands.



# 5 AIR ACCESS, VISAS AND TRANSPORT

# 5.1 BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Brisbane's award-winning International Airport is located just 13 kilometres or 20 minutes from the city centre and from the Convention Centre. With superior airport infrastructure and operating 24 hours a day, Brisbane Airport directly services 29 international destinations each week and 61 domestic destinations. As at January 2024, the airport accommodates some 21.1 million travellers each year, including 4.8 million international passengers.

Australia's fastest growing airport, Brisbane Airport is investing \$3.8 billion on infrastructure over the next decade. Recent projects include a \$45 million international terminal upgrade and Australia's largest aviation project – the \$1.35 billion second runway that was complete and commenced operation in July 2020

# 5.2 AIRLINES SERVICING BRISBANE

There are over 77,000 arrival seats into Brisbane per week, over half of which bring passengers through Asia as the transfer hub from major European destinations. Direct flights arrive several times a day from Asia, the Middle East, United States, New Zealand and the Pacific.

Currently we have 30 direct international flights into Brisbane and this is continuing to increase rapidly in the lead up to hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. A second runway opened in 2020 providing Brisbane with the same flight capacity as Hong Kong and Singapore.

Brisbane Airport boasts the most domestic connections in Australia, and also the most direct connections throughout the Pacific Islands.

Our current direct flights are heavily concentrated throughout Asia Pacific, Middle East & North America, with most major international cities accessible with only one connection. Most common routes connect via Singapore or United Arab Emirates.

REGION	NUMBER OF SEATS
Asia	34,722 arrival seats per week
Middle East	8,393 arrival seats per week
North America (USA, Canada, Hawaii)	9,928 arrival seats per week
New Zealand	21,389 arrival seats per week
Pacific	11,737 arrival seats per week
Europe	Serviced via Singapore, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Bangkok, Seoul, Hong Kong and Guangzhou
Africa	Serviced via Singapore, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Hong Kong

# 28 AIRLINES FLY DIRECTLY INTO AND OUT OF BRISBANE AIRPORT INTERNATIONALLY:

Air Calin	China Eastern Airlines	Qantas
Air Canada	China Southern Airlines	United Airlines
Air New Zealand	EVA Air	United Airways
Air Niugini	Fiji Airways	Singapore Airlines
Air Vanuatu	Jetstar Airways	Solomon Airlines Limited
American Airlines	Korean Air	Tiger Airways
Batik Air Malaysia	Malindo Air	Vietjet
Cathay Pacific Airways	Nauru Airlines	Virgin Australia
China Airlines	Philippine Airlines	
Emirates	Qatar Airways	



# 5.4 LOCAL TRANSPORT

Brisbane Airtrain, is an easy and fast direct rail service from the international and domestic airport terminal to five inner-city locations in just 20 minutes, including South Brisbane train station which is conveniently located 5 mins walk to the BCEC, and South Bank Precinct. From there Worldcon 2028 attendees have access to an efficient and integrated citywide transport network of buses, trains, Uber©, Didi©, taxis and the river's high-speed regular catamaran service.

# 5.5 VISA ASSISTANCE NETWORK

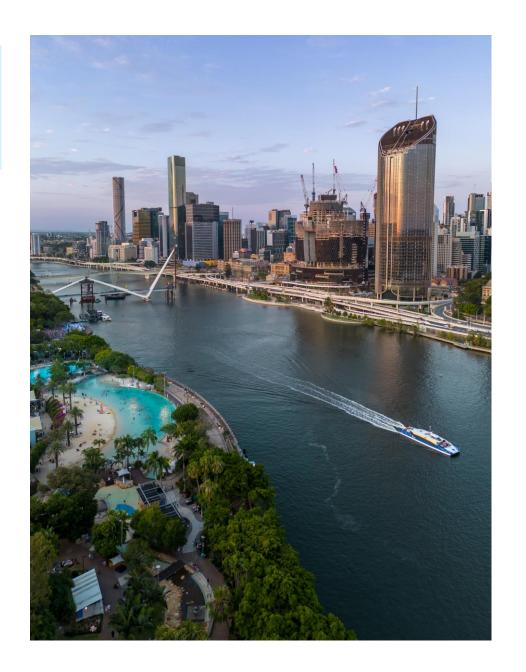
Under Australia's universal visa system, all visitors to Australia must have a valid visa to travel to and enter Australia. No countries are excluded from Australia on political or religious grounds.

