

Question on Notice

No. 462

Asked on 1 August 2012

MR RICKUSS asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (Mr SEENEY) –

QUESTION:

How much land is zoned rural residential/rural living (or other similar zoning) in the Lockyer Valley Regional Council area and will the Deputy Premier advise what policy the Department of Infrastructure and Planning has for managing this land?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Lockyer for his question.

The Lockyer Valley Regional Council area comprises 227 200 hectares (or 2272 square kilometres).

Of the total land area in the Lockyer Valley, 6061 hectares (or 2.7 per cent) of the total land area in the Lockyer Valley is currently zoned for rural living purposes under the existing planning schemes for the former Gatton and Laidley Shires.

The SEQ Regional Plan 2009-2031 categorises land into three land use designations: Urban Footprint; Rural Living Area; and Regional Landscape and Rural Production Area. Rural Living Areas include land designated for rural residential development in local government planning schemes. They account for about 2 per cent of the SEQ region.

The SEQ Regional Plan anticipates that by 2031 an additional 11 500 dwellings will be required in the Lockyer Valley region to accommodate the required residential growth. The majority of this growth is planned to occur in the urban footprint areas surrounding the existing townships of Gatton, Laidley, Plainland and Withcott.

The urban footprint promotes compact development and protects rural lands by preventing ad-hoc and dispersed development throughout the rural landscape. This government is committed to sustainable urban growth in an efficient and orderly manner so as to maximise infrastructure investment in regional communities.

A review of the SEQ Regional Plan is due by July 2014. The new SEQ Regional Plan will clearly identify appropriate land uses across the region and provide guidance to councils like the Lockyer Valley regarding the best way to address competing state and regional interests, such as strategic cropping land (SCL) and vegetation management.