



Community engagement

South East Queensland Regional Plan

Departmental staff conducted an extensive consultation program to inform the community about the *Draft South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009–2031*.

The consultation period commenced on 7 December 2008 and closed on 1 May 2009 with 3500 submissions received.

Communications included:

- 8254 hard copies of the draft regional plan, 5000 summary documents, 75 sets of regulatory maps and 950 CDs distributed to local councils, state agencies, libraries and members of the public on request
- letters mailed to 12 856 landowners throughout the region affected by changes to land use categories. This included over 10 000 letters to landowners in Toowoomba, who were covered by the plan for the first time
- advertisements in metropolitan and regional newspapers, radio and television to create a wider awareness of the draft regional plan
- gazettal notices in the Queensland Government gazette
- material for the department's website including electronic versions of the draft regional plan, regulatory maps, an interactive mapping tool, submission cover form and information on how to lodge a submission. The draft regional plan pages of the department's website received over 40 000 visits
- a free-call number and email inquiry service to answer public queries, with department staff fielding 838 phone calls, 1171 emails and 61 SMS messages during the consultation period.

Other consultations in the reporting period included:

- 30 briefings with regional councils, public meetings and stakeholder presentations
- public information displays at 14 shopping centres, community centres and markets across the region
- a department shopfront accessible to the public at 63 George Street, Brisbane. Approximately 658 members of the public visited the shopfront during the consultation period. Twenty people requested meetings with department staff to discuss the plan and to gain further understanding, 8 people purchased a set of the regulatory maps, and 40 people requested assistance to view maps.



The department undertook extensive community engagement and consultation programs throughout the year to inform the community about a range of projects including:

- the development of regional plans, through a collaborative approach involving regional coordination committees and extensive public consultation processes
- the drafting of the new Sustainable Planning Bill 2009 (tabled in Parliament in June 2009), which involved consultation and engagement with industry leaders through the Planning Reform Reference Panel and State Agency Reference Group
- the development of the South East Queensland Climate Change Management Plan in collaboration with other agencies, notably the Department of Environment, Resource Management, Department of Transport and Main Roads, the Queensland Water Commission and Australian Government Department of Climate Change. These agencies have specifically provided funding to support the development of the plan and assist in meeting project targets
- the South East Queensland Regional Recreation Trails Program 2007–2012, which is developing three new regional trails in South East Queensland: Brisbane Valley Rail Trail (50 km opened in 2008–09), Maroochy River Trail (opening in 2009–10) and Boonah to Ipswich Trail (opening in 2009–2010). The delivery of these outdoor recreation trails will enhance community health, regional lifestyles and local economies. The Brisbane Valley Rail Trail is a community partnerships (grants) program, which has been established under the South East Queensland Regional Recreation Trails Program to provide incentives for community organisations to support the Rail Trail. Activities included involvement with

community festivals, cultural and recreation events and heritage studies

- the celebration of completed projects at Desalination Day and Western Corridor Open Day, and a visitor centre in the Airport Link project area to help facilitate community engagement
- the development of the coal seam gas water policy, with the public invited to comment on the draft discussion paper during May 2009
- a Bowen Abbot Point Community Consultation Group, established in October 2008 as part of the Northern Economic Triangle initiative. The group meets regularly to facilitate community engagement on issues and opportunities associated with the establishment of a new industrial hub at Abbot Point
- the Southport Broadwater to Southern Moreton Bay Marine Infrastructure Master Planning Study, which involved extensive targeted key stakeholder consultation, with marine industry representatives, developers, environmental groups, councils and community groups
- active engagement with landowners about land and corridor acquisition as early as possible in the process
- assistance to project proponents in their community consultation programs throughout the environmental impact statement process
- the Local Government Legislation Review, which involved consultation with local governments and local government representative bodies, industry and unions in the preparation of the Local Government Bill 2009
- the development of the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Regulation 2009, which involved consultation with representatives from local governments, the

Local Government Association Queensland, Australian Veterinary Association (Qld), RSPCA, Animal Welfare League, Veterinary Surgeons Board and the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

- a discussion paper titled *Improving Sustainable Housing in Queensland*, which involved a three-month consultation process
- the development of guidelines for fire safety in residential care buildings, which included a five-month consultation process
- a review of Queensland pool safety laws, with a six-week consultation process
- statewide training conducted in partnership with the Australian Institute of Building Surveyors
- the building and plumbing newsflash service for industry, which published 52 newsflashes on topics of interest and Building Act guidelines
- five industry building and plumbing consultative group forums.