The Australian Government Department of Home Affairs offers organisers a central resource to manage this process as seamlessly as possible.

The Department's International Event Coordinator Network (IECN) will provide event organisers with information on visa options and application requirements for event participants including attendees and exhibitors, speakers, performers and event staff.

There are several visa options available to people wishing to visit Australia. The appropriate visa option will depend, among other things, on the person's purpose for visiting Australia and the length of stay. This is to ensure all attendees are aware of the correct application procedures and can apply well in advance of their expected travel.

The IECN can also provide updates on the progress of visa applications, confirmation of the lodgement of visa applications by event participants, and liaison with Australian visa offices overseas to resolve issues arising in the visa application process.





# 6 ACCOMMODATION

# 6.1 RYDGES SOUTH BANK BRISBANE

Rydges South Bank Brisbane will be WorldCon 2028's official hotel partner if our bid is successful. The hotel is located in the heart of Brisbane's arts and entertainment precinct and is linked to the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, the host venue for WorldCon.

Rydges South Bank has a variety of room styles and suites to suit your requirements, with many having panoramic view of the Brisbane city skyline and iconic Wheel of Brisbane, Mount Coot-tha and West End village area. Attendees will be able to enjoy a cocktail poolside, room service and complimentary WIFI, and will be only steps away from a range of dining experiences, from casual to fine dining.

The hotel is also a short stroll from Streets Beach, an inner city man-made beach complete with Lifeguards!

# 6.2 CONVENIENT, QUALITY OPTIONS

As a cosmopolitan global city, Brisbane offers over 280 hotels and 22,000 accommodation rooms with conveniently located, quality accommodation options at competitive rates by Australian and world standards.

There are 48 hotels within two kilometres of the Convention Centre, including two hotels directly adjacent to the Centre. Brisbane has over 21,000 accommodation rooms available for attendees, including 4500 which are within a two kilometre radius and short walk from the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre. These include student style accommodation, apartment hotels, through to 5 star luxury hotels from international brands. There are a further 1000 hotel rooms due to open between August 2024 and the time of the proposed Worldcon in 2028, directly opposite the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.

BCEC Management works closely with General Managers of Brisbane Hotels in a partnership – gold level conventions – which enables the Centre to assist in the confirmation of required accommodation blocks for forthcoming conventions.

### Rooms per Star Rating Available in Brisbane

Star Rating	Hotels	No. of Rooms	AUD
5 Star 4-4.5 Star 3-3.5 Star 2 Star Non-Rate (Backpackers, B&B etc)	24 139 74 12 31	4,547 12,922 2,817 273 1,475	From \$230 From \$200 From \$150 From \$120 From \$70
TOTAL	280	22,034	

## **Proximity of Hotels to the Airport**

Distance	Hotels	Rooms
10 Kilometres	38	2,993
20 Kilometres	196	15,493

## **Proximity of Hotels to the Centre**

Distance	Hotels	Rooms
2 Kilometres	48	8,566
5 Kilometres	128	10,536
10 Kilometres	182	12,355
20 Kilometres	230	15,493



# 7 BRISBANE: YOUR CLEAN, GREEN HOST CITY

Brisbane is a clean, green city and we take sustainability seriously. We have a number of key initiatives in place that can help support the delivery of a sustainable International Convention in 2029, should our bid be successful.

# 7.1 OUR SUSTAINABLE CITY

Brisbane's liveability is intrinsically linked to our natural environment. Brisbane is the most biodiverse city in Australia and congress attendees can make the most of our beautiful natural environment.

The simple walkability of the city for convention attendees, delivers huge sustainably outcomes in itself, delivering health, economic, social and environmental outcomes for congress organisers and attendees alike.

Brisbane's sustainability credentials are ever increasing, and the city is committed to delivering the world first Net Zero Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032.

Outlined below are just some of the city's sustainability credentials, that support the delivery of sustainable congresses.

