

Question on Notice

No. 535

Asked on 8 August 2013

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

QUESTION:

Will the Deputy Premier outline how the proposed infrastructure planning and charging framework will assist development and growth without negatively impacting upon local government revenues in delivering to community expectations?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Ferny Grove for his question.

The reform of Queensland's local infrastructure charges framework is a key priority for the Queensland Government's planning reform agenda. The new framework is intended to commence from 1 July 2014 and will aim to provide clarity, certainty, equity and support both long-term local government sustainability and a prosperous development industry in Queensland.

The reforms will support the government's objective to reinvigorate Queensland's development and construction industry by improving the certainty and transparency of infrastructure charges. By improving the certainty and transparency of the infrastructure charges framework the state government will build confidence in the development industry.

As part of this reform, the review will also consider the scope of infrastructure for which local infrastructure charges apply. Infrastructure charges are levied by local governments and water distributor-retailers to offset the cost of delivering the trunk infrastructure necessary to support development. This includes water, sewerage, stormwater, local roads and park infrastructure. It is important to get the infrastructure scope right to enable local governments to collect charges for the infrastructure that is actually necessary to service new development, while ensuring that development is only contributing its fair share of infrastructure costs. Infrastructure costs directly impact development feasibility and are ultimately passed on to the purchaser, including homebuyers.

The review is also about establishing a more cost-effective and administratively efficient infrastructure planning framework to better equip local authorities to plan for and manage growth and development in local communities. Under the new infrastructure charges framework, local governments will retain the flexibility to plan for new growth and development to meet local infrastructure needs and community expectations.