Shaping Tomorrow’s Queensland:
A response to the Queensland Growth Management Summit
Current forecasts predict Queensland’s population of four million people could double in less than 50 years through overseas and interstate migration and natural increases. These are not things the Queensland Government can control. But we can manage the impacts of this growth, harness the opportunities it brings, and mitigate the risks that can come with it.

I believe, if managed well, population growth can provide great opportunities for us as a state. It provides jobs, enriches our cultural opportunities and provides a strong basis for our economic future. We have a clear role to create a future for Queensland in our regions, and to protect and enhance our environment as we grow.

In early 2010, thousands of people took the opportunity to have their say on how to manage future growth in Queensland. With around 1400 ideas generated, the Queensland Growth Management Summit was a great think tank of ideas and enthusiasm.

But thinking has to lead to outcomes. Which is why I am pleased to deliver my government’s six priority areas as a response to these ideas.

In doing so, I note not every idea has resulted in a response detailed here. Some ideas were things my government cannot control. And many ideas reinforced the current regional planning process here in Queensland. This response instead focuses on the new initiatives and actions that my government is committing to as an outcome of the summit. But we need to do this in partnership with all levels of government and the community. I encourage that the Premier and I work on a dialogue and notion of how to manage the economy, support and opportunities related to growth. We need a clear role for government to manage this growth, and work together with everyday Queenslanders to shape the future of this great state.

I realise this is not an easy task, but managing growth is a challenge that I am prepared to confront – for our future and the future of our children.

ANNA BLIGH MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND

Message from the Premier

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Delivering on the ideas

The Queensland Growth Management Summit was held in late March 2010. With the event streamed live online and supported by an extensive community engagement process, the summit provided a unique opportunity for Queenslanders to provide their thoughts on the future of growth management in the state.

The result was around 1400 solutions and ideas. Many of these solutions are already part of existing government policies and strategies. In response to the summit and associated ideas, the government will continue to evolve and implement these existing frameworks, but it has also chosen to take new steps to shape a prosperous, sustainable and liveable future. This response focuses on six priority areas – comprising 22 new initiatives and 25 new supporting actions to manage growth across Queensland. With outcomes focused on the next 18 months, the delivery of these actions will be overseen by the Department of Infrastructure and Planning.

The Queensland Government’s growth management strategy

The Queensland Government’s existing growth management strategy sits within the regional planning framework. With a history dating back to 1991, this framework has been recognised as a world-class strategy to link long-term land use with infrastructure planning. Covering around 90 percent of Queensland’s population, these plans establish an urban footprint and preferred settlement pattern to stop urban sprawl, manage infrastructure requirements and protect our natural environment.

Shaping the future

The following actions of growth management initiatives will be taken in partnership with all levels of government and continue the dialogue with the community on how we move forward.

Key initiatives:

1. Establish Growth Management Queensland, a new agency within the Department of Infrastructure and Planning, to lead the government’s growth management agenda. This will deliver:
   - a more coordinated approach to growth management in Queensland
   - better linkages between land use planning, infrastructure delivery, economic development, protection of environmental assets, expansion of greenspace and affordable housing
   - a complementary approach to regional planning management.

2. Investigate a new Local Liveability Grants Program to support new initiatives that engage local neighbourhoods in planning for the future.

3. Develop a community engagement strategy for growth management, including:
   - developing a suite of community-focused tools to explain the planning processes Queenslanders rely on
   - enhancing support for local government involved in the delivery of regional planning outcomes
   - mobilising a community and industry reference panel to support the strategy going forward
   - monitoring community opinion through online tools and research
   - contacting summit attendees in early 2011 to determine their interest in reconvening the summit to gauge progress and determine any further implementation mechanisms required.

4. The Queensland Government’s growth management strategy

   The Queensland Government’s existing growth management strategy reflects the outcomes of the growth management summit. The strategy aims to:
   - stop urban sprawl
   - manage infrastructure requirements
   - protect our natural environment
   - establish an urban footprint
   - support regional and rural communities
   - provide for the future needs of Queensland.

