

Queensland - South Korea

Trade and Investment Strategy 2026-2028

Queensland Government

TIQ TRADE + INVESTMENT QUEENSLAND

Mission statement

Strengthen Queensland's position as a trusted economic partner for the Republic of Korea (South Korea) by growing trade, investment and industry collaboration in priority sectors, supporting shared growth and prosperity.



Minister's foreword

South Korea is one of Queensland's most valued partners, with significant opportunities for trade and investment.

The Queensland Government has made clear that our state is open for business. We are resetting our approach to international trade and investment, with a renewed focus on commercial outcomes, backing Queensland exporters and attracting the investment that will help grow our economy and create jobs.

This *Queensland-South Korea Trade and Investment Strategy 2026-2028* puts that approach into action in one of our most important markets.

As South Korea looks to secure future supplies, diversify supply chains and invest in the industries and technologies that will drive its next phase of growth, Queensland is a partner of choice.

We are a reliable supplier of the resources, energy and premium food products that have supported South Korea's economic development. Our relationship is increasingly extending into areas such as critical minerals, advanced manufacturing, defence and aerospace, health, consumer industries, education and research – all areas where Queensland has significant resources and knowledge.

We also understand that successful trade requires long-term commitment and, where possible, an in-market presence.

In 2026, Trade and Investment Queensland celebrates 25 years on the ground in Seoul. Queensland has the largest Australian state government presence in South Korea and is the only Australian state with a trade and investment commissioner based in Seoul.

That matters. It means Queensland businesses have people in market who understand South Korea, its industries and its commercial environment. It also sends a clear message to South Korean investors and businesses: Queensland is here for the long-term and invested in making this economic partnership succeed.

Our focus now is on turning that commitment into more opportunities.

This strategy provides a practical roadmap to connect those opportunities with Queensland capability, grow two-way trade and investment and open more doors for businesses across the state.

The Honourable Ros Bates MP
Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training

Contents

Why Korea? 6

Market snapshot 9

Market dynamics 12

Future outlook 15

Opportunities and challenges for Queensland 16

Strategic priority sectors 19

Energy, resources and critical minerals 20

Agriculture, food and beverages 22

Defence and aerospace 24

Life sciences and beauty 26

Education, training and research 28



Cattle Farm, Croftby

Why South Korea?

Queensland and South Korea share a strong and trusted trade and investment partnership built on decades of economic cooperation, close community ties and aligned strategic interests.

South Korea is one of Queensland's most significant trading partners, with established collaboration across resources, energy, food and agriculture, education and training. There is strong potential to deepen trade and investment across critical minerals and downstream processing, advanced manufacturing, energy, agribusiness, food processing and other technology-intensive industries.

A strong institutional framework supports this relationship. The *Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement (KAFTA)*, in force since 2014, provides high-quality market access and investment settings. It is reinforced by the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2021) and expanding cooperation in energy, critical minerals, supply chains and emerging technologies.

South Korea's economic and industrial priorities align closely with Queensland's future growth sectors. As a global leader in manufacturing and digital and energy technologies, South Korea is seeking secure and diversified supply chains to support its industrial competitiveness and energy future.

Queensland's endowment of critical minerals, energy resources, advanced manufacturing capabilities and research strengths positions the state as a long-term partner for South Korea. This creates opportunities for joint investment, technology collaboration, innovation partnerships and value-added processing.

South Korea is a mature, high-value market with strong demand for premium, safe and trusted imported food products. South Korea continues to demonstrate robust demand for high-quality protein and is one of Queensland's largest export destinations for beef.

The concentration of globally significant companies within South Korea also presents a strategic opportunity to attract high-value investment and deepen commercial partnerships.

South Korea's advanced digital economy and thriving e-commerce market offers Queensland exporters scalable pathways to consumers. South Korean demand for health-conscious and environmentally responsible products aligns with Queensland's strengths in natural ingredients and sustainable production. South Korea is also a global beauty and personal care powerhouse, recording exports of US$11.4 billion in 2025[1]. South Korean manufacturers operate in an intensely competitive market, where demand for product differentiation, ethical production and natural ingredients creates opportunities for Queensland suppliers of premium, sustainably sourced and traceable inputs. These consumer markets create scope for savvy small and family businesses to sell products directly to South Koreans through e-commerce platforms.

South Korea's growing investment in advanced healthcare, an ageing population and demand for medical technologies present opportunities for Queensland's innovative medtech and life sciences sectors. Home to the world's largest biologics manufacturing capacity and several of the world's leading biotechnology companies, South Korea is also a major global biopharmaceutical hub. There is growing demand for trusted international partners in research, clinical development and innovation collaboration, such as the Queensland-based National Biologics Facility.

