Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by:	Brian and Jeannette Douglass
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We make the following submission on the Queensland Government's proposed reforms to the *Economic Development Queensland Act*. We are supportive of the position taken by the SEQCA as summarised below. We would not support any amendment that weakens regulations to safeguard our environment from irreversible harm. Degradation of the environment could cause indiscriminate pollution injurious to public health.

Objectives that embrace good planning outcomes: The days when economic development was the only rationale for planning and development (if it ever was) are out the window guys! Let's use this opportunity to enshrine the goals we as a community really want to achieve – social and affordable housing; improved climate resilience, reduced carbon emissions, enhanced liveability and nature positive outcomes integrated into the built environment. And the commitment to these objectives shouldn't stop at s 3 – they need to be reflected in the content of urban renewal frameworks and development conditions. See cl.4, 35, 36 and 38.

Consistency with other planning instruments: Urban renewal frameworks need, at the very least, to be consistent with the relevant PDA development scheme, the regional plan for the area and the Housing Strategy of the relevant local government. And, as with these instruments, a more transparent and consultative preparation process is required. See cl.38.

Social and affordable housing: We need to see a genuine commitment to timely, guaranteed delivery of social AND affordable housing within the boundaries of the SAME PDA as the urban renewal area. There needs to be absolutely NO wriggle room to postpone or substitute on this outcome. We need transparent targets, continuous monitoring and regular reporting to the community on progress in implementing this and the other objectives of this Act. How else are these matters really going to be enforced? See cl. 36, cl.40.

Community representation: This Act is about development for community purposes – so let's see some guaranteed community representation on the Economic Development Board (see Cl. 50)

Brian and Jeannette Douglass