



Department overview

Role of the department

The Department of Infrastructure and Planning leads a coordinated approach to planning, Local Government and infrastructure across the state.

The department provides:

- integrated infrastructure and land planning
- community planning
- legislative review and reform
- infrastructure and development projects
- policy and program management
- capacity building and advice
- expertise in infrastructure and planning initiatives.

The department's focus is on looking forward and delivering now by identifying, understanding and planning for infrastructure and development that will meet the economic and community needs of the future. The department will deliver on its commitments in part through

Growth Management Queensland, and by bringing together growth program coordination, planning policy, planning services, building and development, transit oriented development and the infrastructure program management functions of the department.

Role of the Coordinator-General

The Director-General of the Department of Infrastructure and Planning also holds the Office of the Coordinator-General. The *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* provides the person holding this office with significant powers to manage major projects on a whole-of-government basis. The Act provides for planning and development through a coordinated system of public works as well as for environmental coordination and related purposes. The department supports the Coordinator-General in the regulatory role of assessing and approving infrastructure and other major projects.

Growth Management Queensland

Growth Management Queensland (GMQ) has been established within the department to implement the outcomes of the Queensland Growth Management Summit, held in March 2010. GMQ will also enhance Queensland's approach to managing the opportunities and challenges of growth. It will provide better links between land use planning, infrastructure delivery, economic development, protection of environmental assets, expansion of greenspace and affordable housing. It will also provide a complementary approach to regional planning and regional development.

Operating environment

Managing change and balancing growth, development and infrastructure provision is complex. As the state's population grows, so too will demand for infrastructure, competition for land, the need for innovative responses to affordability and sustainability challenges as



well as regionalisation. The social, environmental and economic impacts of growth will be felt across the state. In particular, the coastline will experience pressure from growth as will emerging resource communities and South East Queensland.

The department will work in partnership with the Local Government sector to build the sustainability of Queensland's Local Government system in line with the implementation of national frameworks for Local Governments. The provision of legislative and contemporary governance frameworks will shape and support an efficient, effective and sustainable Local Government system.

Towards Q2 – Tomorrow's Queensland

The department is contributing towards the Queensland Government's ambitions for Towards Q2—Tomorrow's Queensland and has lead responsibility for the 2020 target:

- green—protect 50 per cent more land for nature conservation and public recreation.

The department also actively contributes to the following targets:

- green—cut by one-third Queenslanders' carbon footprint with reduced car and electricity use.
- strong—Queensland is Australia's strongest economy with infrastructure that supports growth.
- strong—increase by 50 per cent the proportion of businesses undertaking research and development or innovation.
- healthy—cut by one-third obesity, smoking, heavy drinking and unsafe sun exposure.

Legislative obligations

The principal legislation governing the majority of work undertaken by the department includes:

- **State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971**—which provides for planning and development through a coordinated system of public works as well as for environmental coordination and related purposes.

- **Sustainable Planning Act 2009** (formerly the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*)—which seeks to achieve ecological sustainability by managing the process by which development occurs (including ensuring the process is accountable, effective and efficient, and delivers sustainable outcomes); managing the effects of development on the environment (including managing the use of premises); and continuing the coordination and integration of planning at the local, regional and state levels.
- **Building Act 1975**—determines building work that is assessable development under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* and imposes compliance requirements for buildings and other structures, and the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002*.



- **Industrial Development Act 1963**—which provides guidance for using land for industrial purposes. The Property Services Group (PSG), a commercialised business unit within the Department of Infrastructure and Planning, delivers a range of services under this Act. Through access to the Estates Construction Fund, PSG provides funding for both property-related and other industry development functions.
- **Local Government Act 2009** (formerly the *Local Government Act 1993*)—which provides for the way a Local Government is constituted, and the nature and extent of its responsibilities and powers. It also provides for a system of Local Government in Queensland that is accountable, effective, efficient and sustainable. The new Act is supplemented by regulations governing essential subordinate operational or administrative matters.
- **City of Brisbane Bill 2010**—the department supported the City of Brisbane Bill during the 2009-10 reporting period with the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* to commence on 1 July 2010. The purpose of this Act is to provide for Brisbane City Council to as a constituted body and the unique nature and extent of its responsibilities and powers and a system of local government in Brisbane that is accountable, effective, efficient and sustainable.

For a comprehensive listing of all legislation administered by the Department of Infrastructure and Planning, refer to the current annotations prepared by the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel at www.legislation.qld.gov.au and published by Goprint.