

Director-General's report



The Department of Infrastructure and Planning was established in September 2007 to bring together all areas of the state's land use planning with infrastructure. This represents a deliberate and significant strategy by the Queensland Government to align planning and infrastructure development and delivery in order to manage growth in a way that will enhance the state's environmental and social values, and support strong economic development.

The Queensland Government is progressing the most comprehensive infrastructure plan in the state's history and the Department of Infrastructure and Planning is guiding these major resource and infrastructure projects to fruition. The coordination role of the department underpins the goals of the Smart State agenda, which aims to sustain and accelerate our prosperous economic growth, improve our quality of life and build a better future for Queensland.

Key achievements during the year include:

- rapidly advancing critical water infrastructure projects as part of the largest urban drought response in Australia. The construction of the South East Queensland Water Grid is well on track for delivery by the end of 2008. This has included the design, construction and operation of the largest recycled water project in the southern hemisphere and a desalination plant, in order to diversify water supply to include climate-independent water supplies. Already the water grid is delivering recycled water to Swanbank and Tarong power stations. By the end of 2008, construction on the following projects will be complete:

- Western Corridor Recycled Water Project
- Gold Coast Desalination Project
- Southern Regional Water Pipeline
- Northern Pipeline Interconnector Stage 1
- Eastern Pipeline Interconnector

- releasing the *Queensland Housing Affordability Strategy* in July 2007 and establishing the Urban Land Development Authority in November 2007
- declaring 16 projects significant under section 26 of the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*, with a combined capital investment of almost \$17 billion and the possibility of generating more than 20 000 new construction and operational jobs
- completing impact assessments and issuing Coordinator-General's reports for Abbot Point Coal Terminal—Stage 3 Central Queensland Gas Pipeline, Jilalan Rail Yard Upgrade, Northern Pipeline Interconnector—Stage 1 and Wiggins Island Coal Terminal
- preparing and now overseeing implementation of the *Northern Economic Triangle Infrastructure Plan 2007–2012*, which is a commitment by the government to the development of Mount Isa, Townsville and Bowen as a triangle of mining, minerals processing and development over the next half century
- reviewing the implementation of the \$19.3 billion Coal Infrastructure Program of Actions, the *Coal Seam Gas Water Management Study*, and the *Fitzroy Industry and Infrastructure Study*.

These projects and developments demonstrate the comprehensiveness of the Queensland Government's commitment to planning and infrastructure developments to facilitate the social, environmental and economic prosperity and future of our state.

On a personal level, I would like to acknowledge and thank former Deputy Coordinator-General (Infrastructure Delivery) David Stewart, former Deputy Director-General (Strategy and Governance) Michael Walsh and interim Deputy Director-General (Planning), Stan Wypych for their contribution to the work of the department.

David Stewart was instrumental in commencing the delivery of the South East Queensland Water Grid. David's ability to progress this immense project has ensured that the water grid will be delivered on time and will secure water supplies for South East Queensland.

Michael Walsh developed and implemented a rigorous governance framework for the Department of Infrastructure and Planning, and led the establishment of the systems, policies and protocols necessary for the department to achieve its outcomes.

Stan Wypych, as interim Deputy Director-General (Planning), led the early establishment of the Planning Group.

I thank and congratulate all staff for their dedication, professionalism and contribution. They enable the department to deliver outstanding results for the community of Queensland.

Colin Jensen
Coordinator-General and Director-General