

Submission No. 001

11.1.11

30 September 2015

Our Ref: DK:AMD/18.05.02

29 September 2015

Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Sir/Madam

**Submission on the Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No.2) 2015**

The Southern Downs Regional Council makes the following comments in regards to the Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No.2) 2015. Please note that this submission has not been to a Council meeting to be formally endorsed and has been made by the officers.

Part 6 Amendment of *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*

The proposed amendments to the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* (SPA) to allow local governments to request an extension up to 30 June 2018 to have a Local Government Infrastructure Plan in place are most welcome.

Southern Downs Regional Council has a Planning Scheme prepared in accordance with the SPA, and this includes a Priority Infrastructure Plan (PIP). However, this PIP is very basic and significant work will be required in order to prepare a LGIP. Like many small regional local governments, Southern Downs Regional Council does not have the in-house expertise required to prepare a LGIP and will be relying on consultants to undertake this work. Council does not have the financial capacity to meet the considerable costs involved in preparing the LGIP by 30 June 2016, and having a longer timeframe over which to meet these costs will be beneficial.

Additionally, Council would like to indicate its ongoing disappointment with the incredibly short timeframes that are being set for submissions to various Parliamentary Committees involved in reviews. Southern Downs Regional Council simply does not have the capacity to prepare meaningful submissions and have them discussed and potentially endorsed by Council in a General Council meeting in a two week period. It is envisaged that there would be many other local government authorities in a similar position, which is potentially reflected in the declining number of submissions that are being put forward by local government authorities. At a minimum there should be at least 28 days allowed for submissions to be received, thereby allowing staff resources to be allocated towards the submission and consideration of the submission at a General Council Meeting.

**Southern Downs**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

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If any further information is required regarding this submission, please contact Council's Director Planning and Environment, Ken Harris, on

[REDACTED]

Yours faithfully



David Keenan  
Chief Executive Officer