The strengthening strategic relationship between South Korea and Australia is also creating new opportunities for collaboration in defence and aerospace. Queensland's growing manufacturing capability and infrastructure in these sectors align with South Korea's increasing investment in defence technologies, satellite systems, space exploration and sovereign capability development.

Queensland is home to Australia's second-largest South Korean community[2], strengthening cultural understanding and business connections. For South Korean visitors, students and investors, Queensland offers a welcoming environment and abundant opportunities.

1 South Korean Ministry of Food and Drug Safety
2 Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2021, Country of Birth Quick Stats (South Korea, Republic of (South)).

South Korea is the world's tenth largest source of net outflows of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)[3]

South Korea is one of the world's largest e-commerce markets, with around half of all retail sales occurring online[4]

Queensland is home to Australia's second-largest South Korean born diaspora community

South Korea is Queensland's second-largest goods export destination[5]

3 FDI in Figures, April 2026 | Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
4 South Korea - eCommerce
5 Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Trade Profile for South Korea, Republic of (South)

Market snapshot

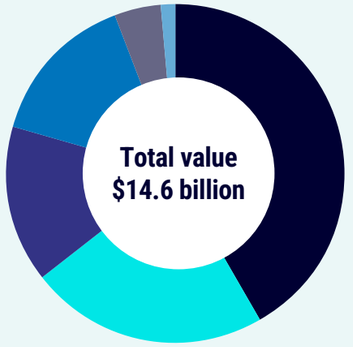
Population (2026)[6]	51.6 million
GDP per capita (2026)[7]	US$37,410
Queensland exports to South Korea (2025-26)[8]	A$14.6 billion – including coal, beef, other ores and concentrates
Queensland imports from South Korea (2025-26)[9]	A$7.4 billion – including passenger motor vehicles, refined petroleum, and electrical machinery
Foreign Direct Investment in Australia (2025)[10]	A$7 billion
International student enrolments (2025)[11]	4,446
International visitors (2025-26)[12]	75,877

Note - All data is from Queensland Government Statistician's Office and Australian Bureau of Statistics unless otherwise specified.

6 International Monetary Fund, Republic of South Korea, Country Data
7 International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook (October 2026) - GDP per capita, current prices
8 Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Trade Profile for South Korea, Republic of (South)
9 Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Trade Profile for South Korea, Republic of (South)
10 Australian Bureau of Statistics - International Investment Position, Australia: Supplementary Statistics, 2025
11 Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Trade Profile for South Korea, Republic of (South)
12 Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Trade Profile for South Korea, Republic of (South)



Seoul, South Korea



Queensland goods exports to Korea (FY2025–26)

- Coal, coke and briquettes **41.7%**
- Combined confidential items **22.9%**
- Meat and meat preparations **14.9%**
- Metalliferous ores and metal scrap **14.8%**
- Non-ferrous metals **4.5%**
- Other **1.2%**

Note – Confidential items include export commodities which are subject to confidentiality restrictions.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Trade Profile for South Korea, Republic of (South)

Regional agreements

Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement (KAFTA)	In force since 12 December 2014, KAFTA is the primary framework underpinning trade and investment between Australia and South Korea. It delivers preferential market access, reduces tariffs across key export sectors, and provides robust rules for services and investment. For Queensland, KAFTA underpins competitiveness in resources, energy and agrifood exports, supporting strong access to the Korean market.
Australia-Republic of Korea Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)	Announced in December 2021, this strategic partnership elevates the bilateral relationship beyond trade, providing a platform for cooperation across economic security, technology, energy, defence industry links and people-to-people links. For Queensland, the CSP strengthens opportunities for collaboration in priority sectors including critical minerals, energy transformation, defence, advanced manufacturing, research and innovation.
Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)	This partnership complements Australia's existing trade agreements with 14 Indo-Pacific economies, including South Korea. It entered into force on 1 January 2022 for Australia and on 1 February 2022 for South Korea, establishing more consistent rules for trade, including common rules of origin, streamlined customs procedures and improved investment settings across the region. For Queensland businesses, the partnership supports supply chain integration and reduces complexity when operating across South Korea and the wider Indo-Pacific.

Market dynamics

A highly advanced economy in transition: new industrial ambitions, new demographics and growing global influence.

South Korea is a highly advanced, export-oriented economy with world-leading capabilities in manufacturing, technology and innovation. Its economic strength is underpinned by deep integration into global supply chains, particularly in telecommunications, batteries, automotive manufacturing and shipbuilding.

