



Fact Sheet No.5: Corporate Structure and Functions

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This fact sheet provides an overview of changes to the Minister for Economic Development Queensland’s (MEDQ’s) corporate structure and functions under the Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 (the Bill).

What is the MEDQ’s current corporate structure?

Currently, the MEDQ is a corporation sole and part of the Department of State Development and Infrastructure (the department).

Why are these changes being made?

The factors driving the current housing challenges are complex, and it is therefore incumbent upon the Queensland Government to use every lever at its disposal to identify solutions and implement them.

Building on the role of EDQ is one of those levers. Economic Development Queensland (EDQ)¹ has been tasked with:

- expanding its remit to drive new housing supply, by establishing the delivery of social, affordable and diverse housing as a clear purpose in legislation in addition to its existing purposes of economic development and development for community purposes
- identifying opportunities to further boost its capacity.

The proposed changes in the Bill address current strategic and operational barriers that limit EDQ’s ability to respond to its expanded role. The changes will unlock improvements in its governance and operations, commensurate with its functions, complexity, expanded mandate and growing priorities.

A new organisational structure with contemporary governance arrangements, changes to resourcing to provide organisational flexibility and long-term financial sustainability and a new operating model that will optimise performance are all required.

EDQ’s corporate structure changes will also better align EDQ with other government land organisations across Australia.

Key Features of the Bill

- The Bill retains MEDQ as a corporation sole to ensure appropriate Ministerial oversight and remains a statutory body, but removes it from the department. This allows it to be more agile and responsive to changing market circumstances.
- To provide EDQ with greater access to industry expertise and strategic guidance, a new eight-member skills-based decision-making board accountable to the MEDQ, will be appointed.
- The new board will comprise six independent members, including an independent Chair, and government oversight will be maintained with two government members.
- The Board will have no decision-making powers in relation to the MEDQ’s regulatory functions, such as approving development applications or declaring new PDAs.

¹ The Minister for Economic Development Queensland (MEDQ) as the corporation sole is the legal entity under the *Economic Development Act 2012*. However, for ease of reference, when addressing the day to day operations of the MEDQ, Economic Development Queensland is used throughout the fact sheet.





- A Chief Executive Officer will be appointed to oversee the day-to-day operations of the organisation.
- All existing and new staff will be employed under the *Public Sector Act 2022* with existing rights and entitlements retained.
- EDQ’s functions will be expanded to include the ability to undertake investment activities in property assets to facilitate economic development and development for community purposes.
- EDQ’s functions must be carried out in a way that facilitates the long-term financial sustainability of EDQ.

What are the Amendments?

The Bill introduces new sections and amends existing sections in the *Economic Development Act 2012* (the Act) to enact the changes to the MEDQ’s corporate structure.

Proposed Amendments²	
<i>Economic Development Act 2012</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MEDQ will continue to be a corporation sole and statutory body. The MEDQ will transition out of the department to be a stand-alone statutory body. • A Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will be appointed by the Governor in Council under the Act. • A new skill-based Economic Development Board will be appointed. The new Board will comprise up to six independent members and two government members (the Chief Executive of the department that sits with the MEDQ’s portfolio responsibilities and the Under Treasurer). • The non-government Economic Development Board members will be appointed for four years, with expertise relevant to EDQ’s portfolio. • EDQ will continue to be accountable to the Minister in whom all powers and functions under the Act remain vested. • The Minister can delegate their powers and functions (as is the current situation) including certain decision-making powers to the Economic Development Board. Regulatory powers however cannot be delegated to the Board. • A Strategic Plan and Operational Plan which specifies financial and non-financial performance targets for the relevant financial year is required to be prepared each year. • EDQ’s Strategic Plan, excluding any commercially sensitive matters, will be published on the MEDQ’s website. • The Board must report to the MEDQ on the organisations operations each quarter and publish an Annual Report. • A new EDQ Employing Office will be established. All existing and new EDQ staff, will become employees of the Employing Office and will be employed under the <i>Public Sector Act 2022</i>, with the exception of the Chief Executive Officer who will be appointed under the Act. • All transitioning EDQ staff will retain their rights and entitlements under the Queensland Public Service Officers and Other Employees Award—State 2015 and remain subject to the State Government Entities Certified Agreement 2023. • All new staff to be appointed by the EDQ employing office will have access to the same industrial arrangements to ensure consistency across all employees.

² The ‘Proposed Amendments’ table provides an overview of the amendments. For further detail refer to the Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.





Public Sector Act 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Insert into Schedule 1 (Public sector entities under 9(b)):<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ EDQ Employing Office under the Act.○ Executive Officer of the EDQ Employing Office under the Act.
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Further information

For more information, please contact Economic Development Queensland via EDQ@dasilgp.qld.gov.au

