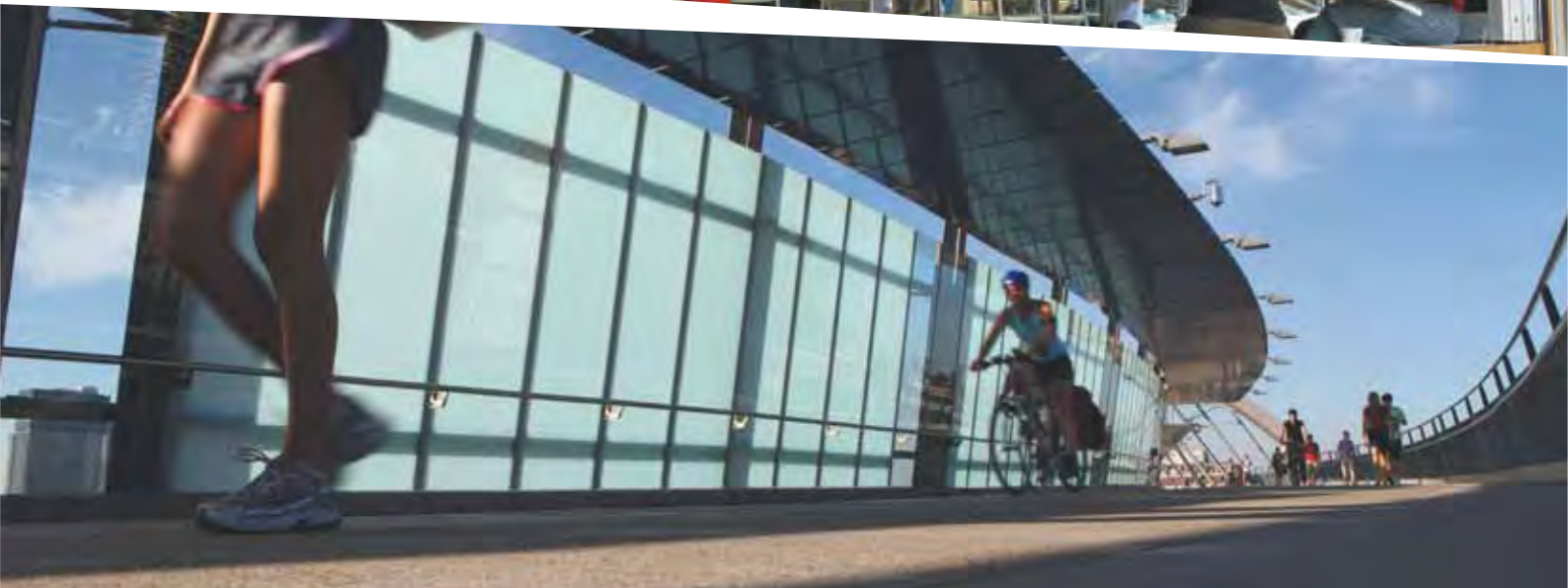




Shaping Tomorrow's Queensland:

A response to the Queensland Growth Management Summit





Message from the Premier

Current forecasts predict Queensland's population of four million people could double in less than 50 years through overseas and interstate migration and natural increases. These are not things the Queensland Government can control. But we can manage the impacts of this growth, harness the opportunities it brings, and mitigate the risks that can come with it.

I believe, if managed well, population growth can provide great opportunities for us as a state. It provides jobs, enriches our cultural opportunities and provides a strong basis for our economic future. We have a clear role to create a future for Queensland in our regions, and to protect and enhance our environment as we grow.

In early 2010, thousands of people took the opportunity to have their say on how to manage future growth in Queensland. With around 1400 ideas generated, the Queensland Growth Management Summit was a great think tank of ideas and enthusiasm.

But thinking has to lead to outcomes. Which is why I am pleased to deliver my government's six priority areas as a response to these ideas.