This model has supported long-term growth, but it also leaves South Korea exposed to fluctuations in external demand, changing trade conditions and geopolitical uncertainty. Economic performance remains closely tied to global industrial cycles, while shifts in trade policy, technology controls and supply chain diversification are increasingly shaping the outlook.

Together, these trends are reinforcing South Korea's emphasis on trusted, reliable, long-term partners.

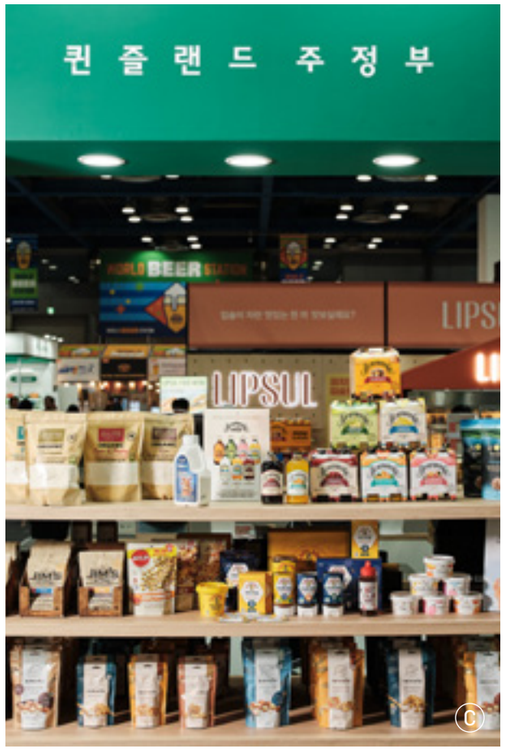
South Korea's expanding semiconductor, manufacturing and artificial intelligence (AI) development, combined with its energy transition and focus on energy security, are driving demand for critical minerals and diversified energy supplies. This aligns with Queensland's strengths in natural resources, especially liquified natural gas (LNG) and critical minerals.

Demographic change is creating further opportunities within the healthcare sector. South Korea became a 'super-aged' society in 2024, with more than 20% of its population aged 65 years and over[13]. This is driving growing demand for medical devices, aged care technologies and solutions for chronic disease management. This change is also influencing South Korean education, consumer and workforce trends, where Queensland has supportive capabilities.

13 South Korean Ministry of the Interior and Safety









A. University of Queensland Life sciences research lab
B. Bundaberg Brewed Drinks promotion, South Korea
C. Trade and Investment Queensland stand, Food Week Korea 2026
D. Sandalwood, Darling Downs



Future outlook

South Korea's near-term outlook is characterised by moderate growth, resilient exports and softer domestic conditions, with recovery expected to be gradual rather than sharp. Its real GDP growth is expected to strengthen from 1.1% in 2025[14] to 2.6% in 2026, before easing slightly to 2.5% in 2027[15].

Exports continue to drive South Korea's economic performance, reaching a record US$709.7 billion in 2025, with a trade surplus of US$78.0 billion, reflecting strong global demand for advanced manufactured goods[16].

The future outlook is supported by strong external demand for semiconductors and South Korea's position in the expanding global AI hardware supply chain.

Growth will continue to be driven by advanced manufacturing and technology-linked exports. South Korea's continued strength in semiconductors and other advanced industries will sustain demand for energy, critical minerals, high-purity materials and skilled workers, creating long-term opportunities for trusted partners.

South Korea's defence industry has ambitious expansion plans, targeting growth in aerospace, naval systems and after-sales support. Australia and South Korea continue to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation through regular ministerial dialogue, service-level agreements and industry partnerships.

Growing demand for premium food, health-conscious consumption and dining experiences is expected to sustain opportunities for Queensland exporters in South Korea's sophisticated food market.

South Korea is also a strategic education market for Queensland providers. South Korean families' investment in private education remains high. This is driving competition, international partnerships and transnational education models, and is boosted by government programs supporting overseas study across schools, universities and other tertiary pathways.

Looking ahead, South Korea's industrial growth is reshaping its skills needs. Major investment in semiconductors, including the world's largest planned semiconductor cluster at Yongin[16], will create long-term demand for engineers, technicians and researchers.

Despite rising global fragmentation, South Korea continues to pursue open trade and regional integration through frameworks such as RCEP and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), alongside an expanding network of bilateral partnerships.

