

Submission to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee

Portfolio Briefing

Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning

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## SUMMARY

1. The Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP) was formed following the November 2024 Machinery of Government changes resulting from the 2024 State Election.
2. The Departments current purpose statement is 'To think ahead and act now to secure responsible economic development, safe workplaces and liveable communities.' Key responsibilities include:
  - a. state development
  - b. economic development
  - c. major project impact assessment
  - d. strategic planning for priority industry sectors
  - e. capital works and program monitoring
  - f. integrated resort developments and global tourism hubs
  - g. urban growth
  - h. industrial relations
  - i. Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Brisbane 2032) infrastructure.
3. Led by Mr John Sosso as Director-General, the Department is a diverse portfolio supported by a network of regional offices throughout Queensland.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

4. The Departments current strategic objectives are as follows:
  - a. State Development
    - i. Explore opportunities for new industries across Queensland, with a particular focus on economic growth opportunities across the state.
  - b. Infrastructure and Planning
    - i. Drive opportunities to activate increased supply of housing options across Queensland.
    - ii. Ensure planning decisions protect the lifestyle of Queensland communities while facilitating responsible growth through infrastructure provision to increase supply of housing options across the State.
    - iii. Closely and respectfully partner with Local Government to ensure State approvals are provided in a timely manner.
    - iv. Provide residents, industry and Local Government unequivocal certainty on decisions, regardless of the planning decision being a 'yes' or 'no'.
  - c. Industrial Relations
    - i. Ensure the Queensland Government is an employer of choice, with a clear focus on respecting taxpayers' money.

## **KEY SERVICE AREAS**

### ***Office of the Coordinator-General***

5. Gerard Coggan, Coordinator-General - Office of the Coordinator-General delivers significant economic development outcomes via planning, delivery and coordination of large-scale infrastructure and economic development projects, ensuring economic, social and environmental considerations are properly managed.
6. The Coordinator-General:
  - a. administers the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* which has significant powers to plan and deliver large scale projects
  - b. administers the *Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2017* which ensures that residents of communities near large resource projects benefit from the construction and operation of the projects
  - c. is an independent statutory appointment reporting directly to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations, with corporate services provided by the Department.

### ***Strategy Insights and Advisory***

7. Natalie Wilde, Deputy Director-General – Strategy Insights and Advisory (SIA) is responsible for cross portfolio responsibilities and coordination including marketing, communications and media functions, strategic policy, major commercial transactions management, and ministerial and executive services.
8. SIA administers the following Acts:
  - a. *Forest Wind Farm Development Act 2020*
  - b. *Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Act 2020*
  - c. *South Bank Corporation Act 1989*

### ***State Development***

9. Michele Bauer, Deputy Director-General – State Development (SD) delivers regional economic and industry development priorities, leads development of value chains through diversification and capability uplift and is the point of contact for local communities including industry.
10. This service area administers the *Queensland Industry Participation Policy Act 2011*.

### ***Infrastructure and Regional Strategy***

11. Leah Kelly, Deputy Director-General - Infrastructure and Regional Strategy (IRS) leads infrastructure planning and policy to inform Government's investment in, and delivery of, coordinated and resilient infrastructure. IRS also leads planning and delivery of the Brisbane 2032 village infrastructure program and the Queen's Wharf Brisbane development.
12. This service area administers Acts which includes the *Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021* and the *Queen's Wharf Brisbane Act 2016* (Chapter 5, Part 1).

### **Planning Group**

13. Peta Harwood, State Planner and Deputy Director-General – Planning Group is responsible for the coordinated and integrated delivery of Queensland planning functions and services. This includes driving an effective and efficient planning system underpinned by a responsive framework and accessible and transparent planning requirements.
14. Planning Group administer a range of Acts to supports Queensland’s planning framework including:
  - a. *Planning Act 2016*
  - b. *Planning and Environment Court Act 2016*
  - c. *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014* (except to the extent administered by the Minister for Primary Industries); and
  - d. Specific resorts legislation such as the *Sanctuary Cove Act 1985*.