In doing so, I note not every idea has resulted in a response detailed here. Some ideas were things my government cannot control. And many ideas reinforced the current regional planning process here in Queensland. This response instead focuses on the 22 new initiatives and 25 new supporting actions that my government is committing to as an outcome of the summit.

But we need to do this in partnership with all levels of government and the community. I recognise that my government must continue a dialogue with all Queenslanders about the realities, trade-offs, and opportunities related to growth. We need to monitor progress and implementation of this response, and work together with everyday Queenslanders help shape the future of this great state.

I realise this is not an easy task, but managing growth is a challenge that I am prepared to confront – for our future and the future of our children.

ANNA BLIGH MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND

Delivering on the ideas

The Queensland Growth Management Summit was held in late March 2010. With the event streamed live online and supported by an extensive community engagement process, the summit provided a unique opportunity for Queenslanders to provide their thoughts and ideas on how to manage future growth in Queensland.

The result was around 1400 solutions and ideas. Many of these solutions are already part of existing government policies and strategies. In responding to the summit and associated ideas, the government will continue to deliver and strengthen these existing frameworks, but it has also chosen to seek out new ways to shape a prosperous, sustainable and liveable future. This response focuses on six priority areas – comprising 22 new initiatives and 25 new supporting actions to manage growth across Queensland. With outcomes focused on the next 18 months, the delivery of these actions will be overseen by the Department of Infrastructure and Planning.



Photo by Grahame Clark

The Queensland Government's growth management strategy

The Queensland Government's existing growth management strategy sits within the regional planning framework. With a history dating back to 1991, this framework has been recognised as a world-class strategy to link long-term land use with infrastructure planning. Covering around 90 per cent of Queensland's population, these plans establish an urban footprint and preferred settlement pattern to stop urban sprawl, manage infrastructure requirements and protect our natural environment.

Shaping the future

We will support delivery of growth management initiatives in partnership with all levels of government and continue the dialogue with the community on how we move forward.

Key initiatives:

1. **Establish Growth Management Queensland**, a new agency within the Department of Infrastructure and Planning, to lead the government's growth management agenda. This will deliver:
 - a more coordinated approach to growth management in Queensland
 - better linkages between land use planning, infrastructure delivery, economic development, protection of environmental assets, expansion of greenspace and affordable housing
 - a complementary approach to regional planning and regionalisation.

2. Investigate a new **Liveability Grants Program** to support new initiatives that engage local neighbourhoods in planning for the future.
3. Develop a **community engagement strategy** for growth management, including:
 - developing a suite of community focused tools to explain the planning process in Queensland and the opportunities it provides for participation
 - enhancing support to local government involved in the delivery of regional planning outcomes
 - establishing a community and industry reference panel to provide strategic advice to government
 - monitoring community opinion through online tools and research
 - contacting summit attendees in early 2011 to determine their interest in reconvening the summit to gauge progress and determine any further implementation mechanisms required.

Strengthening our regions

We will build stronger regions, ensuring growth and economic opportunities are shared throughout Queensland and take the pressure off South East Queensland through new initiatives that support regionalisation and decentralisation.

Key initiatives:

4. Deliver a **Queensland Regionalisation Strategy** to encourage population growth and economic development outside South East Queensland.
5. Introduce an **\$11,000 Regional First Home Owners Grant** for building new homes to ensure regional growth, providing a \$4000 boost to the existing First Home Owners Grant.
6. **Decentralise government agencies in South East Queensland to Fitzgibbon and Bowen Hills** as the next step in the decentralisation agenda. This follows the government's existing commitment to decentralise to Ipswich.
7. **Relocate some government functions to regional Queensland** to progress the regionalisation agenda.
8. Develop a **Townsville Futures Plan** to support regional growth and economic development in Townsville in partnership with Townsville City Council and other local stakeholders. This plan will aim to position Townsville as the key centre for North Queensland.