South Korea's global cultural influence and national branding – spanning K-food, K-beauty, K-fashion, K-pop and digital content – has become a powerful consumer trend across major markets, creating new opportunities for international businesses. The global popularity of South Korean entertainment, such as K-pop and animation, has lifted awareness of South Korean brands and products, driving demand across multiple sectors. As South Korean culture gains influence in markets such as Australia, the United States (US) and Europe, businesses with complementary products, services and partnerships are well placed to benefit. For Queensland companies, South Korea is both a sophisticated, innovation-driven market and a gateway to consumers shaping global lifestyle trends.

14 National Accounts in the Year 2025 - Bank of South Korea
15 July 2026 World Economic Outlook Update - International Monetary Fund

16. South Korean Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources
17. Government of the Republic of South Korea, national semiconductor cluster announcements, including the Yongin National Industrial Complex

Opportunities and challenges for Queensland

Opportunities

- Queensland is home to Australia's second largest South Korean diaspora providing strong community and business links.
- Growing demand for resources to support South Korea's energy security.
- Demand for critical minerals and high-purity materials from South Korea's semiconductor and battery industries.
- KAFTA's post-2028 elimination of a range of tariffs will significantly expand opportunities for Queensland exporters.
- As one of the world's largest wagyu producers, Queensland is uniquely positioned to meet South Korea's growing demand for high-quality beef.
- Leverage South Korea's expanding e-commerce market as a scalable entry channel for small and family businesses.
- Pursue defence opportunities in testing and evaluation, training and supply chains.
- Respond to demand from South Korea's ageing society and expanding biomedical sector.
- Promote Queensland's integrated life sciences ecosystem across industry, research and government sectors.
- Build on Queensland's strong position in the South Korean school market.
- Strengthen collaboration with South Korea's pharma and biotech sectors in clinical trials and early-stage research and development.

Challenges

- Exporters need a strong understanding of South Korea's regulatory environment which can be complex for new market entrants.
- South Korea has rapidly changing consumer preferences requiring ongoing monitoring of market trends and investment in branding and innovation.
- Success in defence, space and aerospace markets often depends on long-term relationship building, supplier accreditation and procurement cycles that can extend over several years.
- Regional geopolitical tensions may impact trade and investment confidence.
- Price sensitivity and currency fluctuations can influence purchasing behaviour.
- A shrinking student-age population is reshaping education demand over time.
- Australian federal government changes to visa and migration settings present challenges for Queensland's international education and training sector and the attraction of skilled labour into key sectors.
- Tariff measures and the beef safeguard activation are creating additional challenges for Queensland exporters.



TIQ's strategic priorities

Energy, resources and critical minerals

Expand Queensland's exports across energy and critical minerals, powering the industries behind South Korea's global rise in advanced manufacturing.

Agriculture, food and beverages

Increase Queensland exports and position the state as a supplier of choice for premium products and into South Korean supply chains.

Defence and aerospace

Establish Queensland as South Korea's preferred partner for testing, evaluation, training and supply chain integration in advanced space and defence systems.

Life sciences and beauty

Position Queensland as South Korea's partner of choice for life sciences, clinical trials and consumer health collaboration, and grow exports of beauty products and ingredients, supporting growth and commercialisation opportunities.

Education, training and research

Strengthen Queensland's position as a leading study destination for South Korean school students and build the education, training and research partnerships that support South Korea's next phase of industrial growth.

Energy, resources and critical minerals

Advance Queensland's role as a long-term partner for South Korea's energy security and advanced manufacturing, harnessing the state's strengths in resources, critical minerals and high-purity materials to grow exports and attract investment that strengthens Queensland's supply chains and value-adding capabilities.

The Queensland advantage

Queensland offers South Korea a strong value proposition, combining abundant, high-quality energy and mineral resources with a proven track record of reliability and investment certainty. With secure, long-term supply of the critical minerals and high-purity materials required for advanced industrial applications, Queensland is well placed to support South Korea's manufacturing ambitions. Through *Delivering Queensland's Critical Minerals Future 2026-30*, Queensland is positioning itself for the next phase of critical minerals development. The opportunity extends beyond mining to industry development, job creation, investment attraction, sovereign capability and stronger participation in the supply chains that will power the future.

Queensland's emerging pipeline of high-purity alumina, high-purity silica and quartz, tungsten, rare earths and graphite positions the state as a credible supplier into South Korea's semiconductor value chain. This complements established strengths in copper, zinc and aluminium, which support South Korea's broader manufacturing industry. The Queensland Investment Corporation's $250 million Queensland Critical Minerals Fund, boosted by $100 million in the 2026-27 State Budget, signals the priority placed on this sector. The Queensland Government has also opened the Queensland Resources Common User Facility, in Townsville, which will serve as a demonstration hub for critical minerals processing.

