



COST OF LIVING AND ECONOMICS COMMITTEE

Members present:

Mr LP Power MP—Chair
Mr RA Stevens MP (virtual)
Ms AJ Camm MP
Mr MJ Crandon MP (virtual)
Mrs MF McMahon MP
Mr A Tantari MP (virtual)

Staff present:

Mr T Horne—Committee Secretary
Ms M Salisbury—Assistant Committee Secretary

PUBLIC BRIEFING—INQUIRY INTO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 3 April 2024

Brisbane

WEDNESDAY, 3 APRIL 2024

The committee met at 2.15 pm.

CHAIR: Good afternoon, everyone. I declare this public briefing open. I would like to respectfully acknowledge the Yagara-speaking people, who are the traditional custodians of the land on which we are meeting today, and pay our respects to elders past and present. My name is Linus Power. I am the member for Logan and chair of the committee. Other members of the committee are: Mr Ray Stevens, member for Mermaid Beach and the deputy chair, who is joining us via phone; Ms Amanda Camm, the member for Whitsunday; Mr Michael Crandon, the member for Coomera, also joining us via the telephone; Mrs Melissa McMahon, the member for Macalister; and Mr Adrian Tantari, the member for Hervey Bay, who is appearing via telephone as well.

The purpose of today's briefing is to assist the committee with its examination of the Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. The bill was introduced into parliament on 20 March 2024 by the Hon. Grace Grace MP, Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. The committee is required to report to the committee on the bill by 10 May 2024.

This briefing is a proceeding of the Queensland parliament and is subject to the standing rules and orders of the parliament. Only committee members and invited witnesses may participate in the proceedings. Witnesses are not required to give evidence under oath or affirmation, but I remind witnesses that intentionally misleading the committee is a serious offence. I also remind committee members that officers are here today to provide factual or technical information. Any questions seeking opinion about policy should be directed to the minister or left to open debate on the floor of the House.

These proceedings are being recorded and broadcast live on the parliament's website. Media may be present and are subject to the committee's media rules and the chair's direction at all times. You may be filmed or photographed during the proceedings and images may also appear on the parliament's website or social media pages. I remind everyone to ensure that mobile phones are switched to silent mode during the proceedings. I now welcome witnesses from the Department of State Development and Infrastructure.

ADAMS, Ms Veronica, Director—Special Projects, Economic Development Queensland, Department of State Development and Infrastructure

KELEHER, Ms Kate, Director—Infrastructure, Economic Development Queensland, Department of State Development and Infrastructure

McDOUGALL, Ms Fiona, General Counsel, Department of State Development and Infrastructure

McNAMARA, Ms Debbie, General Manager, Economic Development Queensland, Department of State Development and Infrastructure

CHAIR: Good morning to you all. Thank you for agreeing to brief the committee today. I now invite you to make some opening comments, after which committee members will no doubt have some questions for you.

Ms McNamara: Good afternoon, everybody, and thank you for giving us the opportunity to brief you today on the Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Firstly, I would also like to extend my acknowledgement to the traditional owners of the lands on which we meet today, the Turrbal and the Yagara people, and pay my respects.

Current housing challenges are impacting the availability and affordability of housing across Queensland, in particular social and affordable housing. Increased housing supply is needed to address these pervasive affordability pressures. To respond to this challenge, every lever available is being considered. Economic Development Queensland, as the state's land use planning and property development agency, represents a significant lever to increase housing supply and affordability.

The bill amends the Economic Development Act to deliver more diverse and affordable housing faster to support increased housing supply across the state through changes to the purpose, the powers, the corporate structure and the operating model. The amendments also reflect a key action from the Queensland Housing Summit, held in late 2022, to expand the remit of EDQ to drive forward new housing supply and opportunities to boost capacity.

Since the summit, EDQ has engaged with targeted stakeholders to seek views on the proposal to deliver on the report's recommendations, including testing views on the proposed amendments and intended outcomes. Our engagement activities are summarised in the committee report and supported by a series of fact sheets that have been developed at their request. In making these changes, EDQ will be able to lead in unlocking more social and affordable housing that a growing Queensland needs and help contribute to the Homes for Queenslanders plan to deliver one million homes by 2046.