Supporting actions:

- Partner with the Australian Government to establish a *Queensland Migration Plan*, which will include a bilateral agreement between the state and federal governments to set skilled and business migration priorities and identify ways to better retain skilled migrants in regional areas that need their skills. This will inform the *Queensland Regionalisation Strategy*.
- Work with the Australian Government to develop a *National Population Strategy* (that is then reflected in a state policy).
- Develop and include employment projections in all regional plans to support more jobs closer to where people live as part of the preparation of regional plans across Queensland.

Promoting liveable and affordable communities

We will shape liveable communities to protect Queenslanders' quality of life by working closely with local government to plan affordable and sustainable places. There are many factors that affect housing affordability, with the state only able to influence some factors such as infrastructure charging and land supply.

Key initiatives:

9. **Task the Urban Land Development Authority with responsibility for facilitating delivery of major new satellite communities in priority greenfield areas**, initially at Ripley Valley, Yarrabilba and Flagstone. A mandated percentage of all dwellings developed across these areas will be affordable to people on low to moderate incomes.
10. Establish an **Infrastructure Charges Taskforce** to further reform development infrastructure charging arrangements. This will include identifying opportunities to simplify charges and provide greater certainty, as well as provide advice on alternative trunk infrastructure funding arrangements such as third party financing.
11. **Streamline state planning arrangements** to increase certainty and improve housing affordability and increase land supply. This will include:
 - coordinating state interest check reviews more effectively in structure plan areas
 - effectively integrating structure planning and master planning stages for greenfield developments
 - reducing the number of state agency referral triggers for development applications
 - publishing a forward program of proposed state planning instruments
 - boosting the tools and training available to support Queensland's new planning system.
12. Release a discussion paper on **'Go Zones and No-Go Zones' to provide greater planning certainty for local communities** in partnerships with local governments.
13. Investigate **new ways to deliver affordable housing** which support people on lower to middle incomes, including:
 - reviewing options to incorporate affordable housing in new developments
 - piloting a social housing renewal project at Coopers Plains, working with the Brisbane City Council to masterplan a new future for an area of aged public housing stock.
14. **Design an athlete's ecoVillage** as part of Queensland's 2018 Commonwealth Games bid, suitable for post-games reuse as a vibrant transit oriented community on the Gold Coast.



15. Support sustainable urban development through leadership including:

- ensuring government developments are exemplars of sustainable urban design. Pilot Yeerongpilly Transit Oriented Development as a demonstration of best practice in sustainable urban development
- continuing to support the Centre for Subtropical Design for a further three years to enable the centre to extend its research into the design and delivery of climate responsive development in Queensland. As part of government's in-kind contribution to the centre's activities an experienced planner will be assigned to work with and support the centre
- piloting a green roof or wall project in association with a major government infrastructure or development project
- piloting CitySwitch Green Office, a national tenant energy efficiency program, in a Queensland Government building
- delivering projects demonstrating best practice in sustainable urban design in the regions.

Supporting actions:

- Release *Transit Oriented Development Guidelines* that identify best practice in delivery of compact communities by September 2010, supported by training and workshops to build capacity around transit oriented development delivery.
- Seek Expressions of Interest from the private sector to develop a landmark transit oriented precinct focussed on Coorparoo Junction in partnership with Brisbane City Council (following the expiry of current leases).
- Prepare annual growth management program reports to monitor land supply, track development against dwelling targets and recommend actions to manage growth in South East Queensland.