Indigenous matters

The department supports Indigenous councils with the development of land use management plans that comply with the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*.

A draft land use plan is expected to be available early in the 2009–10 financial year following a pilot project with the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council, and work will shortly commence with Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council.

Other departmental activities include:

- supporting six Indigenous trainees on the Traveston Crossing Dam project to date
- rolling out fluoride across seven Indigenous councils of Kowanyama, Domadgee, Aurukun, Cherbourg, Palm Island, Thursday, Horn and Hammond Islands and Yarrabah. This will be complete by the end of 2009
- progressing government-related recommendations from the Gulf Communities Agreement 10-year review
- providing secretarial support to the Gulf Communities Area Social Development Trust
- ensuring the Indigenous engagement component of environmental impact study (EIS) process for significant projects under *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* has been undertaken
- facilitating discussion between the department, the Department of Environment, Economic Development and Innovation, and native title parties for the Wik and Wik Way regarding the transfer of land under the *Aboriginal Land Act 1991*
- attending and contributing to the review of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*
- reviewing and contributing to the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) quarterly reports on discrete Indigenous communities, Closing the Gap, and Indigenous infrastructure needs
- providing a complete framework for resolving issues associated with native title and cultural heritage on major projects (public and private). This includes:
 - providing high-level practical advice about native title
 - developing innovative strategies to resolve complex issues
 - creating a departmental focus on agreement making rather than use of statutory powers
 - negotiating agreements (including elements such as compensation, employment and training, mining tenures, petroleum tenures, land access, land tenures and protection of cultural heritage)
 - using various powers of compulsory acquisition as a last resort.



Community Futures Task Force

This task force was established in July 2006 after the government announced it would build dams at Traveston Crossing and Wyaralong. Chaired by former Queensland Governor Major General Peter Arnison, its purpose is to address the effects of these announcements on the Mary Valley and Scenic Rim communities.

As well as providing the affected communities with access to government information services and targeted programs, the task force provides a forum for Gympie, Sunshine Coast and Scenic Rim Regional Council Mayors, heads of state government agencies, and the CEO of Queensland Water Infrastructure Pty Ltd to ensure that these services and programs meet current and emerging community needs.

In undertaking its work, the task force takes an independent approach, neither supporting nor opposing the proposed dams. A task force unit is administratively based in the Department of Infrastructure and Planning, but reports to Major General Peter Arnison.

The task force work program has been developed to precede a decision on the dam projects by the state and federal governments in accordance with requirements of the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* and the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, respectively.

Following the conclusion of the approvals process for the Wyaralong Dam, the task force briefed the Scenic Rim Regional Council Mayor and Queensland Water Infrastructure Pty Ltd on task force activities for the affected community. Task force member agencies are now working directly with the Scenic Rim Regional Council and Queensland Water Infrastructure Pty Ltd to finalise these activities.

Also, during 2008–09 the task force focused on assisting the Mary Valley community to prepare for life after a decision has been made on the Traveston Crossing Dam. This has included strengthening the relationships between community groups and state government agencies, finalising

task force projects, and encouraging links between agency projects and Queensland Water Infrastructure Pty Ltd, where appropriate.

Given the delay in the decision-making process for Traveston Crossing Dam, and the expectation that the task force services will be available to affected communities at the time decisions are made on the dams and in the months immediately following, the Premier has supported the extension of Major General Peter Arnison as Chair of the task force and its operation to 31 December 2009.