



Speech by

**Hon. Paul Lucas**

**MEMBER FOR LYTTON**

Hansard Thursday, 1 November 2007

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **World Town Planning Day**

**Hon. PT LUCAS** (Lytton—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.54 am): It is often said that great cities are not built in a day—and with good reason: they have to be planned first. Here in Queensland, as we enjoy the fruits of an unprecedented infrastructure boom—coupled with sea change, tree change and climate change—the role of planning has never been more important. Long before the bulldozers move in planners investigate and identify the best cost-effective routes for transport corridors and water pipelines. They assess the supporting infrastructure needed for new mines and develop the strategies that ensure our towns and cities remain liveable and sustainable. Every aspect of our built environment is a product of planning. Our planners are the visionaries of the future.

There are more than 1,100 registered planners in Queensland and, like many highly skilled workers in these boom times, they are valued and in short supply. That is why I am urging Queenslanders to celebrate the contribution of planners next Thursday, 8 November, on World Town Planning Day. This international day of recognition for planners was founded almost 60 years ago by the University of Buenos Aires but has never been more relevant. It is a way of raising the profile of professional and regional planners, social planners and urban designers, to attract the next generation of town planners, so we can continue building the Queensland of tomorrow.

Without planners the \$82 billion South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program and the regional plan would be empty rhetoric. Instead we are planning, planning, planning and building, building, building for the nation's fastest-growing population. Thanks to the dedication of our planners, the success of the South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program is setting the template for others. Already recognised as a prime example of Australian best practice, we are applying the knowledge and the hard yards of the South East Queensland Regional Plan to the Far North Queensland Regional Plan, the North West Queensland Regional Plan, the central west, the south west and the Maranoa.

The dark days of ad hoc development—much like the half northern bypass that goes through the electorate of the member for Moggill and just foisted on them by John Howard—and the white shoe brigade in Queensland are gone forever. The planners have triumphed. They are in the driver's seat of Australia's economic engine room. I encourage every one of us to shake the hand of a planner next Thursday to say thanks for helping make this state one of opportunity and sustainability.