



Speech by

Hon. Andrew Fraser

MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA

Hansard Thursday, 23 August 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

State Planning Reform

Hon. AP FRASER (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Planning and Sport) (10.21 am): Yesterday's release of the analysis of the 2006 census data confirmed our position as the growth state of Australia. It affirmed this government's commitment and determination to reform local government boundaries to cope with that growth. Yesterday also saw the introduction of the Urban Land Development Authority Bill, which commences the implementation of the Queensland Housing Affordability Strategy and delivers upon our key election commitment to ensure infrastructure charging is fair and appropriate. Today we take another important and significant step in ensuring we have the framework and policy settings primed to cope with this growth. I table for the benefit of the House *Planning for prosperity*, a blueprint for reform of Queensland's planning and development system.

Tabled paper: Report by the Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation titled 'Planning for a Prosperous Queensland, A reform agenda of planning and development in the Smart State' dated August 2007

This is a document that charts the path for an overhaul of planning legislation in this state.

A decade on from the original introduction of the Integrated Planning Act, we take a quantum leap forward in ensuring Queensland remains at the forefront of planning innovation. We will roll out statutory regional plans across the state, with a focus on high-growth areas. The South East Queensland Statutory Regional Plan set a new standard across Australia for best practice planning—planning at a regional scale underpinned by an infrastructure plan. We have already commenced the new Far North Queensland Statutory Regional Plan. Complexity within the IPA framework is acutely apparent to all, and we are committed to significantly consolidating the expression of state interests and requirements. Amongst the significant reforms are proposals to simplify and streamline the myriad state planning documents, codes, policies and guidelines into a set of state planning policies with enduring application.

A new suite of state planning policies, starting with SPPs on climate change, transit-oriented development and recreations based on new developments, will bring sharp focus to these issues across the state. We are also committed to better community engagement and more streamlined dispute resolution. Presently, planning schemes and documents are generally not easily comprehended by the broader community. We will move to put in place standardised format and structure requirements for planning schemes to achieve better legibility. This has positive benefits for the community, industry and local governments themselves.

We will expand the ability of the Building and Development Tribunal to hear and mediate disputes rather than requiring all applicants to immediately proceed to the Planning and Environment Court. Other changes contemplated in the blueprint include reform to better deal with historic approvals, reform to the preliminary approval process to ensure proper community input into significant development proposals, and provision for clearer ability to step in and sort out conflicts between agencies and provide direction where necessary. This is once again significant, bold and necessary reform. It is reform to ensure that we deal with growth and benefit from that growth. It is reform to ensure we grow sustainably and protect and preserve our natural heritage and the way of life for the benefit of future generations. We are leading the nation's growth, and we remain committed to leading innovation in our planning.