To achieve this, the bill amends the Economic Development Act across four key areas. The first area of amendment aims to increase the supply, diversity and provision of quality social and affordable housing at scale across the state. The bill amends the act to specifically include the provision of diverse housing including social and affordable housing in its main aim. It enables EDQ to enter into agreements with third parties such as community housing providers for the supply of social and affordable housing. It also ensures that EDQ works more collaboratively with the housing portfolio to ensure that social housing is aligned with policy and operational objectives.

The bill confirms the ability of the Minister for Economic Development Queensland to condition social and affordable housing within priority development areas to improve housing outcomes and provide alternative approaches to help developers meet these requirements. The amendments also include the ability of the Minister for Economic Development Queensland to acquire land to provide infrastructure for the benefit of the PDA supporting development within declared areas.

The second key amendment introduces the concept of a place renewal area to allow the Minister for Economic Development Queensland to take a proactive leadership role in the renewal of urban areas to facilitate and coordinate precinct-wide outcomes. A place renewal area and the associated framework will complement the functions of the priority development area and bring together government, community and industry stakeholders to deliver thriving and sustainable precincts. These collaborative governance arrangements will embrace both publicly and privately led projects being delivered concurrently by multiple parties. The place renewal area is the second circumstance under which the Minister for Economic Development Queensland may acquire land.

The third round of amendments are to EDQ's corporate structure and functions. These amendments will help EDQ to deliver significant improvements across housing enterprise and place-based outcomes. This includes creating a more agile and responsive standalone organisation that enables more efficient and effective operations and enhanced service capabilities.

The bill will remove EDQ from its current departmental arrangements while maintaining and retaining the Minister for Economic Development Queensland as a corporation sole to ensure continued ministerial oversight. The amendments establish a new eight-person board which is accountable to the minister. The board will comprise six appointed independent members including an independent chair to provide EDQ with greater access to industry expertise and strategic guidance. This will be complemented by two government members. The bill creates the role of the chief executive officer to oversee the day-to-day operations of the organisation and ensures that all existing and new staff continue to be employed under the Public Sector Act 2022, with existing rights and entitlements retained.

The final area of amendments is focused on making operational refinements to our existing functions and powers. These will provide greater flexibility for the minister to respond to emerging planning issues and facilitate the orderly transition of infrastructure arrangements for new priority development areas. It also refines the Minister for Economic Development Queensland's current direction powers to include key partners while adopting a collaborative approach to resolving matters. The bill includes a number of efficiency and effectiveness measures which respond to matters that have arisen since it was last amended in 2019.

Finally, the bill also amends other legislation to give effect to these changes, including the Public Sector Act 2022 and the Planning Act 2016. Through these amendments, EDQ will fast-track sustainable and affordable homes, delivering an extra 1,300 dwellings to Queensland within its development projects over the next five years and approving a further 15,000 homes within priority development areas during that time, doubling the current forecast within those areas.

That concludes my opening statement. We welcome questions from the committee in relation to the bill.

CHAIR: Thank you very much. I note that the deputy chair, the member for Mermaid Beach, has a question.

Mr STEVENS: This is very new and extensive legislation that is being introduced in terms of the planning of areas throughout the state. Can you explain to me the difference between the powers this legislation delivers to the government and what might be called a state planning authority's powers?

Ms McNamara: Under the ED Act, EDQ already has planning and infrastructure powers and we discharge them through an instrument called priority development areas. The bill does not look to fundamentally change those powers. What it looks to do is to refine how those priority development areas are implemented, operationalised and enacted. It does not look to extend into new regulatory powers outside of the PDAs. It looks to refine and enhance the powers that operate within priority development areas.

Mr STEVENS: You must have already identified priority development areas for this legislation to be effective, if you like, and deliver the outcomes that you espoused earlier. Have you identified those particular land areas for this legislation to apply?

CHAIR: Do you mean new areas—

Mr STEVENS: Correct.

CHAIR:—or are you asking about the existing ones?

Mr STEVENS: If there are no areas identified that this legislation applies to, obviously the legislation is a waste of time. So the officers must have identified some areas for this legislation to apply to. That is what I am saying. I just want that confirmed by the officers.

Ms McNamara: I will provide some context. We currently have 35 priority development areas operational within Queensland. Just for clarity, the refinement to the powers that apply to PDAs would apply to those existing PDAs. The question that the member has asked is: have we identified new areas where we would be looking to declare PDAs? The answer is: yes, there are areas currently under live investigation. In terms of the declaration of those areas, they will go through the formal process under the act. We are currently investigating new areas for declaration as priority development areas.

