

Planning Group



The Planning Group provides leadership and collaborates with state agencies, local governments and other stakeholders to effectively plan for growth and infrastructure provision in Queensland, to maintain a high quality lifestyle and facilitate sustainable development. The planning output has a focus to:

- undertake strategic regional planning across Queensland
- formulate a statewide planning and development framework to manage development, population growth and subsequent infrastructure priorities
- reform planning in Queensland by improving the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* (IPA) and the Integrated Development Assessment System through endorsed recommendations of the *Planning for a Prosperous Queensland: A reform agenda for planning and development in the Smart State*. This will ensure it meets the needs of the community and stakeholders with enough flexibility to manage future challenges
- ensure the built form and settlement patterns are adaptive in response to climate change, and are energy and water efficient.

Key achievements

- Accelerated the regional planning program for regional and rural Queensland, which includes the development of a consistent and contemporary framework for regional planning across Queensland, and amendments to the IPA to facilitate statutory regional plans that focus on growth areas in Queensland.
- Completed a framework of key result areas and key performance indicators that will underpin four new regional plans—North West, Central West, South West, and Maranoa and Districts—under the *Blueprint for the Bush* initiative.
- Established Regional Planning Advisory Councils for North West, Central West, South West, and Maranoa and Districts.
- Developed guidelines specific to the regional planning program to ensure consistent processes across the state.
- Received policy endorsement to develop the first statutory regional plan outside South East Queensland.
- Released the draft of the Far North Queensland Regional Plan for public consultation.
- Accelerated and refocused seven existing regional plans, including the development of settlement patterns for Wide Bay Burnett, Central Queensland, Whitsunday, Hinterland and Mackay.
- Released the Queensland Housing Affordability Strategy in July 2007, and established the Urban Land Development Authority in November 2007.
- Finalised the Rural Futures Strategy for the Wide Bay Burnett region.
- Finalised the Social Indicators Report for the Central Queensland region.
- Worked closely with councils to encourage and facilitate the finalising of outstanding planning schemes in accordance with the IPA.
- Facilitated the whole-of-government review of proposed amendments to local government planning schemes to ensure that state interests will not be adversely affected.
- Developed in partnership with the local government reform team a regulation to ensure that all existing planning schemes and policies continue to have effect for new local government areas and are managed by the amalgamated council.
- Commenced the first Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under IPA for the proposed Rocky Springs master planned community.
- Introduced master planning provisions under IPA to better coordinate land use planning, infrastructure planning and infrastructure funding with regard to the master planned areas declared by the Minister for Planning.



- Developed guidelines for master planning.
- Created a coordinating agency for the first declared master planned area.
- Partnered with Local Government Association Queensland (LGAQ) to deliver training programs to councillors on IPA.
- Released the Smart eDA, commencing with Redland City Council, to enable planning professionals to prepare and lodge development applications. This will be extended to other councils and referral agencies and support Integrated Development Assessment System (IDAS) tracking.
- Worked with the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) to provide an independent review of local government Infrastructure Charges Schedules (ICSs).
- Facilitated the progression of 12 local government Priority Infrastructure Plans (PIPs) to the stage of requiring a QCA review.
- Simplified the process for slower growing local governments to prepare PIPs.
- Worked with 30 slower growing local governments to advance their PIPs and Regulated Infrastructure Charges Schedule (RICS).
- Worked with a PIP reference group and conducted regular meetings with the LGAQ, state agencies and industry, to advance infrastructure planning, charging and delivery in Queensland.
- Prepared an evaluation of Stage 1 sustainable housing for the government's consideration as part of the Stage 2 sustainable housing proposals, which will also seek a decision on adopting 5-star housing in Queensland.
- Introduced a new part of the Queensland Development Code (QDC) to save potable water supplies by mandating that all new commercial buildings use alternative water sources.
- Introduced a part of the QDC to set clear, minimum fire safety standards for new residential care buildings.
- Amended the *Building Act 1975* to clarify the fire safety standards for share accommodation, allow building surveying technicians to approve small buildings on behalf of local governments and require owners to display their building certificate of classification.
- Amended the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002* and introduced a new version of the Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code (QPWC) to liberalise the use of treated greywater and allow treated blackwater trials.
- Amended the QDC Water Savings Targets to allow treated greywater as a new compliance option and amended the sustainable housing code to require homes undergoing major renovation to retrofit water saving devices.
- Completed a public benefit test for fire safety improvements to existing residential care buildings.
- Introduced a new part of the Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code (QPWC), requiring submetering of water supplies to all sole occupancy units in new buildings.
- Introduced building and plumbing consultative groups, which hold quarterly meetings.
- Published 46 building and plumbing newflashes and new plumbing (treated greywater and submeters) guidelines.
- Conducted statewide training roadshows about new QDC and QPWC water saving measures, involving over 2500 plumbers and building practitioners.
- Drafted a new QDC for temporary buildings, and rationalised and renumbered parts of the QDC.
- Expanded the jurisdiction of the Building and Development Tribunal to consider disputes about calculating priority infrastructure charges.
- Planned a new prison facility at Gatton and delivered a site evaluation for relocating the existing Gatton Showgrounds. This process involved using the existing showground site to accommodate a number of state government infrastructure requirements.



