Regional planning in Central Queensland

A new generation of statutory regional plans will foster Queensland’s economic and community opportunities into the future.

The new statutory regional planning process will provide greater certainty by addressing land-use conflicts such as those arising between the agricultural and resource sectors, will encourage and facilitate economic growth, plan for and prioritise infrastructure and manage impacts on the environment.

The Central Queensland Regional Plan is being prepared by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning in collaboration with local government, other state government agencies, industry and community stakeholders.

Planning in Central Queensland

The Central Queensland region has a strong historical agricultural and heavy industry base. Today, the region’s key economic foundations continue to include agriculture as well as resources, water, energy and tourism. The Central Queensland region boasts one of the world’s busiest coal export terminals, large-scale dedicated industrial sites and integrated heavy transport systems, particularly rail. The region is also recognised for its areas of high environmental value. All of these factors present the region and wider state of Queensland with significant infrastructure and economic opportunities.

A new statutory regional plan is necessary to provide a holistic approach to planning, infrastructure and service delivery consistent with state policy.

A statutory regional plan will guide development in the region, providing land use certainty by clearly distinguishing those areas suitable for urban development and expansion and rural areas that will accommodate agricultural production, resource extraction and environmental protection.
Who’s involved?
The statutory Central Queensland Regional Plan will be prepared collaboratively with local government and regional communities, state agencies and industry stakeholders.

Local government and communities
Local government is a key stakeholder and is well-placed to contribute important local and regionally specific information to the regional plan preparation process on behalf of local communities. Their involvement will ensure local aspirations for the region are reflected in the regional plan.

A regional planning committee (RPC) has been established and there will be a formal consultation process where wider community feedback can be submitted. As part of this process a consultation report will be developed for transparency to provide an overview of feedback received.

State agencies
State agencies will provide strategic direction to the preparation of a comprehensive and holistic regional plan. They will provide specialist information on policy positions and state interests for the region, which need to be integrated within the new statutory Central Queensland Regional Plan.

Industry
Industry participation during preparation of the new statutory regional plan will represent a diversity of regional industry viewpoints. Opportunities for input will occur throughout preparation of the draft and final regional plans via the regional planning committee (RPC) and formal consultation process.

Regional Planning Committee Expression of Interest
A regional planning committee (RPC) to help develop the Central Queensland Regional Plan has been established. The RPC includes representatives from local government and specialist industry and community stakeholders. Its role is to provide advice to the regional planning Minister about the views of the community and stakeholders within the Central Queensland region. The RPC will ensure industry and community stakeholder views are represented.

RPC membership includes local government mayors and elected state representatives. A cross-section of other stakeholders were appointed through an EOI process and includes representatives from:
- Industry (tourism, agriculture, resources and construction)
- Environment
- Human services
- Indigenous
- Education
- Employment
- Health
- Business
- Economy

The RPC is expected to meet four times a year and will exist for the duration of the time it takes to prepare and launch the final regional plan.

Regional planning process

Regional statistics
- **2011 estimated population** – 229,173
- **2031 forecast population** – 344,938
- **Land area** – 114,400 km²

Source: OESR Regional Profiles 2012

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