Mr STEVENS: Are those investigations done in collaboration with the local councils in these matters?

Ms McNamara: Absolutely, a key component of that is working in partnership with the relevant local authority to explore the declaration of those priority development areas. In terms of the two that are in question at the moment that we are exploring, we are actively engaged with the two relevant local councils as part of that process.

Mr STEVENS: Can I ask who those two councils are?

CHAIR: It is not strictly related to the bill, but we might anticipate.

Ms McNamara: It is subject to its normal process. I think at this point—

Mr STEVENS: I get that.

CHAIR: Ms McNamara, I wish to clarify some of the previous questions. I have two priority development areas in my electorate—or parts of one and the whole of another. These powers, the structure of the board and the other changes that we are looking at will actually apply to the administration of those priority development areas; is that correct?

Ms McNamara: The way in which we have formalised and constituted the board is that the regulatory head of power sits with the minister, because all of the powers under the act rest with the minister. None of the regulatory powers will pass down through the board, so the structure of delegations will flow from the minister down to the officers. In terms of good governance, given that there are going to be six independent members sitting on that board, it would not be good governance for them to have regulatory powers at their disposal. The regulatory powers will pass from the minister down through the officer, so through the chief executive down to the officers within EDQ.

Mr STEVENS: How will those six board members be chosen, if you like, or their acceptability?

CHAIR: It is pretty clear how they will be chosen, but you are asking about eligibility?

Mr STEVENS: Yes, correct.

CHAIR: Ms McNamara is just getting some information.

Ms McNamara: I appreciate that; I just want to be very clear for the members to answer that question, so thank you for your time. The board recruitment process will be in line with the Queensland government handbook, the Significant Appointments section, and consultation on the establishment and appointments to government bodies. The process will run through DPC in terms of remuneration. There will also be consultation with the Office for Women to work towards achieving the government's target that 50 per cent of appointments to government bodies should be women. The application of the Queensland register of nominees database for applications will also be considered. Ultimately, the minister will bring forward an appointment of the proposed members through cabinet up to GIC for approval. Specifically though, the act does set out a range of expertise which those board members will be selected against, so there is a skills set and an expertise that is defined within the act that will guide that appointment process.

Mr STEVENS: I take it they are industry people—obviously in the development industry?

CHAIR: The question is: will the board be constituted of those—

Mr STEVENS: Yes, will they be taken from the development industry with proven skills?

Ms McNamara: Yes. One of the key criteria or expertise that we are looking for is development capability, business capability, financial management and governance, so, yes, it will be from that.

Mr STEVENS: Thank you.

Mrs McMAHON: Thank you for attending. In terms of PDAs—and I will echo the chair's sentiments—in the Logan area I am familiar with the PDAs in what were previously the greenfield spaces of Yarrabilba and Flagstone, so I am assuming in those that the place renewal framework does not necessarily apply.

Ms McNamara: Correct.

Mrs McMAHON: However, in my electorate it is a town that is over 150 years old that is an urban transport corridor. I guess I am wanting to understand in what kind of context these place renewal frameworks will be declared and the role of government and the private sector. Obviously in my local patch the government owns the schools, train stations and police stations and is probably the biggest landowner in the local area, but how does this intend to then leverage further commercial and other stakeholder involvement in the renewal where it has otherwise stuttered?

Ms McNamara: Yes. Just for clarity, firstly, the way the bill has been drafted is that a place renewal area can only be declared within a priority development area. That is point No. 1. The second point, though, is to directly respond to the challenge that you have just described where an urban renewal area is essentially not coming forward in the way that all partners would hope to see.

Mrs McMAHON: Or need it to.

Ms McNamara: Or need to, absolutely, so where you have state interests, where the state is investing significantly in a range of different projects, whether that be transport, schools and community facilities, and where you have the private sector investing but what is lacking is an overarching governance framework that determines what is the ultimate objective that everyone is working towards and how we better work in a coordinated, integrated way to deliver those precinct outcomes. There is a clear body of evidence internationally that precincts and good places drive economic activity and drive good communities, and this truly is a way of trying to bring partners to the table through a governance framework so that the public, state agencies, local council, private sector and community work together to deliver the best for an area and location.