- Certified with Climate Active
- Carbon neutral city council
- Almost 900km of bike, walking and running paths
- More than hectares of green space, including 17 hectares in South Bank precinct
- Brisbane Airport Corporation committed to net zero carbon emissions scope 1
   2 by 2050
- Free or discounted public transport for attendees
- Free exercise and wellbeing classes in South Bank Parklands

# 7.2 YOUR SUSTAINABLE VENUE

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC) strives to be a world leading socially and environmentally sustainable event facility. We're not just a venue, we are an active community partner.

- Achieved EarthCheck Platinum Certification
- Eco Guardian Dehydrator reducing 54,000kg of food waste to organic fertilizer annually – used on South Bank Parklands
- 764 solar panels on Grey Street supplying up to 40% of energy demand
- Over 30 different waste streams separated and redirected from landfill
- Introduction of Carbon Calculator to offset event emissions
- 2,260 kilolitres of rainwater stored and reused for cleaning and irrigation

# TANGALOOMA ECO-MARINES – INSPIRING THE FUTURE GENERATION TO TAKE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Tangalooma EcoMarines is a Brisbane-based, not-for-profit organization, offering a unique environmental education program aimed at developing environmental leadership in students of all ages, to achieve a healthy environment for local marine and wildlife, through collaborative community action. The initiative is supported by Tangalooma Island Resort – a key tourism destination off the coast of Brisbane where much of the marine education is delivered. Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre is an official partner and supporter of Tangalooma EcoMarines.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF BCEC CARBON CALCULATOR

The Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre is committed to supporting our industry to having a positive impact on sustainability and climate change and recognising the opportunity to provide a solution for our clients. To support this BCEC commissioned the Carbon Reduction Institute (CRI) to provide a calculation

tool to assist in calculating the emissions impacts of its event packages. The goal of the calculator is to provide a carbon footprint from BCEC's hosting of each event. The calculator also enables you to choose a carbon neutral option when selecting BCEC as your venue. A robust process to create this calculator is currently taking place and we look to have this online in the near future.

# 7.3 BRISBANE CARBON OFFSETTING PROGRAMS

The BCEC Carbon Calculator also allows you the opportunity to offset the calculated carbon, and we have two designated uniquely Australian programs to offset the carbon footprint as outlined below -

### **KOALA OFFSETTING**

Working with the Queensland Trust for Nature, we propose to set up a designated program for the congress and attendees to donate to offset the carbon footprint. The funding would go directly towards creating new habitats for koalas.

### **REEF RESTORATION PROGRAM**

Working in partnership with the Reef Restoration Foundation, attendees attending the Congress will have the opportunity to offset their carbon footprint by donating through our dedicated program.

Attendees will have the opportunity to donate, which can be from just AUD\$10 or USD\$7 per delegate.

### a branch for AUD\$500 or USD\$370

a whole tree of coral for AUD\$10,000 or USD\$7,340 as pictured bottom right







# 8 ON THE GROUND DELEGATE SUPPORT

Creating a successful Convention is very much about the delegate experience on-the-ground. Brisbane has a range of free and custom-made support services designed to ensure attendees have an enjoyable stay in Brisbane and experience our friendly hospitality and value for money, making your Convention one they will never forget.

# 8.1 TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT SUPPORT

BEDA can provide travel and transport deals for attendees travelling to Brisbane to ensure attendees' transfers are cost-effective and provide easy access to and around the city.

Booking flights to Brisbane is made easy with Qantas and Virgin Australia's online booking accounts which can be linked to the Convention website. The Qantas service enables meeting planners to access bonus airfares when key ticket sales are met and discounted international fares for individual attendees through the online booking account upon request. Virgin Australia can offer a personalised promotion code for the Convention enabling attendees to receive a 10% discount on Virgin Australia fares.

Reduced fares on the Brisbane Airtrain, an easy and fast direct rail service from the airport to five inner-city locations in just 20 minutes, can also be arranged by BEDA for all attendees, offering a current saving of 20% on return fares (fares may be subject to change).

Once attendees arrive in the city they will also have access to free transport services on the CityLoop, a CBD bus service, and the CityHopper, a ferry service stopping at inner-city locations along the Brisbane River.

