South West Regional Plan

planning for a stronger, more liveable and sustainable community

August 2009
South West Regional Plan

Prepared by:
The Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe MP, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, in accordance with the Integrated Planning Act (IPA) 1997, Division 4, Section 2.5A.

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Release notes

The South West Regional Plan is released by the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, in accordance with the Integrated Planning Act 1997, section 2.5A.15. It is a statutory instrument under the Statutory Instruments Act 1992.

The regional plan applies to the South West regional local government areas as defined under IPA, section 2.5A.2. It replaces the Draft South West Regional Plan (the draft plan) released by the regional planning Minister on 5 August 2008. The draft plan was subject to community consultation and comment up to 30 November 2008. A consultation report, which summarised the issues raised during the consultation period was released on 13 August 2009. It is available at www.dip.qld.gov.au/southwest or by calling 1300 724 051.

The regional plan has been prepared in good faith, taking into account all public submissions, to provide a framework for the management and development of the South West for more than 20 years. The regional plan represents an agreed Queensland Government position on the future of the South West region. Any plans, policies and codes being prepared or amended by state agencies or local government must reflect and align with the regional plan.

The regional plan does not commit or purport to commit any government, industry or community organisation to implement, fund or otherwise resource specific activities or programs.

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Copies of the regional plan are available:
online www.dip.qld.gov.au/southwest
for viewing at most council chambers, libraries and customer service centres within the local government areas covered by the regional plan
for free on CD-ROM or in hard copy by contacting Department of Infrastructure and Planning offices in Bundaberg and Brisbane
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South West Regional Plan
*planning for a stronger, more liveable and sustainable community*

*Regional vision*
A region that has maintained a strong sense of community identity, resilience and respect for country, with well-resourced community services. A place where life continues to happen and where the natural sciences brand drives the region’s economic development, prosperity and liveability.

A region where opportunities for strong, diverse and creative industries have been realised. A region where the natural environment has been managed sustainably and where adaptive approaches have been implemented to meet the challenges of the 21st century.
Foreword

South West Queensland is one of the most remote areas in the state and because of this, its residents are resilient and share a strong sense of community identity and respect for country.

The region’s economy, which has traditionally been based on agriculture, can be enhanced through identifying opportunities for strong, diverse and creative industries and businesses that capitalise on the natural assets and lifestyle within the region. The South West’s natural landscapes and biodiversity embody its reputation as Queensland’s ‘home of the natural sciences’.

This plan was developed under the Blueprint for the Bush initiative, in recognition of the big challenges faced by rural Queensland, and in consultation with community members, AgForce, the Regional Coordination Committee, regional councils and state and Commonwealth agencies.

The South West Regional Plan responds to the specific needs of the community over the next 20 years and addresses regionally specific issues. It will assist the state, in collaboration with local communities, to achieve desired planning and development outcomes.

The completion of the South West Regional Plan meets the commitment made by the Queensland Government in 2006 to develop regional plans for western Queensland. Further, this plan’s finalisation is an important milestone in the government’s 2007 commitment to develop statutory regional plans that both directly and indirectly achieve environmental, social and economic outcomes, ensuring the sustainability of the South West region. Statutory regional plans are now in place in western Queensland, and in the Far North and South East.

The regional plan is important in realising the state government’s Toward Q2 Tomorrow’s Queensland vision of a strong, green, smart, healthy and fair Queensland. The plan will contribute to creating a diverse local economy, protecting the regional lifestyle and local environment, delivering world class education and training, and supporting healthy, safe and caring communities. It will also help to make Qplan Queensland’s planning, development and building system smarter, faster and simpler.

The creation of the Office of Climate Change within the Queensland Government (in October 2007) has strengthened Queensland’s ability to lead an effective climate change response. The regional plan outlines a policy framework to meet the climate change challenge. The regional plan was developed using the latest scientific information to provide a rigorous evidence base for new policy initiatives.

The Draft South West Regional Plan was launched in Charleville on 5 August 2008 by the Honourable Paul Lucas MP, Deputy Premier and former Minister for Infrastructure and Planning and the Honourable Warren Pitt MP, former Minister for Main Roads and Local Government.

It was made available for public comment until 29 October 2008, with an extension by the state government continuing the consultation until 30 November 2008. Community consultation meetings were held throughout the South West centres, with advice received from the community used to refine the draft plan.

We would like to thank the community members who provided input into the final plan and acknowledge the efforts and expertise of the Regional Coordination Committee in reaching this important milestone for the South West.
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South West Locality Map

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