



Speech by

## Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Thursday, 10 June 2010

---

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### Planning Applications, Smart eDA Online Service

**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.21 am): The Bligh government's new user-friendly Smart eDA online service for preparing and lodging planning applications will continue to be rolled out throughout the state. Further funding of over \$1.8 million towards the maintenance and support of the Smart eDA system announced in Tuesday's budget will see this smart and green initiative made available to more local governments. The system, developed by the state government in consultation with the Local Government Association of Queensland, councils and industry stakeholders, streamlines and simplifies the development assessment system. Paper based development applications are generally difficult to handle, disperse and monitor and place significant demands on councils in terms of staff and costs. The electronic system provides Queensland with a more efficient, transparent and consistent development assessment process that will reduce the cost of development. For example, anyone using any part of the Smart eDA system can follow the progress of their applications online. They can also receive notification should council request further information. This was previously unavailable and valuable council resources were undoubtedly tied up in handling requests for this information.

This system is now available in 15 local government areas including the Redlands, Bundaberg, Cairns, Western Downs, Mackay, South Burnett, Somerset, Gladstone, Whitsunday, North Burnett, Burdekin, Isaac, Southern Downs, Cassowary Coast and the Central Highlands, among others. From September 2010 plumbing applications may be lodged through the Smart eDA service with one-off payments of \$10 per application. This provides excellent value for preparing, lodging and tracking plumbing applications through a 24/7 online service. The recently announced budget allocation will allow the Bligh government to continue to roll out the Smart eDA system across the state, with an additional 15 councils expected to go live within the next 12 months. My department will continue to work closely with councils to train staff and inform local planners about the Smart eDA system's efficiencies. This initiative is part of the Bligh government's commitment to improving planning services for councils, residents and applicants across the length and breadth of Queensland.