BEDA can also facilitate a special discounted Convention delegate GoAccess pass for attendees during the Convention which covers all modes of local public transport (train, bus, CityCats and ferries), for a low rate of AUD\$12 for a 3 day pass including train travel to the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast – ideal for any pre or post Convention touring (fares may be subject to change).

# 8.2 VISITOR SUPPORT TOOLS

BEDA has developed a white-label destination webpage to embed in your Convention website via an iFrame. Designed with live up-to-date engaging destination content and helpful visitor information, Brisbane's iFrame easily aligns with the look and feel of your website. Simply paste a few lines of HTML code into your website with our step-by-step instructions to save you time and money. The iFrame is responsive across your users' devices, making it easy to promote Brisbane as your next destination.

Through BEDA's Visitor Information & Booking Centre, they can work with Random to develop tailored local pre and post touring itineraries and partner programs to take advantage of Brisbane's unique tourist attractions and iconic Queensland experiences.

# 8.3 WIFI ACROSS THE CITY

The Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC) offers free wireless access throughout the Centre for all attendees.

Outside of the venue, the city offers WiFi access in more than 330 outdoor locations including South Bank Parklands (opposite BCEC), Brisbane's public parks and gardens, shopping and entertainment precincts, city libraries and public transport (trains and CityCats). A city WiFi map is available to attendees and can be placed on the Congress website or app to show all the areas in the city centre where WiFi is free.



# 9 RECREATION, PRE AND POST TOURING



# 9.1 BRISBANE

Brisbane is the ideal place to tick off your Aussie Bucket list, located in the heart of Australia's premier tourist region and within an hour to World Heritage Rainforests, some of the world's best beaches and you can even do a day trip to the Great Barrier Reef.

### **UNIQUE NATURE & OUTDOOR ADVENTURES**

**Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary** – Experience koalas close-up and hand-feed kangaroos just minutes from Brisbane city at Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, the world's first and largest koala sanctuary. Get up close and personal with Australia's unique wildlife including over 130 koalas. Travel to the sanctuary via an enjoyable river cruise from South Bank.

Mirrabooka Indigenous Experience – Experience the spiritual wonder of an ancient culture through traditional dance, music and storytelling on the inner-city banks of the Brisbane River. Meet the local Brisbane Indigenous tribe Riverlife Mirrabooka and share in rich Aboriginal culture presented by the Yuggera Aboriginal dancers. Develop an awareness of the diverse aspects of contemporary Aboriginal culture by witnessing and participating in traditional song and dance passed down over many generations, primitive fire-starting techniques, playing of Aboriginal musical instruments (such as didgeridoos) and listening to Indigenous educational talks that offer an insight into Aboriginal life and history of this ancient land.

**Beach & Rainforest** – Experience the natural splendour of beautiful beaches, lush rainforests and national parks all within one hour from Brisbane. Swim and surf in the sparkling blue beaches of Stradbroke Island or explore the hinterland by walking through ancient green rainforest canopies, swimming in refreshing waterholes and waterfalls or delve into glow worm caves in Springbrook National Park.

**Australia Zoo** – Undoubtedly a highlight of any visit to Queensland is a trip to Australia Zoo. Made famous by the antics of Steve and Terri Irwin and their global documentaries 'The Crocodile Hunter', the zoo is a living legacy to Steve and his wildlife conservation efforts. Visitors can experience live shows in the Crocoseum, as well as a large range of Australian, Asian and African animals.

**Tangalooma Day Trip** – For the quintessential sun, surf and sand experience, located an hour boat cruise away from Brisbane, visitors can enjoy a day trip to Tangalooma Island Resort. Cruise through the picturesque Moreton Bay Marine Park to the beautiful Moreton Island, the third largest sand island in the world. Tangalooma offers over 80 land and water activities to enjoy including snorkelling the shipwrecks, sand tobogganing, 4WD through the National Park, quad bike rides, and the unforgettable experience of hand-feeding wild dolphins at sunset.

**Great Barrier Reef Day Trip** – Experience the wonders of the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef in a day with a short one-hour flight with Seair from Redcliffe, Brisbane to Lady Elliot Island. Visitors can enjoy the short private flight; a full seafood buffet lunch and beverages on the island, followed by an afternoon of snorkelling and diving the iconic reef or exploring the island at leisure.