- Continued to assist the Yarrabah Shire Council to develop their statutory Land Use Management Plan and, through this pilot project, develop appropriate templates for small communities to use when preparing their Statutory Planning Schemes.

Future developments

The Planning Group will continue to lead and implement statewide initiatives to ensure well-planned and sustainable communities by:

- Development of a new planning act. The bill will be introduced into Parliament early 2009
- implementing the Smart eDA solution, which enables development applications to be lodged and tracked online, and progressing arrangements with state and local government agencies to achieve connectivity of Smart eDA
- continuing to work with local governments, state agencies and industry to provide strong support and training in the development of PIPs, and to ensure that the majority of first-round plans are finalised and implemented
- continuing to prepare a government policy position on the management and administration of dam catchments (drinking water).

- As part of the Queensland Government's Housing Affordability Strategy, the Group will:

- provide an expanded work program of the Planning and Information Forecasting Unit with regard to residential land, dwelling activity monitoring, residential development activity and broadhectare studies
- initiate significant improvements—through the master planning program—to the existing development assessment process and to the planning scheme preparation processes, in conjunction with local governments and other stakeholders to enhance ministerial resolution and direction powers, in relation to planning and development, and new master planning mechanisms. These mechanisms will provide effective and streamlined processes for resolving development, infrastructure and other state-interest issues, which will result in an enhanced capacity to bring appropriate land to market more quickly, thereby improving housing availability and affordability
- continue the statewide implementation of RiskSmart (a component of the implementation of Planning Reform). RiskSmart is an innovative change-management strategy to maximise the cost effectiveness of Queensland's Integrated Development Assessment

System (IDAS), by significantly reducing time frames for development assessment and providing benefits to support the Queensland Government's Housing Affordability Strategy

- simplify priority infrastructure planning and charging, and build capacity within local government to meet statutory deadlines for implementing a PIP with either an ICS or RICS. Initiatives include simplifying infrastructure assessment and reporting processes; supporting councils to complete their PIPs; requiring local governments to advertise and phase in new ICSs; liaising with councils and the QCA regarding independent reviews of local government infrastructure charges; and establishing a PIP Reference Group for councils, the LGAQ and other relevant stakeholders to exchange ideas and provide suggestions for improving infrastructure planning and charging
- implement the first stage of the expanded jurisdiction of the Building and Development Tribunals to hear PIPs charging disputes, and develop a proposal to expand the tribunals jurisdiction to hear disputes on minor planning matters. Bring about a change to regulation to include appropriate fees, implementation of referee training programs, and the development of new procedures and training manuals



- continue to deliver a contemporary and consistent framework for regional planning in Queensland, building on the success of the South East Queensland Regional Plan, through the delivery of a new statutory regional plan for Far North Queensland
- continue to develop four new statutory regional plans for rural Queensland under the *Blueprint for the Bush* initiative
- undertake land supply analysis and developing settlement patterns for Wide Bay – Burnett, Central Queensland, and Whitsunday, Hinterland and Mackay regions
- ensure that communities receive the best outcomes from the sale of state-owned land by completing strategic land-use planning projects on time and to the satisfaction of stakeholders
- develop options and strategies to improve industrial land-use outcomes and ensure that industrial land does not encroach upon residential development and impact on community lifestyles
- progress strategic planning projects of whole-of-government significance, including managing the community planning impacts of the Wyaralong and Traveston Crossing dams
- continue to plan and prepare for the urban renewal/redevelopment of the Ipswich Regional Centre Strategy, Ithaca TAFE and City West Urban Renewal areas. City West will be a showcase project for the *Smart Cities: rethinking the city centre* report, which was released by the Smart State Council in May 2007
- progress detailed planning for a combined transport, business and residential precinct in the heart of Ipswich, which will help deliver the Ipswich Integrated Strategy and Action Plan
- continue to provide support to Belyando Shire Council, through the Moranbah Growth Management Group, to develop a high-quality plan, which ensures that necessary community infrastructure and services are available for current and future residents of Moranbah
- deliver more sustainable housing and building outcomes through improvements to building regulations by:
 - expanding on the water efficiency and light requirements in Stage 1 sustainable housing initiatives
 - proposing the adoption of the five star energy efficiency provisions in the Building Code of Australia, for new houses and units
 - providing for the benefits of tropical living styles through their recognition in Building Codes
 - implementing the phase out of energy inefficient electric hot water systems in gas reticulated areas
- banning restrictive covenants that prevent owners from adapting sustainable features and building designs
- ensuring newly installed air conditioners meet mandatory energy efficiency standards
- amending the QDC to improve water efficiency in residential and commercial buildings
- enhance fire safety standards in existing residential care buildings by developing a new residential standard to assist service providers and owners
- partner with the Dalby Regional Council and the representatives of local mining interests and the local community to address urgent growth management issues and formulate a sustainable framework for delivering land use, housing and supporting infrastructure to the local mining towns and communities
- partner with the Whitsunday Regional Council to address the urgent growth management issues driven by the economic prosperity, tourism opportunities and the rising international profile of this area. In particular, the group will confirm the roles of key centres, the program for infrastructure delivery, the framework for a sustainable industrial development at Bowen, and the vision for the centre of Airlie Beach and the Shute Harbour area.