- Review the scope of the Urban Land Development Authority, including consideration of its role in influencing land supply, fostering a competitive marketplace and potential compulsory acquisition powers.
- Initiate a program of leadership in urban design including:
 - incorporating urban design as a critical component of the recently announced Queensland Design Triennial to be held in Brisbane in early October 2010
 - requiring key infrastructure procuring departments to appoint appropriately qualified urban design champions, who will work with the Board for Urban Places to champion well-designed buildings, public places and infrastructure
 - using Queensland's Commonwealth Games bid to focus international attention on Queensland's emerging reputation as a design leader, and ensure games infrastructure exhibits design excellence.
- Build urban design capacity in Queensland including:
 - developing training and capacity building programs to increase urban design skills across state and local government, with industry and the community
 - developing a *Guideline for Government Buildings, Precincts and Infrastructure* to which all agencies must comply
 - investigate widening the scope, strengthening the powers and increasing the resourcing of the Board for Urban Places
 - having the Board for Urban Places prepare a *Queensland Infrastructure Design Strategy* including a review of how current procurement practices could be enhanced to support optimum urban design outcomes.



Delivering infrastructure

We will ensure infrastructure delivery plays a vital role in growth management by clearly linking new infrastructure with population. This will help ensure infrastructure is provided when and where it is needed.

Key initiatives:

- 16. Introduce a *Queensland Infrastructure Plan* (QIP)** that clearly links infrastructure delivery with population growth and economic development priorities. From 2011–12, QIP will integrate existing state infrastructure planning documents such as the *South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program* (SEQIPP) and the *Roads Implementation Program* (RIP).
- 17. Work in partnership with local government to confirm the distribution of dwelling targets within South East Queensland through the development of a QIP.** This will help strengthen the link between infrastructure investment and accommodating dwelling targets within the existing urban footprint and investigation areas in the *South East Queensland Regional Plan*.

Supporting actions:

- Work more closely with local governments in the sequencing of infrastructure projects to take account of significant local infrastructure investment.
- Investigate options (such as tolling policies) to fund infrastructure in greenfield sites that are isolated and therefore rely on extremely high levels of state investment.
- Examine additional mechanisms for the financing of state infrastructure.

Protecting our lifestyle and environment

We will protect Queensland's unique lifestyle, increase greenspace and strengthen environment protection through initiatives that improve the sustainability of our actions.

Key initiatives:

- 18. Develop a long-term strategy to transform the breaks between urban areas** in South East Queensland's key locations (including non-viable canefields) into major new greenspace and outdoor recreational opportunities.
- 19. Improve Queensland's environment and natural resource protection** by finalising the *Queensland Coastal Plan* and the *State Planning Policy for Healthy Waters* as well as releasing for public comment a draft *Biodiversity Strategy* and the *Strategic Cropping Land Framework*.
- 20. Test the feasibility of relocating part of the Mayne Railyards** at Bowen Hills to develop major new inner city greenspace.

Supporting actions:

- Release the final *Greenspace Strategy* to deliver greater recreation and open space areas across Queensland, and develop Greenspace Network Plans for key regions to identify future greenspace areas and links.
- Ensure greenspace is a central consideration in all new Urban Development Areas and structure plan areas.
- Identify critical gaps in the quality and coverage of data needed to support the *State of the Region Report* to improve reporting on *South East Queensland Regional Plan* implementation.
- Release a *Queensland Integrated Waterway Monitoring Framework* that will improve the quality, consistency and efficiency of waterways monitoring in Queensland and contribute to enhanced land and water management decision-making by government, industry and the community.
- Investigate a 'Most Sustainable Suburb' initiative using social media networks to foster more sustainable living.
- Release *Valuing the Things We Waste – Queensland's Waste Avoidance and Efficiency Strategy*. The strategy will include policies and initiatives that aim to:
 - assist in dealing with the impact of population and economic growth in South East Queensland on waste
 - better manage and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, energy and water consumption, including opportunities to increase energy generation from renewable sources
 - help identify and plan for waste management and resource recovery infrastructure needs.





Connecting communities

We will deliver connected communities that have ready access to jobs, services and attractions through initiatives that improve public and active transport.