Queensland's role as a reliable supplier of metallurgical coal to South Korea's steel industry, and of LNG to electricity generators and manufacturers, will remain key pillars of the enduring bilateral resources partnership.

Together, these strengths create strong opportunities for South Korean investment across Queensland's resources sector, from gas exploration and mine development to downstream refining, processing and value-adding of critical minerals and high-purity materials. South Korean investors are well placed to contribute capital, technology and offtake partnerships to integrated projects that capture more of the value chain onshore while securing the reliable inputs South Korea's industries depend on.

South Korea's major engineering, procurement and construction contractors present a further avenue for investment attraction. These firms bring both project delivery capability and investment capital across infrastructure central to Queensland's energy future, including transmission and grid works, gas-fired generation and renewable energy projects.



Sun Metals, Townsville

TIQ initiatives

1. **Collaborate with Critical Minerals Queensland** and project proponents to promote partnerships and investment opportunities across Queensland for critical minerals.
2. **Connect Queensland companies with South Korean semiconductor industry, battery manufacturers and other advanced manufacturing businesses** to build early relationships into South Korean industry supply chains.
3. **Partner with other Queensland Government agencies** to engage major South Korean resource offtakers, utilities, engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contractors and investors to promote Queensland as a stable, reliable supplier of energy.

What success looks like in 2028

- **Increased South Korean investment** in critical minerals, energy and other natural resources exploration, mining and processing.
- **Growth in export outcomes** for Queensland's resources industry.
- **Increased interest from South Korean companies** in resource offtake agreements and investment in Queensland's critical minerals supply chain.





A. Graphinex, Queensland
B. Minerals extracted in a rare earths location

Agriculture, food and beverages

Build on Queensland's reputation as a trusted supplier of high-quality, premium food and agricultural products to expand exports, and grow South Korean investment into Queensland's agribusiness, food processing and value-added supply chains.

The Queensland advantage

Queensland's agriculture and food sectors have a strong international reputation for producing clean, ethical, safe and high-quality products. This aligns closely with South Korea's discerning, health-conscious consumers who increasingly prioritise food safety, traceability and sustainable production.

The state's robust biosecurity systems, reliable supply chains and premium product offering position the state as a trusted supplier to one of Asia's most sophisticated consumer markets, as well as a reliable source of premium ingredients for South Korea's food manufacturing sector.

Beef remains the cornerstone of the Queensland-South Korea food relationship. South Korean consumers continue to place a high value on quality, food safety, provenance and sustainability, helping to establish Queensland beef as a trusted and sought-after product.

As home to almost half of Australia's cattle herd, the largest wagyu export volume in the world[17] and one of South Korea's leading beef suppliers, Queensland has the scale, reliability and reputation to meet growing demand for premium protein. The reduction of South Korean beef tariffs to zero in 2028 will further enhance Queensland's competitiveness, creating opportunities to increase exports and capture a larger share of the South Korean market.

Beyond established trade flows, opportunities exist to expand South Korean investment and commercial collaboration across Queensland's agriculture and food value chain. South Korean food manufacturers are seeking secure access to high-quality inputs, production capacity and greater supply chain control, creating opportunities in agricultural production, food processing, contract manufacturing and value-added food and beverage products.

Queensland's growing AgTech ecosystem creates opportunities for bilateral collaboration in smart farming technologies, including robotics, artificial intelligence, precision agriculture and water and nutrient management.

South Korea's demand for energy and fuel is driving increased investment in biofuels. Queensland has a range of agricultural feedstocks that could support future opportunities in the production of biofuels and sustainable aviation fuel.

TIQ initiatives

1. **Promote Queensland's food and agricultural companies and capabilities** through targeted participation in major food trade shows and industry events.
2. **Promote investment opportunities in Queensland food and agriculture** and provide targeted facilitation services to South Korean investors.
3. **Support Queensland exporters to enter and expand in South Korea** through a variety of market entry and growth channels and target facilitation.

What success looks like in 2028

- **Increased exports** of Queensland's food, agriculture and beverages to South Korea.
- **Greater participation in key trade shows** strengthens Queensland's brand and increases exposure for Queensland companies.
- **Increased South Korean investment** in Queensland's food and agriculture sector, including food manufacturing and processing.







A. Sandalwood beef
B. Macadamia nuts, Bundaberg
C. Bundaberg Brewed Drinks promotion, South Korea

17 Continued success for Australian Wagyu Sector | Australian Wagyu Association

Defence and aerospace

Establish Queensland as a strategic partner for South Korea in defence, aerospace and space through joint capability development, supply chains, testing and sustainment and grow investment collaborations.

