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Chief Executive Officer
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Paul has extensive experience in various professional disciplines including transport planning and policy, urban and regional planning, and infrastructure investment. He has held public sector roles in economic development and transport agencies in Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia, as well as infrastructure investment roles within the private sector and Local Government.

Prior to commencing as Chief Executive Officer of Growth Management Queensland on 31 May 2010, Paul was the Associate Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation. Paul has also held the role of Deputy Director-General of Queensland's Department of Transport and Main Roads.

As Chief Executive of Growth Management Queensland (GMQ), Paul is leading the implementation of the Queensland Government's response to the Premier's Growth Management Summit held in March 2010. GMQ is leading Queensland's urban and regional planning functions, which provide a strong framework for managing growth across the state.

Growth Management Queensland

Since population figures were first recorded in 1859, the state's population has more than doubled every 50 or so years. Current forecasts predict that Queensland's population of four million could again double in fewer than five decades. This growth is driven by overseas migration and natural increases—not things the Queensland Government can control. However, the state can manage the impacts of this growth by harnessing the opportunities it brings and mitigate the risks that come with it.

To look at how this could be done, the state government convened the Queensland Growth Management Summit on 30–31 March 2010.

More than 200 representatives from across government, industry bodies, environmental groups and the community, as well as planners and economists came together to discuss population issues.

The summit was streamed live online, offering a unique opportunity for thousands of Queenslanders to get involved in issues about growth, and express what this means to them. The summit provided a true forum for debate, discussion and decision-making. Workshops, online survey and formal submissions provided opportunities for people to express

their ideas and concerns, which formed the basis of the government's response to the summit.

The government's response to the summit—*Shaping Tomorrow's Queensland*—details 22 new initiatives and 25 new supporting actions to strengthen the government's growth management agenda. The newly established Growth Management Queensland (GMQ) within the Department of Infrastructure and Planning will progress the 47 actions to help shape the state's future.

As well as ensuring delivery of the summit outcomes, GMQ's priorities over the next 18 months are to:

- improve coordination of growth management in Queensland
- improve links between land use planning, infrastructure delivery, economic development, protection of environmental assets, expansion of greenspace and affordable housing
- take a complementary approach to regional planning and development.



In terms of delivering on summit outcomes, work begins with the creation of a Queensland Regionalisation Strategy to allow the government to encourage population growth and economic development outside of South East Queensland. Further work to support this regionalisation strategy includes relocating some government functions to regional Queensland and, in partnership with the Townsville Regional Council, developing a Townsville Futures Plan to establish this region as the key centre for North Queensland. Other important measures to encourage regional growth include the introduction of an \$11 000 Regional First Home Owner Grant, and the development of a Queensland Migration Plan to attract skilled migrants to meet employment needs in specialised fields and desired locations.

Ensuring the delivery of affordable and liveable communities is another key outcome of the summit. The government has tasked the Urban Land Development Authority (ULDA) with responsibility for delivering major new communities in priority greenfield areas—initially at Ripley Valley, Yarrabilba and Flagstone.

The ULDA will build on the planning work already undertaken by Local Government and the Department of Infrastructure and Planning to ensure that a mandated percentage of all dwellings are affordable to people on low and moderate incomes. The government will also investigate new ways to deliver affordable housing, including piloting a social housing project at Coopers Plains.

This work will be done as quickly and effectively as possible by streamlining state planning arrangements to improve housing affordability and increase land supply. Work 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.

The state government will release a discussion paper on the concept of 'Go Zones and No-Go Zones' to provide greater planning certainty for local communities. It will also release a series of transit oriented development (TOD) guidelines to identify best practice in delivering compact communities. The government will ensure that the recently announced Yeerongpilly TOD will be an example of sustainable urban development, while also working in partnership with Brisbane City Council to ask the private sector to consider developing a landmark transit oriented precinct focused on Coorparoo Junction.

Ensuring urban design is environmentally friendly and lifestyle appropriate is one of the keys to protecting Queensland's identity as a liveable state. Consequently, the summit outcomes have a strong focus on sustainable urban development and a strong commitment to developing leadership and building capacity in terms of urban design. It is important to note that delivering



communities does not happen without considering the impacts on lifestyle and the environment. The government is therefore committed to finalising the Queensland Greenspace Strategy to ensure that recreation and open space areas are provided across the state. A long-term strategy to transform inter-urban breaks between urban areas in South East Queensland into new greenspace and outdoor recreational areas will support the Greenspace Strategy. In addition, greenspace will be a central consideration for all new ULDA-managed urban development areas and structure plan areas.

All of this planning relies on prudent infrastructure investment across the state. This is why the summit response includes consideration of infrastructure delivery issues. To achieve this, the state government has created an Infrastructure Charges Taskforce to advise on infrastructure charging, develop a Queensland Infrastructure Plan and examine additional mechanisms for financing infrastructure. The state government has also committed to working more closely with Local Government on the sequencing of infrastructure projects in order to take account of local infrastructure investment and to link infrastructure provision more closely with anticipated growth.

In preparing the annual growth management program reports, the Department of Infrastructure and Planning will be able to monitor land supply, track development against dwelling targets and recommend actions to manage growth in South East Queensland. These reports will be complemented by further work on the quality and coverage of data needed to support the *State of the Region Report*, which provides an assessment of the region's progress towards sustainability.

GMQ will continue to deliver and strengthen the existing regional planning framework in Queensland providing a unique basis upon which to engage with the Queensland community about how to manage growth.

Supporting this, GMQ is developing a community engagement strategy for growth management, which will include a suite of community-focused tools to explain the planning process in Queensland and create opportunities for community participation. The strategy will also enhance support for Local Governments involved in the delivery of regional planning outcomes. In developing this strategy, the government will establish a community

and industry reference panel to provide strategic advice to government and monitor community opinion through online tools and research. Finally, the Queensland Government has committed to contacting summit attendees in early 2011 to determine their interest in reconvening the summit to gauge progress and determine any further implementation mechanisms required.

GMQ is committed to ensuring the ideas and issues raised at the summit are not only heard, but implemented. GMQ will be working with Local Governments, other state agencies, key stakeholders and communities in order to deliver these objectives.