



## ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS OFFICE (QLD) INC.

30 Hardgrave Road  
West End QLD 4101

Telephone: (07) 3211 4466  
Facsimile: (07) 3211 4655  
E-mail: [edoqld@edo.org.au](mailto:edoqld@edo.org.au)  
[www.edo.org.au/edoqld](http://www.edo.org.au/edoqld)  
ABN 14 911 812 589

3 June 2008

### **EDO ALERT** **JUNE 6 DEADLINE - KEY ISSUES IN THE REVIEW OF THE SEQ** **REGIONAL PLAN**

The Department of Infrastructure and Planning has announced an early review of the South East Queensland (SEQ) Regional Plan. Now is the time to name the key issues for the review.

#### ***ACTION***

**Lodge your own submission on the key issues of the SEQ Regional Plan review, by either:**

1. Adding your contact details and comments to the form prepared by the EDO (see below) It is available in Word format for you to edit, at the Law Reform page on our website.  
or
2. Completing the form at <http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/docs/temp/seq-regional-plan-review-submission-form.pdf>.

You can post your completed form to Department of Infrastructure and Planning, PO Box 15009 City East Qld 4002 or e-mail it to: [planning@dip.qld.gov.au](mailto:planning@dip.qld.gov.au).

#### ***BACKGROUND***

The original population projection of one million more people is now said to be too low - we can expect a lot more! The Government has announced a review of the SEQ Regional Plan and this is your chance to have your say on the key issues the review should consider. The Government has released the Terms of Reference of what it considers to be the key issues, see <http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/regional-planning/review-2.html>. We have until **Friday 6 June 2008** to say whether we agree with the key issues and identify what issues have been missed.

#### ***EDO'S KEY ISSUES***

1. A full and proper assessment of the ecologically sustainable carrying capacity of the SEQ region. The assessment must be made publicly available before public submissions are sought on the proposed amended SEQ Regional plan. The basis of the SEQ Regional Plan must be achieving ecologically sustainable development. The projected populated growth must be considered as one arm to achieving that goal and priority can not be given to population growth at the expense of the environment and social arms of sustainability.
2. The SEQ Region must be assessed and the SEQ Regional Plan must not provide for development beyond the ecologically sustainable carrying capacity of the area. In particular, the assessment of carrying capacity must include an assessment of water availability; infrastructure capacity; and natural resources so that no further flora or fauna becomes threatened, endangered or extinct in SEQ. The carrying capacity of SEQ Region

must be assessed based on the future climate change scenarios such as extreme weather conditions, drought, and extensive loss of coastal lands

3. Climate change must be central to the new SEQ Regional Plan. Climate change should be considered not just in terms of adaptation, but also in terms of mitigation – regional planning designed at reducing Queensland’s emissions. The region’s carbon footprint should be identified and included in the SEQ Regional Plan. Targets should be set and included to reduce greenhouse gases by sector.
4. Population projections should not be used as planning targets or requirements at regional and local levels. The success of the SEQ Regional Plan and local plans must not be assessed against population targets. Rather, the target for planning at the regional and local levels must be to achieve ecological sustainability.
5. We should plan for a diverse range of housing needs and provide housing that ensures real affordability rather than simply increasing the supply of housing. Housing affordability must not be used to justify overdevelopment at the expense of ecological sustainability.
6. The Environmental Defenders Office (Qld) Inc and representatives from the community and environment sectors must be included as key stakeholders and consulted throughout the review.

**ENDS**



### South East Queensland Regional Plan review

The review of the South East Queensland (SEQ) Regional Plan is currently underway. The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the review have been endorsed by state government. The TOR outline a number of key issues to be considered as part of the review (listed below).

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Order by circling each key issue in priority of low, medium and high. If there are any additional key issues you believe should be considered add them in the space provided.

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|--|--|
| L <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H | Managing the projected population increases of around 1.2 million people over the next 20 years  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> M H                                     | An assessment of the capacity of the Urban Footprint to 2031, including a review of the urban management strategy proposed in the current plan                     |
| L M <input type="checkbox"/> H                                   | Development of a regional climate change management strategy   |
| L <input type="checkbox"/> M H                                   | Provision of a wide range of housing opportunities to meet diverse community needs and address housing affordability issues  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> M H                                     | Identification of a network of employment opportunities, including industrial lands, to provide a more diverse and decentralized pattern of employment             |
| L M <input type="checkbox"/> H                                   | Improved linkages between residential areas, employment areas and public transport, including a commitment to more consolidated and transport friendly development |
| L M <input type="checkbox"/> H                                   | Development of an integrated regional transport plan and congestion management strategy  |
| L M <input type="checkbox"/> H                                   | Development of an integrated regional open space system, including rural and urban networks  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> M H                                     | Enabling development of appropriate rural industries, tourism and non-urban economic opportunities in the region's rural areas                                     |
| L M <input type="checkbox"/> H                                   | Strengthening the sustainability framework of the SEQ Regional Plan  |
| L <input type="checkbox"/> M H                                   | Reviewing the operation of the Regulatory Provisions of the SEQ Regional Plan  |
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#### Other key issues not identified above:

