

Questionnaire Instructions

The questionnaire below includes some of the most asked questions for Worldcon/SMOFcons and bids. Please email the completed answers to info@smofcon38.ca by **Sunday, 22 November, 2020**. The completed questionnaires will be posted on the Smofcon 37 ¼ website (<https://sites.grenadine.co/sites/conzealand/en/smofcon-37-14>) by **Tuesday, 1 December, 2020**.

Please answer all the questions *in line* below. If a question doesn't apply to your bid, please state: N/A.

If the answer won't be known until some future date, please provide an estimate of when you will be able to provide an answer. For example, for the question about room rates you might answer "These are expected to be agreed by [date]. Current internet rates are X per night room only for a double or twin and Y for single occupancy."

QUESTIONNAIRE

General

Name of Bid

Brisbane 2025 or Australia 2025 (working titles)

What dates are you bidding for?

Mid-late August 2025

What is your proposed convention host city? Is your convention site in a city center location or a suburb? If a suburb, what are the transport options into the city centre? How far is the site from the city centre?

Brisbane, Australia

Our likely venue (Brisbane Convention Centre) is just south of the city centre and located very close to hotels, restaurants and public transport.

Buses are clean & well maintained.

Pedestrian crossings have audio & tactile cues.

Some other stuff that's good to know about Brisbane:

- The tapwater is very safe to drink.
- Brisbane is a very LGBTQI friendly city.
- LOOK LEFT FIRST - WE DRIVE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROAD

What are your main facilities? How far are your hotels from your main venue?

We will get back to you once we have confirmed the venue. However the most likely venue is located very close to hotels, restaurants and public transport.

Who is your bid chair? Who is on your committee? What experience do they have in general? In running Worldcons?

The bid co-chairs are Leife Shallcross and Devin Madson, who both have experience running conventions in Australia. Our bid team is made up of some of Australia's most innovative and experienced conrunners and dedicated fans. We bring a range of experience across both Australian and international conventions and festivals to our working party. You can find out more about the team here: <https://australia2025.com/about/about-the-team/>

If known, who will be the chair of the convention? What experience do they have?

We'll get back to you in the event we win the bid.

Have you agreed to participate in Pass-Along Funds? Would you be willing to increase the percentage from 50% to 70% of surplus?

We'll have to investigate, but it sounds cool?

Travel

What is the typical current airfare to your closest airport from world cities such as London, Boston, Los Angeles, Tokyo, Melbourne, etc.?

We'll get back to you when flights resume a regular schedule and pricing.

Do international flights, as well as domestic, fly into your local airport? Which airlines? If not, where is the closest international airport? Are direct flights from the cities above flown into your local airport?

Yes, Brisbane has an international airport. There are some direct flights from West Coast US and Asia, flights from other US or European locations will usually involve a second leg. Most flights into Australia tend to go through Sydney or Brisbane, although some cities/countries have direct flights (Hong Kong, Japan, LA in the US)

If you're coming from Europe or the East Coast of the US you will likely have a stopover.

If connecting through Syd or Melb this is generally painless and easy

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 and taxi from that airport/train station?

There is a train from the airport to central Brisbane (air train: A\$20 one way, OK if on your own but if in a group maybe grab a taxi), plenty of buses, taxis, Uber is legal & operates in Brisbane. Standard Uber/taxi fare from airport to central Brisbane about US\$25 (uber A\$35, taxi A\$45)

There are plenty of options for public transport (train, bus, river cat) close to the venue.

Facilities

What hotel(s) are being used for the convention? How many rooms, what type, do they accommodate accessibility needs, etc.?

We will provide more information on this in the future. However the area around the venue is very well serviced with hotels in a variety of price ranges that will accommodate accessibility needs.

What are your hotel room rates? Do these rates include breakfast? Do they include internet access in the room? How firm are these rates? What additional taxes and fees are there?

We will get back to you closer to the time.

What does parking cost at your main hotels?

Currently hotel parking runs to between A\$15-A\$30 per day. We will update these figures closer to the time.

What is the distance from the nearest door of your main hotel(s) to the closest entrance of the convention site? What are the transportation options for those who prefer not to walk or who have mobility difficulties?

We will put a map on the website showing hotels close to likely venue sites & room counts.

Brisbane is easy to navigate on foot or mobility aid, and there are plenty of public transport options, including wheelchair accessible buses. Brisbane's streets and footpaths are accessible; people with mobility or vision impairments can walk or wheel safely around.

Where will your large events (i.e. Hugo Ceremony and Masquerade) be held?

We will get back to you once we have confirmed the venue space.

Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

Brisbane is a very cosmopolitan city with a huge range of cuisines available in restaurants and cafes. Most restaurants and cafes in Australia cater for vegetarian and vegan diets and a range of allergies, including gluten free, dairy free and nut free.

Menus are typically in English, with some restaurants providing menus in other languages such as Mandarin.

Major international fast food chains are here - Macdonalds, KFC, Hungry Jacks (Burger King), Subway, Pizza Hut, Dominos, Starbucks.

As for coffee... Look, we don't want to boast but Australia probably has the best coffee outside Italy. Brisbane isn't Melbourne (our coffee culture capital), but the coffee here is still fantastic.

What arrangements will be made for evening socialising and party space? Do you have a corkage waiver?

We will get back to you once we have confirmed the venue space. We expect to have a con bar, alcohol free hang out space, and quiet room/s.

Please describe the policies / laws regarding smoking in your hotel(s), convention centre, and city.

Local laws are available here: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/topics/atod/tobacco-laws/outdoor>

Given the current pandemic, have you considered any arrangements have been made for social distancing and the health and safety of members? If you have, can you describe what your current plans are?

Yes. Australia now requires all events to have a COVID-safe plan in place. We will publish this closer to the time, along with the details of any restrictions in place in Brisbane.

Miscellaneous

What type of weather can we expect during your convention? What is the average temperature during that time of year?

The subtropical climate means that even in July and August – winter months here in Australia – Brisbane is mild and sunny with daytime temperatures of around 21C (70F) and minimum overnight temperatures around 12C (53F).

What are some of the main tourist attractions of your city?

There are plenty of cultural and tourist attractions in Brisbane itself, including the Queensland museum, Gallery of Modern Art, Queensland state gallery, koala sanctuary, Coutha botanic gardens & planetarium.

If you want a break from the city, just 30 minutes from the CBD is the beachside town of Redcliffe, or you could take the ferry out to Stradbroke Island or Moreton Island. Both have great snorkelling options, and if you can brave the slightly cooler water, it's a good time of year to see manta rays!

Steve Irwin's Australia Zoo is about an hour's drive north. About an hour south of Brisbane is the Gold Coast, with surf beaches and theme parks, including MovieWorld and SeaWorld. Or you could have a proper Australian adventure and head north to Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef.

Are you planning to have any membership discounts for certain demographic groups, such as young adults, military, or seniors?

Yes. We will have a concession rate that will cover the usual concession groups. More information will be available on our website once we have our financials up and running and are able to accept bid support.

What is your vision for your Worldcon? How do you plan to make it happen?

Brisbane is a green, vibrant, and culturally diverse city, with loads to see and do both in the CBD (downtown), and the surrounding area. Laid back people, friendly service, and great food and entertainment options are just some of the things you can expect from the city.

What is a notable aspect of your local fan culture and how do you plan to incorporate it into your Worldcon?

Spoilers! We will let you know once we've commenced program planning.

Do you have a code of conduct? If so, is it available online and if so, where?

Yes, it's available here: <https://australia2025.com/code-of-conduct/>

What do diversity and inclusion mean to you?

How are you working towards your goals in these areas?

What would concrete achievements look like in these areas?

This is our statement of inclusivity, available on our website here: <https://australia2025.com/statement-of-inclusivity/>

The Brisbane 2025 bid team are going into this process with inclusivity and accessibility as our two highest priorities. We will be reaching out to both First Nations and accessibility groups in the hope of having representatives of both (and as many other marginalised groups as we can) in our convention committee to ensure we make the best WORLDcon we can.

We will be putting in place hard targets for diversity in programming, from the Hugo ceremony to each individual panel, and we intend produce an affordable digital stream to provide a fully accessible program.

Specifically regarding the Hugos, we intend to frame the awards as a celebration of the now and a look to the future, and take the time to honour the finalists, from the great contributions of fan artists and writers through to best novel, for everything they do to enrich our community.

We are very open to engaging with the community and welcome any suggestions or concerns you wish to raise with us, or any topics we haven't covered here. We will expand on this statement as this bid develops, and keep you up to date through our website and social media channels.

The conrunners on this bid committee have a track record of delivering inclusive conventions and it is close to our hearts to make this a success for all.

What changes or challenges do you expect the current pandemic to present?

We'll get back to you closer to the time.

Have you planned for a virtual component to your convention?

Yes! We are planning to have digital and virtual components to our program. We'll provide details once we've commenced program planning.

Your members vote for Hugo Finalists who are then excited and wish to play a full part in the convention programme. How do you plan to facilitate the Finalists input as recognised by your community?

We will let you know once we have commenced our program planning.