### **Office of Industrial Relations**

15. Donna Heelan, Acting Deputy Director-General – Office of Industrial Relations (OIR) provides a range of regulatory, policy, advisory, compliance and specialist technical services and initiatives including:
  - a. targeted initiatives that engage with workers, business and the community to build safe and fair workplaces
  - b. ensuring compliance with work health and safety, electrical safety, industrial relations and workers’ compensation regulatory frameworks and taking necessary enforcement action
  - c. managing registration, licencing, certification and accreditation regimes for workplace and electrical safety.
16. The major Acts administered by OIR to govern industrial relations include:
  - a. *Industrial Relations Act 2016*
  - b. *Child Employment Act 2006*
  - c. *Holidays Act 1983*
  - d. *Labour Hire Licensing Act 2017*
  - e. *Pastoral Workers’ Accommodation Act 1980*
  - f. *Private Employment Agents Act 2005*
  - g. *Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990*
  - h. *Workers’ Accommodation Act 1952*.

### **Corporate**

17. Michael McKee, Deputy Director-General – Corporate, delivers quality corporate, grants management and commercial assessment services and fulfils a central leadership and strategic partnership role to support delivery of departmental programs, services and initiatives.
18. Due to previous Machinery of Government changes, this service area also provides corporate support under Service Level Agreement to:
  - a. portfolio statutory bodies Economic Development Queensland and the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority

- b. other Departments including Queensland Treasury, the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development.

## **STATUTORY BODIES / AUTHORITIES**

### ***Economic Development Queensland***

- 19. Established under the *Economic Development Act 2012*, Economic Development Queensland (EDQ) is the Queensland Government's land use planning and property development agency, which has:
  - a. specific planning and approval powers and a mandate to create private sector investment opportunities by de-risking and unlocking land for redevelopment
  - b. planned and facilitated delivery of large residential developments in Queensland, as well as some of the State's most iconic urban renewal projects.

### ***Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority***

- 20. Established under the *Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024*, the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority in collaboration with the organising committee and other key stakeholders, has a lead role in planning and delivering Brisbane 2032 (including new and upgraded venues that will be used during Brisbane 2032, and for the benefit of communities beyond the Games).

### ***South Bank Corporation***

- 21. Established under the *South Bank Corporation Act 1989*, the South Bank Corporation is the development and management authority for Brisbane's Southbank and owner of the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.
- 22. South Bank Corporation (in conjunction with the former State Government) released the Future South Bank Master Plan on 11 May 2024, representing a 30-year vision to guide the future of South Bank. The Master Plan prioritises increased greening of the precinct, improved accessibility and travel connectivity.

## **PROGRAMS/INITIATIVES (including key portfolio deliverables)**

- 23. Through the Government's Cabinet Housing Ministerial Taskforce Cabinet Committee, ensuring Queensland Government agencies are focussed on scaling up supply of housing stock across Queensland to meet the demand for the growing population.
- 24. Work with relevant Ministers and agencies to implement the Government's Securing our Housing Foundations Plan that will deliver 1 million new homes by 2044, including an additional 53 500 social and community housing dwellings
- 25. Unlocking the community housing sector in Queensland, with regulatory changes as a starting point to allow community housing providers access to build on charity and church owned land.

26. Developing new regional plans which cover every corner of the State, in conjunction with infrastructure plans that protect the lifestyle of Queensland communities and appropriately cater for growth.
27. Unlocking new housing supply by overseeing the rollout of the Government's \$2 billion housing infrastructure investment fund, with \$1 billion invested in regional Queensland.
28. Refocusing EDQ to deliver homes in Priority Development Areas to increase housing supply.
29. Amending laws to ensure renewable energy projects are impact assessable with approval processes consistent with other land uses like mining and agriculture.
30. Identifying, and where appropriate activating, investment opportunities in Queensland for the Defence industry.
31. Ensuring Queensland workers have adequate protections and fair conditions in their employment (highlighting workers should be safe at their workplace and paid competitively).
32. Working with Commonwealth counterparts and advocating on Queensland's behalf to ensure that Queensland receives its fair share of Commonwealth infrastructure funding that will shape our cities and regions.
33. Appointing an Independent Infrastructure Coordination Authority to conduct a 100-day review and implement the recommendations outlined by the experts to deliver on the infrastructure and transport needs for Queensland and Brisbane 2032 (Completed).
34. Leading the delivery of Brisbane 2032 infrastructure and work closely with the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games to ensure appropriate planning is underway to deliver a world-class Olympic and Paralympic Games in Queensland.
35. Working with Queensland Treasury and the Department of Housing and Public Works to lift productivity across Queensland's construction industry so community infrastructure can be completed in a timely manner and with respect for taxpayer money.
36. Implementing recommendations that will be handed down by the re-established Productivity Commission that will drive improvements in the delivery of housing and public works across Queensland.

