



Speech by

Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Thursday, 18 June 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

South East Queensland Regional Plan

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.08 am): I would like to thank the many South-East Queensland residents who have made the effort to provide submissions on the draft SEQ Regional Plan 2009-2031. The draft regional plan was released for public consultation on 7 December 2008, as many members would be aware. This was the first review of the plan since 2005. I am happy to report that more than 3,400 submissions were received. In fact, I extended the original consultation period by one month to 1 May 2009 following requests from local government and the community.

Of the submissions received, over 82 per cent were from private individuals and a further 14 per cent were from community and business organisations. It is very pleasing to see this level of community interest in planning for the future of the South-East Queensland region. We are now hard at work analysing these submissions and developing the final plan which will shape South-East Queensland over the next 20 years and preserve our enviable way of life.

I want to thank the Chairman of the Council of Mayors SEQ, Lord Mayor Campbell Newman, for his strong support of the fundamentals of this plan. I look forward to working with him on the final plan to reflect the feedback from the 12 councils across the region. I have also had a number of further meetings with a range of councillors from across the region on the basis of their submissions.

The draft plan locks 84 per cent of the south-east away from urban development and protects our vital green space. The focus on growth remains the western corridor, where the population will expand twice as fast as in Brisbane and the coastal areas. But, as the Lord Mayor has highlighted, without question we will see higher density living in the right places across the region unless we choose to start eating into our green space instead of protecting it. Let me make it clear: we will not allow wall-to-wall skyscrapers across the region despite what some developers might like.

This is all about giving people a choice: there will always be room for a home on a good-sized block with a traditional backyard, just as other people will opt for the convenience of living in higher density areas which are well serviced by infrastructure. Councils will play a vital role as the local planning authority to shape their region to best service their communities within the overarching guide of this regional plan. I will pay close attention to their feedback before releasing the final plan in the coming months.