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Promoting liveable and affordable communities

We will address liveable outcomes to support Queensland’s communities and provide a vibrant and sustainable lifestyle for Queenslanders. This includes identifying factors that affect housing affordability, with the state only able to influence some factors such as infrastructure charging and land supply.

**Key initiatives:**

- Develop a Queensland Regionalisation Strategy to support regionalisation and decentralisation.
- Pressure off South East Queensland through new initiatives that opportunities are shared throughout Queensland and take the pressure off South East Queensland through new initiatives that.
- Strengthening our regions: We will build stronger regions, ensuring growth and economic development in Townsville in partnership with Townsville City Council and other local stakeholders.
- Develop a Queensland Regionalisation Strategy that need their skills. This will inform the agreement between the state and federal governments.
- Population Strategy: This plan will aim to position Townsville as the key centre for growth and economic development in Townsville in partnership with Townsville City Council and other local stakeholders.
- Queensland Migration Plan: This will include a bilateral agreement between the state and federal governments, which will include a bilateral agreement between the state and federal governments.
- Townsville Futures Plan: This will include identifying opportunities to simplify charges and reform development infrastructure charging arrangements.
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- Establish an Infrastructure Charges Taskforce to increase certainty and improve housing affordability and increase communities in priority greenfield areas.
- Task the Urban Land Development Authority with responsibility for facilitating delivery of major new satellite communities.
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- Release a discussion paper on to provide greater planning certainty for local communities.
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- Investigate to support people on lower to middle incomes, including:
  - Design an athlete’s ecoVillage and promote self-sufficient communities as part of Queensland’s Commonwealth Games bid, suitable for post-games housing stock.
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  - Various interventions to support people on lower to middle incomes, including:
    - Establish a $4000 boost to the existing First Home Owners Grant.
    - Introduce an Australian Government’s existing commitment to decentralise Queensland to Fitzgibbon and Bowen Hills.
    - Decentralise government agencies in South East Queensland.
    - Relocate some government functions to regional Queensland and the relevant departments.
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15. Support sustainable urban development through leadership including:
• ensuring government developments are exemplars of sustainable urban design. Pilot Yeerongpilly Transit Oriented Development as a demonstration of best practice in sustainable urban development
• continuing to support the Centre for Subtropical Design for a further three years to enable the centre to extend its research into the design and delivery of climate responsive development in Queensland. As part of government’s in-kind contribution to the centre’s activities an experienced planner will be assigned to work with and support the centre
• piloting a green roof or wall project in association with a major government infrastructure or development project
• piloting CitySwitch Green Office, an national tenant energy efficiency program, in a Queensland Government building
• delivering projects demonstrating best practice in sustainable urban design in the regions.

Supporting actions:
• Release Transit Oriented Development Guidelines that identify best practice in delivery of compact communities by September 2010, supported by training and workshops to build capacity around transit oriented development delivery.
• Seek Expressions of Interest from the private sector to develop a landmark transit oriented precinct focussed on Coorparoo Junction in partnership with Brisbane City Council (following the expiry of current leases).
• Prepare an annual growth management program to monitor and supply, track development against dwelling targets and recommend actions to manage growth in South East Queensland.
• Review the scope of the Urban Land Development Authority, including consideration of its role in influencing land supply, liquidity, supply of marketable and potential commercial assets associated with sustainable urban development.
• Initiate a program of leadership in urban design including:—incorporating urban design as a critical component of the newly announced Commonwealth Design-Tenancy for the new Parliament House in Canberra to support appropriately quality urban design outcomes, through the Office of the Governor-General and the Government Architect
—seeking Government’s Commonwealth’s Green Building Guidelines which are being reviewed and expanded as a design tool, administration, procurement/scheduling, sustainability, design excellence.
• Build urban design capacity in Government including developing training and capacity building programs in relevant urban design skills across state and local government, public and private sector.
• Combine urban design excellence in the government, public and private sectors to which all agencies from local government to public and private agencies must comply.
• Commission a comprehensive review of the range and scope of the Board for Urban Places to support optimum urban design outcomes.
Delivering infrastructure

We will ensure infrastructure delivers places to live in growth management areas through better planning and implementation. This will help ensure infrastructure is provided where and when it is needed.