Mrs McMAHON: In a copy of your briefing it does acknowledge that through the act it will help define social and affordable housing. In the public, lay context with the terms 'social housing' and 'affordable housing'—we will put 'public housing' in there at the same time—it does propose that there will be further definitions through the regulation. I was wondering, for the purposes of putting a framework together, how we define affordable housing in the modern-day context, and who is going to be the role player in that. Is it going to be government or is it the private sector when we talk about affordable housing?

Ms McNamara: In terms of social and public housing, we are adopting the definition that already exists within the public Housing Act, so we are being consistent with that piece of existing legislation. In terms of affordable housing and the definition of that, it is obviously a very topical discussion at the moment. The first thing is that we have decided not to include it in the legislation because there is a lot of discussion federally, as well as in the states and territories, around what that definition is, so we felt that the most appropriate place for it to sit was in the regulation. That gives us more flexibility as those conversations continue, and if a position is landed we are then able to adopt it more readily.

Within that regulation and in terms of affordable housing, for us what is key at this point is having flexibility around what affordable housing is, so we understand and we have been working with our colleagues in the state planning team. They are also looking at the definition of affordable housing through their amendment, so we are going to work hard to make sure those two things can align. From our point of view, flexibility is key. Affordable housing can mean affordable by design and it can mean in terms of a discount to market, but it also importantly can mean about the ability of people to pay and targeting the low- to moderate income earners. I think having those different groupings of affordable housing and then being able to access them through our different activities is what will set us up to make sure we are flexible and can adjust.

Ms CAMM: Thank you very much for your presentation. Like other members of the committee, my experience has been with the Mackay PDA, being formerly the deputy mayor of Mackay and overseeing that project. My question is around the refinement that you have talked about in existing PDAs given that there are, I think you said, over 35 in existence across the state. Does the department have any view of time frames to engage with local government and obviously the place-based stakeholders around that refinement that is going to be more inclusive of social, affordable or community housing? That is my first question.

The second part to that question is: is there a recognition by the department or a view around the capability when it comes to, post that refinement, delivering stock on the ground given the lack of tier 1, for example, community housing developers, projects and proponents that we have in the state? Does the department have any idea how you will engage either with local government or other developer stakeholders to be able to bring forward that sort of development that we want to see? I am just using Mackay as an example, knowing that scheme well, as to what time frame you are realistically looking at from refinement to then maybe product on the ground.

Ms McNamara: Absolutely. If I can take them in turn, the first question was around the approach to updating the PDAs, which essentially are the development scheme, which you will know. You will also then be very familiar with the time it can take to update a development scheme. It is not something that is done overnight, so we will prioritise those PDAs. Of the 35 PDAs, we have some that are more actively focused and targeted on housing and others that are more supportive of enterprise and jobs outcomes. The first step will be going through the 35 and essentially setting an order of priority in terms of in which order we will update the development schemes. I think the other thing to consider is that some of our development schemes already make a commitment around social and affordable housing, so they will also be part of that priority. With the new power being introduced to now be able to condition social and affordable housing on development applications, it makes sense that we flow that through to the development schemes that already have a commitment around social and affordable housing.

In terms of timing, I would say that we would have to do that sequentially, in batches, and that will take us a number of years to get through. It will not be done quickly, as you know based on your experience. What is important, though, is that we have these powers and we have the newly declared PDAs positioned so when they are declared they are all-encompassing of what we are trying to achieve through these amendments. At the same time as updating existing development schemes, it will be making sure the new development schemes coming through in the new PDAs are positioned to take on board these amendments.

Your question and your comment around tier 1 CHPs is well made. We absolutely work closely with a number of CHPs across Queensland and a number of the peak bodies. With regard to the number of the amendments that I described under the grouping around housing supply and diversity, one of those key powers is about EDQ now being able to enter into agreements with CHPs, and for us that is an important aspect in not just growing government's capacity to support CHPs but also entering into partnerships with CHPs to boost their capacity and also, through the opportunities that we can bring to the market, attracting new CHPs into Queensland, so it is growing our own at the same time as bringing projects—opportunities—to the market that will attract new CHPs into Queensland.

CHAIR: There were a number of questions there. You did well—better than me—to remember them all, but I just wanted to check, Amanda, if that was everything.