The Queensland advantage

Queensland's growing capabilities in guided weapons and explosive ordnance, advanced propulsion, autonomous systems and hypersonics research align strongly with South Korea's strengths in missile technology, propulsion and defence manufacturing. Combined with the state's geographical scale, extensive airspace and established research and industry ecosystem, this creates opportunities for joint development, testing and capability integration to support Indo-Pacific security and space industry growth.

Queensland has major defence training areas, including Shoalwater Bay Training Area, Australia's largest military training area, and the Townsville Field Training Area. Having hosted South Korean and allied forces during exercises such as Talisman Sabre and Pitch Black, these facilities provide realistic, large-scale environments for demonstrating and validating new defence and aerospace systems. This established allied training ecosystem makes Queensland a natural partner for South Korean defence and aerospace companies.

Cairns and Central Queensland present an attractive opportunity for South Korean industry to partner in maritime sustainment, logistics and defence support capabilities that underpin Australian and allied operations across the Indo-Pacific. Cairns is Northern Australia's leading maritime sustainment hub, anchored by HMAS Cairns, the Navy's Regional Maintenance Centre Northeast and a network of more than 400 maritime businesses supporting naval, border protection and commercial vessel maintenance and repair. Significant government and industry investment is expanding Cairns' defence maritime capacity, including upgrades to naval-certified shipyard infrastructure and the Common User Facility to support Australian and allied naval sustainment requirements in the Indo-Pacific.

Central Queensland is strategically positioned to support Australian and allied defence activities, with the Shoalwater Bay Training Area and extensive logistics, warehousing and sustainment capability. Gladstone and Rockhampton offer deep-water port access, established transport networks and industrial capability to support defence resupply, sustainment and maritime operations. Bundaberg's new deep-water cargo wharf provides roll-on/roll-off capability, extensive hardstand areas and logistics infrastructure, supporting heavy equipment movements and strengthening Queensland's defence logistics network.

Queensland's growing space ecosystem offers strong collaboration prospects with South Korean space agencies, companies and research institutions, leveraging complementary strengths in launch capabilities, advanced manufacturing, aerospace engineering, satellite technologies and space innovation. As global demand for satellite launches continues to increase, Queensland's established launch infrastructure and expanding rocket manufacturing capabilities position the state as an attractive destination for South Korean payloads, missions and investment. Queensland's unique geographic position on Australia's east coast, with close proximity to the equator and access to multiple orbital trajectories, provides a competitive advantage for cost-effective launches and space mission operations.

Queensland's universities and companies are at the forefront of space research and technology, with world-leading capabilities in hypersonics, robotics, automation and advanced manufacturing. These strengths complement South Korea's aerospace ecosystem and create opportunities for joint development, experimentation and technology collaboration.

TIQ initiatives

1. **Partner with key agencies and organisations, including DefenceQ and Team Defence Australia** to promote Queensland's defence ecosystem to South Korea's defence industry.
2. **Promote Queensland's testing, training and launch infrastructure** to South Korean defence primes and space and other defence organisations.
3. **Support Queensland's defence and space companies** at key expositions and with tailored facilitation in international markets.

What success looks like in 2028

- **Increased exports** by Queensland's defence and space companies.
- **Increased Queensland participation at defence and aerospace events** has provided greater opportunities for Queensland companies to promote their capabilities.
- **Growth in the number of investments or partnerships** by South Korea in Queensland's defence and aerospace facilities and industries.





A. MQ28-A Ghost Bat, Boeing Australia
B. Gilmour Space Eris rocket

Life sciences and beauty

Capitalise on Queensland's excellence in life sciences and clinical trials to foster collaborations and increase commercialisation, while expanding partnerships in beauty and wellness to grow exports.

The Queensland advantage

Queensland's life sciences ecosystem is underpinned by internationally recognised strengths in biotechnology, genomics, precision medicine, advanced therapeutics and digital health. Queensland brings together researchers, clinical trial networks, health services and industry partners to support the development, evaluation and commercialisation of innovative medicines and health technologies.

Queensland offers a supportive environment for clinical research, combining internationally renowned research institutions, world-class clinical trial infrastructure and streamlined ethics and governance pathways. Queensland is internationally recognised for delivering high-quality clinical research and generating data accepted by major regulatory agencies worldwide, including the US Food and Drug Administration and the European Medicines Agency.