Key initiatives:

- Introduce a Queensland Regional Plan (QRP) that clearly links local socio-economic priorities with infrastructure development ensuring such priorities are delivered in a timely manner.
- Work in partnership with local government to achieve the vision of building regions and cities that create a sustainable and resilient future.
- Secure funding to deliver critical infrastructure needs.

Supporting actions:

- Ensure that local governments have adequate and up-to-date infrastructure plans to ensure state infrastructure planning documents such as the Regional Plan are clearly linked with population growth and development.
- Develop a framework for managing state infrastructure investment.

Protecting our lifestyle and environment

We will protect Queensland’s natural habitats, increase greenspace and support the implementation of our nation’s first state policy for the sustainable use of water.

Key initiatives:

- Investigate a Queensland Integrated Waterway Monitoring Framework that will improve the quality, consistency and transparency in such monitoring and comply with national and state monitoring guidelines.
- Investigate the Mayne Railyards development to develop major new greenspace in the inner city.
- Test the feasibility of relocating part of the Mayne Railyards to develop major new greenspace.
- Support the implementation of the Strategic Cropping Land Framework that will improve the quality, consistency and transparency in such monitoring and comply with national and state monitoring guidelines.

Supporting actions:

- Release the Mayne Railyards Strategic Town Centre Plan to deliver greater benefits for local residents and businesses.
- Assist in dealing with the impact of population and economic growth in South East Queensland on waste management and water consumption, including opportunities to improve land use planning and management and increase recycling efforts and waste.
Strengthening our regions
We all know that Queensland’s population profile is changing. By 2053, our population is expected to have grown by more than 50% from today’s levels, with almost all of the growth occurring in South East Queensland. As we grow, our regions face many challenges, such as how to ensure everyone has access to quality housing, how to support our communities to adapt to a changing climate, and how to maintain our quality of life.

Key initiatives:
- Developing a Strategic Regional Development Policy that will guide our response to regional growth
- Implementing a new “regional plan” to support regional growth
- Strengthening our regions

Promoting liveable and affordable communities
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About growth in Queensland

Queensland’s population has almost doubled in two decades, from a state of 2.6 million in 1986 to 4.4 million in 2009 and current forecasts suggest this will be between 5.8 and 7 million people by 2031. That equates to long-term growth of around 87,300 people per year, or 1700 people per week. Currently around 2200 new people are added to Queensland's population each week.

Queensland’s capital city of Brisbane, and its surrounding region of South East Queensland, is one of Australia’s fastest growing regions with South East Queensland growing by around 84,000 in 2008–09.

About the Queensland Growth Management Summit

Hosted by the Premier of Queensland, the Honourable Anna Bligh MP, the Queensland Growth Management Summit took place on Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 March 2010 at the State Library of Queensland in Brisbane.

Facilitated by Kerry O’Brien and Anna Reynolds, the summit brought together government, industry experts and community representatives to start an ongoing dialogue about Queensland’s future. Focused on the themes of prosperity, sustainability and liveability, the summit and associated consultation processes provided all Queenslanders with a unique opportunity to raise issues and suggest ideas how we can influence and manage growth across the state.

Contact us:

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Where can I find out more?

A wide range of resources related to growth management in Queensland is available on the summit website. These resources include a detailed version of this response paper, a summit communiqué, and all presentation and workshop material related to the summit. There is also a detailed background paper that highlighted some of the significant issues and questions posed in the lead up to the summit.

- 10 state government ministers participated
- 20 associated events were held in the lead up
- 30 different countries viewed the summit live
- 40 community members were chosen at random to attend
- 160 questions were submitted for the event
- 200 plus delegates attended over the two days
- 250 pieces of formal correspondence received
- 340 people attended the dinner debate
- 440 people became ‘fans’ of the Facebook site
- 800 people participated in market research
- 860 people completed an online survey
- 1115 people watched the growth session of People’s Question Time online
- 1500 people viewed the background paper on the website
- 13,000 visits to the website.