Ms CAMM: I probably just have one more in relation to infrastructure charges. I am assuming that, as part of that review and that refinement of each PDA and the consultation you will undertake with those individual schemes, you understand that each local government has levers they can pull to either bring forward infrastructure or based upon their growth rates and things. Is that something you will be assessing as part of that to identify, potentially out those 35 PDAs, what local government areas may be able to incentivise development with bringing forward infrastructure or whether or not

there is an opportunity for further investment by the state, for example? Are you going to be assessing that, because it is quite competitive, obviously, when we are trying to attract development into different parts of the state when there are regional areas where there are constraints because of that lack of infrastructure, for example?

Ms McNamara: You will well know, then, from your previous role that when we look at the land use planning aspect of a PDA we also look at the infrastructure requirements of the PDA. That can take the form of different instruments, but essentially it is planning and infrastructure services, so that is infrastructure planning and then looking at how that infrastructure then gets delivered. That does not automatically come with funding, but what it does do is start to at least identify the infrastructure requirements that would be needed to unlock that land for development, so it definitely takes us further on that journey of understanding those infrastructure needs.

Ms CAMM: Thanks.

CHAIR: Ms McNamara, already within PDAs there are some provisions for social and affordable housing. This has amendments to do with developers when they are unable to fulfil those to enter into voluntary housing agreements. How is that structured, what is specifically different and how would it affect existing PDAs?

Ms McNamara: Development schemes, which is the instrument that sits within the PDAs, would all need to be updated to reflect this new provision. That is step No. 1. We are working within an existing PDA that already has an existing commitment around social and affordable housing, but then what it does is switch on the powers to say we can now condition it for developers. What we want to do is make sure we give developers flexibility on how they discharge that requirement. It is just not a blanket, 'You must do this'; we need to give them options under which they could meet that obligation. The options that we are providing are very much akin to an infrastructure agreement, where they can either deliver the social and affordable housing obligation themselves or enter into an agreement with another party—that could be EDQ or an adjoining developer—to deliver on the social and affordable housing outcome and effectively discharge their responsibility. If none of that is possible, we give them the option of making a financial contribution to the provision of social and affordable housing which would then be administered by EDQ and reinvested into that outcome within that area. We were very mindful that in putting this head of power in place we give developers options on how they meet that requirement.

Mr CRANDON: This concept we are talking about, in a similar way to state hospital and school land, basically overrides the council or takes the council out of the equation; is that the idea?

CHAIR: Are you making reference to PDAs in general under the existing act?

Mr CRANDON: What we are looking at going forward from here. We have this new concept. We want to put some powers in place. Is it to take the local council out of the equation when developers come forward? Let me give you an example. I have an organisation that has put an application into council for 720 residential units in an area where it is totally out of context. We are talking about an area that probably had approval for 200 units. They have thrown in the sweetener, if you like, that social and affordable housing could be part of it—all of that. When they are pressed on that, they do not really have a lot of detail around it. However, I sense the council will be deadset against this idea of bringing in an additional 720 residential units to an area where 200 were originally intended. If they came now to the state government and said, 'We have this idea and we can do all of this,' is the council then taken out of the equation?

CHAIR: Ms McNamara spoke before about the two new potential PDAs and the process undertaken. She can also talk you through the process of identifying previous priority development areas and the act. Is that what you are after—the process of identifying a priority development area?

Mr CRANDON: It is okay for us to identify priority development areas, and Ms McNamara did indicate that they were in consultation with councils. What I am asking is: if the council opposes a particular type of development, could the proponent—the developer—come to this body and say, 'We have this whiz-bang idea. We want to add a bit of social and affordable housing into it. Can we just work with you because the council is not too keen to work with us on it?'

Ms McNamara: The short answer is no. EDQ's planning and infrastructure powers only exist within PDAs. Firstly, we would have to go through the process of declaring a priority development area. Our PDAs apply to an area; it is a precinct. They are not for individual sites as such. Without a priority development area being declared, that developer could not come to us. We cannot use the place renewal area, which is the new instrument we are talking about, outside of a priority development area. Hopefully that answers the question, Chair.

Mr CRANDON: I think it does. Talking about another area, for example, if a state school needs to be built, we can go along and flip a block of land and say, 'We will build a school here,' which brings it into the urban footprint. Looking at priority development areas, if one, for example, was determined for the northern Gold Coast—there is a large area of the northern Gold Coast that is outside the urban footprint; it is dedicated green space and so forth—is it likely that a PDA could be brought in and override the South East Queensland Regional Plan in that green space area and then basically start going through the process of development to look at affordable housing and other ideas?

