

...more on Ipswich

In 1827, the first convicts and overseers arrived to mine the area, and the town that built around this industry became known as Limestone, and is remembered by one of the main streets through the city centre named Limestone Street to this day. In 1843, the settlement officially became known as Ipswich, making Ipswich the oldest provincial city in Queensland.

The first Ipswich Annual Show was held on 2 April 1873, by the Queensland Pastoral and Agricultural Society. There had been shows staged by the Ipswich and West Moreton Horticultural and Agricultural Society as early as 1868. Originally held at the sale yards situated at Lobb St, Churchill, the show moved to its present home at the Ipswich Showgrounds in 1877. Goodna Jacaranda Festival has been held annually at Goodna (Evan Marginson Sportsground) since 1968; over 10,000 people attend this three day event.

Ipswich is the site of RAAF Base Amberley, the Royal Australian Air Force's largest operational base. Ipswich is also home to a campus of the University of Queensland, the annual Ipswich Cup horse races, and The Workshops Railway Museum to commemorate the first trainline in Queensland from Ipswich to Grandchester, approximately 25km to the west. The present Ipswich Station is a major transport interchange.

A large shopping complex is being developed in the Springfield suburb which was, when designed the largest shopping centre in the southern hemisphere and expected to employ around 6,000 people. Accompanying this is a satellite campus of the University of Southern Queensland, which has its primary campus in Toowoomba. Redbank Plaza shopping mall has had 8 cinemas added as well as a fourth floor of shopping. Besides Springfield three clear retail and service hubs are developing outside Ipswich central, Brassall and Karalee to the north, Yamanto to the South, and Booval in the central east.

Large manufacturing industries have also relocated to Ipswich. An Aluminium products factory has recently been built and a high quality paper manufacturer will soon begin construction of a new facility.

A recent approval for the extension of a transport corridor through Springfield to Yamanto has opened the Ripley valley in the city's south for residential development. It is expected this area will eventually house more than 115,000 people.