Queensland's clinical trials ecosystem spans metropolitan, regional, rural and remote settings and includes teletrial and decentralised trial capabilities to improve participant access and recruitment opportunities. This enables sponsors to recruit participants from a wide range of demographic, cultural and clinical backgrounds, supporting more representative research outcomes.

These strengths create significant opportunities for South Korean pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies seeking efficient pathways for clinical development, advanced therapeutics, precision medicine, translational research and commercialisation.

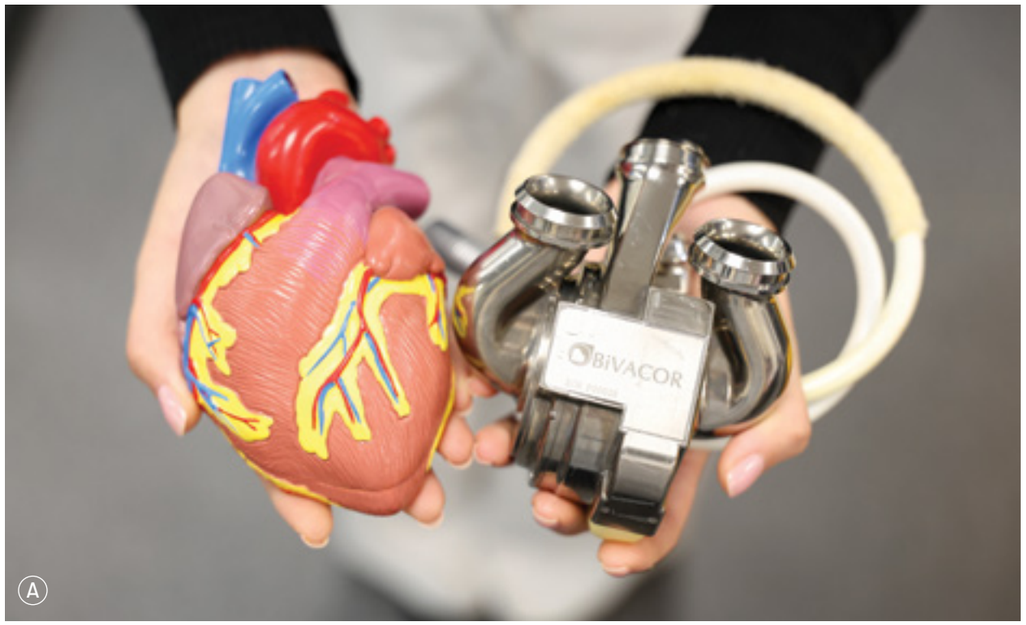
Queensland's reputation for clean, safe and premium-quality production also extends beyond food and agriculture into consumer health, nutraceuticals, wellness and beauty products. Opportunities exist across the value chain, from high-quality ingredients and functional inputs to finished consumer products. Queensland businesses are well placed to meet growing South Korean demand for quality, provenance and sustainability through trusted products and supply chains.

TIQ initiatives

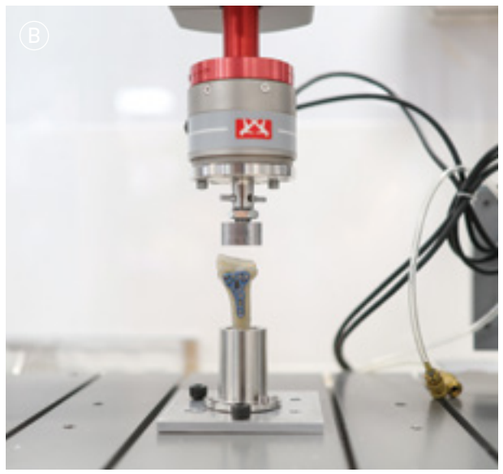
1. **Facilitate research, clinical development and investment partnerships** between Queensland research institutions, clinical trial networks and health precincts and South Korean pharmaceutical, biotechnology and advanced therapeutics companies.
2. **Showcase Queensland's growing health, beauty and wellness capabilities** to South Korean retailers, distributors and e-commerce platforms, supporting market entry for Queensland businesses.
3. **Explore opportunities for commercialisation, co-development and pilot programs** between Queensland and South Korean medtech and health-tech companies and industries.

What success looks like in 2028

- **Growth in clinical trial partnerships** between Queensland and South Korea.
- **Increased exports** of Queensland health, nutraceutical, beauty and wellness products.
- **Increased trade and investment and research collaborations** between Queensland and South Korea in life sciences.



