

Government's objectives for the community

The government's objectives for the community are articulated in *Getting Queensland Back on Track*, which comprises the five pledges to:

- Grow a four pillar economy
- Lower the cost of living

- Invest in better infrastructure and use better planning
- Revitalise frontline services
- Restore accountability in government

The department contributes to these objectives by delivering the services outlined in the following sections.

Driving business and economic growth

The department is delivering policies and programs that drive business and economic growth consistent with the Queensland Government's economic development agenda. We will further expand Queensland's economic growth as benchmarked against the global economy and comparable jurisdictions by:

- enabling new growth in the resource sector and property and construction industries through regulatory reform
- shifting from business welfare to systemic reform that positions government policy as an enabler of economic growth
- generating revenue from divestment of surplus assets

- creating growth and jobs across the state through efficient assessment of key projects
- continuing to streamline processes, reduce red tape and reduce assessment timeframes for coordinated projects and development in SDAs to fast-track development
- assisting Queensland based companies to capture an increased amount of the Commonwealth Government's annual defence spend
- creating growth and jobs in the Mary Valley through the ongoing implementation of the *Mary Valley Economic Development Strategy*.

Leading infrastructure policy and planning for the state

The department is leading infrastructure policy and planning for the state to increase business confidence levels and reduce the cost of doing business in Queensland. Through integrated

planning, coordination and delivery of large-scale infrastructure projects of state and regional significance (including private-sector and resource infrastructure), we contribute to driving

Queensland's economic development by underpinning private sector confidence to plan and invest.

Of particular focus is:

- strengthening regional Queensland in line with *The Queensland Plan*, supported by record infrastructure spending through Royalties for the Regions
- implementing strategies to encourage contestability and attract more entrants into Queensland's infrastructure market
- establishing the Priority Development Infrastructure Co-Investment scheme to fund catalyst infrastructure that will generate or facilitate major economic development.

Reforming Queensland's planning system

The department is delivering a planning and development assessment system that is reformed, streamlined and simplified, and aims to be recognised by industry as being world class and the best in Australia. These improvements will continue to simplify Queensland's planning system, which has constrained growth in the property and construction sectors. We are delivering:

- confidence, capability and discretion for councils to better plan for their

communities in the context of state priorities

- greater certainty of results for developers, including costs and quicker outcomes
- whole-of-government facilitation of appropriate development
- confidence for the community that the planning system promotes and protects its interests.

Major project assessment, approval, facilitation and delivery

The department is facilitating timely planning and delivery of infrastructure and the major projects that drive economic growth and provide better value for money. We do this by providing tailored advisor, facilitator and service delivery, to support increased economic activity and community services such as affordable housing. We are assisting delivery by:

- facilitating and delivering major and coordinated projects that enhance the state's economic development, including the development of Queen's

Wharf Brisbane, the delivery of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games™ infrastructure, and proposed tourism and integrated resort developments such as the Aquis Resort in Cairns and the Capricorn Integrated Resort in Central Queensland

- streamlining the environmental approvals process with the introduction of a one-stop-shop for impact assessment under a bilateral approvals agreement with the Australian Government

- supporting the development of resource industry infrastructure by managing the impact assessments for the Townsville Port Expansion, a multi-user rail to service the Galilee Basin, the Port of Gladstone Gatacombe and Golding Cutting Channel Duplication and the Santos Gladstone LNG Gas Field Development projects
- undertaking appropriate land acquisition programs to deliver economic development and infrastructure initiatives
- providing effective project delivery assistance to proponents through the judicious and appropriate use of the Coordinator-General's powers such as undertaking 'step-in' action on approvals for the Baralaba Expansion project near Moura and delivering the new Galilee Basin SDA
- publishing a set of standardised outcome-focused conditions to provide clarity and certainty to industry and to help reduce approval timeframes by not 'reinventing the wheel' for each project assessment
- implementing an Efficiency and Quality Improvement Plan (EQIP) which targets new streamlining and process improvement actions across all divisions of the Office of Coordinator-General
- developing a new streamlined impact assessment report (IAR) as an alternative to the comprehensive EIS process for less complex projects
- introducing the capacity for development schemes in SDAs to regulate more than land use to reduce duplication and streamline approvals processes.