CHAIR: The ministerial designation process for schools is obviously quite different. Ms McNamara, perhaps you could go back to first principles on the declarations of PDAs.

Ms McNamara: One of the things we have added into the bill to ensure the various state planning instruments are working in concert is that, as part of the declaration of a new PDA, the Minister for Economic Development Queensland must consult with the planning minister and have regard to state planning instruments. In the scenario that the member just alluded to, we would be required to, as part of the declaration of a PDA, demonstrate how that declaration is in line with the SEQ Regional Plan.

Mr TANTARI: Can you explain the test that the Minister for Economic Development Queensland would apply when making a determination to compulsorily acquire land?

Ms McNamara: I will ask for some information to be passed to me. While that is occurring, as I had spoken about in my opening remarks, there are two scenarios under which the minister will have powers to acquire land. The first is for the acquisition of land to support infrastructure delivery within PDAs, and that will occur in the event that, as a point of last resort, that land cannot be acquired through mutual agreement and that land is required to deliver essential infrastructure to unlock housing or commercial outcomes within that PDA. The second scenario is land acquisition for place renewal area where the minister determines that it is in the public interest to acquire those landholdings to deliver outcomes within the place renewal area. In terms of the process which we would follow and the minister would follow, that process aligns with the existing processes adopted across the Queensland government by both, for example, the Coordinator-General and the Department of Resources, which is the Acquisition of Land Act. That is the approach that EDQ will also adopt to ensure consistency with how those activities are utilised across Queensland.

Mr STEVENS: When it says that the landowner objects to MEDQ acquiring land, it says it may apply to the relevant minister. Which minister or ministers would that be?

CHAIR: Ms McNamara, upon land acquisition, if there was an objection, what is the process?

Mr STEVENS: If a guy does not want to sell.

Ms McNamara: I ask my colleague to respond.

Ms Adams: If a landowner does object to their land being acquired they can apply to the relevant minister, the relevant minister being the minister for the portfolio in which the Economic Development Act sits. Then there is a process through which, if the acquisition was continued with, that acquisition then needs to go through Governor in Council and be publicly notified by Governor in Council.

Mr STEVENS: It would be the state development minister; is that what you are saying?

Ms Adams: Currently, yes, the state development minister. That is our minister.

Ms CAMM: You touched on this before. There are a number of regional plans being reviewed, underway, or will be reviewed over the coming years. How will this legislation apply in the restructure of EDQ in the review of PDAs? Will there be an interaction that will occur with regional planning and the review of those regional plans given the priority around housing? Is that something you can answer or is that something I should pose to a different part of the department? I ask that question because I am conscious of the resourcing that the department will acquire as part of EDQ, understanding the time frame that it takes both in regional plan review and in PDA review or PDA assessment, notwithstanding that you have planning scheme amendments and reviews as well. I am interested in how the department, in both your restructure and the ongoing work that has to be maintained to identify growth and other priorities around economic development, will be prioritised or how that interaction will occur between EDQ and the department.

Ms McNamara: Hopefully what you have heard is that EDQ will continue to work with government as an instrument of government, and a key part of that with these changes is maintaining our working relationship with the state planning team as well as our colleagues within the state development department. With regard to the regional planning activities that are undertaken by the

state planning team, we work very closely with them to make sure the work they are doing and the PDAs stay as aligned as possible, noting that different things get updated at different points on that journey. That is important not only from a housing point of view but also from an economic development and jobs point of view. We then complement that with our work in terms of actually going in and taking a development-led role in terms of bringing forward development activity on the ground—again, whether that is around jobs and creating premises and property for jobs or for homes. The relationship we have both with the new Department of Housing, with state planning now sitting within that department, and with our current department will continue to be just as important for us going forward. It will be very important for our team to continue to maintain that interface and contribute as we all go forward and do our work.

CHAIR: There being no further questions, I bring these proceedings to a close. No questions were taken on notice. I wish to thank very much all of the participants who have given us information today. Thank you to our Hansard reporter and the broadcast staff. A transcript of these proceedings will be available on the committee's parliamentary webpage in due course. I declare this public briefing closed.

The committee adjourned at 2.58 pm.