A



B



C

A. BiVACOR heart
B. Dental implant, Herston Biofabrication Institute
C. The Spinal Cord Injury Liaison Service (SCILS), Gold Coast

Education, training and research

Deepen Queensland's education, training and research partnerships with South Korea to expand study opportunities, strengthen institutional collaboration and develop the skills, knowledge and innovation needed for economic growth.

The Queensland advantage

South Korea is a mature and evolving education market. With the world's lowest fertility rate, schools and universities are under growing pressure to compete and differentiate, making international education experiences and partnerships an increasingly important part of their value proposition. South Korean families continue to place a high value on English language education and global experience. Government initiatives that encourage overseas study are also supporting demand for international education and training opportunities.

Queensland already attracts nearly half of all South Korean school student enrolments in Australia[18], reflecting a reputation for education quality, clear study pathways, affordability, strong student wellbeing support, and welcoming communities. South Korean students can study in Queensland state schools from primary to Year 12. Specialist programs, including the Queensland Academies, International Baccalaureate pathways and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)-focused learning opportunities are well matched to South Korean demand for academic excellence and reinforce Queensland's appeal as a destination for high-achieving students. In 2027, the South Korean student cohort is projected to be the third largest nationality group studying with Education Queensland International (EQI). Queensland's strong education offering, established links with South Korea and extensive government, education and industry networks provide a foundation for coordinated engagement to remain a competitive destination for students and global talent, as the national visa and migration policy environment evolves.

South Korea's investment in semiconductors and other advanced industries presents further opportunities for Queensland's universities, vocational education and training (VET) providers and research institutions to deepen education, training and research collaboration to support future workforce development and innovation. Queensland is also a popular destination for working holiday and visitor visa holders from South Korea, many of whom undertake short-term English language courses while visiting Queensland.

TIQ initiatives

1. **Strengthen Queensland's brand in South Korea through campaigns** aimed at students, parents, education agents and providers involving roadshows, media engagement and promotional activities.
2. **Support Queensland schools and education and training providers** to build recruitment pathways, study tours, teacher training, sister school partnerships and institutional partnerships with South Korean counterparts, including transnational education models.
3. **Develop education, training and research partnerships** between Queensland and South Korea, connecting VET providers, universities and research institutions with South Korean industry and government partners.

18 Australian Department of Education

What success looks like in 2028

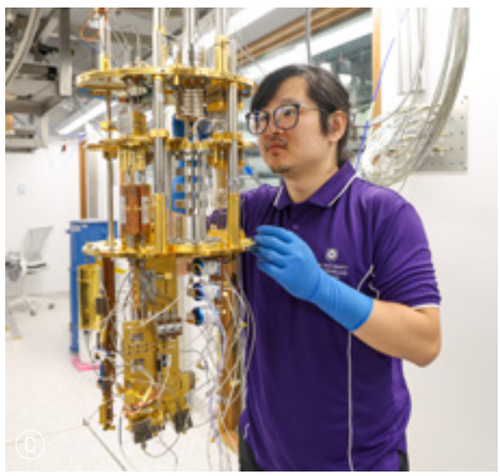
Increased promotional activities in South Korea enhances Queensland's reputation as the premier destination and preferred partner for education, training, research and innovation.

New agreements between Queensland and South Korean education providers for transnational education, institution partnerships, study tours and teacher training collaborations.

Growth in education, training and research partnerships between Queensland and South Korea linked with strategic growth industries.







A. Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane
B. Students at James Cook University, Townsville
C. Quantum Computer Chandelier, University of Queensland



Brisbane, Queensland

Global network. Local expertise.

Your trade and investment partner – across Queensland and around the world

At TIQ, we don't just connect you to opportunity, we surround you with it. With a growing presence across 21 international markets by the end of 2026, our global team brings deep local insight and direct access to Queensland's most dynamic sectors. Supported by eight regional offices across the state, we deliver seamless on-the-ground assistance to help your business grow wherever your ambitions take you.

TIQ is here to unlock Queensland's full trade and investment potential.

Start the conversation today:
Learn more here – tiq.qld.gov.au/contact

Export to South Korea

Join the Queensland Exporter Academy

Invest in Queensland

Trade and Investment Queensland Strategy 2026-2032

This information is provided for general purposes only and does not constitute legal, financial, or tax advice. It does not take into account individual circumstances and should not be relied upon without independent professional advice.
The State of Queensland and Trade and Investment Queensland (TIQ) make no representations as to accuracy or completeness and accept no liability for any loss arising from its use.
Information may change without notice, and references to third parties or external information do not constitute endorsement.



TIQ.QLD.GOV.AU