Red tape reduction

During 2013-14 we continued our legislative reform agenda. Changes to the SPA and *South East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009* were introduced to support the implementation of a fairer, clearer and simpler infrastructure planning and charging framework.

The SDPWOA was amended to allow for a new bilateral agreement between the Queensland and Australian Governments

to pave the way for a new one-stop-shop for environmental assessment and approval processes.

We also introduced a red tape reduction bill, the *State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014*, which will repeal five redundant Acts, reduce legislative duplication and improve other portfolio legislation to drive economic growth.

Working across government—a collaborative approach

In addition to the government's objectives for the community, priority initiatives for the department include:

- **Bilateral agreements** – on 13 December 2013 the Queensland and Australian Governments signed an

amended assessment bilateral agreement to broaden the application of the agreement to deliver streamlined benefits where Queensland undertakes comprehensive environmental assessments that meet Australian Government standards. In May 2014, the Queensland and Australian Governments released a draft Approvals Bilateral Agreement on environmental approvals for public comment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth). The draft Agreement covers the environmental impact assessment and approval processes in two pieces of Queensland legislation, namely the SDPWOA, and the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

- **Royalties for the Regions** – a Queensland Government initiative partnering with local councils to invest in new and improved community infrastructure, roads and floodplain security projects which benefit those who live, work and invest in our regions; over \$230 million invested in 79 projects during 2013-14.
- **National Partnership Agreements** – the department has lead reporting responsibility for two National Partnership Agreements:
 - (1) the Regional Infrastructure Fund Stream 2–Economic Infrastructure
 - North Queensland Resources Supply Chain project – allocating \$1.66 million to improve the efficiency and productivity of the Mount Isa–Port of Townsville supply

chain by improving coordination management of freight movement along this economically important corridor. Outcomes include completion of a supply chain capacity audit, coordination analysis, and a comprehensive demand-modelling framework and assessment of future water demand for the mining industry in the North West Minerals Province.

- Central Queensland Resources Supply Chain project – allocating \$1.5 million to focus attention on impediments to resource sector growth along Central Queensland resource supply chains and provide greater certainty about resource sector growth and infrastructure needs. Outcomes include completion of technical reviews of infrastructure (roads, rail, water, industrial land, power), and a Central Queensland Regional Growth Analysis identifying key infrastructure bottlenecks to resource development and logistical challenges along the Bowen and Galilee Basins supply chains.
- (2) Mission Beach Safe Boating Infrastructure project—with funding of \$5.5 million, this project aims to improve the safety of boating conditions in Boat Bay at Mission Beach while also stimulating the economy in the Cassowary Coast region through

the construction of maritime infrastructure to assist tourism investment. The project is on track for delivery in early 2015.

- **Great Barrier Reef strategic assessment** – the department led completion of the draft Strategic Assessment of the Great Barrier Reef Coastal Zone, which describes and assesses the way Queensland’s planning, development and coastal management processes identify and protect matters of national environmental significance in the zone. The strategic assessment responds in part to the UNESCO request for Australia to undertake a comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

- **Intergovernmental Agreements**

- Fitzgibbon Stormwater Harvesting – a joint state and Commonwealth Government-funded \$6.3 million stormwater recycling project in Fitzgibbon Chase.
- Fitzgibbon Rainwater Harvesting to Potable Reuse Scheme (PotaRoo) – a Queensland Government initiative jointly funded by the Commonwealth Government and the Japanese Government to capture roof rainwater runoff from dwellings at Fitzgibbon Chase, ultimately for the supply of potable water to the town water network.

Queensland Urban Utilities will take over both projects once operational.