The key issues in the review of the SEQ Regional Plan must include:

1. A full and proper assessment of the ecologically sustainable carrying capacity of the SEQ region. The assessment must be made publicly available before public submissions are sought on the proposed amended SEQ Regional plan. The basis of the SEQ Regional Plan must be achieving ecologically sustainable development. The projected populated growth must be considered as one arm to achieving that goal and priority can not be given to population growth at the expense of the environment and social arms of sustainability.
2. The SEQ Region must be assessed and the SEQ Regional Plan must not provide for development beyond the ecologically sustainable carrying capacity of the area. In particular, the assessment of carrying capacity must include an assessment of water

availability; infrastructure capacity; and natural resources so that no further flora or fauna becomes threatened, endangered or extinct in SEQ. The carrying capacity of SEQ Region must be assessed based on the future climate change scenarios such as extreme weather conditions, drought, and extensive loss of coastal lands.

3. Climate change must be central to the new SEQ Regional Plan. Climate change should be considered not just in terms of adaptation, but also in terms of mitigation – regional planning designed at reducing Queensland’s emissions. The region’s carbon footprint should be identified and included in the SEQ Regional Plan. Targets should be set and included to reduce greenhouse gases by sector.
4. Population projections should not be used as planning targets or requirements at regional and local levels. The success of the SEQ Regional Plan and local plans must not be assessed against population targets. Rather, the target for planning at the regional and local levels must be to achieve ecological sustainability.
5. We should plan for a diverse range of housing needs and provide housing that ensures real affordability rather than simply increasing the supply of housing. Housing affordability must not be used to justify overdevelopment at the expense of ecological sustainability.
6. The Environmental Defenders Office (Qld) Inc and representatives from the community and environment sectors must be included as key stakeholders and consulted throughout the review.
7. The following must be supported by the SEQ Regional Plan:
  - i. The Actions within the Healthy Waterways Strategy 2007-2012;
  - ii. The SEQ Natural Resource Management Plan Resource Condition Targets;
  - iii. The findings and recommendations of the State of the Regional Report to be released in July;
  - iv. SEQ Constraint mapping;
  - v. SEQ Catchments Eco system services mapping;
  - vi. Endangered Regional Ecosystems and Of Concern must be fully protected from further development;
  - vii. Significant and regional biodiversity and wildlife corridors must be fully protected;
  - viii. Endangered and Vulnerable species must be given strong protections;
  - ix. The SEQ koala and its habitat must be fully protected within the SEQ Regional Plan;
  - x. The SEQ Regional Plan must incorporate the recommendation of the joint submission made by the environmental sector via QCC on the review of the State Coastal Plan;
  - xi. An enforceable target for public transport use and green energy use;
  - xii. More open space and recreational land, at the regional and local levels, but not at the expense of national parts or land for conservation.

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**The closing date for nominations is Friday 6 June 2008.**

**Please return your completed form to:**

Regional Plan Review  
Southern Region Division

Name: Environmental Defenders Office  
(Qld) Inc

Department of Infrastructure and Planning

Address: 30 Hardgrave Road, West End,

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PO Box 15009 City East QLD 4002  
Australia  
Tel 1800 021 818  
planning@dip.qld.gov.au

4101  
Contact Number. (07) 3211 4466  
Email. [edoqld@edo.org.au](mailto:edoqld@edo.org.au).

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The Department of Infrastructure and Planning is collecting the information contained within this submission form to assist with the development of the South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031. Only authorised officers of the department will have access to this information. Your personal information contained within this form will not be disclosed to any third party without your consent, unless authorised or required by law. The department will make all efforts to maintain confidentiality, however submissions may be accessed under the Freedom of Information Act 1992. If your submission does become subject to a freedom of information application, you will be contacted by the department. If you have any queries about privacy, please contact the Privacy Contact Officer on +61 7 3225 8463.