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12 October 2018

Mr Chris Whiting MP  
Chair  
State Development, Natural Resources and  
Agricultural Industry Development Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Email: [sdnraide@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:sdnraide@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Whiting

**Re: Inquiry into the Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018**

Thank you for your correspondence to Mayor Mark Jamieson dated 21 September 2018 inviting a written submission from Sunshine Coast Council on the above Bill. I am replying on Council's behalf and offer the following comments for the Committee's consideration.

Amendments to the *Building Queensland Act 2015* (BQ Act)

I note the amendments to the BQ Act would afford the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) lead responsibility for business case development for road transport infrastructure projects under \$500 million. Two Sunshine Coast projects potentially fall into this category; the Mooloolah River Interchange and the Kawana Arterial Extension.

On the face of it, this amendment is supported given DTMR has the relevant technical capability that is required to progress road transport infrastructure studies. However, I feel it necessary to articulate our hope that BQ will continue to play a key role in identified projects that fall out of the proposed new thresholds. The proposed approach recognises the large number of major road transport projects and that significant expertise reside within DTMR. Whilst appreciating the need a value threshold being applied, any project can carry considerable risk for the community, the environment, and/or government/s. BQ brings enormous value to these projects and we trust that they will continue to be intricately involved to ensure the appropriate rigour is applied for those projects that do not meet the value based threshold.

Amendments to the *Economic Development Act 2012* (ED Act) and other Acts consequential to the operation of the ED Act

Sunshine Coast Council officers have, this year, participated in a stakeholder engagement group convened by Economic Development Queensland (EDQ) regarding the proposed amendments to the ED Act and other Acts consequential to the operation of the ED Act. Council officers have provided input to assist with the operational efficiency of the ED Act through that consultative process.

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I welcome the operational efficiencies for Sunshine Coast Council that the Bill would provide through:

- its alignment of some of the provisions within the Economic Development and the Planning acts, particularly in regard to entry provision and enforcement measures pertaining to development offences in Local Government Area Priority Development Areas;
- clarity in the points of difference in terms of how the ED Act administers Local Government Area Priority Development Areas specifically;
- consistency in termination between the ED Act and the Planning Act.

The proposed amendments would specifically improve administrative processes including:

- Precision in plan making stages – to better facilitate delegation and decisions that remain with the State under the ED Act that align with processes under the Planning Act;
- Removal of Governor in Council process so that a development scheme can take effect by public notice;
- Maintaining consideration of Planning Act assessment benchmarks (although not bound) in plan making; and
- Direction on how State interests would be addressed if consideration of such matters were delegated.

#### Amendments to the *Planning Act 2016* (Planning Act)

Sunshine Coast Council welcomes the Bill's amendments that remove the potential for Infrastructure Charges Notices (ICNs) to be challenged on grounds of insufficiently detailed reasons for issue. This change provides certainty for local governments regarding the validity of ICNs issued.

Additionally, the amendments for electronic service of documents and the removal of the submitter appellant requirement to give all other submitters to the development application a copy of the notice of appeal are sensible and welcomed improvements to the legislation.

#### Amendments to the *Planning and Environment Court Act 2016* (P&E Court Act)

The option for the Court to refer matters to a mediator is a sensible and welcomed improvement to the legislation.

#### Amendments to the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011* (QRA Act)

The amendments to the QRA Act would provide clear policy ownership and implementation of Disaster Management in Queensland. The all hazards approach aligns with Sunshine Coast Council's disaster management policy.

I trust this information is useful to the Committee and I thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Whittaker", is written over a faint dotted line.

**Mike Whittaker**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**