## **PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

37. The Department:
  - a. is committed to accountable and transparent governance and to continuous performance improvement
  - b. reports on performance against its strategic objectives to grow confidence in government service delivery, including through the following mechanisms:
    - i. annual reports (to provide information about the Department, its governance and activities, performance and future direction, as well as financial performance)
    - ii. regulatory performance report (i.e. to provide information about how the regulatory activities performed by the department impact business, particularly small business)

- iii. service delivery measures set out in the annual Queensland Budget's Service Delivery Statements
- c. reports annually on the performance of its State Assessment Referral Agency (SARA) function against key performance indicators.

## STRATEGIC CHALLENGES

38. DSDIP is committed to embracing strategic opportunities and managing risks, including:
- a. responding to changing global economic conditions and geopolitical dynamics (e.g. trade agreements, commodity prices and international demand) with strategies such as diversifying the economy and strengthening supply chains
  - b. understanding the challenges of Queensland's geography, diversity of infrastructure (including digital infrastructure), access to skilled labour, urban migration and population demographics, and leveraging regional strengths to support and enhance local economies
  - c. preparing for and strengthening both infrastructure and economic resilience to major disasters and emergency events
  - d. planning communities that are liveable, and environmentally and socially sustainable to ensure prosperity and quality of life for future generations
  - e. leveraging private sector investment to create jobs for Queenslanders and encourage growth in emerging and existing industries
  - f. improving the wellbeing of all Queenslanders by making Queensland safer and supporting fair and productive workplaces.

## RESOURCING

39. The following table outlines the workforce / resourcing of the Department by service area as well as staff located in Brisbane and in regional areas.

| Business Unit  | FTE          | FTE Location          |                     |
|--|--------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
|  |              | Brisbane              | Regional            |
| Coordinator-General  | 109          | 104                   | 5                   |
| Infrastructure and Regional Strategy                           | 88           | 83                    | 5                   |
| State Development  | 164          | 53                    | 111                 |
| Office of Industrial Relations                                 | 988          | 632                   | 356                 |
| Planning   | 205          | 129                   | 76                  |
| Strategic, Insights and Advisory                               | 91           | 91                    | -                   |
| Corporate including Grants, Commercial and Contract Management | 168          | 167                   | 1                   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>1,813</b> | <b>1,259</b><br>(70%) | <b>554</b><br>(30%) |

## CAPITAL WORKS

40. DSDIP delivers the following capital programs:
- a. the Queensland Resources Common User Facility with a project value of \$125 million which will deliver common user infrastructure at the Cleveland Bay Industrial Park in Townsville to support the development, extraction and production of critical minerals.

- b. grant programs with a total value of \$3 billion, which includes the following capital grant programs:
    - iv. the Incentivising Infill Development Fund supporting residential development with a program value of \$350 million
    - v. the Building our Regions program (Rounds 1 to 5) and the Resources Community Infrastructure Fund. Both support community infrastructure projects across regional and remote Queensland with a program value of \$329.6 million and \$220 million respectively
    - vi. the Houghton Pipeline – Stage 2 will deliver water infrastructure in North Queensland with a total program value of \$195 million
    - vii. the City Deal initiative which has a total program value of \$1.8 billion
    - viii. Spit Master Plan implementation with a total funding commitment of \$60 million
  - c. the Industry Development function also provides non-capital grants to attract targeted industry investment.
41. DSDIP will also deliver the State Government’s \$2 billion Housing Infrastructure Fund dedicated to enabling infrastructure that unlocks new housing developments from July 2025.