



# About the department

## Role of the Coordinator-General

The Director-General of the Department of Infrastructure and Planning 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 of Infrastructure and Planning assists the Coordinator-General in the regulatory role in assessing and approving infrastructure projects.

## Machinery-of-government changes

As a consequence of recent machinery-of-government changes, functions and responsibilities of the former Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation relating to local government have been amalgamated with the Department of Infrastructure and Planning. The final report detailing the achievements and successes of the former Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation, for the period 1 July 2008 to 26 March 2009, is available at [www.dip.qld.gov.au](http://www.dip.qld.gov.au).

## Operational environment

Queensland's continued population growth requires the state to maintain sustainable economic and social development with the delivery of vital infrastructure remaining a high priority. At the same time the global economic slowdown is affecting the ability of both the public and private sectors to attract the necessary financial support

to commence and deliver infrastructure projects. A key role for the department is to provide a policy and program environment that stimulates and fast tracks projects that support job creation through land development and infrastructure delivery. The department applies the principles of sustainable development to planning the future mix of land use including planning and preparing for adequate supplies of industrial land.

Building the sustainability of Queensland's local government system in line with the implementation of the national frameworks for local governments is a priority. The aim is to work in partnership with the local government sector as the third sphere of government to shape and support an efficient, effective and sustainable local government system.

## Role of the department

During 2008–09 the Department of Infrastructure and Planning continued to optimise benefits for Queenslanders. This was achieved by planning, facilitating, delivering and coordinating strategic land use and major infrastructure projects and initiatives across Queensland in collaboration with local governments and the community. As well as assisting local governments in the areas of accountability, capacity building and sustainability, the department ensured there were adequate land stocks for industrial development with access to key transport and export links.

## Toward Q2— Tomorrow's Queensland

The department contributes to the government ambitions of building a strong economy and green, healthy

communities that meet future challenges. Specifically, the department is the lead agency for the Green 2020 target: Protect 50 per cent more land for nature conservation and public recreation.

## Acts administered by the department

The Department of Infrastructure and Planning administers the:

- *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
- *Integrated Planning Act 1997* (IPA). The purpose of this Act is to achieve ecological sustainability by coordinating and integrating planning at the local, regional and state levels; managing the process by which development occurs; and managing the effects of development on the environment (including managing the use of premises)
- *Building Act 1975*, which determines building work that is assessable development under the IPA 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 in which



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 will be supplemented by regulations governing essential subordinate operational or administrative matters.

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/Leg\\_Info/anno\\_current.htm](http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/Leg_Info/anno_current.htm) and published by GOPRINT.

## Delivering services

The department has five groups that contribute to fulfilling:

- the priorities identified in the department's Strategic Plan 2008–12, and pertinent elements from the former Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation's Strategic Plan 2008–12
- our legislative requirements.

As at 30 June, these groups were:

### 1. Infrastructure and Economic Development

This group plans, identifies and coordinates infrastructure projects, and industrial and community infrastructure land development which underpin the economic and social growth and sustainability of the state. Within this group, the Property Services Group undertakes a range of property functions aimed at encouraging the location and expansion of business and industry in Queensland. It acquires land and coordinates the development of infrastructure corridors to support infrastructure and economic development.

### 2. Infrastructure Services

This group coordinates and delivers key strategic infrastructure including the SEQ Water Grid and Airport Link.

### 3. Planning

This group provides leadership by collaborating with state agencies, local government and other stakeholders to effectively plan for growth and infrastructure provision in Queensland. This facilitates a high quality of life and sustainable development.

### 4. Local Government and Service Delivery

This group partners with local governments to deliver sustainable and accountable local government services and infrastructure. It provides services and advice in the areas of governance, monitoring and performance analysis, interventions and investigations. It also offers targeted initiatives to support Indigenous local governments, and capacity building and funding for local governments.

### 5. Strategy and Governance

This group positions the department for the future. It leads and coordinates departmental responses for whole-of-government accountability requirements and develops and oversees the implementation of whole-of-government strategic policy, legislative obligations and departmental policies and procedures. It also establishes enabling frameworks and systems, ensures compliance with corporate governance requirements and builds organisational capacity and capability.

## External reviews

During the year the Auditor-General conducted two reviews as part of cross-entity reviews:

- *Report to Parliament no. 3 for 2009—Transport network management and urban congestion in South East Queensland*
- *Report to Parliament no.4—Results of audits at 31 May 2009.*

In addition to these reports to parliament, the department was subject to the following external examinations:

- Public Accounts Committee Report No 80—Governance of Public Sector Companies Inquiry
- Public Works Committee South East Queensland (Gold Coast) Desalination Project Inquiry.