



MEDIA RELEASE

Mayors call for stronger partnership to deliver SEQ Regional Plan

27 April 2009

South East Queensland Mayors have called for a stronger partnership and commitment to the implementation of the new SEQ Regional Plan.

The Council of Mayors (SEQ), a partner with the State Department of Infrastructure and Planning, has finalised a detailed submission in response to the SEQ Regional Plan.

The Council of Mayors (SEQ) Chairman, Brisbane Lord Mayor Campbell Newman, said while the SEQ Mayors supported the Regional Plan as fundamentally sound, better links were needed between the regional plan and projects on the ground to accommodate the needs of a growing population.

"The Mayors' submission makes it clear that we cannot support unchecked urban sprawl, and we support the concept of an urban footprint. Protecting inter urban breaks, such as those between Sunshine Coast and Caboolture is crucial," he said.

"No-one wants to see a 400km long continuous urban area in South East Queensland."

Cr Newman said one of the key recommendations was for stronger links between the regional plan and the State Government's South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program.

"We need to align the budgetary processes for major capital works program planning for all levels of government to implement a robust regional policy for population and employment growth," Cr Newman said.

"It's critical that we provide infrastructure to support existing and emerging urban growth and provide options to link residential areas with employment."

Projects like the Darra to Ipswich Transport Corridor, the Petrie to Redcliffe Transport Corridor, the Toowoomba Bypass, and the Eastern Busway were vital to support growth and improve connectivity, but would not proceed without Federal and State buy in, Cr Newman said.

"Access to public transport which better connects suburbs to employment areas will encourage less reliance on cars and improve congestion in the region," he said.

"Council of Mayors (SEQ) has also called for action plans to strengthen the key components of the regional plan, such as the regional economic development and employment objectives, managing climate change impacts, developing an outdoor recreation strategy and providing for social infrastructure.

"To achieve all this, we need a strong partnership between State and Local Governments, working to enhance the sustainability and livability of the region."

Cr Newman encouraged the public to have their say on the Draft SEQ Regional Plan 2009-2031. Public submissions close May 1, 2009.

– Ends –

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