Key initiatives:

21. Set ambitious 20-year targets to guide the transformation of South East Queensland's transport network, including a desire to:

- double the share of active transport trips (cycling and walking) from 10 per cent to 20 per cent
- double the share of public transport trips from 7 per cent to 14 per cent
- reduce the share of trips by private vehicles from 83 per cent to 66 per cent.

22. Seek federal government assistance to deliver a new river rail crossing in inner Brisbane that will benefit rail commuters throughout the region. Cross River Rail will unlock capacity in the inner city to enable the rail network to be extended into new areas like the Sunshine Coast, Ripley, Kippa-Ring and the southern Gold Coast and allow greater service frequencies throughout the network.



Supporting actions:

- Finalise and release the draft *ConnectingSEQ*, the new Integrated Regional Transport Plan for South East Queensland. *ConnectingSEQ* will provide the blueprint for future transport needs, help tackle congestion and progress the vision of '15 minute neighbourhoods' in South East Queensland.
- Conduct a trial of Green Pods for cyclists providing secure bike storage, lockers and end of trip facilities at Darra, Bald Hills and Varsity Lakes rail stations.
- Release the new *Queensland Cycle Strategy*, which will aim to encourage more daily cycling trips by connecting the existing cycle network including working with local governments to deliver the principal cycling network, ensuring all major transport projects include cycling facilities, delivering end-of-trip facilities, and promoting cycling as an alternative to car use.
- Encourage local government to provide funding for expanded public transport services and infrastructure, which could double the number of public transport services in some areas.
- Pilot shared car-parking in a transit oriented community precinct to deliver more efficient use of land and greater community amenity.
- Explore opportunities to roll out wireless internet connection to major public spaces and major public transport stations.
- Work with the federal government to maximise the geographic reach of the National Broadband Network to strengthen regional economies and local employment opportunities, including aiming to provide optical fibre to all education, health and public safety facilities, all state and local government libraries, all local government council administration buildings, and a central facility in all hub towns.

About growth in Queensland

Queensland's population has almost doubled in two decades, from a state of 2.6 million in 1986 to 4.4 million in 2009 and current forecasts suggest it will be between 5.8 and 7 million people by 2031. That equates to long-term growth of around 87,300 people per year, or 1700 people per week. Currently around 2200 new people are added to Queensland's population each week.

Queensland's capital city of Brisbane, and its surrounding region of South East Queensland, is one of Australia's fastest growing regions with South East Queensland growing by around 84,000 in 2008–09.

About the Queensland Growth Management Summit

Hosted by the Premier of Queensland, the Honourable Anna Bligh MP, the Queensland Growth Management Summit took place on Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 March 2010 at the State Library of Queensland in Brisbane.

Facilitated by Kerry O'Brien and Anna Reynolds, the summit brought together government, industry experts and community representatives to start an ongoing dialogue about Queensland's future. Focused on the themes of prosperity, sustainability and liveability, the summit and associated consultation processes provided all Queenslanders with a unique opportunity to raise issues and suggest ideas how we can influence and manage growth across the state.

Fast facts

- 10 state government ministers participated
- 20 associated events were held in the lead up
- 30 different countries viewed the summit live
- 40 community members were chosen at random to attend
- 160 questions were submitted for the event
- 200 plus delegates attended over the two days
- 250 pieces of formal correspondence received
- 340 people attended the dinner debate
- 440 people became 'fans' of the Facebook site
- 800 people participated in market research
- 860 people completed an online survey
- 1115 people watched the growth session of People's Question Time online
- 1500 people viewed the background paper on the website
- 2100 experimented with scenarios to accommodate future growth
- 10,000 online views of the summit web-cast
- 13,000 visits to the website.

Where can I find out more?

A wide range of resources related to grow management in Queensland is available on the summit website. These resources include a **detailed version of this response paper**, a **summit communiqué**, and **all presentation and workshop material** related to the summit. There is also a **detailed background paper** that highlighted some of the significant issues and questions posed in the lead up to the summit.

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