



Hon Paul Lucas MP



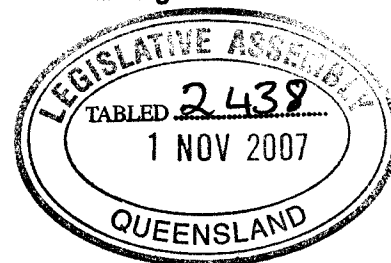
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Government

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30 OCT 2007

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Deputy Premier  
Minister for Infrastructure  
and Planning



Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 5 September 2007 to the former Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure, the Honourable Anna Bligh MP about population growth in South East Queensland – Petition Number 837-07. As you are aware, I have been appointed as the Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning.

The level of community concern about the adverse impacts of population growth in South East Queensland was a factor in the State Government committing to develop the *South East Queensland Regional Plan 2005-2026* (SEQ Regional Plan). Population growth in SEQ is the outcome of economic and social trends that operate on local, national and global levels.

There are many challenges arising from population growth in South East Queensland including increased demand for land, use of natural resources, water supply and maintaining the region's quality of life. While there are some adverse impacts, population growth also benefits the region by providing employment, a stronger economy and a more sustainable business environment.

Overall it is the policy of the State Government to manage the growth and development of SEQ in a sustainable way. A key tool is the SEQ Regional Plan's Urban Footprint, which prevents urban sprawl by limiting future urban development and establishes the Regional Landscape and Rural production Area, which is over 80% of the region.

For planning purposes the population projections prepared by the Planning Information and Forecasting Unit (recently moved to the Department of Infrastructure and Planning from the previous Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation) are used in the SEQ Regional Plan. These projections are used to guide planning by State agencies and local governments but these projections are not mandated growth targets.

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The SEQ Regional Plan is supported by Local Growth Management Strategies (LGMS) being prepared by each of the local governments of the region. An LGMS demonstrates the location and nature of population growth and development, the infrastructure required to support population growth and proposals to meet dwelling targets and achieve the policies outlined in the SEQ Regional Plan.

Local governments are being encouraged to continue preparing a LGMS including public notification and public comment. Where local government areas have been affected by boundary realignments, Councils are being encouraged to work together to determine the most practical process for public notification (either combined or separate). The SEQ Regional Plan itself is to be reviewed by 2010. This review will include consideration of the more detailed land capacity analysis being undertaken by local government through the LGMS process. Likewise the Office of Urban Management will be better informed of regional issues when it is able to collate an LGMS overview. Clearly, the planning iterations between State and local governments is an adaptive process and it is not feasible to defer ongoing work until after the local government elections in 2008.

On the broader ranging issues raised in the petition the SEQ Regional Plan requires a State of Region report be prepared to inform the Regional Plan review. This report will be available by mid 2008 and will inform decision makers, planners and the community on the wide ranging issues to be considered in the review of the SEQ Regional Plan. Again, it is not desirable to defer ongoing work which will in fact better inform regional planning reviews.

I hope the above information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

**PAUL LUCAS MP**  
**Deputy Premier**  
**Minister for Infrastructure and Planning**