### **EXPLORING THE CITY**

For the energetic and adventure lovers, Brisbane offers a wide range of captivating urban experiences.

**Story Bridge Adventure Climb** – Scale to new heights with a climb to the top of the iconic Story Bridge, Australia's longest cantilever bridge, for an adrenaline rush adventure and be rewarded with panoramic views of the Brisbane city, river and hinterland.

**Riverlife Adventure Centre –** Have an adventure right in the inner-city with Riverlife. Test your water skills with kayaking and stand up paddle board tours on the Brisbane River, or keep your feet dry and high with abseiling and rock climbing on the iconic Kangaroo Point Cliffs overlooking the city.





### **DINE & SHOP**

Brisbane's precincts and streets are lined with stylish new bars and cafes that bustle with life day and night, and shopping offerings from international designer brands to local boutique stores and colourful bohemian markets.

**Queen Street Mall** – The vibrant shopping and lifestyle precinct in the heart of the city is Australia's most popular pedestrian shopping mall with over 700 retailers offering an unrivalled mix of local, national and international labels and flagship stores.

**James Street** – Beauty abounds on James Street, from its picturesque tree-covered promenade to the stunning selection of boutiques and eateries that line Brisbane's premier luxury shopping and dining precinct. Shop from a cosmopolitan selection of sought-after Australian and international fashion labels, homewares and gifts; and dine in the open-air bars, cosy cafes and award-winning restaurants.

**Howard Smith Wharves** – Enjoy a range of waterfront alfresco and fine dining restaurants to take advantage of the city's outdoor lifestyle and Story Bridge views – dining options include celebrity chefs, modern Australian and Asian fusion, and local seafood specialities.

**Riverside Dining Precincts** – Enjoy a leisurely ferry ride to the riverside precincts of River Quay at South Bank, and Eagle Street Pier in the city for a wide range of culinary delights and evening entertainment. From fine dining restaurants to lively local bars – all offering spectacular river and bridge views so visitors can eat and bar hop their way around the precincts.

**Queensland Performing Arts Centre** – Located in the South Bank Cultural Precinct which offers Australia's largest modern art gallery, world-class performances from blockbuster musicals to local theatre and free art exhibitions all year round.

# 9.2 QUEENSLAND

Beyond Brisbane there is a wealth of sun-kissed opportunities for leisure and pleasure in the State of Queensland. Road, rail and air links from Brisbane all provide easy access to some of the country's most awe-inspiring tourism treasures. From tropical islands with their lush rainforests and gleaming white beaches, to the rugged beauty of the Outback, Queensland has it all.

### **GOLD COAST**

Less than an hour from Brisbane is the Sunshine State's favourite beach and play location, the Gold Coast. From popular surfing beaches, the adrenalin of family-friendly theme parks and premier shopping outlets – through to the hinterland regions offering rainforest walks and idyllic mountain retreats – the Gold Coast offers something for everyone to enjoy.

### **SUNSHINE COAST**

Escape to the naturally refreshing beauty of the Sunshine Coast, from the internationally renowned tourist mecca of Noosa with its exclusive shopping and dining precincts and breathtaking beaches to the magnificent Glasshouse Mountains and lush green valleys and national parks in the tranquil and boutique hinterland region of Maleny.

### **FRASER ISLAND**

The supremely beautiful Fraser Island is a nature-lover's paradise. The world's largest sand island is a must-do nature experience that embraces ancient rainforests, idyllic crystal-clear lakes, rainbow coloured sand cliffs, and long stretches of surf beach on the world heritage listed island.

### **GREAT BARRIER REEF**

One of the Seven Wonders of the World with its spectacular displays of marine life and the world's most extensive and diverse coloured coral reef system, the Great Barrier Reef is an experience of a lifetime.



View it by seaplane, boat charters or snorkel and dive the turquoise waters amongst the rainbow of coral and marine life.

