



Speech by

Hon. Jeff Seeneey

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Hansard Thursday, 15 November 2012

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Regional Planning

Hon. JW SEENEY (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.36 am): Our government was strongly supported by voters across regional Queensland. One of our key election promises to regional Queenslanders was to introduce statutory regional plans that would address land use conflict issues between the agricultural industries, urban areas and the expanding resources industry. Our government committed to delivering certainty to landholders, local communities and industry through the preparation of statutory regional plans and statutory land use maps.

In late June, we announced the start of work to deliver regional plans for Central Queensland and the Darling Downs. There has been a considerable amount of consultation with interest groups, local governments and across a range of government departments and a range of local members which has resulted in the compilation of issues papers as a basis for the planning process. Today, I want to table the draft issues papers for the benefit of all members. They are draft issues papers for the statutory regional planning process for Central Queensland and for the Darling Downs.

Tabled paper: Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, Issues Paper—Draft: Central Queensland Regional Plan, November 2012 [[1591](#)].

Tabled paper: Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, Issues Paper—Draft: Darling Downs Regional Plan, November 2012 [[1592](#)].

Tabled paper: Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning—Draft Darling Downs Economic Development Strategy: Draft for Stakeholder Consultation, October 2012 [[1593](#)].

Tabled paper: Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning—Draft Central Queensland Economic Development Strategy: Draft for Stakeholder Consultation, October 2012 [[1594](#)].

The next step in this process is to discuss the draft issues papers, that I have tabled today, for each of those regions with the regional planning committees and subsequently with all stakeholders. I and staff from my department will be travelling to Biloela tomorrow and Chinchilla next week to meet with the regional planning committees to discuss and finalise the issues papers for each region. Each issues paper is supported by a draft economic development strategy and infrastructure baseline.

The issues papers seek to deliver on our election commitments to address the land use conflict issues by proposing priority agricultural areas be mapped across each region with co-existence criteria to be established for other land uses within those priority agricultural areas. Similarly, town protection areas are proposed to protect the amenity and social values of regional towns, hamlets and rural residential areas.

The initial strategies contained in the issues papers were discussed with stakeholders in Chinchilla, Toowoomba and Rockhampton over the last two months. Between now and the end of the year my department will conduct another extensive round of stakeholder consultation on the draft issues papers and the planning concepts that have been developed to resolve the land use conflicts which have always been the most contentious part of this statutory regional planning.

Feedback from this consultation will be used in the preparation of the draft regional plans for Central Queensland and the Darling Downs which will be released for public consultation in early 2013. We are getting on with the job of regional planning and delivering our election promises to the people of regional Queensland.