

# About the department

## Our vision

Drive the economic development of Queensland

The Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning exists to deliver Queensland's economic prosperity by championing the interests of business and industry.

We achieve this by driving business and economic growth, leading infrastructure policy and planning for the state, reforming Queensland's planning system, and assessing, approving, facilitating and delivering major projects.

The department is actively working to accomplish these objectives by:

- ensuring a clear understanding across government that the economic development agenda is a key driver of government activity
- providing policy and forward planning that improves certainty for the private sector and reduces risks to projects, thereby encouraging investment and economic growth
- ensuring timely delivery of infrastructure and major and coordinated projects that drive economic growth and provide better value for money
- streamlining processes and reducing red tape and assessment timeframes
- negotiating with the Australian Government to deliver a one-stop-shop

for Commonwealth environmental impact assessments and approvals

- reforming the planning system, streamlining approval timeframes and facilitating economic growth
- underpinning service delivery with strong leadership, sound governance and efficient support services.

This is supported by our reform program, which aims to enhance Queensland's competitive position by reducing the cost of doing business in Queensland and providing certainty of policy, process and decision making.

The department was established in April 2012 and is responsible to Parliament through the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, and is constituted under the Administrative Arrangements.

## Our groups

### Coordinator-General

Under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*, the Coordinator-General has wide-ranging powers to plan, deliver and coordinate large-scale projects that are vital to the economic development of Queensland, while ensuring that the potential environmental impacts are properly managed.

## State Development

State Development is tasked with championing the interests of business and industry in Queensland and removing regulatory bottlenecks and impediments to investment. It also plays a pivotal role in the development of economic policy and strategies, as well as leading infrastructure policy development for Queensland.

## Planning and Property

The Planning and Property group delivers a planning reform program to give Queensland the best planning and development assessment system in Australia. The group also ensures the state's property-based assets are identified, assessed and managed to their full potential, now and into the future.

## Major Projects Office

The Major Projects Office supports the delivery of the government's community objective to build a four pillar economy by providing timely assistance for the delivery of infrastructure, focusing on complex and high profile projects to maximise state development benefits and attracting major tourism development to Queensland.

## Regional Services

Regional Services provides an integrated suite of business, industry, regional development and land use planning services on behalf of, or in partnership with, a range of Queensland Government departments.

## Economic Development Queensland

This is a commercialised business unit within the department delivering land solutions to facilitate economic growth and development for community purposes.

It plays a key role in streamlining and fast-tracking development throughout the state.

## Organisational Support and Reform

Organisational Support and Reform provides business and corporate support services to the department's business groups, the Department of Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience and the GasFields Commission Queensland, to enable them to effectively deliver government priorities.

## Legislation

Our work is principally governed by the following legislation:

- *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (SDPWOA)—an Act setting out the powers of the Coordinator-General to plan, assess, approve and coordinate, and/or undertake infrastructure and other economic development through a coordinated system of public works organisation, environmental coordination and related purpose projects.
- *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* (SPA)—an Act to achieve ecological sustainability through managing the process by which development takes place.
- *Economic Development Act 2012*—an Act about economic development and development for community purposes. The Act also establishes the Commonwealth Games Infrastructure Authority.

For other legislation administered by our department view the [Administrative Arrangements](#).

## Machinery of government changes

The GasFields Commission was established as an independent statutory body on 1 July 2013 under the *GasFields Commission Act 2013*, to manage and improve the sustainable coexistence of

landholders, regional communities and the onshore gas industry. The Commission has the power to review legislation and regulation; advise on coexistence issues; convene parties to resolve issues; and make recommendations to government and industry.

## Operating environment

The Queensland economy grew by 3.6 per cent over the previous financial year, noticeably higher than the equivalent rate for the rest of Australia. This growth primarily occurred on the back of strong business investment in both the resources sector and exports. However, the state still faces a high level of debt, which is constraining the government's ability to invest in high benefit-cost ratio projects that can help to lift productivity and improve overall economic performance.

Economic growth is forecast at 3 per cent in 2014-15, before rising to 6 per cent in 2015-16, the fastest of all states in Australia. Supported by sustained low interest rates, rising asset prices and a lower exchange rate, this short-term economic growth is expected to be underpinned by household consumption growth, a recovery in dwelling investment and a significant contribution from net exports.

