

## Question on Notice

No. 51

Asked on 15 February 2017

**MS FARMER** asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (HON J TRAD) –

### QUESTION:

Will the Deputy Premier provide an update on the progress of the South East Queensland Regional Plan and advise the benefit of the plan for inner city electorates like Bulimba?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Bulimba for the question.

South East Queensland's (SEQ) population is changing and growing, with an additional two million people expected to call SEQ home by 2041. To ensure we cater for this growth in a sustainable way that delivers benefits to our communities, including Bulimba, the Palaszczuk Government released *ShapingSEQ*, the new draft regional plan for SEQ, for public consultation on 20 October 2016.

While retaining its statutory function to effectively manage SEQ's growth over the next 25 years, for the first time the Palaszczuk Government has ensured that *ShapingSEQ* also provides a long-term 50 year vision for the future of the region.

It builds on the legacy of successful and award-winning growth management initiatives delivered by previous Labor Governments and brings a new focus to supporting the liveability and prosperity of the region by:

- planning for a globally competitive economy
- delivering more complete communities
- focusing on greater active and public transport solutions
- recognising the value of good design, based on our sub-tropical lifestyle and
- taking a more holistic approach to affordability by offering affordable living options.

This draft regional plan provides a greater focus on delivering development, housing, jobs and services within existing urban areas. It also recognises the value of good design to enhance economic growth and support more complete communities.

A key feature of *ShapingSEQ* relevant to inner city areas is the concept of the "missing middle" which is about ensuring that as we grow we are catering for housing choice through high quality design outcomes.

The missing middle acknowledges that higher densities are not only achieved through high rises, and promotes an innovative and diverse approach to low and medium rise

development that achieves higher densities. This form of housing choice will also be important for supporting our ageing population, particularly for members of the community who wish to downsize but stay in the local area.

To support the implementation of *ShapingSEQ*, the Government Architect is also leading a program of activity to boost design quality and give councils more and better tools to promote housing diversity without compromising on design standards. One such tool is a design manual that directly speaks to the principles of good design identified in *ShapingSEQ* and the missing middle.

It is important to acknowledge that while *ShapingSEQ* focuses on accommodating growth efficiently across the region, it remains the responsibility of councils through their planning schemes and neighbourhood plans to determine the form and distribution of densities in their local government area. Therefore, the residential densities in *ShapingSEQ* are to be used as a guide to inform more detailed local planning. This is why the government will continue working closely with all SEQ councils through the finalisation of the plan.

I am confident *ShapingSEQ* is delivering on this government's commitment to release a considered and effective growth management framework for our most populous region.

The 90 business day public consultation period for *ShapingSEQ* closed at midnight, 3 March 2017. This exceeded the minimum statutory notification requirements.

I encourage everyone in South East Queensland, including residents of Bulimba, to get involved in local planning to find ways in which new development and redevelopment can occur in a positive way in our suburbs.