### **WHITSUNDAYS**

The 74 island wonders of the Whitsundays, located in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef, offer an idyllic paradise of tropical warm waters and sandy island archipelagos. From the luxury resorts of One and Only Hayman Island, to eco-style family friendly accommodation the islands provide something for all tastes and budgets. Take a helicopter flight to a secluded private island beach or enjoy some of the best sailing in the Southern Hemisphere on a chartered or bareboat yacht.

### **CAIRNS / TROPICAL NORTH QUEENSLAND**

Head to Tropical North Queensland, the only place where rainforest meets the reef. Experience the magnificent 1200km² spread of the world heritage listed Wet Tropics of lush ancient rainforests, spectacular gorges and ancient rock formations and culture. Inland, the dramatic scenery and exotic tropical flora and fauna of the Atherton Tablelands mix with the adventure thrills of riding the river rapids or jungle surfing through the trees in Cape Tribulation.

### **OUTBACK QUEENSLAND**

The Queensland Outback offers visitors a true Aussie Outback experience they will not forget. Epic landscapes, rugged deserts and red sunsets join farmlands. Organised tours include Outback highlights at Longreach, the Australian Stockmen's Hall of Fame, ancient Indigenous rock carvings or the mateship of the legendary bush pub.

# 9.3 OTHER AUSTRALIAN STATES

With an extensive network of domestic flights, Brisbane is the ideal launch pad for further Australian adventures. Within Australia the itinerary options cover every traveller's taste from city to coast to country.

### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

The bright glamorous lights of Sydney and its world-famous Opera House and Harbour Bridge provide a variety of attractions for visitors. Enjoy the vibrant city buzz, climb the Harbour Bridge, enjoy a cruise along the beautiful harbour, or take a swim at the famous Bondi Beach. For some natural beauty and relaxation head out of the city to the Blue Mountains world heritage area to explore one of Australia's most spectacular national parks.

### **VICTORIA**

For urban beauty many travellers opt for the hip – almost European – sophistication of Melbourne and their gourmet restaurants and eclectic laneway bars. Outside of Melbourne, experience the splendour of the Twelve Apostles on the Great Ocean Road scenic drive, wine tasting and hot air ballooning in the picturesque rolling green vineyards of the Yarra Valley, or witness the Penguin Parade on Phillip Island, Australia's most popular wildlife event.

### **NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Visit Australia's Top End – a truly unforgettable experience of epic waterfalls, exotic wildlife and Indigenous insights in the "Red Centre". The Northern Territory is home to iconic destinations like Uluru (Ayers Rock) and the world heritage listed Kakadu National Park. Experience a four-wheel drive safari through the Australian desert, scenic flights and boat tours to hidden swimming holes in Katherine Gorge, or crocodile cruises and sunset beachside markets in Darwin.

#### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Renowned for their world-class wine regions, the Barossa and Clare Valley, South Australia provides exceptional food and wine experiences nestled amongst heritage villages and towns. The capital Adelaide is an elegant city blending historic architecture with green parklands and rolling hills. Escape the city and enjoy the rugged coastlines and unique wildlife encounters of Kangaroo Island and the Fleurieu Peninsula.

#### **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

As one of the largest and most diverse states in the world, Western Australia offers spectacular and unique natural landscape, from the rich red scenery of 350 million year old ancient rock formations and gorges in the Kimberley to the sparkling blue beaches of the Indian Ocean. Enjoy sunset camel rides along Cable Beach, swim with whale sharks on Ningaloo Reef, or indulge in gourmet food and wine in the Margaret River vineyard region.

### **TASMANIA**

At the opposite end of the country and in a vastly different island environment, Tasmania stands out as another region of natural beauty and untamed wilderness with dramatic mountains, dense rainforest, rolling farmlands and scenic waterways. It's an ideal location for nature lovers, bushwalkers and boat enthusiasts, or enjoy the gourmet delights of Hobart and the quirky exhibits of one of the world's most controversial private art collections at the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA).

## **AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

As Australia's capital city and home to our federal parliament, Canberra houses monuments and attractions of significant national pride. Discover the Australian story at the National Museum of Australia, National Gallery of Australia and National Portrait Gallery. See where Australia's political decisions are made with a visit to Parliament House, and pay tribute and hear the stories of the people and events that have shaped our nation at the Australian War Memorial.