This forecast growth will likely be assisted by low borrowing costs, rising rental yields and accelerating housing price growth. Meanwhile, the state's labour market shows continued improvement in employment conditions supported by some recovery in the labour-intensive household sector, albeit at lower rates than originally forecast.

The resources sector is moving from an investment phase towards more of an export phase. For the past three years, business investment has been boosted by capital investment in LNG projects, totalling more than \$60 billion. With this investment peaking in the past year, other sectors of the economy, especially exports and construction, will increasingly contribute to economic growth.

There are a number of economic challenges that must be considered to ensure economic growth into the future, including dealing with increased international competition, significant cost pressures and how to best lift productivity levels. Without a lift in productivity, a substantial budget deficit may re-emerge within the next few years, affecting the cost of living and quality of public services.

This highlights an argument for further sustained policy action. The department has already begun the necessary adjustment of our role to address the major demographic, economic and fiscal challenges ahead.

The *Governing for Growth* economic framework sets out clear strategic priorities and determined action to boost Queensland's economy and grow jobs.

This strategy aligns with *The Queensland Plan*, which reflects the collective aspirations and priorities of Queenslanders for the future and will serve as Queensland's vision for the next 30 years.

The department will expand its pivotal role working with industry and regional

communities to ensure sustainable economic growth can be maximised throughout Queensland, while growing and strengthening a four pillar economy into the future.

## Future direction

During 2014-15 the department will continue to identify efficiencies, implement refined delivery models and focus on delivery of prioritised programs and activities within existing budgets. The department's priorities include:

- delivering the *RegionsQ Framework* initiative to build vibrant and prosperous regions including delivering the *RegionsQ Action Plan* and *Showcase*
- leading the implementation of the *Governing for Growth* strategy to accelerate economic development
- delivering Queensland's state-wide infrastructure plan, *InfrastructureQ*, which focuses on productive economic infrastructure including transportation, energy and water sectors, as well as other key infrastructure needed for the improvement of health, education and liveability
- progressing proponent selection for world class Integrated Resort Developments in Brisbane and regional Queensland
- progressing projects under the Royalties for the Regions program, responding to critical community needs
- continuing delivery of Regional and Resource Town Action Plan commitments
- maximising economic development opportunities in the Mary Valley
- redeveloping Queen's Wharf Brisbane
- implementing legislative amendments to the SDPWOA which support the establishment of a one-stop-shop for Commonwealth environmental approval to significantly streamline the impact assessment process for coordinated projects
- developing an outcome-based regulatory framework for the coal seam gas industry
- delivering the Queensland Ports Act, strategy and master planning guidelines
- implementing the Abbot Point Beneficial Reuse Strategy
- introducing the Planning and Development Bill to unlock our planning system, facilitate development and investment and empower local governments to plan for their communities
- encouraging councils to use a new 'fair value schedule of charges' to become eligible to apply for co-investment through the Priority Development Infrastructure scheme

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- continuing to facilitate major resource projects, focusing on the Galilee and Cooper Basins
  - delivering the *Galilee Basin Development Strategy* providing streamlined solutions for planning, land acquisition, water, power and rail for the region to help open up the southern and central basin to mining
  - adopting and implementing a new Gladstone State Development Area (SDA) Development Scheme to improve precinct planning to facilitate a broader range of industrial development
  - finalising environmental impact assessment for major tourism and transport projects including: Aquis Resort at the Great Barrier Reef and the Bus and Train project in Brisbane's CBD
  - improving boating in Mission Beach, with construction of maritime infrastructure at Boat Bay
  - finalising the handover of management activities for the Southbank and Roma Street Parklands to the Brisbane City Council
  - supporting the defence industry to build capabilities, connect to new partners, and take advantage of supply chain opportunities
  - continuing to deliver the government's response to the Commission of Audit including implementing the *Total Asset Management Plan Framework* for managing the Queensland Government's assets
  - continuing development of Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games™ Village and sporting venue infrastructure
  - working with the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast councils to facilitate development within the Southport and Maroochydore priority development areas (PDAs) following approval of the development schemes
  - investigating industrial land supply for regional Queensland to identify and assess possible triggers to enable economic development.